MYSTERY OF RATES

No Reason Given for Insurance Readjustments.

LOWER IN RESIDENCE DISTRICTS

Fire-Fighting Facilities Better Than Ever Before—No Greater Hazard, and Yet Arbitrary Advance on Water Front.

Local insurance men are not inclined to talk much about the statement of insurance matters presented in the letter of Frederick V. Holman yesterday morning. Generally they admit that they do not know why the recent readjustment of rates has been made in Portland. They do say, however, that it is not all one-sided—that while it may be true that there is a material increase on the water-front property, it is also true that most of the other property of the city, particularly in the residence districts, now have rates materially lower than formerly. One insurance agent estimated this reduction at 10 per cent. But it is difficult to summarize the changes for the reason that they are not made at one time. They come along from time to time, and there is no occasion to take note of changed rates until policies then in force expire. But those who have been wideawake have observed that a great many reratings have been made in the past few months, and that there has been a notable advance in the rates along the West Side water front, where there has been absolutely no change in the conditions affecting insurance, either in the character of business conducted on the premises or in the means of fire protection. Even some of the insurance agents admit that this looks a little like an attempt to force the city to provide a fireboat. On the other hand, it is pointed out that when the rates that have now been superseded were fixed in 1883 the city did have a fireboat, the Veto, though it was far from being what a machine of the kind ought to be.

In the year 1883, when the rates that were recently changed were fixed, the fire losses in Portland aggregated $319,092 20, upon which the insurance companies paid losses to the total of $252,721 22. The face of the insurance involved in these losses was $659,750.

Last year the total fire loss in Portland was $254,704 19, on which the insurance companies paid $186,306 24. The face of the insurance involved in these losses was $2,540,315, and the value of the property involved in the fires was $5,381,694.

Thus, at an average rate of 2 per cent, the premium received in 1883 on the property burned aggregated less than 6 per cent of the sum the companies paid in losses, while in 1901 at the same rate the premium aggregated nearly 27 per cent of the losses. This, of course, does not take into consideration the premium received on property that did not burn. In both those years the insurance companies took out of Portland many times more than they disbursed here. But last year the burned property went about 20 per cent farther toward paying its own losses than in 1883, and yet in the face of this record the insurance rates are adjusted for an advance.

The losses from fires in Portland since the paid fire department was established have been for the years named as follows:

1883	$319,092 20	1893	$155,459 39
1884	403,851 90	1894	889,528 94
1885	50,329 73	1895	139,611 20
1886	98,146 16	1896	309,481 61
1887	84,713 72	1897	70,722 51
1888	54,347 70	1898	74,076 81
1889	37,730 23	1899	171,684 86
1890	70,907 61	1900	73,809 93
1891	251,759 86	1901	254,704 19
1892	573,885 50		

At the end of the year 1883 the apparatus in use in the Portland Fire Department consisted of four steam engines, with hose carriages, tenders, etc., a hook and ladder truck and 3500 feet of hose. Now there are seven steam fire engines, four chemical engines, four hook and ladder trucks, five extra hose outfits, and 22,500 feet of hose. Two of the present engines are larger and more efficient than any other city on the Pacific Coast has. They are known as extra first-size engines, and each will throw 1100 gallons of water a minute.

At no point has there been a reduction of efficiency in the water service since the paid Fire Department was organized, and at many points the water service has been vastly increased. New and larger mains have been laid on some of the street, to say nothing of the higher pressure since the introduction of Bull Run water. A great many hydrants have been added and none has been taken away. Several cisterns have also been provided. Street improvements have made it possible to assemble a large fire-fighting force at any given point in the business district in much less time than was required in 1883. And there has been nothing to increase the hazard on Front street or the river front. In one place where the rate has been marked up from $2 25 to $7 50 there has been no change in the line of business or in the ownership of the property since the rate was fixed in 1883.

J. C. Stone, Portland agent for the Pacific Coast Board of Fire Underwriters, was yesterday asked for a statement of the reason for readjustment of insurance rates in Portland, but he declined to discuss the matter in any way. He said he was merely acting for Alfred Stillman, of San Francisco, who is secretary of the executive committee of the Board of Fire Underwriters of the Pacific Coast, and who is the only man authorized to discuss these matters. Mr. Stone said he did not know why the readjustment of rates had been made. That matter, he said, was in the hands of the executive committee of eight, and as a new committee was appointed a short time ago Mr. Stone could not give the names of the present members.

