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**SATURDAY MARCH 12, 1904**

**GYPSIE FRANK**  
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Will appear at

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In the Celebrated 4-Act Drama

**The Hand of Fate**

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## WILL TAKE MANY YEARS

To Build the Panama Canal and Hundreds of Millions of Money.

Washington, D. C., March 8, 1904. If John Sharp Williams can't compel his scattered flock to "get together" when skies are clear and all is well, what will he do in stormy weather, when they must build a platform square with skill and art, of toughest timber, to draw applauding millions there and catch the ballots of November? In Congress things are drifting serenely. The Democrats, having joined the White House brigade, and having helped the administration to obliterate the whole Panama issue, are now in a waiting attitude. They do not speak hopefully of the future. They cheerlessly admit that they have too many candidates and few issues. Some of the leaders think that the wisest thing they could do would be to nominate some man who is so widely and favorably known that he himself would be all the platform needed. The Republicans in Cabinet and Congress are very tranquil, and are looking to the future with perfect confidence, as if there were no such thing as breakers.

Senator Lodge has become conscious that much work in the department is duplicated. He objects to it. The various surveys duplicate each other—as the Land Office, the Geological Survey, and the Coast and Geodetic Survey. There is a biological survey which trots all over the country to study plant distribution, and to discover where bird nest and field mice burrow. Then there is the botanical survey which is supposed to be making a study of plant distribution also. Then there is the grass survey in the same business, with an agrostologist. The statistical bureaus quadruple each other in the most confusing manner. As their conclusions differ, everybody is laughing and wondering how long the farce will be kept up. Senator Lodge says some of the various surveys have cost so far the neat little sum of \$150,000,000 and we have not as yet got a correct map of the United States. Of course we never shall have as long as the government votes supplies to keep the bureaus running. What the departments here need is a vigorous shaking-up and weeding out. And that reminds me that the empirical Professor Langley has inherited \$25,000 from last year's appropriation in the War Department with which to produce during the coming summer that engine of war sometimes vulgarly called a balloon. The money therefore will continue to fly, anyhow, in divers places and will probably be accounted for under the head of "flying artillery."

Admiral Walker, the President of the new Canal Commission of seven men, says that at least eight years will be consumed in "scratching dirt" after the shovel has begun to operate in Panama. It will be several years before even this can take place. The commissioners must first come together, shake hands, get acquainted, rent an office, employ clerks, and talk affairs over. They must exchange such opinions as they have, then go to the spot and look over the ground and plan what ought to be done. Then they must adopt and enforce vigorous measures of sanitation and water-supply, which will take two or three years. Then they must decide where the artificial lake shall be, its level, how many locks shall be built, how the torrential Chagres can be made to behave, and how the Culebra can be got out of the way or surmounted. When they have decided on the plan, they must advertise for contracts, and enter upon the work. The ruins must be cleared away, the machinery must be invented, manufactured, and delivered, and an army of men must be brought from somewhere who are willing to work. How many hundreds of millions of dollars? How many thousands of deaths? How many decades of years? But some progress has been made, for the Attorney General has decided that the Canal Company can give a good title.

The U. S. grand jury in session here having indicted four real estate speculators to California for conspiracy to defraud the government by obtaining government lands in forest reservations in Oklahoma, Oregon, Washington, and Nevada, your correspondent called upon Land Commissioner Richards for particulars. The commissioner said that the actual loss to the government will be small; it falls heaviest on these states. These speculators bribed clerks in Wash-

ington to notify them where the reservation was to be before public knowledge of the fact, and thus they obtained assignments in the names of fictitious persons and secured large tracts, which, when the reservation was drawn from the market, they exchanged for other lands elsewhere in the states. The alleged bribers are out on bail.

The improvements of the White House which cost \$600,000 and completely transformed that historic residence, are the subject of much satire and derision in Congress and out. The President's architect, McKim, came in for hard knocks on Tuesday in the Senate. Tillman declared his work to be an abomination. Senator Cockrell declared that the President's office was no better than the office of second-class lawyers in his state; Senator Gallinger said it was no better than the office of third-class doctors. Senators Allison and Lodge thought it a very bad job, and Senator Hale declared that "if the Appropriations Committee had not called a halt, the White House would have been stripped, ransacked, dismantled, and destroyed." After McKim's decoration of the White House he received a decoration from King Edward, probably in consideration of his attempt to complete here the work begun by the British in the war of 1812.

## Brownell And A Farmer

Pays His Taxes, Eats a Free Lunch and Tells a Few Truths.

