

# HAVING GONE EAST DR. B. E. WRIGHT

Will be absent from his office at the Little Palace Hotel, Independence, until Friday, Sept. 23rd.

On that date he will be back ready to perform High Class Dentistry in a Painless Manner at prices from 40 to 50 per cent lower than our competitors charge.

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## Defending "Coffin Nails."

Henry Labouchere of the London Truth has rushed to the defense of cigarettes. Labouchere does all sorts of surprising things, but there is usually a glimmer of good sense in his idiosyncrasies. It must be confessed that it is not apparent here. The editor of Truth is always entertaining, however, and his remarks on "coffin nails" are worth reading, but strictly as a humorous production.

In the house of commons recently, speaking on the proposed cigarette duty, "Lobby" declared that after deep thought and exhaustive inquiry he had reached the conclusion that crime in England decreased in proportion to smoking. The more cigarettes, the less crime.

That proposition, of course, flatly reverses the general belief, and seems to put the "cigarette fiend" on a plane of moral superiority not usually accorded him. But this is about the way Mr. Labouchere figured it out: Alcohol is an excitant, and moves to violence, and hence crime. The cigarette, on the contrary, is a known soothing and sedative, and as such it is the antithesis of alcohol in its results. "I am always glad," said Mr. Labouchere, "to see the poor man or the poor child smoking, for not only is he preparing for himself a happy old age, but he is not likely to swell the list of the criminal classes, because when he is carried away by his passions, instead of avenging himself on some one, he simply smokes a cigarette and it all goes off. It is almost like reading the Bible."

The ministers will have to answer that last insinuation. If Bible reading has the same debilitating effect as cigarette smoking the public should know it. Let the pulpits thunder at Truth's devoted head in denial of the allegation.

On one proposition the London editor is certainly right. A persistent course in "coffin nails" does not leave a man with sufficient vigor to commit crime—or do anything else.

But while the user of the weed may be reduced to a state of incapacity, how about the rest of the public, who are compelled to smell the fumes? After one has been made to circulate in the vicinity of cigarette smokers all day, is he not in a frame of mind that would cause him to do almost any violence, even to the point of committing murder?

The smoker may be atrophied until he is inoffensive, as well as ineffective, but is not the other fellow entitled to some consideration?

## Demands Tenderness.

Dynamite is of a very sensitive disposition and should be treated with love and gentleness. If shown proper deference it is amiable and docile, but when crowded and stepped on is liable to be resentful. Upon any little jar in social relations it has been known to go up in the air and break up entire neighborhoods. When its serenity is once disturbed its pugnacity is equal to that of a prize fighter's jaw. It then tears up the ground and makes unpleasant remarks that can be heard for miles around. When smitten it does not obey the Scriptural injunction to turn the other cheek, but immediately flies all to pieces. When once it breaks with its associates everything is off, and it is hard to patch things up. It is habitually reserved in manner, and those who have thought they could induce it to thaw out have mostly had their fond hopes shattered. It is rather

reckless in its operations, and, while given to booming, is often in the hole. It dislikes knockers and kickers and detests the man that slaps it on the back or pokes it in the ribs. It has an irritable temper and blows up its best friends on the slightest provocation. Grow not too familiar with this sensitive creature.

The vertical handwriting that has passed for chirography in the public schools in recent years is lying down or tipping over or flattening out, just as you please. Anyway, it is to be abandoned. The trouble with vertical chirography is that it lacks enthusiasm. It does not seem to be trying to go anywhere and never gets there. It resembles the arranging of furniture and the placing of pictures by a foot rule. In the language of Tennyson it is "faultily faultless, icily regular, splendidly null."

In Sumatra the husband and wife live in separate houses, and the wife owns all the property. This scheme is not without its advantages. For example, the chances for scrapping are not so abundant; also, if the man is detained at lodge until 3 or 4 o'clock no one is the wiser.

The campaign poet who makes Fairbanks rhyme with "spare shanks" should have his poetical license revoked. Metrical feet hooked on to that sort of verse do not go.

One candidate for president since his nomination has spent most of the time in jail. Is the jail porch to become a feature of the great American campaign?

From the stories coming from the front about the Grand Duke Boris it is evident that it should have been spelled Booris.

## Switzerland's Cheap Travel.

On the average, railway rates are much lower in Europe than in America. This is due to at least two causes—first, that prices generally are less in the older countries; second, that most of the roads over the water are owned or controlled by the government.

In none of the countries are rates cheaper than in the model republic of Switzerland. Horace Lee Washington, the American consul at Geneva, refers to one peculiar feature of the Swiss system. In a recent report to this government he says that the steamers and railways of Switzerland sell time tickets, ranging from fifteen to thirty days, permitting the holder to travel at will during the designated period.

These tickets are obtainable at all large railway and boat stations in Switzerland. They may be ordered through any station, however. A delay of from one to two days is usual, and a photograph, size known as "carte de visite," is required.

The tickets permit continuous and unlimited travel at will during the period of their validity upon most of the railways and lakes in Switzerland, and upon some fifteen of the small roads not embraced in the ticket privilege, usually funicular roads, a reduction of from 20 to 50 per cent upon usual fares is extended.