"No man can tell what it costs to insure a given property against loss by fire," said an old-time insurance man yesterday. "The rate is necessarily arbitrarily fixed. But it gives opportunity for those who stand in with the powers that fix rates to get the benefit of favoritism, and those who do not stand in pay stiff rates."

The insurance compact governs the rate of insurance in Portland, though not all the companies carrying risks here are members of the union. The only way they can avoid war, however, is to charge the union rates. The Pacific Coast insurance combination is said to be the strongest in the United States; that is, to hold its members the strictest and to suffer least from outside independent action. Other insurance compacts have frequent troubles, but the Pacific Coast compact seldom loses its control of the field. In 1894 rates went to pieces in Oregon, but it was not long before an understanding was reached and the old rates were restored.

A few months ago insurance men held out the promise to a committee of the Board of Trade that if Portland should provide a fireboat insurance rates on the water front would be materially reduced. The matter was discussed in the Board of Trade and an elaborate motion favoring the fireboat was passed, but that was the end of it. Now, instead of a reduction on the water front there is a sharp advance, and without any adequate reason appearing. Some of the property-owners affected will move for a fuller ventilation of the matter.

Gambling Stopped at Seattle.

SEATTLE, June 21.—Chief of Police Sullivan closed all public gambling last night, acting under orders from Mayor Humes. Both state that the action was taken because of the business men's complaint against gambling running in the district below Yesler Way. Some of the gamblers declare that the action is inspired by political motives, in view of the coming county convention.

SHIP'S CARGO ON FIRE.

Thrilling Experience on British Ship Monkbarns.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 20.—That the British ship Monkbarns, which arrived today, 149 days from Liverpool, ever reached her destination is due to the gallant fight against fire made for four days and nights by Captain McNeeley and his crew. The Monkbarns left Liverpool January 22. All went well until February 21, when in the morning smoke was discovered coming from the ventilators leading to the forehold. An investigation revealed the fact that the cargo was on fire. Nearly all the cargo in the forward hold was jettisoned before the fire was extinguished. Little harm was done to the hull of the ship. The cargo jettisoned, and in which the fire started by spontaneous combustion, it is thought, consisted of oakum, felt and chemicals.

ANOTHER LUMBER SCHOONER IN.

Ariel Arrived Up Yesterday Morning—Lizzie Vance Left Down.

Another four-masted schooner arrived up the river yesterday morning to load lumber for the Orient. This was the American schooner Ariel, 687 tons, under the command of Captain Anderron. The Ariel arrived in Astoria last Saturday evening quite unexpectedly, as it was not known that she was coming here. She had a fair passage from Honolulu to Astoria, making the trip in 25 days. The Ariel is the second four-masted schooner to arrive in Portland this week for a lumber cargo.

The Ariel went direct to the Portland Lumber & Manufacturing Company's dock, where she commenced discharging her ballast. She is under charter of Eddy Falk, and will take about 1,000,000 feet of lumber to the Orient.

The Lizzie Vance finished loading at the North Pacific Mills, and left down yesterday with about 500,000 feet of lumber on board. The Quito finished her deck load of piling last evening, and is ready to drop down stream. The Jacobsen has finished discharging her ballast at the Sand dock, and will move to Columbia dock to load wheat. The Oceano will probably move from Montgomery No. 2 early this morning to Greenwich.

GIVEN UP AS LOST.

German Bark H. F. Glade Will Be Posted Next Wednesday.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 20.—San Franciscans who wagered $150,000 on the safe arrival of the German bark H. F. Glade stand to lose all their money unless the long overdue vessel arrives by next Wednesday. Information has come by cable from London that Lloyd's will post the Glade as missing. The Merchants' Exchange here has crossed the bark from the overdue list as no longer insurable. The Glade sailed from here on October 19 last with wheat and barley for Europe, and is out 243 days. Many local plungers believed its foul bottom was the cause of delay, and ventured large amounts on its safe arrival.

Among the Sealers.

A telegram from Hakodate to the Victoria Sealing Company announces the arrival there of the sealing schooner Director with 620 skins, says the Victoria Colonist. No word has as yet been received from the other four Victoria schooners, which went over to the Japan coast.

