THE ARGUS.

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BY THE J. W. POTTER CO.

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All communications of argumentative character, political or religious, must have real name attached for publication. No such articles will be printed over fictitious signatures.

Correspondence solicited from every township in Rock Island county.

ALLIED PRINTING TRADES UNION LABEL COUNCIL THE CITY 29

Tuesday, February 22, 1910.

Let the town grow.

Boost for a Greater Rock Island.

The Keokuk Gate City welcomes the new 12 cent stamp to return spring poetry with.

What shall it profit a man if he finds out the high cost of living and he cannot reduce it?

Zelaya is going to write a book. Here's something else that Secretary Knox is responsible for.

The threatened conflict between interurban franchises and the Belt line proposition has been removed. Now let us get busy bringing in the interurbans by the route proposed—and pushing the Belt line on its own merits.

The New York Times calls the Payne-Aldrich robber tariff law "a two-humped Bactrian camel of tariff treachery." Has the republican party dropped the elephant for the dromedary?

The Terre Haute Star (rep.) says that being such an overwhelming majority of the senate, Mr. Aldrich does not have to defend himself, Cannon-like, on the floor of that select and distinguished house.

Local Railway Situation Clearing Up.

There is every present indication that the Rock Island Southern has abandoned its original proposition to seek a franchise through First avenue for its passenger traffic, and accept an ordinance which will bring its coaches into Rock Island via Fifth avenue from the west and down Seventeenth to First and thence east to Twentieth. The Walsh brothers, the promoters, realize fully that the remaining space on First avenue is to be reserved for the Belt line, and that any new railroad project must either make terms with that corporation or lay out an independent route. The Southern has preferred the latter alternative.

In any ordinance now offered for the Southern for the use of streets provision should be made that it is for electric cars of the most modern interurban type, designed for passenger, express and mail business only, and that under no circumstances must it be used as a freight line or for steam locomotives. These safeguards thrown about the ordinance, it will prove one of the best propositions ever put before Rock Island. It will bring in the long sought interurban traffic from the south and will enhance the value of every foot of property along the line it traverses.

There are indications, too, that the local street railway system, as it applies to the routing of cars, will in due time clear away and that some amicable arrangement will be agreed upon between the Second avenue and Third avenue merchants that will result in a mutually advantageous agreement. The Argus is for any move that will redound to the future greatness of Rock Island. In that we are all interested.

The definite mapping out of the franchise for the Southern leaves the Belt line in control of the remaining First avenue rights, and the public spirited men in charge of the enterprise should make haste to without further delay avail themselves of the privileges which they are in a way to secure there, to the end that when the next railroad project comes along they will be in a position to show it the way to get in.

The Law's Delay.

The courts of New York county, according to the World, cost $5,986,132 per annum. There are 149 judges, with many clerks, stenographers and attendants. Yet notwithstanding, the number of courts and the generous compensation they receive, the World makes the just charge that there are numerous and unnecessary delays in trying cases. It cites a case that has been in litigation six years, a tax case that involves the franchises of corporations, 11 years, and a personal injury case 33 years. It states that judges have been responsible in many instances for the numerous extraordinary delays, while in many other cases the law's delays are caused by the rule of practice which prevail, and in these the judges are victimized and oppressed exactly as are litigants and taxpayers.

The conditions in New York City exist in a modified form in nearly all portions of the country. That there is need for reform is apparent.

Judges themselves can do much to expedite justice under existing laws. They can also be of great service in directing necessary legislative action looking to reforms in practice and procedure. A few words from them will have more weight than many words from laymen.

There is the more reason to look for this assistance on the part of the judges, because it is inevitable that measures calculated to cure the scandals of the law's delay will add dignity and power to every trial judge.

A Straw Which Indicates.

An indication of the keen interest the farmers of the country are taking in the various explanations given by protectionists to account for high prices of meat is furnished in the following letter, just received by Minority Leader Clark of the national house from a farmer of York, Neb.:

"The secretary of agriculture has just issued a bulletin in which he attributes one important cause of the high price of beef to the limited shipments of cattle to market, but the fact is that American beef is sold in England 25 per cent cheaper than at home. A man of this city has recently returned from London. He is a leading butcher in this state. He found Swift's and Armour's beef on the block in the shops of London at a cost of 2 cents less a pound than he could buy them for in Omaha. To be exact he had to pay in Omaha 11 cents a pound for the best quarters of beef, and the same were on the London dealers' blocks at 9 cents laid down there.

