

ONE MILLION A DAY FOR BUILDINGS

NEW YORK SOON TO BE A VERITABLE CITY OF PALACES—OTHER NOTES.

NEW YORK, March 13.—From indications based on the first quarter of the year, a new building record not only for this city but for all cities of the world will be established here during 1909, a record never before approached either in this country or abroad. Each time the sun sets, it is estimated on expert authority, one million dollars will have been invested in new building enterprises or more than \$350,000,000 during the year, an increase of more than \$50,000,000 over the high water mark of the record breaking years of 1905 and 1906. Last year the total fell below \$200,000,000, but the amount thus invested during the last decade nevertheless exceeds \$2,200,000,000. During the two months and a half already passed, the worst part of the year so far as building is concerned, more than \$105,000,000 worth of construction has already been contracted for. Fully \$150,000,000 of the year's total, it is estimated, will be spent in the erection of buildings for business purposes south of Fifty-ninth street, while \$100,000,000 more will go for the construction of apartment houses, residences and hotels. The additional \$100,000,000 will include public buildings, theaters and suburban homes within the limits of the greater city. Some of the big projects in the downtown district include the \$10,000,000 Equitable Life Building, \$8,000,000 Municipal building, a \$4,000,000 penitentiary for the city, a new \$4,000,000 hospital, \$4,000,000 for the Grand Central Station, a \$3,500,000 branch Post Office; a score of offices and apartment buildings costing from \$2,000,000 to \$3,500,000 each; two new hotels which are being erected by Alfred G. Vanderbilt and Robert Golet at a cost of \$2,000,000 apiece, and numerous other public buildings costing a million dollars or more.

One of the most curious recent legal discoveries, in connection with the so-called white slave traffic in this city, and the abduction of young girls for criminal purposes, has brought to light the fact that only aliens can expect protection under the federal law, while American citizens must look to each state to frame legislation to protect them in stamping out this evil. As a result legislative steps in this and many other states now promise an effective check upon the depredations of the agents of this traffic. James Bronson Reynolds of this city, a close friend of ex-President Roosevelt, and Secretary of the National Vigilance Association, who has studied this situation and its causes not only in America but in Europe and the Orient, has endorsed as models the

bills now pending in the Illinois Legislature with every prospect of becoming law. "Any one who is aware of the number of innocent victims, entrapped and enslaved yearly in this abominable traffic, will not need to be told that vigorous and comprehensive remedies must be applied," he says, referring to the Illinois bills which Assistant United States District Attorney Parkin has prepared for a magazine, Woman's World of Chicago. These bills, which have official endorsement of state and national organizations, have been carefully revised to make them models for other states and already similar bills are pending in other Legislatures.

Animals are in a fair way to compete with human beings in this city, not only on the grounds of prominence but in financial aspects as well. Recently there has come to light the case of a dog, two pounds in weight, which virtually controls \$500,000 worth of Fifth Avenue property, a record that few New York's great property holders can approach. The case in question, which in addition to the diminutive canine involves one of the choicest Fifth Avenue lots in the city, is believed to be unique in real estate channels. The lot in question, of small dimensions, is located next to one of the older houses just below Forty-second Street. Recently the owner was offered for it \$500,000, a record price, but he refused it for the reason that a sister who lived in a house adjoining the vacant property had a small dog which used the lot to run in. If it were sold the dog would have no yard in which to exercise and for this reason the half million dollar offer was rejected. Another animal living in perhaps greater luxury, though not having such large real estate holdings, is the first trick pony of the now extinct Barnum and Bailey circus, which at the age of twenty-eight years is living as the guest of the Garden City Hotel on Long Island where it is the recipient of many calls. The aged pony has not only a sumptuous box stall but a Japanese valet as well, who daily leads the animal out for its exercise during which it is the recipient of gifts and attentions from a large circle of boys and girl friends. While advancing years have brought stiffness, the pony still attempts a few of its old-time tricks. While there are many pampered pets in the Metropolis, a dog controlling \$500,000 worth of real estate and a pony with a Japanese valet seem to establish a new record in this line even for New York.

The feminine heavy weight eating championship of this country evidently belongs to New York women, if figures presented before the last meeting of the Rainy Day Club at the Hotel Astor may be accepted. According to them any woman in this city who lives to the age of forty consumes over 105,000 pounds of food and drink, while if she reaches the three score years and ten mark her total consumption is over 210,000 pounds or more than 106 tons, a quantity sufficient to load ten freight cars with a capacity of 20,000 pounds each. The various items which contribute to this astonishing total were

GOULD'S IDEA OF E. H. HARRIMAN NOW

MAGNATE OF MISSOURI-PACIFIC HAS FRIENDLY WORD FOR HIS COLLEAGUE.

NEW YORK, March 13.—E. H. Harriman is stronger than ever, according to George J. Gould, in an interview published here today.

