

STREET CAR THE-UP HURTS DES MOINES

City is Growing Tired of Bus as Transport Medium.

BIG STORES PROSPEROUS

Iowa Bankers and Farmers Join in Dissatisfaction With System of Marketing.

BY RICHARD SPILLANE. (Copyright by the Public Ledger Co. Published by Arrangement.)

DES MOINES, Ia., Sept. 11.—(Special)—This city reflects Iowa, the greatest agricultural state of the union, foremost in value of farm land, in value of farm machinery, in value of livestock on the farm, in percentage of acres of improved land and probably in automobiles per capita. The farmer has been hard hit by the great decline in farm products prices, but nowhere in the farm belt is the prospect better of an early return to fair conditions. City and country agree that despite low prices the farmer will be able to reduce his indebtedness somewhat out of this year's crop.

Common Sense Urged.

There is no non-partisan league or populist taint, to the Iowa, but he declares there would have been no such blind movements if there were not gross evils to correct. Bankers and farmers would like to see order, common sense introduced into the distributive process. They don't see why, if the California fruit exchange can benefit producer and consumer by its system of marketing the citrus crops of California, the grain farmers can't do likewise in regard to their products. They want to reduce, or, if possible, eliminate the gamble there is in farming and make it a more stable industry. Nowhere are bankers and farmers more in accord and in sympathy than in Iowa. They are sound, solid citizens. Their plans will be considered before being adopted. What they do is likely to have great influence on the farm nationally. Here in Des Moines are several great farm publications. An Iowa farm editor is secretary of agriculture. Iowa bankers rank high in influence and intelligence.

Reserve System Criticized.

The farther west a traveler goes the more criticism he hears of the federal reserve system. The prevailing belief seems to be that the east is favored and the farm neglected. One thing certain is that if earnest attention is not given to the cause, the nation is going to pay the penalty. Corn is very cheap, but generally speaking farmers who produce and buy cattle to feed and fatten for market have not the money or credit to purchase cattle and they not only lose this opportunity to continue their ordinary feeding business, but their surplus corn is a dead asset, or nearly so. Unquestionably, if cattle from the range are not fed on the farms as usual and in the usual manner, there will be a beef shortage next year that will be nationwide in its effect.

Cars Still Off Streets.

Des Moines presents an odd picture to the stranger. The trolley system still is out of commission. Such an assortment of queer vehicles masquerading as auto-buses is in commission as you will see nowhere else in America. This is not a strike of workers, but of the trolley company. How it will end nobody knows. The trouble seems to be in absentee land-ownership, low earnings and poor management plus a secret agreement between the company and labor union leader that outrages public opinion. The buses operate at a loss, but from the city revenue at any time. At first the bus people thought there was a fortune in the business. They rigged all sorts of loads on all sorts of chassis and went to it. Now the number of buses is lessening. Some routes have been found not to pay. When the busman quits he just quits and lets the public go hang. At first everybody with an automobile was willing to give a lift to anybody afoot. Now men are getting tired of it. To get from your home to town in the morning is not difficult, all vehicles being pointed toward a common center, but to get home at night is another matter. People line up at the curbs and wait. Vehicles are sadly overcrowded. Most of them are ill-designed for business. There is inconvenience, discomfort and delay.

Business is Hurt.

The Des Moines stores suffered in patronage for a time. Now they suffer only a little, but the theater, motion picture establishments, confectioners and others in the heart of the city are hurt. There is less coming to town at night. A goodly proportion of the people stay home to perform. A liberal estimate puts the loss to these businesses at 15 to 20 per cent. One prominent theater which was to have opened this month will be closed until the transportation trouble is adjusted. Des Moines has a considerable industrial establishment made up of flouring mills, hosiery mills, threshing-machine plants, tire and tube factories, a branch of the National Biscuit company, the Pittsburg-Des Moines Steel company, the Hawkeye-Portland Cement works, various toilet preparation-making concerns, a woolen mill and skirt factory, large foundries and furnace works, meat-packing plants, together with various big publishing concerns like Successful Farming, Walworth's and the Pittsburg-Homestead Printing company. The periodical-publishing business of Des Moines is unusually big for a city of about 10,000 population in its metropolitan area.

Big Stores Prosper.

The principal houses of distribution for city and country are doing pretty well, better in fact than generally supposed by the people of Des Moines. Here is an illustration: In July, 1918, one of the largest department stores made 121,866 sales; in July, 1919, 185,074; in July, 1920, 142,784; and in July, 1921, 162,059. This means a 12 per cent increase in volume over last year. But there also was a 12 per cent smaller gross return in money from the enlarged business. Another big department store reported it had sold more in

volume than last year, with a decrease in dollars. Its increase in freight and express charges the first half of the year over last year was 68 per cent. The Harris-Emery company reported increased sales in many lines. Their sales of silk sweaters are particularly large. They look for no recession in cottons or woolsens.