"These are facts which render insignificant the finding of the department of agriculture as to the falling off in the shipments. The fact is that the packers charge home market consumers this enormous difference because the tariff enables them to combine and agree to do it. It also proves that 9 cents is a reasonable price, affording a fair profit, else the meat would not be shipped to England at that figure."

Congress Should Investigate.

President Taft opposes a congressional investigation of the sugar trust frauds on the ground that it might give "immunity" to the men "higher up" and "otherwise prove an embarrassment" in securing conviction of the guilty parties in New York.

It has been presumed from the first—and there has been no denial from the White house—that Mr. Taft is acting in opposition to a probe by congress upon the advice of the attorney general of the United States, George W. Wickersham.

Mr. Wickersham was former attorney for the sugar trust. Perhaps he knows the meaning that the words "otherwise prove on embarrassment" were intended to convey. No one else seems to know.

The record in the most recent of the sugar trust's scandals is as plain as it is infamous. By placing steel springs in 17 pairs of scales, the trust robbed the government of more than $2,000,000 in import duties, and admitted it by returning the plunder. A few minor employes have been sent to prison. The master thieves, the men into whose pockets the $2,000,000 would have gone had their crimes not been discovered, have not been molested. The present indications are that these men will go scot free. Instead of occupying prison cells, as ordinary thieves do, they are in all probability living in mansions on fashionable boulevards. Because of their vast wealth, these multi-millionaire sugar thieves are more of a menace to society than ordinary crooks, because they are in a position to bribe the representatives of the people and thus breed more criminals.

Congress ought to be allowed to investigate the sugar scandal, even if it does mean "immunity" for the men "higher up," which it does not, necessarily. A congressional probe might at least establish the identity of the real robbers, and that would be a safeguard to the average citizen, who, in case he should see one of the sugar pirates coming down the street, might be able to run down some alley and escape being held up.

Feb. 22 in American History

1732—George Washington born in Westmoreland county, Va.; died at Mount Vernon, Dec. 14, 1799.

1778—Rembrandt Peale, celebrated artist who painted Washington from life, born; died 1860.

1819—James Russell Lowell, poet, author and diplomat, born; died 1891.

1847—Battle of Buena Vista, Mexico, and defeat of Santa Anna's Mexican army by American volunteers under General Zachary Taylor. The watchword of the Americans was, "The memory of Washington."

1896—Edgar Wilson Nye, popular humorist, died; born 1851.

RAILROAD NEWS

As a starter in an educational campaign the Harriman lines, through D. C. Buell, chief of the bureau, has issued a pamphlet entitled "The Value of Courtesy." The booklet is being distributed among the students of the bureau and among passenger train employes, station and ticket agents.

Among other suggestions and instructions it says:

"Questions must be answered carefully and correctly and with a cheerfulness that does not repel nor discourage the questioner. They may seem irrational, or even silly. It must be remembered, however, that the railway, with its complex and changing rules and schedules, is to a greater or less extent, a mystery to some eighty millions of people—even the experts are put to their wits' end to avoid mistakes or misunderstandings.

"A kind word to those in the waiting rooms who may be too timid to ask questions, shows thoughtfulness, and is received with appreciation. Courtesy of this kind is seldom vouchsafed, and when such interest is not manifested the impression may be given that the company's representative is taciturn and sour, although the contrary may be the case. The agent is looked upon as the company itself. He has the right to know that patrons are satisfied, and no offense can be given or taken through a polite inquiry as to whether anything can be done to assist the traveler. With the waiting room full of people, a few minutes spent among its occupants in this way may bring many dollars to the company in return.

"On the train the conductor has many opportunities to increase the value of his services with a little personal effort that costs him nothing, and wins smiles of approval that are certainly more desirable than frowns of disapproval or sneers of contempt. Many very prominent and learned men have been flattered by a word of recognition from the conductor; in what esteem, then, must his affability be held by those of less importance or fewer attainments?"

All railroads in the western classification territory have decided to discontinue the privilege of returning shipments at half rates. The order is the result of a recent declaration on the part of the interstate commerce commission stating that the return shipment privilege was being abused and should be confined to the return of damaged goods.

