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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF PORTLAND

NOW FOR THE MANUAL TRAINING SCHOOL.

THERE certainly is no reasonable cause of complaint against the big property-owners of the city when they show such willingness to contribute toward the support of the public schools as they did at the annual meeting held last week. It was the very most, not the least, asked for which these gentlemen favored, and if there is to be much improvement in the school buildings this year, some new ones and many additions, the credit of it must largely go to men such as these, who, owning much, are willing to contribute much to improve the educational facilities of Portland. Indeed, if it were not for their active and even aggressive support, the minimum, not the maximum, favored by the school board would have been voted.

On the question of bonds the feeling seems to be that we should pay as we go—that is, whatever is considered necessary for the maintenance of the schools and school buildings for one year should be met by the taxes of that year. But in the event that any of the existing buildings in the populous sections should be replaced by finer structures of more permanent material, then the cost should be met by the issuance of bonds, as that is manifestly a burden which the future should share with the present.

But The Journal wishes once again to hark back to its original proposition—that a well-equipped manual training school should form part of our public school system. In the whole range of the work, we know of no addition which would fill a more keenly felt want or contribute so largely and so widely to the practical education of the boys and girls of Portland. Its influence would be felt not alone after the stage when the pupil reached the manual training school, but long before, for it reaches out to the pupils in the lower grades and gives them preliminary training in the way in which they are to go after they have reached the manual training school. Hence the importance of getting it installed as early as possible, so that all the pupils may begin to receive its benefits at the earliest possible moment.

THE HOLDUP BUSINESS.

SINCE December 1 twenty-five holdups have been reported in the Portland newspapers. According to the men held up, they have during this time lost a total of $286.55. This would mean an average of $11.46 from each job. As there are usually two men to each holdup, and as they probably work on an even division of the spoils, each man for each job would get an average of $5.73. As there were only twenty-five jobs in forty-nine days, and as, furthermore, no particular pair has probably had a monopoly of the business, as a money-making enterprise holding up people in Portland does not pay very much better than speculating in Wall street.

It may, of course, be said with much truth that the profession is attended with little or no danger, so far as interference of the police is concerned; but, on the other hand, there is always the possibility of waking up the wrong passenger, of stumbling upon a Tartar instead of an easy victim, and getting a great deal more than was bargained for, and in a very much more unpleasant way.

But, that aside, the principle to which all modern business enterprise must square is, "Does it pay?" Applying this test, the holdup business is not a glittering success, and no ambitious man with the ordinary cravings for even simple food could hope to make a livelihood at it. The very best he could do would be to regard it simply as an avocation to which to devote his odd moments and such moments as he required a touch of high life. But if back of it he had no serious vocation or no other source of independent income, there is in it nothing to arouse professional pride or to stir enthusiasm, and scarcely anything beyond the temporary excitement to entice one from the staid and humdrum methods of acquiring bread and butter which custom sanctions and the laws approve.

A BLUNDER THAT IS ALMOST A CRIME.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S fool friends are doing more to build up the political fortunes of Mark Hanna than all other influences combined. They are rapidly spreading the impression that unless the agile Mark is safely tied to their chariot-wheel the outlook for Roosevelt is dangerous, if not actually hopeless. They are therefore making of him the biggest toad in the political puddle and giving him an exaggerated consequence which is reacting upon Roosevelt's own candidacy.

As a matter of fact, Hanna is an important element in Republican politics, but he is not of overshadowing consequence. With the death of McKinley the scepter passed into other hands, and with it Hanna's own hope of succession to the presidency. Since that day Roosevelt has built up his own fences and strengthened his own hand the best he knew how. So far as he could he tied to himself the big Republican politicians, and, while he has helped himself much, circumstances have helped him still more. He is in such a position and has placed himself in such relations that the Republican party can no longer ignore his claims. If that were deemed possible, Hanna and his friends would long ago have been playing a very different game from that which they are now playing. The tone and talk of the plutocratic elements in New York and elsewhere, which at heart oppose Roosevelt, would be much more denunciatory and there would be a ring to it that would be unmistakable. But as a matter of fact they know it is impossible to defeat Roosevelt for the nomination, or, if possible, they would win a victory which would cost them more dearly than it would him. As to the election, that is another matter which will come up in its regular order, and there is nothing now under discussion but the nomination.

Roosevelt's fool friends belittle him in the public estimation. They put him in the attitude of hysterically chasing a prize which he has in his grasp, and in giving exaggerated consequence to a man who, while still a leader, is no longer the autocrat of the Republican party.

THE TERROR OF STUDENTS.

THE CONSCIENTIOUS STUDENT of events who faithfully follows the tangle of telegraph stories sent out by the Associated Press on the dispute between Russia and Japan speedily finds himself going south with a rush that takes away his breath. The still more conscientious student who would endeavor to reconcile that dreadful hodge-podge to the rudiments of sense, who would try to get a consecutive train of sane expressions from the involved, complicated and contradictory mess, would soon be an object of professional interest to the medical specialist and of regret to his friends. In the whole history of the American press nothing like it has ever before been seen. The duplex dream editor of the Associated Press is working overtime in New York, and his able $4-a-week assistant is pawing the pale air with his serviceable hands in the endeavor to extract ideas and news from his copious wealth of hair.

