***************** ------Lorimer, the New Illinois Senator Former Street Car Conductor. Father of a Ship Canal From Chicado to the Gulf - Breadwinner Who Get His Start In Politics by From an Early Age-Good Mixer Organizing His Craft, Is Known as the "Blond Boss." and Popular - Loyal to Friends he ******

By JAMES A. EDGERTON. HE main facts about William

States in childhood; that his father, the packing houses and was a horse in. The "blond boss" turned the trick car conductor; that he became a ma- in the face of a plurality for the forchine politician and is now known as mer senator in the primaries. the "blond boss;" that he has been elements and "the interests;" that nev- charged that after Deneen was nomiclean and his family life ideal; that he Adlai Stevenson, the Democratic candoes not smoke, drink or swear; that didate, and ran him a hundred thoudevoted; that he is a large man, se- ward an anti-Deneen bipartisan comular; that he never goes back on a Lorimer is given the credit for that. seven terms; that he is known as the "father of the deep waterway project" of a ship canal from the great lakes to ernor, both Chicago men, by the way, the gulf; that he is a fair speaker, but and former friends, one of Lorimer's his election as senator came as a surprise at the end of the longest deadlock in the history of Illinois.

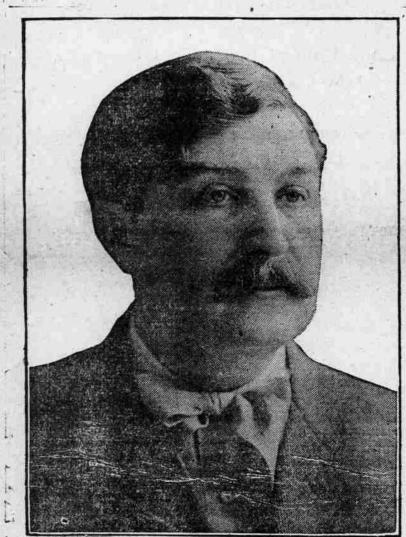
This is but a skeleton outline, but it gives an idea of the man. His career is not commonplace or usual by any means, and perhaps the strangest thing in it is that he, a party boss, was elected to the senate by a combination of Republicans and Democrats. Another striking feature about Lori-

traitor, and his pursuit is relentless The foes of ex-Senator Hopkins ex-Lorimer, the new senator from plain the downfall of that gentleman Illinois, are that he was born in as an effect of that very cause. They England; that he is forty-eight aver that it was Lorimer who made years old; that he came to the United Hopkins senator in the first place, and when Lorimer was trying to nominate who was a minister, died when the Yates over Deneen they accused Hop lad was ten years old; that from then kins of trying to carry water on both on he has been a breadwinner; that he shoulders. These are the charges, and, had little or no schooling; that he sold whether true or not, the result is the papers, blacked boots, wheeled salt in same. Hopkins is out, and Lorimer is

Perhaps the Democratic vote for widely and vehemently denounced as Lorimer is explained by that very being a representative of the vicious fight for governor, in which it is ertheless his private life is notably nated Lorimer threw his forces to he has eight children, to whom he is sand or so ahead of his ticket. Afterrene, unrufiled, a good mixer and pop- bination organized the legislature, and friend; that he has been in congress These intricacies of state politics have peculiar twists. After all the battle between the new senator and the govprefers to work on the quiet, and that first moves after his election was to make a call at the executive mansion, and the interview between the arch enemies was so cordial that the Chicago papers at once figured out an offensive and defensive alliance.

Waving His Candidate In.

One of the most spectacular political stunts ever pulled off by Lorimer was the nomination of Dick Yates for governor nearly a decade ago. It was on mer is that several times his enemies the third ballot when the cause that have gleefully proclaimed that the the Chicago man, espoused seemed lost "blond boss" was down and out. Yet and, according to report, another man



hich was in the interest of so lalcago corporation. Billy Lorimer If Chicago and for Chicago,

The Ship Canal.

Of all the things Lorimer has doni or attempted to do for his own town he deep waterway project is the momentous. When he first began advocacy of this gigantic under ittle attention was paid to him eve h his own city. Gradually, howeve hicago began to awaken until toda ship canal from the lakes to th is about the livest wire in the 'e west. After fighting for " " many congresses and on the Il over Illinois the new sens the picture of seeing a great in Chicago in its betion r both President Taft Br an spoke in its fa-

he is in the senate he date, June 5, 1909, Ill harder fight for his Sec. at a tor don's that he will carry the Fer his advocacy of this ett entererise much can be bim. There are many exam-



not the least of these is the general S Place your orders now before the belief in Illinois that it was his championship of the deep waterway that was the deciding factor in gaining for Billy Lorimer the senatorship. It would be an interesting psychological study to know whether he had such a result in view when he began the seemingly hopeless fight. Why not give him the benefit of the doubt and believe that he was actuated by public spirit rather than private ambition? Or perhaps both factors entered, as they do in most men. In writing of many men I find that there is something good in all, just as there are other things to be deplored. In striking a balance between the two sometimes the scale tips one way, sometimes the other. In Lorimer's case that ship canal when it is carried through, as it certainly will be, will redeem much and blot out much. It will be a monument ever enduring, one of which the greatest and best might be proud.