It has been decided by the Sealing Company that they cannot grant the demand of the Indian hunters for an increase in wages, and the adjustments of the differences between the Indians and sealers will be left largely to the captains of the different schooners.

Indian Sealers Demand Advance.

VICTORIA, B. C., June 21. — The Victoria Sealers' Association has decided to accede to the request of the Indian sealhunters for an advance from $4 to $6 for each skin taken by canoes sealing from the company's schooners. Even at this price the Indians are holding off, apparently having been frightened by the storms of last season and the loss of the schooner Hatzic with an Indian crew.

Belgenland in Distress.

LONDON, June 20.—An unconfirmed report is current here that the American Line steamer Belgenland is returning to Queenstown. She has not yet been sighted there, and it is supposed that the vessel may be returning to Liverpool. There has been a heavy gale off Cork for 36 hours. The Belgenland left Queenstown for Philadelphia.

Cutter Thetis Reaches Nome.

SEATTLE, June 20.—The revenue cutter Thetis, Captain M. J. Healy, arrived at Nome June 7, according to advices received today. Her voyage North was without incident. She left the Bear at Dutch Harbor. The latter is on her way to Siberia.

Schooner Eureka a Total Loss.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 20. — The schooner Eureka, which went ashore last night near Mussel Rock, will be a total loss. The seams have opened and her hold is full of water.

Wales Coal for New York.

NEW YORK, June 20.—A cargo of bituminous coal is on its way from Wales to this city. It is being brought here as an experiment.

Domestic and Foreign Ports.

ASTORIA, June 20.—Sailed—Steamer Elmore, for Tillamook. Arrived down at 1 P. M.—Schooner Lizzie Vance. Condition of the bar at 4 P. M., smooth; wind northwest; weather hazy.

San Pedro, June 19.—Sailed—Schooner Abbie, for Astoria.

Algoa Bay, June 16.—Sailed—British bark Madagascar, for Portland.

Southampton, June 20.—Sailed—Columbia, for New York, via Cherbourg.

San Francisco, June 20.—Arrived—Steamer Eureka, from Seattle; steamer Aztec, from Nanaimo; schooner Bender Brothers, from Siuslaw River. Sailed—Steamer Umatilla, for Victoria; schooner John D. Tallant, for Port Townsend; steamer Edith, for Seattle.

Tacoma, June 20.—Arrived—U. S. revenue cutter Grant, cruising; schooner Endeavor, from San Pedro; steamer Farallon, from Alaska. Sailed—Steamer Queen, for Seattle; schooner Otelia Pederson, for Whatcom.

Nagasaki, June 20.—Arrived—Queen Mary, from Portland.

Seattle, June 20.—Arrived—Steamer Nome City, from Nome; steamer Rainier, from San Francisco; steamer Bonita, from San Francisco. Sailed—Steamer Farallon, for Skagway.

France's Heavy Handicap.

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

The utter inability of France to forget Alsace-Lorraine seriously handicaps France. The possibility of the ultimate recovery of the lost provinces is a factor that no French statesman dare ignore. A Russian alliance is eagerly sought because Russia may help in the recovery of Alsace-Lorraine. When it becomes apparent that the Russian alliance tends rather to preserve the "status quo" than to disturb it, the Russian alliance loses its charm. The army must be supported through thick and thin. Dreyfus must be crushed, innocent or guilty, because the army is needed to recover Alsace-Lorraine. France cannot set the example of disarmament and substitute some reasonable militia system for its present burdensome and dangerous standing army because of Alsace-Lorraine. Alsace-Lorraine is like a millstone tied about the neck of the French republic, constantly crushing it down when it would rise and holding it back when it would move forward.

ANOTHER FIGHT FOR LAND

MORE CONTESTS IN FAMOUS TILLAMOOK ENTRIES.

Michigan Timberman Moves Against the Same Parties as Hays, and Alleges Fraud.

OREGON CITY, June 20.—Additional complications were introduced in the famous Hays contest cases this afternoon by the filing in the United States Land Office of junior contests against 37 timber entries, involving about 6000 acres of the best timber land in the state, and all of which is situated in Tillamook County. This makes the third contest filed against these claims. The original contests were filed by Charles E. Hays, who alleged that the entries were fraudulent and made with the purpose of defrauding the Government. Later, G. O. Nolan, a brother of Oak Nolan, one of the contestees in the Hays cases, filed junior contests against the entries involved in the Hays cases. Nolan alleged that the Hays contests were speculative and fraudulent, and that Hays was in collusion with the entrymen in the cases for the purpose of defrauding the Government.