The rates of fare are:

	First class	Second class	Third class
For fifteen days.....	\$14.50	\$10.50	\$7.75
For thirty days.....	22.15	15.44	11.15

Upon these rates 96.5 cents is reimbursed at the end of the period. Longer periods of travel—three, six and twelve months—are also provided for.

No luggage is transported free on the Swiss railroads.

It is a useful point of information for travelers that trunks may be sent by post throughout the country and thus be delivered at hotels to wait the arrival of owners. This is a practical plan for medium sized and small trunks and valises. The trunks must be sent to the postoffice, but are delivered on their arrival.

It is apparent that Americans can advantageously study the transportation systems of other countries.

## More Good Swimmers Wanted.

Almost every steamship disaster brings out the astonishing fact that a large percentage of the male passengers and, alas, many of the sailors and other employees cannot swim. Nothing so adds to the panic feeling at such times as the consciousness that one is at the mercy of the waves. On the other hand, a good swimmer has nothing to fear and can keep cool and give confidence to others. And it is a matter of wonder where those men are reared who cannot swim. At this season of the year the docks of all port cities and towns are lined with urchins and young men who can swim, beach resorts and swimming baths are crowded with them, as are the lake and river banks inland. No village is without its "swimming hole," and surely this is a nation of swimmers. It must be that the men who cannot swim were bred in some foreign country where public bathing is so strictly regulated that it is practically wiped out of existence.

As a rule swimming in this country is indulged in as a mere pastime. Perhaps it would be well to raise it to the dignity of a manly accomplishment and encourage high proficiency in the art. A young man who cannot save his sweetheart from drowning when the bottom drops out of a pleasure craft lacks one quality essential for the life protector of womanhood.

## Overproduction of Princes.

Either there are too many princes in the world or too few princesses. Anyway, there is trouble in getting the princes married off. For example, the German emperor has six sons, three of whom are of marriageable age and one of whom, the crown prince, it seems very desirable to get into matrimonial harness as soon as possible, for the amiable heir to the German throne seems to have a penchant for falling in love with some girl beneath his rank once each fortnight. Kaiser Wilhelm has enough to do in looking after the affairs of the entire universe without this additional burden. So it is his wish that his too impressionable eldest son should get tied up as soon as may be, so that the crown prince can see that there are no further plebeian entanglements, with the inevitable scandals relating thereto.

But when it comes to finding eligible candidates for the future queen of all the Germans the list appears discouragingly small.

In the first place, these future daughters-in-law must be of the Lutheran faith or of some denomination which they are willing to renounce in favor of the state religion of Prussia. Then the kaiser is not popular as a possible father-in-law. As everybody knows, he likes his own way even better than the ordinary king (and no one could think of calling him ordinary in any respect), and he is apt to insist that his way shall be the way of those with whom he comes in contact.

Besides this the princesses of Europe have lately developed a liking for inde-

pendence that is alarming to an autocrat. Royal ladies nowadays secure divorces, fall in love with commoners and even elope, as do their less or more fortunate sisters. Hence she who is chosen as a bride for one of the six Prussian princes must not only be beyond any suspicion of independence herself, but she must have no sister, as then the risk of scandal would be doubled.

It may be that the difficulty in finding a partner is the reason that the crown prince is to take a trip around the world. In the first place, it would keep him out of mischief. In the second place, it would give him an opportunity to look around and get interested in somebody besides chorus girls.

## Scorching Standard Oil.

The remarks being made about the Standard Oil company by Thomas W. Lawson are hot enough to set the thing on fire. They are quite as sensational in their way as the disclosures concerning the same company made by Ida M. Tarbell. The specific charges made by Mr. Lawson relate to the formation of the Amalgamated Copper company, which belongs to the Standard Oil interests. By implication, however, they extend to all the affairs of the Standard. The reading public is familiar with these charges, but it can do no harm to briefly recapitulate. The most direct and damaging statement relates to the manner in which the public received the double cross in the selling of Amalgamated stocks. Certain favored ones were admitted to the ground floor at a much lower price than that which the stocks brought on the general market. Then, after the innocent outsiders had invested their money, the stocks were permitted to drop far below par, and the aforesaid innocent outsiders lost a large part of their investments. These constitute the gist of the Lawson charges.

Mr. Lawson also asserts that H. H. Rogers, recently under arrest in New York in connection with a criminal prosecution, is the real head of the Standard Oil. The character sketch of this gentleman makes interesting reading. The inference is openly drawn that the disastrous slump in steel stocks, through which so many outside investors were made to suffer, was due to the manipulation of Mr. Rogers.

The Standard Oil trust is undoubtedly the greatest monopoly in the world. The disclosures coming to light concerning the methods by which this giant institution was built up and by which it is being at present conducted throws a flood of light not only on this particular company, but on trust affairs generally. This sort of publicity is valuable and must be welcomed by the average citizen without regard to his political belief or his attitude relative to corporations. Let the public have the truth, and it can be trusted to work out the problem.