Orders Are Expected.

The shelves of the country, they say, have little stock on them. Reports of popular price merchandise will continue. Nate Prentel, of this house, said he put up a warehouse a few years ago to hold his goods. Now he would like to sell it. Buying by merchandisers, he said, would not be indiscriminate and wild, as a few years back, but the volume would be great. Unemployment here, as elsewhere I have visited, shows a slight but steady decline through the months from early in the year. Savings bank deposits are excellent. Reports from the life insurance companies (this is a great insurance center) are good. Senator Seasna of Grinnell says the Iowa farmer will have to market his 1922 crop before he is clear financially. No one doubts his solvency, but it is difficult to pay the silk shirt period debt with the present low price of farm products. He estimates \$250,000,000 was taken from the farmers by speculators. Those who bought land even at too high a price got something. Those who bought oil shares got nothing. The farmers will not make the same mistake again in a hurry. John Cavanaugh, one of the leading bankers of Iowa, expressed the opinion that we had definitely turned the corner.

ARBUCKLE IS SILENT

(Continued From First Page.) William Ophuis, who attended Miss Rappe, disclosed, he said, that her death resulted from peritonitis, which was caused by rupture of an internal organ. He said there were no signs of criminal assault and no signs that the young woman had been attacked in any way. Dr. Shelby Strange, autopsy surgeon, said an internal organ had been ruptured. He sent the stomach to the city chemist for analysis.

Arms Reported Drained.

Mrs. Jane Walsh, chief deputy coroner, and Mrs. Jean Jameson, nurse who attended Miss Rappe, declared there were bruises on the young woman's arms and legs. Miss Alice Blake and Mrs. B. M. Delmont told the police that after some liquor had been drunk at the party, Arbuckle and Miss Rappe went to an adjoining room, the door of which was thereupon locked. Soon they said, they heard Miss Rappe screaming, and after they had pounded on the door for some time, Arbuckle admitted them. Miss Rappe, they said, was lying on the bed practically nude, only partly conscious, and her clothing had been torn badly. They said she was moaning: "I am dying."

Girl Put in Cold Bath.

Miss Rappe was put into a cold bath by the members of the party, and that falling to revive her, the house physician was summoned. Afterward she was removed to a sanitarium, where she expired. Arbuckle went to Los Angeles Tuesday. He returned here by automobile last night from Los Angeles and went at once to police headquarters. He was questioned for several hours, but on advice of his attorney refused to talk. At midnight Captain Matheson ordered him booked for murder. Arbuckle lost his usual jaunty manner and, as he posed for newspaper photographers, who asked him to smile, he said: "Not on an occasion of this sort."

All of Today Arbuckle Persisted in his refusal to answer questions of the police and his attorneys, under whose instructions he was acting, declined to discuss the case.

Miss Rappe Born in Chicago.

Miss Rappe was 25 years old and was born in Chicago. She attracted attention in that city in 1915, it is said, by advice to young women to create original methods of making a living. She was then making \$1000 a year as a traveling art model, she said. Miss Rappe came to San Francisco in 1915 and for a time designed gowns and costumes as a model. She began acting in moving pictures in Los Angeles in 1917, and took leading parts in several. Her mother is dead, and her housekeeper, who was known as her aunt, acted as her chaperone. Arbuckle was born in Kansas 31 years ago. When 8 years old he appeared in a play at the stock company at Santa Anna, Cal., for 30 cents a night. Ten years later he received \$17.50 a week for singing popular songs at a San Jose, Cal., vaudeville house. That was his first regular theatrical engagement. Afterward he sang in a Portland, Or., burlesque theater, and later was a soft shos dancer in Oakland, Cal. Arbuckle's first moving picture work as an extra man for companies producing slapstick comedies. It paid him \$2 a day. Since then he has produced many film plays as head of his own company.

TORN GARMENTS ARE FOUND

Detectives Invade Home of Manager of Miss Rappe.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Sept. 11.—Torn garments said to have belonged to Miss Virginia Rappe, motion-picture actress, in connection with whose death Roscoe Arbuckle was booked on a murder charge at San Francisco, were taken by Los Angeles detectives today from the home here of Al Semmacher, manager for Miss Rappe. The garments were dispatched on a night train to the San Francisco police, Chief Jones announced. Chief Jones said he was notified by Chief O'Brien of San Francisco that the garments were dispatched to Semmacher's residence. The detectives sent for them said they were turned over by an attendant of the house. One, a silk blouse, they said, was ripped about the sleeves and three of five buttons were missing. The other, an undergarment, was "almost in shreds," the detectives said. A pair of gold cuff links and a bracelet, found with the garments, were also taken to the central police station.