The 37 contests instituted this afternoon were made by William J. Law, a Michigan timberman, who recently arrived on the Coast. The contestant's representative said today that these contests would be vigorously prosecuted. The contest affidavits of Law are corroborated by Lem Parker, of Bay City, Tillamook County, and William L. Riesenberg, of Tillamook. The latter is one of the contestees in the Hays cases. In his contest affidavit, which is duplicated in each case, Law alleges:

That said entry was made collusively, fraudulently and speculatively, and was not in good faith for the exclusive use and benefit of the entryman.

That said entryman, so affiant is informed and believes, never went upon said land prior to the date he made said timber land application, nor did he personally examine said land prior to filing his timber land application therefor, as required by law.

That said entryman, on or before the date of making said application, conspired with one Claude Thayer, Maurice Leach, Clark Hadley, Charles E. Hays, G. O. Nolan and others fraudulently to obtain title to the land and to divide the proceeds of the sale of said land, and that said application was made in pursuance of such conspiracy with said parties above named.

That one Charles E. Hays and G. O. Nolan have filed a pretended contest or contests against said timber land application; that said contests of the above-named parties so filed are collusive and speculative, and that the same were made in the interest of applicant and Claude Thayer, Maurice Leach, Clark Hadley, Charles E. Hays, G. O. Nolan and others, who are co-conspirators in trying to obtain title to the land, and that said contests were made in the interest of the above-named parties and for the purpose of delay, and not in good faith.

That said application is illegal, fraudulent and void, together with the pretended contests of Charles E. Hays and G. O. Nolan, all of which operate to deprive this contestant of his rights to make application for said tract of land, and this the contestant is ready to prove.

There is a well-defined rumor current in land circles that all but six of the contestees in the Hays and Nolan contests have relinquished their entries. With this rumor comes the report that both Contestant Hays and Junior Contestant Nolan have withdrawals of their contests ready to file in the land office. This move would have made the land vacant and subject to entry. Then a selection as school indemnity land or on forest reserve scrip could have been made as soon as a price was agreed upon. A similar line of action has been pursued in a number of these cases, but the contests filed this afternoon put a direct block in the way in 37 cases.

In one of the 37 contests the entry of Frank Severance is not contested by Nolan as junior contestant, as proof was made on his claim and a certificate issued to him December 19, 1899, before the junior contests of Nolan were filed.

TURNER CAMP-MEETING OPENS.

Annual Gathering of the Christian Church of Oregon.

TURNER, Or., June 20.—The Oregon Christian convention opened its annual session here today at 10 A. M. Delegates are in attendance from every part of the state. Among those present are Charles R. Scoville, D. D., LL. D., of Chicago, who comes this year as chief speaker; Rev. M. L. Rose, of Tacoma, Wash.; Rev. J. D. McCallum, Dr. Dale, J. B. Lister, corresponding secretary of the convention; Dean E. C. Sanderson, of the Divinity School of Eugene; Professor and Mrs. George A. Wirtz; Rev. and Mrs. J. B. Holmes, of Albany; Rev. and Mrs. J. S. O. Humbert, of Corvallis; Rev. and Mrs. George C. Ritchey, of Salem; Rev. J. M. Hunter, Ashland; Rev. R. A. Copple, Pendleton; Rev. and Mrs. Albyn Esson; Mrs. J. M. Shaw, A. A. Kellogg, S. Hunsaker, H. D. Ponnay, Miss Bessie Ghormley, Rev. J. F. Ghormley and Rev. B. B. Burton, all of Portland. The exercises opened today with an inspiring song service, lead by Professor George A. Wirtz, who has organized a large chorus to sing every day during the convention. Following this Rev. Albyn Esson delivered an address before the Ministerial Association, which was well received and discussed by several ministers, the discussion being led by Rev. George C. Ritchey, of Salem. Dr. Charles R. Scoville delivered a well-prepared and highly-appreciated address at 11:30 A. M. on "Hebrew Poetry." At 2:30 P. M. Rev. J. M. Hunter led the devotional exercises, which were followed by an address on "Finances and the Official Board," by Evangelist F. F. Stephens, of Idaho. The subject was discussed by Rev. J. B. Holmes and others. At 8 P. M. Dr. Scoville delivered an address on "Miraculous Creation." The following is the programme for tomorrow (Saturday):

Morning—9:30, song and praise, R. A. Copple, Pendleton; 10, address, "Our Attitude Toward Our Religious Neighbors," D. C. Kellums, Eugene; discussion, led by A. L. Platt, McMinnville; 11, sermon, "Higher Criticism and Its Fruits," C. R. Scoville.