Mr. Editor:—I came to Oregon City the first of this week to pay my taxes, and transact some other business that needed a little attention, and after my business was attended to I started to the hotel for my dinner, but happened to think that the tax collector took all of my spare cash and as I did not feel like asking the hotel keeper to make an extra entry on his book, I went to the saloon to get a few crumbs at the free lunch counter. While in the saloon two brother farmers were there on the same mission as myself, and while I was not acquainted with either, I listened carefully to their conversation. Farmer J. said, now Rufus what do you think of this local option business that the preacher talked about the other evening? (Farmer J.)—I don't feel like expressing any opinion about the matter until I see George Brownell, as I am thinking of coming out for a deputyship and he has promised to help me, and if I should express myself he might not like it, for he has often told me to straddle every question that had two sides to it. (Rufus)—Oh don't pay attention to what he tells you, for he has straddled so many of those questions now until half of the grangers out at the grange dinner the other day said that they would not believe him under oath. (Farmer J.)—Now Rufus, don't you ever think that you can tell me anything about that fellow, I know him like a book. I will admit that I did not like him when I came to town today, but I met him on the street and he treated me so nice that I can't forget it. He told me where the whole trouble was, and when he mentioned it I could see it in a minute. You see Ryan, Dimick and Hays are always trying to down him, and they turn so many people against him that he has almost become discouraged. He put me next to another thing, you see each road district only got \$100 last year. Now you go and look at Ryan's assessment the first year he went into office, and look at it now, and then you farmers ask Tom how he got so much property on \$100 a month salary. Don't you know that Ryan is slick as a fish, but I have got Brownell to watch him like a hawk. Now, he also informed me that very near all the fellows around town who failed to call at his office were stealing from the County and City, and that is one reason why taxes are so high in this county. You see that man Dimick has held down the Mayorship of Oregon City for four long years, without any salary, and he tells me there surely must be something wrong. Now, there is only one little favor that he has ever asked of me and that is he wants Brownell men sent to the County Convention from my precinct. And you'll have to agree with me that this isn't very much. Of course he says if we can't get all good Brownell men, be sure and get some poor fellow who hasn't any taxes to pay, then he can get him into his office just before the convention and give him half a dozen packages of garden seeds with Mitchell's name on the wrapper and tell the delegate that Mitchell sent those seeds clear from Washington expressly for him. He will also load him down with

a large agricultural report from last year, containing the pictures of all the bugs known to bugology, and tell him that this is Mitchell's compliments also. Now you see that book will tell him how to chase all the bitter-flies and bumble-bees off from the clover and knock every cut worm off from the potato vines, and scare every ant out of the cellar, and if that won't make him vote as Senator Brownell wants him to, he surely can't be a good Republican. Now you see he wants every delegate to come into his office so that he can put his arm around his neck and confidently tell him that he has always had the highest regard for him, his wife and his little children, and that if he does the right thing he will give him the deputyship that he has had picked out for him these many years. Now there is only one other thing that he asks of me and that is that when I am ordered to do anything in the convention that I will not ask any questions or pay any attention to Clark of Clackamas but go exactly as his captains tell me to do. When you take all these things into consideration, you will have to agree with me that Brownell has been very much abused and that he has never asked for anything unreasonable. You can't blame that man for trying to keep the boys in line and now Rufus in order to land me that deputyship do all you can out in your precinct to get the right fellows in that Convention. Goodbye. Farmer J.

Rev. E. M. Neil, an evangelist from Tennessee, who has been laboring with great success for the last few weeks in Portland has been secured by the Baptist church to work with them a week or two. He will begin his special services on the coming Sunday. He is a fine speaker and an earnest worker and it will be worth the while to hear him as often as it is possible.

The banquet at the Congregational Church last Friday evening, of the Meis Club, was an affair that will not soon be forgotten. The banquet was attended by a large number of the best people in the city. The viands that went to make up the banquet were prepared for the most part by the ladies of the city, and were par excellence. Governor Chamberlain was present and delivered a most timely address. A number of local orators also spoke. While the banquet was a 25 cent affair, it could not have been produced by a caterer for three times that sum.

## Brownell Won by an Eye-lash

Exciting Election of Officers for the Volunteer Fire Department.

The election of officers for the volunteer fire department last Monday was one of the most exciting city elections ever held here. The candidates for chief of the department were mingling with the voters from the time the polls opened until they closed. Howard M. Brownell finished first by the narrow margin of one vote. George Brown was second, while Lawrence Rucovich was a good third. The vote stood: Brownell 50; Brown 49, and Rucovich 34. A total of 133 votes out of a possible 150 were polled. Wm. Lewthwaite, of No. 3, was elected assistant chief, while Clarence Bruner, E. J. Noble and Edwin L. McFarland were elected as members of the board of commissioners. Tuesday evening the Cataracts held a jollification meeting to celebrate the victory of Brownell, who is a member of the Cataracts. Speeches were delivered and a general good time was enjoyed. At this meeting it was decided to hold a banquet in the near future, and Ed Reckner, Dr. C. D. Love and Howard M. Brownell were appointed a committee on arrangements.

**Guild-Holden.**  
The home of August Holden was the scene of a very pretty wedding at 8 o'clock last evening, when George G. Guild, of San Francisco, and Miss Hulda E. Holden, of this city, were united in matrimony by Rev. F. H. Russell, pastor of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Gilbert Hodges acted as groomsmen and Miss Blanche Holden, a sister of the bride, as bridesmaid. As the bridal party took their positions Miss Veda Williams rendered Mendelssohn's wedding march. Besides the family of the bride, only a few of the friends were present, and every arrangement was characterized by the utmost simplicity. Many beautiful gifts were received. The newly married couple left on the overland for California.

Mrs. Ellen Finley, wife of Robert Finley, died of blood poisoning here Friday. She was 54 years of age, and was a native of Ohio, and had resided here for the past 20 years. She is survived by a husband and two daughters: Mrs. J. H. Collins, of Clatskanie, and Miss Metta Finley, of this city. The funeral services were conducted Sunday at 12:30 p. m., by Rev. J. H. Beaven, of the Baptist Church, from the home, and interment took place in the Mountain View Cemetery.

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**A Lenten Feast**

May be had from the Dainty Viands We have to offer. Smoked Salmon, Bloaters, Finnau Haddies, French Sardines. Salmon Steak, Kippered Herring, Fresh Eggs, Hot House Lettuce, Pie Plant and other things delicious and tempting. Headquarters for the finest brands of Canned Goods and the Highest Grades of Teas and Coffees.

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