A man at Utica, N. Y., is still grieving because he cast an illegal vote in 1898. If this sort of sorrow were common, Philadelphia and New York would be in sackcloth and ashes most of the time.

A government inspector says he would trust three-fourths of the life preservers now used on the boats. Those on the Slocum seem to have belonged to the other fourth.

There is considerable mummery about the notification and acceptance of a presidential candidate. Even grown-up children like make believe.

## The Poverty of Riches.

The ordinary man would suppose that Russell Sage, who has just passed his eighty-eighth milestone, is old enough to retire. But that is because he does not know his man. And the ordinary man again would imagine that when a money chaser gets anywhere from \$50,000,000 to \$100,000,000 and has more ready cash than any other man in the world, he would not care to accumulate more. But in that the ordinary man would again exhibit his ignorance of this particular case. Once more the ordinary man would assume that when any one had reached this advanced position both in years and in wealth, even if he did want to continue accumulating, he would devote some younger man to look after the details of the business. And once more the ordinary man would show lack of acquaintance with his subject.

Russell Sage has absolutely no other interest in life than to make money. Other millionaires divert themselves with philanthropies. Not he. Others go to Europe, sail about in yachts, take pleasure trips or indulge in scandals and similar diversions. In the eyes of Mr. Sage all these things are little less than a criminal squandering of money. Red devils, race horses, society, vacations, hobnobbing with kings—none of these things has any attractions for him. They might take him from his desk and prevent him from getting a dollar.

Neither will he trust his affairs in the hands of other men. They are all lax. They do not have proper business methods. They might even betray some human emotion; and all these things are inexcusable and unprofessional.

Russell Sage has probably made more money and got less good out of it than any man that ever lived. He dresses in hand-me-downs, buys the cheapest of lunches, begrudges even his street car fares and in his New York house lives in a very plain and uncomfortable way. His only diversion is money making. True, there are mythical reports that he has a fine country place somewhere and keeps good horses. It is even reported that his wife indulges in charities. But all these things are so un-Sage-like, as it were, that the world hardly credits them.

He is not burdened with an imagination, like J. Pierpont Morgan; has no sympathy with the newfangled promotions and all that sort of thing. He stands by the time honored method of loaning money and charging all that the traffic will bear.

He has no particular object in accumulating, being without offspring to whom his vast fortune may be left. He does not squander it on himself. In fact, the only apparent happiness he gets out of his wealth is that afforded by getting more of it.

He is a striking example of "the poverty of riches."

In dollars he has affluence. In all else that goes to make life worth while he is in absolute penury.

## Good Advice.

The American people are constantly growing more independent in politics. Party shackles of all sorts are being broken. This is a hopeful sign. The idea of "belonging" to anything, even a faction, does not conform to the American spirit. On this line the St. Louis (Mo.) News well says that "it is a good year for the common citizen to attend strictly to business and when election day comes vote as he pleases. Either way he votes he can do no harm."

Either ticket could win without causing a ripple upon the surface of our business affairs. No political party can make times good or keep them so if good business men stand around arguing instead of attending to business. And no political party can make times bad when business men are all putting vigor into the commercial life. Don't let politics worry you."

Laugh, and you cheat the doctor. Weep, and they'll soon cheat you. Complain of your ills, and you'll find that the bills will shortly begin to accrue. Envelop your being with sunshine, with scents of health you'll be blest; but grieve and mope, you will soon take dope, and the doctors will do the rest.

The grand lama of Tibet tells the British that he will not be at loss when they call to see about that treaty. About the only way out of it is for Great Britain to make a grand lama who will be visible when he is wanted.

A man 103 years old ascribes his longevity to the fact that he never robs on the street cars. Perhaps if he had been compelled to become a strap hanger he would not have wanted to live so long.

The latest London fashion decree is to crease trousers on the side instead of in front. This will give a thin man the appearance of having been run over by a street roller.

Anyway, the money question will not be entirely out of politics until the spellbinders get their pay for agitating the atmosphere.

## The Public Toothpick.

The little English girl who thought that American lumbermen must make money because everybody over here chewed toothpicks came dangerously near to treading on a national corn. Here is another story almost as good. A young man was hanging to a street car strap and was absentmindedly, peacefully, picking his teeth.

Presently the woman who was seated in front of him touched him.

"Sir," she said pleasantly, "would you mind going out on the platform to pick your teeth? I'm not at all curious to know what you had for dinner."

The fellow left the car immediately, while the conductor rang up two fares by mistake.

A Massachusetts judge has decided that a girl is not a disturber of the peace who makes a habit of drumming on her piano till midnight. This may be technically correct, but the thing usually winds up in the neighbors rather violently disturbing the peace.

Chicago now figures that she has 2,241,000 population. If it were not for the unsympathetic census takers Chicago would soon have the greatest population of any city on earth.

It is reported that highwaymen wearing silk hats are holding up people in New York. There is some question as to whether the report refers to stock-brokers or cab drivers.

Pauline Astor is to marry a man whose first name is Spender. Perhaps that is the reason he is going to marry her.

A New Jersey man has started in on a forty day fast. Is he sure that the beef strike will be over so soon?