APPLE DEMAND STRONG

Hood Growers to Get Substantial Profits From Shipments.

HOOD RIVER, Or., Sept. 11.—(Special)—P. F. Clark, sales manager of the Apple Growers' Association, reports that the demand for apples, of Gravenstein and King varieties, is in excess of supply. These varieties, Mr. Clark says, will return growers a good profit. If apples of the late varieties bring proportionate prices the season's deal will be one of the best the valley has ever experienced. The association up to yesterday had shipped five cars of early apples. Mr. Clark, 190, reports the pear market rallying from the recession. Up to last night a total of 11 cars of Bartlett's had been shipped by the association. S. & H. green stamps for cash. Holman Fuel Co., coal and wood. Main 353; 560-21.—Adv.

"FATTY" ARBUCKLE KNOWN IN PORTLAND

Accused Star Popular Here 20 Years Ago.

AMATEUR SHOWS STAGED

Theatrical Old-Timers Remember Movie Actor as Good-Natured Fat Youth.

A fat, happy-go-lucky, well-behaved, jolly big kid—that was "Fatty" Arbuckle as the Portland theatrical world knew him nearly 20 years ago when the now famous motion picture star, held in a San Francisco jail in connection with the sensational death of Miss Virginia Rappe, was a "ham" entertainer, "song plugger" and crude performer on the stages of this city. In managers' offices, in dressing rooms, in the "wings" in film theaters and other places where show folk gather, the Arbuckle case has been a prominent topic of discussion. Several leading showmen of Portland knew the plump comedian in his carefree days when he lumbered at the outer fringe of the theatrical profession, lent him quarters and some times half dollars to buy stimulating "coffee and sinkers" for his healthy appetite, and broke him into the mysteries of the stage.

Miss Rappe Unknown Here.

Very little is known in Portland about Miss Virginia Rappe, victim of the fatal escapade in the St. Francis hotel. H. H. De Valliere, an artist and writer who came to Portland recently after working in Hollywood, the film capital, with various leading companies, saw her working in ballroom and mob scenes for Famous Players-Lasky corporation, which releases Arbuckle's pictures. He described her as "quite pretty brunette type, with chestnut hair and big brown eyes." She was said to have borne a marked resemblance to Virginia Fox, leading woman for Buster Keaton. Miss Rappe had been in Los Angeles for four or five years. She was one among hundreds of girls working occasionally in very similar parts or as an "extra" when a large crowd was needed for a scene showing a theater audience, a mob or a big dance.

Income Is Small.

Like so many others in that vast army of aspirants for screen fame, her engagements were comparatively few, it was said, and her income uncertain. Spurred by ambition, it was said, she worked hard with the thought that some day she might be lifted to stardom, wealth and fame. Years ago "Fatty" Arbuckle "drifted" into Portland from somewhere in Idaho. According to L. E. Christ, assistant manager of Pantages theater, Arbuckle used to haunt the back-stage region of the Star theater, then the home of melodramatic stock companies. "Fatty" did all kinds of odd jobs, shuffling scenery, running errands, "smashing baggage." He slept on a roll of old curtains on the scarred boards of the stage. His activities brought him a few dollars at various intervals, and his wants were few. When his clothes became too tattered he could borrow cast-off wardrobe from actors. When the manager of a theater troubled him, his big smile brought him petty loans from managers or fellow workers, J. A. Johnson, now manager of Pantages theater, was one of the first men to lend the impecunious "Fatty" the "huge" sum of \$1 for a big feed.

Arbuckle Is Popular.

Everybody liked "Fatty" in those days, said Mr. Christ. After serving in a roustabout capacity at the Star for a while, he made his real stage debut at the Pantages theater, then at Fourth and Stark streets. In a good voice ranging between tenor and baritone, "Fatty" sang endless "illustrated songs" as a filler between vaudeville acts. Then Larry Keating of the Lyric gave him a singing job at the old Lyric theater, which occupies the site of the present Pantages theater. "Arbuckle was a well-behaved young fellow in those days," said Mr. Keating. "He was generous to an extreme with what talent he possessed, and was liked by everybody in the theatrical world here. He was an active member of an actors' organization known as the Proscenium club, and took an active part in the club entertainments."

Actor Is Hard Up.