"I admire Mr. Harriman," declared the head of the Missouri Pacific system, "and I admire his courage." "For four years" he continued, "the government devoted all its energies to attack him and he stood his ground, practically alone. Every arm of the federal law was brought to bear against him. All the machinery was set in motion. Everything was thrown in an upheaval, the entire country was plunged into the throes of disturbance—even a panic was brought on to crush him. Great fortunes were lost and men ruined." "And Mr. Harriman survived through it all, untouched and today he is stronger than ever. If he had ever done anything wrong he would surely have been made to suffer for it in the circumstances. But I don't believe he did anything willingly unlawful."

"His spirit and courage are extraordinary. He has come out of that four years of attack and prosecution victorious, without a single thing to his discredit. He has the most wonderful spirit of any man I have met. Not physically strong, he has an indomitable will and is afraid of nothing. He fought back and won his battle alone, in the face of misrepresentation and the most bitter attacks."

When asked if Mr. Harriman would ally himself with any of the Gould properties, particularly the Wabash system, Mr. Gould said:

"No I don't believe he will be a director of the Wabash. But I know one man who would welcome him on the board and that is myself. I know Mr. Harriman very well. He and I are very good friends. We often meet and are on the best of terms."

In some quarters Mr. Gould's declaration of friendship for Mr. Harriman, is taken as an indication that there is no latent feeling of rivalry or even hostility between two railroad presidents, owing to the fact that one of them is building the Western Pacific system to San Francisco as a competitor of the Union and Southern Pacific roads.

cited by the speaker as follows. Thirty steers, two hundred sheep, two hundred lambs, one hundred calves, fifty pigs, twelve hundred fowls, three hundred turkeys, eight hundred squabs, one hundred and twenty fresh turbot, one hundred and forty salmon, sixteen hundred lobsters, twelve thousand shrimps, thirty thousand oysters, three tons of vegetables, one ton of salads, twenty four hundred pounds of butter, twenty-four hundred dozen of eggs, six and a half tons or thirteen thousand pounds of bread, crackers and pastry and seven thousand pounds of dessert. In the line of liquids a woman of seventy in this city, according to the figures presented has imbibed forty-nine hogsheads of wine, five hundred and forty-eight gallons of spirits, and three thousand gallons of tea and coffee. While these figures may be accepted as authentic, feminine New York is now busily engaged in trying to determine how many women on such a basis of solid and liquid consumption could reach the age of seventy years.

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AMUSEMENTS

"THE MATCHMAKER"

Daniel Sully and his company in his new play, "The Matchmaker," will appear at Astoria Theatre tonight. The play is a natural successor to "The Parish Priest," in which Mr. Sully scored one of the greatest triumphs of his career, but in dramatic strength and comedy interest he is far ahead of anything Mr. Sully has ever produced before. The leading role is that of a priest in a little cattle town in Idaho, where the church finds scant support, the congregation is poor and the pastor meets with many obstacles and disappointments. The part was written for Sully and fits to a nicety.

In "The Matchmaker" Mr. Sully has a play stronger in every way than "The Parish Priest" or any other play in which he has ever appeared. It is a romantic comedy in three acts, well constructed, full of dramatic strength and rich in comedy. The characters are flesh-and-blood, modern types of American men and women. The action of the play is rapid, the situations full of interest and the climaxes exceptionally worked up. From every point of view "The Matchmaker" may be considered the crowning triumph of Mr. Sully's life.

Take Careful Notice.

All intending patrons of the beautiful play of "Alabama" to be presented at the Astoria Theatre on the evening of St. Patrick's Day will please take notice that all tickets sold for that entertainment will be exchanged for seats at the box office of the theatre on the day before, Tuesday, from 10 o'clock a. m. on, until the opening of the performance on Wednesday night. Tickets can be purchased at the Owl Drug Store and at Whitman's Book Store for this fine play.

Inauguration of Taft.

The Grand moving picture house will, for this afternoon and evening, produce a fine and faithful film delineating the impressive ceremonies marking the inauguration of President William Howard Taft, at Washington, on the 4th of March. It is taken directly from the spot and scene, and is true to life and details in all respects and is one of the most attractive and interesting offerings this popular house has ever made in this city. All the weather variations and the distinctive and brilliant effects that made the great ceremonial so alluring to the hundreds of thousands that went there from all over the country, are reproduced clearly and interestingly, and no man, woman nor child in Astoria can afford to miss the chance of seeing that which is denied the vast majority of Americans, an inauguration of one of their Presidents. Remember the film is to be here only for this day as it is in heavy demand all over the endless circuit the reels must follow.

St. Patrick's Day.

The regular annual observance of St. Patrick's feast day will be held at St. Mary's Hall, on Grand avenue next Wednesday evening, at eight o'clock. This celebration will be under the auspices of Erin's sons and daughters resident in Astoria. John Fleming Shields, L. L. B., of Portland, but late of Boston, Mass., will be the orator of the evening. Mr. Shields is a near relative of General Shields, who distinguished himself in the Mexican and Civil wars and who served, at different times, as United States Senator from three states of the Union, namely: Illinois, Minnesota, and Missouri. Mr. J. F. Shields won an enviable reputation for himself, as a public speaker, in the strenuous campaign which Governor Douglass conducted in Massachusetts, when striving for the gubernatorial chair of that state. The musical part of the program will consist of Irish selections and will be under the direction of Miss Laurie Mc-

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