

ROBERT BACON, OUR ATHLETIC AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE.

AMBASSADOR BACON has frequently been compared with ex-President Roosevelt. The two men were classmates at Harvard, and they walked, swam, boxed and rode together. Each is an all round athlete and has not suffered business or political cares to wear him from his out of door pursuits. Mr. Bacon was one of the best halfbacks Harvard ever had and a crack polo player. He is taller than his friend, the colonel, and, with his broad shoulders, upright carriage and handsome face, merits the title of the Adonis of the diplomatic service. He is a successful man of affairs, with a considerable record of achievement. He was a member of the firm of J. P. Morgan & Co. and helped to organize the steel trust as well as James J. Hill's \$400,000,000 holding company, which was dissolved by the supreme court decision. He served as assistant secretary of state under President Roosevelt and held the state portfolio for six weeks in 1909. He was appointed ambassador to France in December, 1909.

His Dramatic Model

By WILLIAM G. POMEROY

Ferguson, who wrote plays, argued that if artists need models why not playwrights? But where are the playwrights to get them?

Ferguson was engaged to be married to a young lady to whom plays, romances—indeed, all ideal things—were as real as they were objects of art to her betrothed. It had often occurred to him when he desired a model for some especial scene to deceive her into a like situation and put her words into the mouth of his character. The trouble was that he couldn't bear to subject her to a strain. She was such a delicate, sensitive, clinging little thing that he was afraid any tragic experience would result in positive injury to her.

However, at one time he had in view a play in which the hero confesses to the heroine, whom he loves and who loves him, that he is a criminal. Her love for him is so strong that she cannot discard him, but consents to devote herself to him for life in an endeavor to help him outlive the effects of his crime and become a self-respecting and respected citizen. Later it turns out that he has confessed to a crime committed by his brother, whom he desires to save.

Ferguson knew that if he made such a confession to his Rosalie she would take it all in earnest. It would be a serious business for the girl. But he would get a model for an emotion that would result in certain fame and prospective profits. Surely Rose would forgive him when she knew why he had deceived her, especially when comforts would accrue from the royalties that come as a result of the deception.

There was a side issue to the matter that was tempting. It would be lovely to have Rose act according to his ideal—that is, to show such love for him that she would cling to him despite his crime. And the denouement would be very pleasurable.

One night he called upon his fiancée and before she came down to receive him hid one of these little photographic machines for taking in the human voice under the sofa in order that he might put her exact words into the dialogue of his play. She stepped playfully into the room, but stopped on the threshold, observing the dreadful expression he had assumed.

"Oh, Harry, what is it?"

"Rose, sweetheart, how can I tell you!"

"Tell me what? Speak at once!"

"I cannot."

"You must. Don't fear for me. I can bear it."

"I don't know how I could have done it."

"Done what?"

"Rose, in a moment of madness I was tempted to"—

"What?"

"Commit a forgery."

The little machine under the sofa was getting it all down. There was now a brief interval, a moment of fearful suspense for the hero, one of emotional indecision for the heroine. Ferguson had made an attempt to put the dialogue in his play, using his inventive powers. Thus far the real and the ideal coincided. The next lines, as he had written them, spoken by the heroine were, "Oh, Harry, how could you have done it!" But when Rose spoke them they were different. She stood looking at him with a heaving bosom and flashing eyes. Then, pointing, she spoke her part:

"You just walk out of that door, and don't let me ever see you again!"

Ferguson was astonished, not only that she could treat him thus, but that she should show so much strength under the ordeal.

"Is there no hope?" he moaned.

"Hope! No! Haven't you been fooling me with your high toned talk about honor and integrity and all that, and yet you have been weak enough to commit the most contemptible of crimes. I'd rather have had you commit murder."

"Rose, if you cast me off I shall go down, down, from this point, becoming at last a hopeless wreck on the sands. With you to lean on"—

"I don't want a man to lean on me. I prefer to lean on a man, thank you."

Ferguson stood looking at her for a few moments; then a sickly smile broke over his face.

"As a model for an ideal, self-sacrificing woman who loves her lover so well that she will cling to him, though he confesses himself a criminal, you're not a success."

"What do you mean?"

"I've been stuffing you. I wanted to see how you would act if I confessed myself a criminal."

"Well, I hope you're satisfied."

"I am. I won't make any more such confessions."

"I don't think you will."

"Why?"

"Because I don't want a lover who will use me for any such purpose. Good evening and goodbye." And she swept out of the room.