The supreme court of Illinois has ruled that railroads must exercise the same care and protection for government mail clerks as for passengers. This was decided in the case of W. E. Barker, who sued the Chicago, Peoria & St. Louis road and recovered $6,000. As a defense to the injury of Barker the railroad contended that he was not a passenger.

Telephone train dispatching circuits are to be installed between Chicago and Kansas City, between Joliet and Pequot, Ill., and a third between Topeka and Kansas City.

GAIN IN DEPOSITS

State Banks of Illinois Show a Flattering Growth During Two Months.

FIGURES FROM AUDITOR

468 Institutions Have Deposits of $526,157,044.26—Surplus Growth $3,995,346.74.

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 22.—The increase of $15,622,366.50 in deposits of the state banks of Illinois, between Nov. 17 last and the first day of the present month, indicates that the prosperity of these institutions is keeping pace with the general improvement in conditions throughout the country.

State Auditor McCullough has made public his recapitulation of the aggregate resources and liabilities of the 468 state banks. The statement shows total deposits of $526,157,044.26. Cash on hand and due from banks aggregate $143,506,348.47, which is an increase of $8,244,815.79 over the cash reserve at the time of the last previous statement. The per cent of reserve to deposits is now 27.27.

Increases in Nearly All Classes.

Increases are shown in all classes of deposits, except cashier's checks, the most notable being the time and savings deposits, which now aggregate $210,194,479.13, an increase of $8,613,804.16 in two and one-half months.

Demand deposits have increased in this time from a total of $195,799,005.54 to $197,845,219.27, and time certificates from $44,047,406.29 to $45,628,461.65. Demand certificates now aggregate $15,644,894.02 and certified checks $1,253,739.08.

The surplus fund of these state banks has been increased $3,995,346.74 since November.

TO REPRESENT AMERICA IN BERLIN

WILLIAM C. BRUMDER

MILWAUKEE.—The many friends of Col. William C. Brumder of this city are congratulating him on his recent appointment by the state department at Washington as honorary commissioner general to the American exposition to be held in Berlin the coming summer. Col. Brumder is the son of George Brumder, a pioneer German newspaper publisher of Milwaukee. He is associated with his father in the management of the various papers controlled by the Brumder family, these including the Germania, a weekly, and the two dailies, the Germania Abendpost and the Herold. The Brumders also hold a controlling interest in the Germania National bank.

The Argus Daily Short Story

Saved by a Parrot.—By Andrew C. Ewing.

On either side of New York harbor, commanding the Narrows, is a fort. That on the east shore is called Fort Hamilton, that on the west Fort Wadsworth. These forts are at all times garrisoned by United States troops.

There lived some years ago near Fort Hamilton a widow named Hammond, whose boy, Robert, growing up in close proximity to an army post, imbibed a taste for a military life. When he became eighteen years of age he went into the fort one day and enlisted and then went home and told his mother what he had done.

Robert Hammond was a steady young fellow and, having received a pretty good education, resolved to try for promotion through the noncommissioned to the commissioned grades. He had become a corporal when that happened which sometimes makes and sometimes breaks a man—he got a sweetheart. Nancy Alvord was about Hammond's age and a lovely girl. Nevertheless she was the cause of his getting into trouble.

Famous Coney Island, where there is a multitude of shows, is but a few miles from Fort Hamilton, and one summer day when the young soldier had leave to go where he liked between midday and 9 p. m. he called for Nancy, and together they stepped on an electric car for a visit to the island. Robert had money enough in his pocket to enable them to take in most of the shows, and so great was their enjoyment that the time passed more rapidly than they realized. The days were at the time at their longest, and this, too, had something to do with their mistaking the hour. At any rate, when there was still twilight they heard a clock strike 9.

Robert's heart sank within him. His leave had expired, and he would not be able to reach the fort in less than half an hour. He would be "broken"—that is, reduced to a private—and his dream of becoming a commissioned officer was at an end. At any rate, he would be obliged to begin all over and by a long period of good behavior get again in line.

"Very well, Nancy," he said; "I may as well be hanged for a sheep as a lamb. We'll stay here as long as we like."

Nancy endeavored to induce him to go back at once, but he would not. So they ordered a supper and after that continued to enjoy themselves at the various places designed for the double purpose of giving people pleasure and getting their money. When the money was mostly spent they took a car and went home. Passing a saloon kept by one Murphy, Robert wished to go in and get a glass of beer, but Nancy dissuaded him. Robert left her at her house, then went to his mother's.

