

THE ARGUS.

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By THE J. W. POTTER CO.

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Correspondence solicited from every township in Rock Island county.



Wednesday, Dec. 5, 1906.

Competitive tracks will foster industrial growth in the west end.

Early Christmas shopping. This is the newest reform movement, and it is a good one.

Nothing about the tariff and little tangible about the trusts, is the president's treatment of paramount issues before the American people, as a people.

The newspaper fraternity will be pleased to learn that Life Young is considerably improved in health and will leave the hospital in Des Moines for Hot Springs.

Terry McGovern, once the champion pug of his class, has been declared hopelessly insane and his career in the ring is ended. It is a pity to be sure, but the course of empire will hardly be seriously affected as a consequence.

Apparently ex-Senator Burton of Kansas, now serving a jail sentence in front of Mo., regards himself as out of politics for good. His friends announce that he is writing a book in which he will "expose" President Roosevelt and other public men who have been in "conspiracy" against him.

Apropos of the protests in California and the chirping in the south against the president's threat to employ all forces at his command, military and civil, to enforce the federal authority in San Francisco in dealing with the Japanese subjects, we thought the question of states' rights was settled some 40 years ago.

There should be no hasty action in precipitating hostilities with Japan, despite the fact that the Mikado needs the conceit taken out of him—but how much stronger would this government be in the assertion of its own position if we did not have those pesky Philippines on our hands? Are the currents of destiny still flowing?

Philadelphia North American: A St. Louis man has sued for a divorce because his wife made him wash dishes, and a Cleveland woman asks for a decree because her husband insists on her chopping the wood. Which suggests that a clearing house for mismatched couples will be a mighty convenient adjunct to the trial marriage system.

By far the most democratic court in Europe is that of King Haakon of Norway. The hardy Norsemen who gave such cordial welcome to King Edward's son-in-law insist on simplicity in the royal surroundings. There are no hereditary distinctions or titles at court, even the queen's ladies-in-waiting being plain "Mrs." or its equivalent in the Norse tongue.

Joseph H. Choate, the eminent New York lawyer, in the course of his career has seen defeat fall to many members of his profession while examining witnesses. The most utter rout he ever witnessed was in the case of a young lawyer defending a man against a charge of burglary. The chief witness, a married woman, said the accused came into her room about 2 o'clock in the morning. She saw the intruder, but acknowledged that she could not see her husband. The young lawyer shot a side glance at the jury and then thundered: "Now, madam, please explain to us all how it was that you could see the prisoner and yet could not see your husband?" "My husband," said the woman, "was at the club."

The Sleepy Train Dispatcher. From the accounts that come from the scene of the wreck at the little town of Lawyers, Va., the life of the greatest captain of industry the south has produced in half a century was sacrificed by the blunder of a sleepy telegraph operator.

No other explanation would account for the wreck unless it be that the crew of the second train neglected to wait for the signal without which they should not have rushed into the station.

If the railroads, as is charged, are in the habit of intrusting the lives of their passengers to overworked train dispatchers, it is time that the practice be stopped by legislation rigidly enforced.

In the present strained condition of railroad traffic, when it becomes impossible to run trains on time, the sleepy, overworked or incompetent train dispatcher is about the most dan-

gerous individual in the railroad service of the United States.

The killing of so important a man as Samuel Spencer brings the sleepy dispatcher into the lime light of public notice. Railroad managers see him plainly enough now.

Will they do away with him?

Railroad Net Earnings.

The official figures now made public by the interstate commerce commission are an illuminating comment on recent lugubrious expressions regarding the railroad future. They show for the fiscal year ending June 30 gross earnings by all the roads in the United States at \$2,317,760,039 and net earnings of \$787,596,877, or an increase of \$97,000,000 over the net earnings during the preceding year. The preceding year, too, was a record breaker in net earnings, most of the roads being enabled to appropriate vast amounts for new construction and betterments, in addition to advancing the dividend rate. This process has been again repeated out of the earnings covered by the commission's report, the Union Pacific, which has been put on a 10 per cent dividend basis, being a notable example.