When Keating went to Seattle in 1913 to open the Tirol theater, he was told that "Fatty" Arbuckle was in Los Angeles, with no work and having a hard time trying to break into pictures. Keating needed a comedian, and wrote a telegram to Arbuckle offering him a position with the Seattle company. The director of the Tirol shows advised Keating not to get Arbuckle, because he was a "type" and not a general comedian. Keating did not send the telegram, but kept a copy of it for several years, for shortly after this Arbuckle started his successful film career. "If I had sent that message, I feel sure Arbuckle would have jumped at the chance of a stage job, and having a hard time where he is today," said Mr. Keating. Arbuckle met many discouragements and went back to small-time vaudeville and cabaret engagements as a singer. A Portland man was Arbuckle's partner in a singing act that played the California beach resorts in those

days. The pair were paid \$21 a week when they could find work.

Association Is Regretted.

"Don't connect my name with Arbuckle now, for his wild parties and misconduct have lost the respect of the better class of show people," said the ex-teammate of the accused comedian yesterday.

Al Francis, comedian at the Lyric, said yesterday that Arbuckle made his biggest hit on the stage through amusing "falls" and knockabout tumbling. These qualities eventually brought him fame in slapstick comedy. The general opinion of Portland show people who were interviewed yesterday seemed to be that riches and fame had gone to the head of the portly, warm-hearted chap who broke into the business in Portland. Several incidents were related in which Arbuckle had snubbed and forgotten the men who helped him and stuck by him in his early struggles. Arbuckle's alleged ingratitude has lost for him the sympathies of many former friends and acquaintances in the amusement world.

Public Declared Arbitrator.

"The future of 'Fatty' Arbuckle on the screen is in the hands of the public," said Paul E. Noble, manager of the Liberty theater. "If he comes through this trial clean and honorably acquitted, the fans will support him in the future. If he is guilty of the charges his popularity is killed forever. The great hosts of film fans will decide his fate as a motion picture star." Mr. Noble emphatically denied that he had issued any other statement to the newspapers regarding the policy of the Jensen & Von Herbers houses in the matter of booking Arbuckle's future productions. "Our organization is not interested in discussing the Arbuckle affair," he said. "We feel that our standards are above the policy of pandering 'smut' in this sensational case. We are in the matter of booking Arbuckle's future productions."

Slapstick Wins Fame.

"Fatty" Arbuckle first gained fame on the screen as a slapstick comedian with Mack Sennett in film comedies in which hurling of custard pies was an outstanding feature. Later he was signed by the Famous Players-Lasky corporation to star in comedy-dramas of a more dignified type. He appeared in such pictures as "The Round-Up," "Brewster's Millions" and "The Traveling Salesman." In his new field of work he was billed as Roscoe Arbuckle with a view of bettering the less dignified but better known appellation of "Fatty." Arbuckle married Minta Durfee, an actress, but the pair have been divorced for several years, and Miss Durfee has returned to the screen after a retirement.

Film Here Last Week.

Arbuckle's last picture to show in Portland was "Crazy to Marry," which played the Peoples theater last week. Another production which was scheduled for an early showing was "Gasoline Gus," in which Miss Rappe was said to have a tiny role. The title of the comedian's next picture might be termed appropriate in view of Arbuckle's possible frame of mind at present. The title is "The Melancholy Spirit."

CONTRACTORS GET BONDS

Eugene Firm Takes \$50,000 Securities as Pay for Road Job.

EUGENE, Or., Sept. 11.—(Special)—Mercer & Igoc, a contracting firm of this city, received an award of \$50,000 of Lane county's 5 per cent road bonds. The firm's bid was the only one received when tenders were opened yesterday in county court. This firm received a contract to surface the 14 miles of the Eugene-Crow-Hadleyville highway, now in course of construction, and will take the bonds as pay for its work. Equipment and material are on the ground and it is expected to begin the laying of crushed rock at once. It is planned to have the work far enough along by the time the winter rains set in so that the farmers of Crow and Hadleyville may use the road. For many years the old road from these localities to Eugene has been practically impassable in winter.

Parsons to Embark for East.

EUGENE, Or., Sept. 11.—(Special)—Lieutenant M. Vernon Parsons of the marine corps and a former Eugene attorney, after a visit of several days here, left today for San Francisco, where he will embark in a few days on the steamship Great Northern for the Atlantic seaboard by way of the Panama canal. Lieutenant Parsons will go to Washington, D. C., where he will be connected with the vocational training school of the marine corps for ex-service men.

Bible School Head Goes East.

EUGENE, Or., Sept. 11.—(Special)—Dr. E. C. Sanderson, president of the Eugene Bible university, left yesterday for Minneapolis, Minn., where he will attend a meeting of the Christian church officials for a discussion of the



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