Though it was late, Mrs. Hammond was just about going to bed. Robert told her that he had broken his leave. Mother-like, she persuaded him to go to his own room that he had occupied as a boy and remain there overnight. He did so and in the morning overslept. Then his mother begged him to take breakfast at home. By the time he reached the fort it was long past reveille roll call.

Robert was put in arrest. And what was his astonishment when told that the saloon keeper, Murphy, had been murdered the night before, that some shreds of blue uniform and several army buttons had been found near the body and a soldier answering his description had been seen near the saloon.

The young soldier was troubled only at the prospect of being reduced to the ranks. There could be no doubt of his proving that he had not been in Murphy's saloon and that he had been with his sweetheart and later with his mother. He gave the captain the address of both women and told him to go and ask his mother and Nancy if he had not been with them during the night of the murder.

The officer, in order that there might be no collusion between Robert and the others, said nothing about the charge of murder to either woman in order to better conceal his object. He told them that the soldier was in danger of being tried for desertion. Both women knew enough of army offenses to understand that desertion was a serious charge. Neither knew what reason Robert had given his superiors for his absence, and both feared to say anything about him for fear of disproving what he had himself said. The consequence was that both denied having seen him the night before.

This was quite enough to convict him, if not of the murder, certainly of falsely accounting for his absence. He was turned over to the civil authorities to be tried for murder.

It would be impossible for one not

idea of the anguish of the mother and sweetheart when they learned of the real charge that had been made against the son of the one and lover of the other and that they had put it out of their power to prove an alibi for him and in this way establish his innocence. They were visited by Robert's attorney and questioned. It was evident to them that he did not believe the reason they gave for telling his captain that they had not seen him during the night of the murder, and it would not have made any difference if he had believed them. They had made a statement and could not contradict it before a jury and expect the contradiction to be considered evidence.

Nancy Alvord, after her terror at her lover's position and her chagrin at having denied that she had been with him had in a measure subsided, began to think of some way to prove the untruth of her first story. This led her to read carefully the newspaper accounts of the murder, and she saw that Murphy's watch, which was found in his vest pocket, had stopped at thirty-seven minutes after 10. She remembered hearing a clock strike 11 while on the car returning from the island. This was fixed in her mind by the fact that she expected a scolding on her return home for having stayed out so late.

The civil authorities considered that Murphy's watch marked the time of his death. The murder occurred in an upper room used for card playing, no one but the murderer and the murdered man being present. That there had been a scuffle was evident from the shred of uniform and buttons picked up on the floor. The watch had undoubtedly stopped during this scuffle. At thirty-seven minutes after 10 on that eventful evening, with a limit of ten minutes either way, Robert and Nancy had been among the shows at Coney Island. They had passed Murphy's saloon at about twenty minutes past 11. Had Nancy not been handicapped by her first statement she could have told a perfectly straight story that would have tallied with the facts and exonerated her lover.

The next move she made was to go to Coney Island and visit the attendants upon the various shows with a view to finding some one who had seen her there with a soldier and if possible to secure that soldier's identification as Robert Hammond. She went over the ground, but found no one who remembered her or her soldier escort.

As the day for the trial drew near the result looked black for the young soldier. His mother was in agony over the situation, which was rendered more excruciating by the fact that in her effort to shield her son she had put it out of her power to save him.

The morning before the trial Nancy was sitting by her open window overlooking the lower bay, trying to think of her problem. A woman came to a window of the house opposite and hung a parrot cage containing a parrot beside the window. The woman left, and the parrot began to chatter.

Nancy jumped from her seat, dashed into an adjoining room, seized her hat, flew downstairs out into the street and boarded a car for Coney Island.

What she did there will appear at the trial, which was called in the criminal court the next day.

A jury had been impaneled and the prosecutor had stated the case for the state and had produced his witnesses. They were but few and stated only what has been thus far given. Then the prisoner's counsel took up the case for the accused, calling him to the witness stand. He asked Robert a number of irrelevant questions not apparently bearing on the case, requiring him to give long explanations. Finally the state attorney objected to the questioning as irrelevant, and the judge sustained the objection. Then the counsel called Nancy to the witness stand and pursued exactly the same course with her till another objection was raised and sustained.