The increase of \$97,000,000 over the total net earnings in the year ending June 30, 1905, it is to be remembered, represents the proceeds of the tax levied by the railroads on the total productive energies of the country. Capitalized at 5 per cent it represents the earning power on \$2,000,000,000. On the same basis the total tax-paying power in the form of net earnings through railroad exactions upon the public the last year stands for a valuation of nearly \$16,000,000,000.

No sane person will seriously assert that the actual total railroad investment approaches within billions of that valuation, or that there has been any increase in the investment proportionate to the increase in the net earnings. The increase, therefore, not being in any legitimate relation to actual improvement, is simply an expression of arbitrary power, much of it beyond question of conspiracy in restraint of trade.

The sworn statements of the roads thus conclusively contravene the recent representations of the mandarins, evidently designed to prevent public action, whereas they should stimulate it. It would not be so bad if only a reasonable recompense were set apart to stockholders, the balance from exorbitant charges going to enlarge the transportation system, which is confessed to be inadequate to present needs. But in the face of excessive profits on fictitious capitalizations, we are at the same time menaced with the threat that funds will not be forthcoming for the indispensable transportation enlargement, unless the public desists from efforts to correct such obvious abuses.

Personal.

Mrs. A. Shaw of Haverhill, Mass., was cured of lung trouble, and her daughter built up by Father John's medicine.

E. J. McQuade of 1 Broadway, N. Y. city, gained five pounds taking Father John's medicine.

Father John's medicine is for sale by T. H. Thomas.



are caused by indigestion. If you eat a little too much, or if you are subject to attacks of indigestion, you have no doubt had shortness of breath, rapid heart beats, heartburn or palpitation of the heart.

Indigestion causes the stomach to expand, swell, and puff up against the heart. This crowds the heart and interferes with its action, and in the course of time the heart becomes diseased.

Kodol Dyspepsia Cure

digests what you eat, takes the strain off of the heart, and contributes nourishment, strength and health to every organ of the body. Cures indigestion, Dyspepsia, Sour Stomach, Inflammation of the mucous membranes lining the Stomach and Digestive Tract, Nervous Dyspepsia and Catarrh of the Stomach.

After eating, my food would distress me by making my heart palpitate and I would become very weak. Finally I got a bottle of Kodol and it gave me immediate relief. After using a few bottles I am cured.

MRS. LORING NICHOLS, Penn Yan, N. Y. I had stomach trouble and was in a bad state as I had heart trouble with it. I took Kodol Dyspepsia Cure for about four months and it cured me.

D. KAUBER, Nevada, O.

Digests What You Eat

SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS.



DAILY STORY

A RIDE FOR LIBERTY.

[Original.]

Kentucky is famous for its pretty girls and fine horses. This is a story of both. The horses would not be interesting without the girl, and without the girl there would be no story.

Charlotte DeForest is the girl in question, and she was the belle of the blue grass region. She could ride and shoot and dance and flirt and was a constant terror to her father and mother lest she be thrown from some of the wild horses she rode or get shot while hunting or, worst of all, make a match with some undesirable party. Her father, however, gave her a free rein in everything except marriage.

So long as Charlotte was fancy free her father's statement did not interest her, but one day came Hall Dangler, a young Tennessean who had every trait to make him unacceptable to old people and every trait to make him acceptable to the young. He had inherited a plantation near Murfreesboro, with a fair bank account, besides stocks and bonds. This he was proceeding to run through as rapidly as possible and had already got away with a full quarter of it. He was handsome as a picture, reckless, generous, brave—in short, just the man to capture a girl of unbroken will. Dangler made short work with Charlotte DeForest's heart. But Charlotte knowing that her father would disapprove of him, said nothing about her love and would not permit her lover to ask for her hand. Her parents took fright the moment Dangler appeared on the scene; but, as he put in no claim for their daughter and their daughter did not admit any partiality for the young scapegrace, there was no excuse to keep the two apart. The best the parents could do was to make a new rule that Charlotte should not in future leave the premises with any young man without their company.