Ferguson spent more thought on appeasing her than he gave to his play. However, he succeeded in time and is now married and is still a playwright. The incident revolutionized his work. He abandoned the heroic and turned a complete somersault into realism and happened to have the facility for working realistic scenes in with what are commonly called the dramatic laws, but which are at bottom human nature.



CURTIS GUILD, AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO RUSSIA.

PROBABLY it will take the Russian longer than it did the American public to learn that the representative of the United States at St. Petersburg pronounces the two vowels of his surname as they are sounded in "guide." His title of general, gained in the Spanish war, is not likely to be a handicap to him at a court where the army wields a powerful influence, nor his soldierly bearing and massive frame. Mr. Guild's linguistic abilities—he speaks French and Spanish fluently even if he has not yet mastered the intricacies of Russian—are qualifications appreciated in so cosmopolitan a capital as St. Petersburg. Like our ambassador to Great Britain, he is to be classed as a newspaper man, having received his training on the Boston Commercial Bulletin.

LABOR LAWS FOR WOMEN.

Massachusetts Takes Lead in Protection of Motherhood.

From a sociological standpoint the most important legislative act for working women is the Massachusetts law which went into effect Jan. 1, prohibiting the employment of women in the mechanical, manufacturing or mercantile establishments within two weeks before or two weeks after childbirth. While this provision has been made in several European countries, it had been deemed unnecessary in this country until investigation made by philanthropic women revealed certain almost unbelievable occurrences. This law is felt to be incomplete, however, until some provision has been made for recompensing these women for the time lost.

In Italy a woman may not return to work until four weeks after childbirth, and a national fund has been provided to pension her for this period at the rate of one-half her earnings. In Germany the law prohibits a woman's return to work during the four weeks after confinement and during the two weeks following without a physician's certificate. The German laws are based upon the principle of preserving the health of women in their characters as the wives and mothers of the future generations, so that their wage earning shall not exclude a measure of consideration for their home and family duties. The German trade laws give to women having household duties one-half hour extra time at noon in establishments where the noon period is less than an hour and a half.

Even those who oppose the passage of general labor laws limiting the number of hours of female employment as an infringement upon women's rights heartily endorse the movement for the protection of American motherhood, so the new Massachusetts law is being commended by the women's organizations of every state. Recognizing the fact that no expectant mother would work in a factory except on account of actual need of the wages earned, it is generally agreed that some provision must be devised that would supply this need without offering charity which would tend to lower the self respect of the recipient.

CIVIC FEDERATION FAIR.

John Mitchell Defends Work of That Organization.

John Mitchell, vice president of the American Federation of Labor, recently issued a statement in defense of the work of the National Civic Federation. Mr. Mitchell resigned from the latter organization on the demand of the United Mine Workers of America, which held the Civic Federation to be unfair to labor unions. Mr. Mitchell says in part:

"I can truthfully say that, so far as my knowledge of the National Civic Federation goes, never by one act has it placed itself in opposition to the ideals of organized labor. It is very well to point out the names of men who do not stand well and who perhaps deservedly stand badly in the es-

timination of the organized workmen, but I say that a common justice demands that we shall give to those employers of labor who have been in constant agreement with their workmen, who year after year make contracts with the representatives of organized labor, credit for what they have done.

"I am not going to defend Mr. Carnegie, yet Mr. Carnegie would tell you that he was not responsible for the riot at Homestead. I do not know as to the truth of his statements, but I only know he says himself that during his ownership of the Carnegie mills he always had contracts with the Amalgamated association, and during his absence in Europe Mr. Frick, perhaps the most relentless enemy of organized labor on this continent, sought to demonize the Homestead mills."

Trade Union Notes.

The board of control at Montreal favors increasing the wages of civic day laborers and carters by 5 per cent, to \$2.10 and \$3.15 respectively.

It was recently announced in Toronto labor circles that the bookbinders of the city had affiliated with the Canadian Federation of Labor.

The Havemeyer refineries of the American Sugar Refining company in New York city have shut down, and 5,000 men have been thrown out of employment.