Afternoon—2:30, devotional, E. M. Patterson, Eugene; 2:45, address, "The Preacher in His Study," B. B. Burton, evangelist in Oregon; 3:30, question box, J. S. McCallum, Eugene; 4, business, reports of committees.

Evening—7:30, service of song; 8, sermon, "Miraculous Redemption," C. R. Scoville.

Hundreds of delegates are on the ground, and thousands will be in attendance tomorrow.

WATTERSON TO VISIT ASHLAND.

Famous Editor to Lecture at Chautauqua Assembly.

ASHLAND, June 20.—The annual assembly of the Southern Oregon Chautauqua Association will open at the Tabernacle in this city, beginning July 9, and continuing for 10 days. The principal speaker will be Hon. Henry Watterson, the editor of the Louisville Courier-Journal, and Rev. Dr. Robert McIntyre, of Chicago, will deliver two lectures during the course. Among the other speakers will be Charles Craig and wife, of Chicago. The musical instructor will be Professor Milton L. Lawrence, of San Jose, Cal., while the Colonial Quartet, of San Francisco, will also be heard. The readings will be under the supervision of Miss Charlotte Graeber, of San Francisco. Schools for Bible study, temperance, elocution and physical culture are being arranged. The assembly gives every promise of being the most successful in the history of the institution.

DOINGS OF BOARD OF PHARMACY.

About Seventy Per Cent of Applicants Pass State Examination.

SALEM, June 20.—L. W. Moody, secretary of the State Board of Pharmacy, has filed in the Governor's office his annual report for the period ending May 21, last. The year's receipts from examination fees, and renewals, amounted to $929.60. Of that amount $471.70 was disbursed in expenses contracted by holding quarterly meetings of the board. The secretary's salary of $300 being paid, left a balance on hand of $157.80. During the year 40 candidates were examined, and 28 passed. Thirty-seven were examined for registered assistants, and of that class 24 reached the required grade.

The number of certificates issued by the board to date is 779 registered pharmacists and 165 registered assistants.

Rent for State Stove Foundry.

The Loewenberg-Going Company, of Portland, today paid into the State Treasury $500 for rent of the foundry at the State Penitentiary, for the quarter ending June 30.

Astoria Brevities.

ASTORIA, Or., June 20.—Today was the warmest of the season, the thermometer in the Weather Bureau office registering 86 deg. this afternoon, the highest it has been for two years.

This morning, while there was scarcely a breath of air stirring in the city, an easterly gale was blowing at the head works of the Astoria water system at Bear Creek, about seven miles away. Fences were blown down, fruit trees destroyed and the limbs of many of the larger trees broken off.

At a meeting of the Carpenters' Union held last evening it was decided that after July 1 the wages of carpenters in this city shall be $3 per day, to be paid every Saturday night without fail.

The school census of the city has been completed, and shows that, exclusive of Chinese and Japanese, there are 2548 children of school age, while last year there were 2480.

Lieutenant Byrd Resigns.

SALEM, June 20.—Roy Byrd, who was recently elected Second Lieutenant of Company F, Fourth Regiment, O. N. G., of this city, has resigned, and a special examination will be held soon to supply the vacancy. The selection of a successor will be made before the date for holding annual encampment, July 17-24. Captain H. A. Kurtz and First Lieutenant L. E. Judson have been notified that they very creditably passed the examination required of all newly elected commissioned officers of the State Guard. They will soon receive their commissions.

Ballplayer Pete Dowling a Hero.

SACRAMENTO, June 20.—Patrolman Duhain, Alexander Stevens, Jim McGrath and Pete Dowling, the baseball player, all came near drowning in the river yesterday while taking a swim. Stevens first got in trouble and Duhain went to his aid. They both went down, and McGrath in trying to get them out became exhausted and helpless. Dowling discovered the trouble and dashed into the deep water and succeeded in dragging his comrades onto a sand-bar. He was the hero of the hour.