"Where were you," asked the counsel of Nancy, "on the night of the 16th of June between 10 and 11 o'clock?"

"At Coney Island."

"Who was with you?"

"The accused, Robert Hammond."

"That will do."

At a sign from the attorney a phonograph was brought into court and set on a table. An operator put its machinery in motion, and a voice, plainly Nancy's, began to talk. What had been spoken in the machine was of no importance, detached sentences expressive of the pleasure to be derived at visiting Coney Island.

Then another voice was switched on. Every one started. It was the voice of Robert Hammond.

"I'm a soldier, I am. Got leave till 9 o'clock, and here I am at 10:30 talking into a phonograph machine. I'll be broke tomorrow, I will. My chevrons will come off, and I'll serve the balance of my enlistment as a high private in the rear rank. Come, Nancy; let's get along to the next show."

"Your honor," said the counsel for the defense, "I made the jury familiar with the voices of my two witnesses that they might recognize them in this phonograph, which I propose by its operator to prove received the voices at Coney Island about the time the murder was committed."

Robert was acquitted. He had been saved by the squawky voice of the parrot that had brought to Nancy's mind the phonograph, thus suggesting that they had talked in one on that eventful evening.

Robert Hammond's captain was so chagrined at the jeopardy in which he had placed the young man by the way he had approached his mother and sweetheart for evidence that he interested himself in the soldier's behalf, promoting him rapidly as a noncommissioned officer and coaching him for his examination for lieutenant. Hammond, with his wife, Nancy, are now stationed on the Pacific coast.

The murderer of Murphy turned out to be a militiaman who had been off on an excursion with his company. He had gone to Murphy's saloon, played and lost to Murphy himself and in a burst of passion killed him. Acting suspiciously, he was finally accused of the murder, tried and convicted.

Humor and Philosophy

By DUNCAN M. SMITH

POSSIBLE RELIEF.

SHOULD Theodore charter
The boats in a fleet
And forward his killings
The prices of meat
From places exalted
A tumble would take,
And how we would revel
In elephant steak!

Beef barons would tremble
As over the wave
The fat of the jungle
Was hurried to save
A trust ridden people
And bid them to break
Their fast with a feasting
On elephant steak.

Each crack of his rifle
A township would feed,
And plenty would flourish,
And no one would need.
The price boosting dealers
In terror would quake
As on came the windfall
Of elephant steak.

Then let us take courage.
Relief may be near.
For soon via wireless
Good news we may hear.
The waiter who pauses
Our order to take
May say, "Rare or frazzled,
Your elephant steak?"

Not He.

"I suppose he has a good time all the time."

"Well, he doesn't."

"What?"

"Not a bit of it."

"Why, I thought he was a millionaire."

"He is. That is the reason he can afford to kick all the time and find fault with everything, and nobody has the nerve to poke his blamed head and teach him a little sense.

Save It at All Hazards.

"What is the good of ventriloquism anyway?"

"It would be fine for our high priced opera singers."

"In what way?"

"In case of a fire they could throw their voices out of the window the same as they do their trunks."

Any Race.

"Pa?"

"Yes, my son."

"What is the race problem?"

"The race problem?"

"Yep."

"How we shall beat the other fellows to it and take their grub away from them."

Hard Enough at That.

Search for the fourth dimension
At once should be cut short.
For in these times we find that three
Is all we can support.

That's It.

"He is bent on going to destruction."

"I see—a regular crook."

Many of Them Do.

"She is an artist, did you say?"

"Yes."

"Does she paint?"

"Always in the evening."

PERT PARAGRAPHS.

The people who have been up in the air for so long ought to be able to qualify in the aviating races.

If an unhappy marriage can't be cured it certainly ought to be amputated.

Being a fool doesn't pay unless you are paid for it. Then it isn't foolishness, but business.

The bunko man always salves his conscience by telling himself that somebody is going to get you anyhow.

The man who can't take care of himself usually has his moment of genius in which he secures a capable wife.

A man can't be a fool and not know it. He has too many friends.

One reason why so many of us are poor is because there are people who have to be enormously rich in order to keep out of jail.

A girl hates dishwashing worse than a boy hates sawing wood, only she will jeer and say she doesn't mind.

People who keep their tempers are always the ones who never let them get busy.

If justice would have a surgical operation and recover her vision she might collapse at the first glimpse.