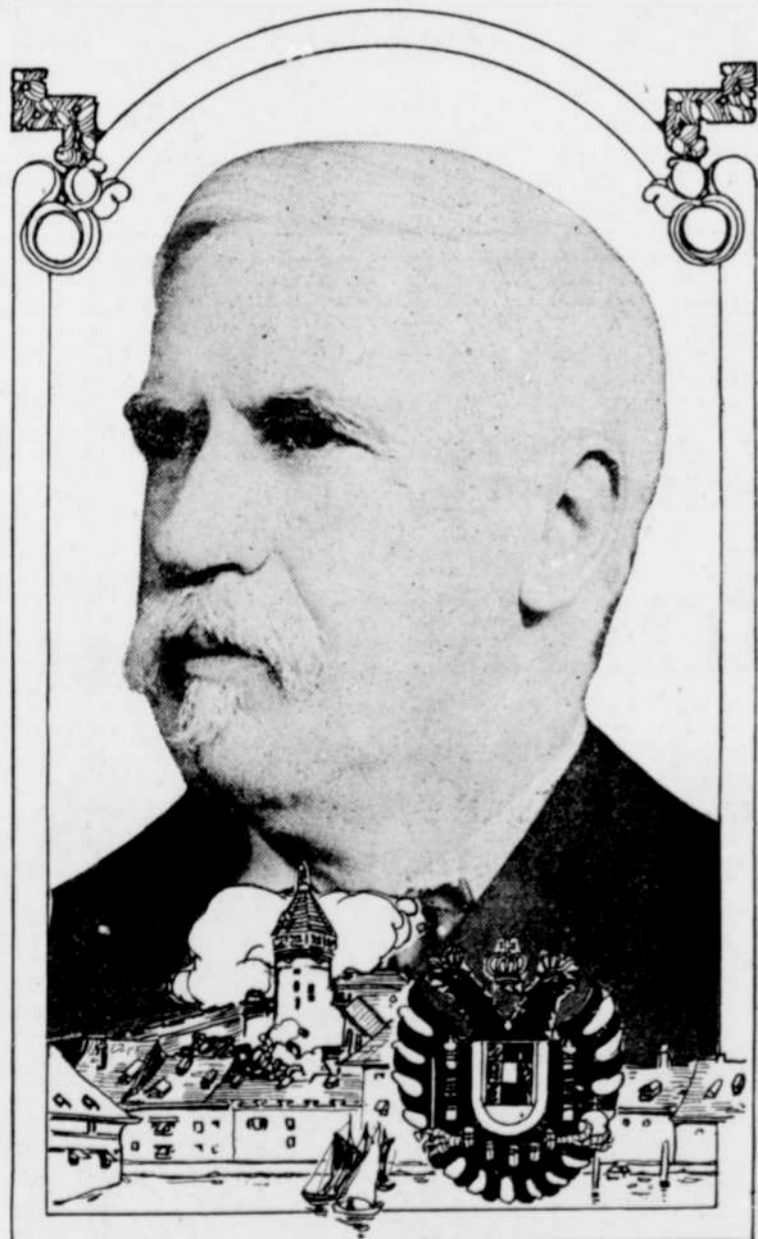
The labor council and Building Trades Council of Fresno, Cal., have each appointed a committee to devise ways and means to erect a labor temple in that city.

State Labor Commissioner Van Duyn of Iowa has begun a crusade against Greek bootblacks, who are said to be importing youngsters from Greece in the shifting parlors in violation of the contract labor laws.

The Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees paid out during the year 1910 \$90,612.42 for sick, disability and death benefits. The number of agreements with traction companies in force in 1910 was 151 as compared with 123 the year previous.

Waist Makers Want Shorter Day.
More than 5,000 persons, most of them young girls and all affiliated with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union, have endorsed a new form of contract which has been presented to every manufacturer of women's waists and dresses in New York. The contract asks shorter hours, higher wages and safe and sanitary workshops.

Government Holiday Pay.
A decision holding that no per diem employee could be paid extra compensation for Labor day has been handed down by the comptroller of the treasury of the United States. All per diem employees who are compelled by the exigencies of the service to work on Christmas, New Year's day, George Washington's birthday, May 30 or July 4 will receive double pay for the day's work.



RICHARD C. KERENS, RAILROAD BUILDER AND DIPLOMAT.

AMONG the qualifications which were considered when President Taft appointed Richard C. Kerens ambassador to Austria-Hungary was the fact that he is a Roman Catholic and as such would naturally be more acceptable at the most Catholic court in Europe than a Protestant. Mr. Kerens in 1904 received from the University of Notre Dame the Laetare medal for distinguished service to the church. The ambassador was born in Ireland, but came to the United States in infancy. He served in the Union army throughout the civil war, chiefly in the military transportation department. When the war was over he continued his railroad work on his own account, having been identified with the construction of nearly all the important lines of the south and southwest. He is the owner of extensive mining properties in Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona. He was one of "the original Taft men" of Missouri. The Viennese post is the first which he has held in the diplomatic service.

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