Elected to Willamette Faculty.

SALEM, Or., June 20.—The Board of Trustees of Willamette University has filled the vacancy in the faculty occasioned by the resignation of Professor W. P. Drew, professor in Latin and Greek, by selecting Professor George A. Warfield, A. M., of the Astoria High School, for the place. Professor Warfield is highly recommended, and his selection to fill the vacancy gives great satisfaction.

Woman Was Not Kidnaped.

ST. LOUIS, June 20.—The woman en route to Astoria, Or., supposed to have been kidnaped the first of the week, was released from the City Hospital today, where she was confined as insane. It develops she was frightened by policemen, and thought they intended to kill her.

Cornerstone of Hospital Laid.

PENDLETON, June 20.—The cornerstone of St. Anthony's Hospital, under the auspices of the Sisters of St. Francis, was laid by Archbishop Christie this afternoon. When completed the structure will cost about $75,000.

Play Ball at Ashland Sunday.

ASHLAND, June 20. — The baseball grounds of the Ashland Athletic Club have been improved during the past week and will reopen Sunday with a grand game between the Jacksonville and Ashland nines.

THE SYMATHETIC STRIKE

Reasons Why It Is Viewed With Misgiving on All Hands.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.

It is a curious fact that the most frequent, extensive and violent strikes usually occur during periods of the highest prosperity. It was when Jeshurun waxed fat that he kicked. When there is work for everybody at good wages, as now, the workers naturally think it is their best chance to secure better wages and better terms. As in all such controversies between wage-earners and their employers, neither side is always entirely right or entirely wrong. That there should be some way of settling them without resort to a strike is the most commonplace of truisms, and yet all the wisdom of legislators, of statesmen and humanitarians has been unable as yet to devise any method of adjudicating such disputes which is satisfactory to both sides.

The strike, though under existing conditions often necessary to the just rights and interests of labor, is not a good way to reach equitable results. For it is costly to both sides; it is essentially one-sided, and is often an appeal to force. But there is no justification for the sympathetic strike. Take the case of the anthracite miners. They ask for some advance in wages and for limiting the day's work to eight hours. But there are minor and secondary items in their bill of complaint. They insist on the recognition of their union and that all contracts shall be made with the union instead of with the individual workers. This is the central issue of the contest. Over 145,000 miners are involved in the dispute, of whom a large minority do not approve the strike—preferring peace with the comfortable wages they now have to a war, with no wages at all. When so large a proportion of the strikers as 38 per cent was opposed to the strike, it is a safe inference that their grievances are not intolerable, and that, if there is ever any justification of a sympathetic strike, there is none in this instance.

The strike of the anthracite coal miners, even if extended no farther, will entail great pecuniary loss on the immediate parties to the contest, while it will greatly damage a great many dependent and related interests. The whole country will suffer from the increased cost both of anthracite and bituminous coal. But if they should succeed in bringing about a sympathetic strike of the bituminous coal miners, it would paralyze nearly all the industries and commerce of the country. It would tie up furnaces, mills and factories and railroads and throw millions of wage-earners out of employment. The losses thus inflicted on the country at large would be incalculable. That it should be possible through the sympathetic strike thus to stop the wheels of industry and trade throughout the country and inflict immeasurable disaster on many millions having not the remotest connection with the dispute is simply monstrous. A foreign foe, even if all the broad land lay prostrate under the feet of his invading armies, could not in a year's campaign of conquest and devastation inflict a tithe of the damage on the American people that would result from the extinction of the steam-power of this country for a few weeks. But even a foreign foe, acting under the rules of civilized war, would spare all non-combatants from the fury of his desolating war. The sympathetic strike spares nobody, but wages an indiscriminate warfare upon all within its reach, in the full knowledge that its victims have not the remotest responsibility for or connection with the grievances complained of and are utterly powerless to remedy them.

In the absence of any effective means of conciliation or of arbitration the strike, we repeat, is often justifiable and even necessary as a protection to the interests of labor; but the sympathetic strike—never. The latter has but one possible use, and that is to arouse public sentiment to the vital need of some means of adjusting these controversies between capital and labor on an equitable basis, and at the same time of protecting the community at large from being made suffering parties to a conflict with which it has no connection.