In the end we are judged by our most conspicuous deed, whether it be of good or of evil. The deep waterway will certainly be the most conspicuous deed of Senator William Lorimer. Who can tell but that it may even swallow up his reputation as a "blond boss?"

Getting at the Real Man. Fame plays queer tricks on us all. And we who most abhor the political methods of men of the Lorimer type are forced to applaud efforts for the

public good such as those shown in his

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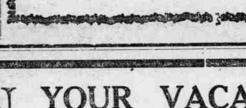
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A CHOICE OF FOUR

WILLIAM LORIMER, UNITED STATES SENATOR FROM ILLINOIS.

at the next turn of the wheel he won | was actually nominated. Suddenly everybody. And now look at himfront seat of the band wagon at the head of the procession!

Serene and Canny.

Lorimer in his acceptance speech blandly and benevolently handed out Blaine, As Blaine had hosts of friends bouquets to everybody, even his foes; looked as innocent and cherubic as a blond boss could; said he was a Republican, but loved the Democrats who had jumped the fence in his behalf; talked for tariff revision downward because it had been promised in the them, in fact-for his deep waterway scheme and looked so serene that no one would have dreamed that he had lel in the history of American politics. had got his first start in polities by rganizing his craft it was quite a tinctively a politician. The convolufriend double cross him or play the fathered a scheme at Sault Ste. Marie to build the Chicago ship canal.

greater victories than ever. His pres-ent triumph is a case in point. 'He a Yates banner. He kept it up until had fought Deneen both in the prima- the convention was stampeded, and in ries and at the polls, and Deneen gave the confusion the third ballot was nevhim a drubbing each time, "That is er counted. A fourth roll call was orthe end of Billy Lorimer!" yelled dered, and the day was won for Yates. The act by which the new senator one minute dumped in the gutter and first forced himself into general notice left at the rear and the next on the was almost as spectacular. It was in 1892, and he was a delegate to the Minneapolis convention, Illinois was for the renomination of Harrison, but Lorimer would not be bound by the

in Chicago, the rising young politician lost nothing by the move. A third incident shows a streak of independence in Lorimer that would not be suspected from his reputation I have omitted the one element that as a machine man. It was in the days counts for most in the world, though platform; spoke a good word-two of just after the Maine had been blown it may be rated at more than its up in Havana harbor and when Tom Reed and the administration were trying to prevent or at least delay a credit side of the account, and why just pulled off a deal without a paral. declaration of war. Lorimer served cast up the debit? The papers have notice on Reed that he would lead a been full of it for years, and it is gen-For an ex-street car conductor who revolt, which he did and forced ac- erally known of men. tion. He pulled off a similar coup in his salad days as a kid congressman. be complete that did not include Mrs. piece of generalship. Lorimer is dis. Though he was supposed to keep si- Lorimer. She was born in Canada, ient, he made so warm a fight for the and he married her when he was a tions in his gray matter are not in Chicago public building bill that, in- street car conductor. The same lovalty vain. They stand for something. He spite of everybody else who was lookts canny, as becomes one of Scotch ing for pork, the Windy City won the his city has welded him to his home, blood, which he is, although born in day. It must be said for him that he In the life of this man there is none of Manchester. He plays the game, and, has always stood up for Chicago. win or lose, he is not a quitter. His Much of the criticism of him has been loyalty to his friends is both his due to his championship of his friends humble beginnings. strength and his weakness. So long as and of Chicago interests, When Roosethey stay by him he stays by them, velt led the fight for meat inspection no matter what else they may do. it was Lorimer who rushed to the sup- red of mustache, a good fellow and as This had laid him open to many at-tacks. On the other hand, he has a cently the Michigan delegation was in ing that his most cherished ambition long memory for his enemies. Let a high dudgeon because Lorimer had may be fulfilled and that he may live

long battle for this enterprise that is to bless the future. I am not seeking to excuse Lorimer. I am only seeking to do him justice. A character sketch that shows personal or partisan bias is not worthy of the name. The effort should be to get at the real man and set him forth as he is-no more, no less. Kindliness and sympathy go a long way in getting at another's viewpoint and angle of vision. Until that viewpoint is gained a fair estimate cannot be made. I am frank to say that my first feeling as to Lorimer, was one of repugnance. Looked at more closely, there is gold beneath the dross. This is not said of him because he is a United States senator. It would he just as true if he were still a west side street car conductor although there would be no palpitating interest in him as such. These things can be said of him and for him: He has made his own way: he never loses his temper; in his home he is what every American man should be; his word never goes to protest; he sticks by his friends even though they go to jail; he is constructive and for his own town, and he has fought through good and evil report for at least one public work that will benefit mankind.

Such things weigh. They contain substance and have meaning. Perhaps worth-Mr. Lorimer has plucked the golden apple of success. That is the

No sketch of Senator Lorimer would that has held him to his friends and to the sickening story of the successful man outgrowing the partner of his

In personal appearance the "blond boss" is like his name-auburn of hair.

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