Against this Charlotte protested with all avail. Both she and her lover knew well that it was directed against them, and from that moment they acted as prisoners eager to secure liberty. They began by deliberately breaking the rule, riding away together. Mr. DeForest sent a servant to recall them. Affairs had not yet gone so far that Charlotte would disobey, but it was not long before she knew that certain of the household had been deputed to watch her. Then she learned that her father had so far perfected a system of espionage that it would be impossible for her to get away with her lover even if she desired to do so. Just as soon as she discovered this she made up her mind to break through the cordon placed about her at the first opportunity.

One morning Mr. DeForest was in a field near the house trying some horses. His stablemen were showing their paces before him. Charlotte and Hall Dangler were over to take a look at the stock. Charlotte had her own saddle brought out and insisted on trying one of the horses. When she dismounted, Dangler asked permission to mount another. Then the two made motions to mount at the same time, but Mr. DeForest ordered his daughter to dismount and Dangler rode off alone.

More than an hour was spent trying the horses. Dangler mounted a number in succession and under pretense of testing their speed rode them till they were well nigh exhausted. Miss DeForest after having been checked by her father would not mount again, but stood pointing, looking on, holding her horse by the bridle rein. There was one horse called Simon that Dangler pronounced incapable of any speed whatever, and the animal was left with his bridle rein thrown over a fence post. Presently, after a few whispered words between the lovers, Charlotte mounted and rode toward the house. All except Dangler were too preoccupied to notice that she passed the house and was soon lost to view down the road. Then suddenly Dangler mounted Simon and dashed after her.

"Mount! Quick!" shouted Mr. DeForest. "Five hundred dollars to the man who catches them!"

There were three stablemen and six horses, all in the stable having been brought out. Two of the horses being saddled, two of the men mounted and rode away, while the remaining man saddled one of the remaining horses. This Mr. DeForest mounted himself. He was too old to join in the race, but wished to follow. The two men in advance pushed on with fair speed for awhile, but it was not long before they discovered that their horses' freshness had been worn out by Dangler in his pretended efforts to test their speed. Miss DeForest's horse had not been used at all, and Simon, ridden by Dangler, was fresh as a daisy. The plan, which was not premeditated, had simply been to show the old people that they could not control the young one's movements. The only premeditated thing about it was Hall Dangler's wearing out the horses so that the couple could not be pursued to advantage. First one follower lagged, then the other, and when Mr. DeForest came up he found both out of the race. The couple had gone free. The old man rode on a short distance and saw the young couple halted, facing each other, Dangler talking earnestly.

Here was a crisis. Had the father maintained his equanimity all might have been well. Instead he hurled anathemas at Dangler and threatened to shoot him if he ever came near his home again. Then he reproached his daughter in no paternal terms. Dangler seized his companion's bridle and drew her away.

The couple were eventually forgiven. GERTUDE GOWAN.

Advertisement for Coal, Storm Sash, Doors, Tarred Paper. Features a 'BIG SALE' and 'MUELLER LUMBER CO.' logo with a 'COAL' graphic.

IN FIELD OF LITERATURE. The Atlantic.—New National Forces and the Old Law. is the title of a vigorous and most timely article in the December Atlantic by Melville M. Bigelow, dean of the Boston university law school.

Advertisement for Dr. Martin, Dentist, 1715 Second Avenue, Rock Island. Includes a portrait of a woman and the text 'HA! HA! HA!' and 'It Don't Hurt a Bit'.

Advertisement for Beecham's Pills, 'The Man Who Uses BEECHAM'S PILLS'. Includes a portrait of a man and text about health and digestion.

Advertisement for Elegance in Wall Paper, Paridon Wall Paper Co., 419 Seventeenth Street. Includes a portrait of a couple and text about wall decorations.

Advertisement for Best Christmas Gifts, Clemmann & Salzmann. Features images of 'FANCY ROCKERS', 'MORRIS CHAIRS', and 'ROMAN CHAIRS' with prices and descriptions.