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JOHN WANAMAKER

Thrilling Life Story of How . "Merchant Prince" **Bucked the Political** Machine.

*********** (Wirtten for The News by S. Franklin Yeager.)

recent dispatch from Philadelphia announced; the fact that the 'Merchant Prince'' of the United States, John Wanamaker, had been under the surgeon's knife in a serlous operation.

From a barefoot boy to a multimillionaire with one of the greatest department stores in the world, sitnated directly in the heart of the 'Quaker City'' and directly opposite maker had an indirect interest, funds, the seventy million dollar city hall at Broad and Market streets.

With two other great stores in the one may purchase everything from a these institutions that in specula-needle to an anchor, from the fur-nishings of an immense hotel to those needed for a diminutive dwelling, his state and school funds, which hr its great factories throughout the not be obtained. world where he manufactures treshort of wondrously meteoric.

southern limit of Philadelphia's boundary, with no one to depend on but health and Dame Rumor said before hardworking poor old mother. sailing and before there was a let who tolled night and day to feed the mouths of John and two younger baby brothers. Sam and Will, his things in the Quaker City that John first pennles and later paltry wage brick yard where he was "off bearer" carrying thenewly hand made clay charges and an humble heart broken brick on broad flat boards to the apology to Quay, but signed a paper Hard, hard, back-breaking toll for a slight, overgrowing half-fed boy.

But in these days of polltical activity of party lines and factional the country in event of the slightest differences, where lines are drawn reappearance of any of tightly toward personal bitterness, charges. . This is one of the unwritrecriminations and extreme jealousy the dispatch in the press announcing his serious illness brought strongly the time when the battle raged its into the lime light of memory the now long since forgotten tragic battle between "old mat Quay", Master time of political differences when the of the republican machine of Pennsvivania," and the "merchant Prince"

and millionaire. John Wanamaker had filled the office in the cabinet of postmaster gen-

Safe Deposit Company. Then and there began a smash that set not only Philadelphia but the entire state of Pennsylvania wild. The Keystone broke first, then the Guarantee Trust and Safe Deposit Company closed their doors. "801" Singerly, president of the latter concern was found dead in the bath room of his palatial residence on Delaney Place. Some said suicide. The Kennedy's of the Spring Garden Bank were arrested and taken to old 'Moya" prison and held without ball just as well for their protection from the all too clamorous and furious depositors.

John Bardsley, Wanamaker's bosom friend, was also arrested and afterward sent to "Cherry Hill" the almilitary fortress

lent, almost known officially as "the eastern penltentiary of Pennsylvania." In all of these banks John Wana-

friends as officials, or was on the board of directors. But it has always been admitted that he knew same city and a like number of gi- nothing of the fact, proven at the gantic stores in New York City where trials, that the funds on deposit in one may purchase everything from a these institutions had, in a large upbuilding of a colossal business with been deposited on call, they could

Wanamaker made a trip to Europe mendous stocks of laces, carpets, fur- after the trials were over and the niture, clothing, jewelry, etc., and fearful excitement had subsided but all these operated by a vest army of it was rumored at the time that it employees, his life history is nothing cost him a princely sum to bolster up the tottering money houses and heal Born a poor boy, away out at and plaster up the sores of those "Point Breeze" on the extreme who had suffered.

He went to Europe a wreck in sailing and before there was a let up or cessation, of old political war Wanamaker went to Quay's home in was earned in the old Point Breeze the upper part of the state and not only made a verbal retraction of his "settlers" in the drying sheds and afterward from there to the kilns. apologies winch since Quay's death has been placed in the safe keeping of a life-long friend with orders to publish it broadcast in the press of the old ten stories of the press known to the staffs of the Phialdelphia papers at

> hottest. There is little doubt that in this "progressives" have tried to break the "good old machine" there is a lesson for them.

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> FISK HAT

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