GOOD ACTING STILL EXTANT

Notwithstanding Mr. Mansfield's Modesty and Gloom.

Kansas City Star.

In a letter to the New York Herald, Mr. Richard Mansfield, evidently in answer to some of the press comments that have been made on recent disturbances in his company, declares that the art of acting is declining, and even expresses the fear that it may disappear altogether. He blames the press primarily for what he regards as the decadence of his profession. He believes that in this country the value of artistic accomplishments is neutralized by undue attention to qualities, peculiarities or relations that excite public curiosity; that the standards of criticism are not so high as they should be, and that they are often false. For these reasons, he avers, studious endeavor often gives way to personal exploitation, and discipline in the ranks of young players is destroyed. He declares that the shortcomings of conscientious and generous producers may be traced almost wholly to the impossibility of securing competent artists to make up the casts.

While there is a good deal of truth in these observations, Mr. Mansfield's view is unnecessarily gloomy. The reasons for such a view are apparent, however. Mr. Mansfield, intentionally or unintentionally, has attracted more personal attention than any other American actor from the newspapers of this country. Whether or not, in the earlier days of his career, he sought advertisement through personal eccentricities, those who know him are well aware that he has, in recent times, endeavored to confine newspaper comments to his art and his productions. He has chafed under the flippancy of the press. He has been driven almost to desperation by some of the inventions of reporters. When in Kansas City a short while ago he was especially bitter in commenting on a certain newspaper that had a three-line head article on his hotel arrangements—most of which he declared to be of the reporter's imagining—a two-line head account following about some disagreement in his company, and last of all a one-line head review of his first appearance in Kansas City in a new play.

But such instances are rare. Mr. Mansfield cannot justly charge the American press with indifference to his acting or his productions. He has fared well at the hands of the critics, even if he has been harassed by the reporters. If some of the reviewers have been inclined to give descriptive, pleasant accounts of his presentations rather than closely critical analyses, the effect has been to promote his interests. Newspapers should, in the end, try to define and elevate the standards of dramatic art, but one of the most essential elements of any newspaper article is that it must be readable. Too much hair-splitting is wearisome, and if criticisms are not read they lose their value, no matter how fine their substance.

Reviewers of plays give more latitude to personal peculiarities in actors and actresses than in times past. Some of the things to which Mr. Mansfield objects in others players could be applied to himself by a strict adherence to dogmatic rules. But critics have recognized the fact that individuality of method, peculiarities of reading and intonation and attractiveness of personality are all qualities that may help to distinguish one actor above those of conventional and even more theoretically correct expression. Mr. Irving's mannerisms have received much comment and no little abuse, but in recent years they have been accepted largely as an inseparable part of himself, and they are not allowed to detract greatly from his exceptional art as a character actor and his genius as a producer. Joseph Jefferson, Mrs. Fiske, Sarah Bernhardt, Ellen Terry, in fact, all the great ones, put positive individualities into their work.

Mr. Mansfield to the contrary, acting is not in a deplorable decline. On the American stage today one sees more natural and more convincing expositions of character and thought than ever before. The tendency toward naturalism has made some of the strivers insipid, it is true, but the general average, in those lines of endeavor worthy to be considered in a discussion of acting as an art, is higher than it was a generation ago.

President Will Visit Kansas City.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., June 20.—President Roosevelt has accepted the invitation of the Commercial Club and will visit Kansas City next September 29 or 30.

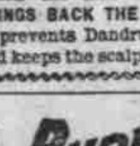
MAN'S MISSION ON EARTH.

Medical Book Free.

"Know Thyself," a book for men only; regular price, 50 cents, will be sent free (sealed postpaid) to any male reader of this paper, 6 cents for postage. Address the **Peabody Medical Institute,** 4 Bulfinch street, Boston, Mass., established in 1860, the oldest and best in America. Write today for free book, "The Key to Health and Happiness."

Editor's Note For 40 years the Peabody Medical Institute has been a fixed fact, and it will remain so. It is as standard as American Gold.

The Peabody Medical Institute has many imitators, but no equals.—Boston Herald.



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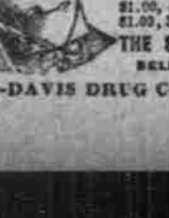

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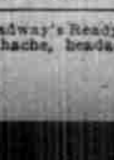

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