On the very same day one may read in the same column that there is to be war sure; that there is to be war, but not so sure; that there is not to be war; that there might, could or would be war; that the gladiators are ready for the spring; that they are only practicing gymnastics; that the war dogs are and are not snarling in France and England; that the czar is screeching for warm blood, and apparently nothing less will satisfy him; that he is determined on peace at any cost. And so it goes on day by day in a perfect nightmare of speculation and misinformation that costs little for cable tolls, giving rise to the suspicion that it is ground out of a huge sausage machine through muscular effort and with no aid from the understanding. Speaking of antiquated machines in this progressive country, surely nothing ever evolved could enter the class of the Associated Press.

From "Theodore Roosevelt, the Citizen," by Jacob A. Reis, now running in the Outlook, Roosevelt said: "In the same way it is an admirable thing to have clean streets—indeed, it is an essential thing to have them; but it would be a better thing to have our schools large enough to give ample accommodation to all should-be pupils, and to provide them with proper playgrounds."

"Inconsistent is he who hath not faith in the medicine he prescribeth."—Newspaperdom.

A gentle hint to Harvey Scott, ambassador extraordinary from the Lewis and Clark fair to the congress of the United States.

The Journal desires to call attention to its forbearance. There is not a word in the paper today about "beautiful snow."

A. J. DREXEL BIDDLE RETIRES.

Gives Up Publishing House—Is an Author and a Society Man.

From the Philadelphia Ledger.

Anthony J. Drexel Biddle, son of Edward Biddle, grandson of the late A. J. Drexel, prominent in Philadelphia social circles, a fellow of the royal geographical society and head of the Drexel Biddle Press, is making preparations, according to his counsel, J. Hibbs Buckman, to retire from the publishing business. Active work at his place of business, at 415 Locust street, was stopped about six weeks ago. Mr. Biddle became a publisher in 1895, at which time he edited the Philadelphia Sunday Graphic. From 1895 to 1897 he was a stockholder in the Drexel Biddle & Bradley Publishing company. Since then he has been head of the Drexel Biddle Press, which for a time published the People, a society weekly, which did not have a long existence.

Mr. Biddle's own printing house published all his books. In 1894 he wrote "A Dual Role and Other Stories," "All-Around Athletics" and "An Allegory and Three Essays." Two years later he wrote "The Froggy Fairy Book," which was followed by the "Second Froggy Fairy Book," "Shantytown Sketches," "Word for Word and Letter for Letter," "A Biographical Romance" and a two-volume work on the "Land of the Wine."

At his publishing house are thousands of dollars' worth of plates and a well-equipped plant. An inventory of the books in stock at the plant and at the binderies shows that, of about 80 different publications, there are more than 15,000 copies which have not been sold. Some of these are illustrated and bound in extra cloth.

Not only is Mr. Biddle an author, but he has won renown as an athlete and has achieved some prominence as a boxer. He has entertained and is an admirer of Bob Fitzsimmons, formerly heavyweight champion of the world, whose book, "Physical Culture and Self-Defense," he published. Some copies of this book are still unsold. Mr. Biddle once gave a banquet in Fitzsimmons' honor, at which many society persons were present.

In the Pen and Pencil club are two pictures presented by Mr. Biddle, one of his favorite bulldog Punch and the other of himself in in fighting trunks. Beneath the dog are the words, "This is Punch," and beneath the other, "This is Tony." It is said that Mr. Biddle paid stevedores to fight him, and, as has been said, he always won.

When A. J. Drexel died, in 1893, it was learned that he had left $1,000,000 so that the interest was to go to Mr. Biddle. The latter, on June 11, 1895, married Miss Cordelia Rundell Bradley, daughter of Charles Bradley of Pittsburg.

BE NATURAL.

From the Minneapolis Journal.

Mark Twain has been telling how to be a lecturer. "Don't try to learn," he says, "start in just as you are. Let your hands stay where they are—in your breeches pockets. When Cable and I went on the lecture stage we thought it was necessary to make graceful genuflections to drive in our points; so we hired a teacher of elocution at $25 a day to show us how to work arm and hand effectively. I got so I could make beautiful gestures, but was so busy thinking about them that I forgot what I wanted to say."

Nothing is so tiresome as a man with a flow of words who is all the time waving two large red claws around in the air. It distracts attention and the gracefuller it is done the worse it looks. If you've got anything to say, say it; if you haven't, shut up. We've all seen orators that we longed to see the fire department squirt on.

THE BEST ALIBI.

From the New York World.

"The way these Republicans shift around on this Panama business reminds me of a trial I attended once down in South Carolina," said Senator Tillman. "The prisoner was being tried for burglary. The learned counsel for the defense built up and proved an alibi by a succession of witnesses who could not be impeached. The prisoner was acquitted.

"After the trial the friends of the prisoner crowded around the lawyer and congratulated him. The judge came down too. He said, 'That was an excellent alibi you proved.'

"'Yes,' said the lawyer; 'I thought pretty well of it. It was easily the best of the four that were offered to me.'"

Panama's Resolute Defiance.

From the Chicago News.

Seeing that Uncle Sam would have to do most of the fighting, Panama stands resolute and undaunted before the grim spectre of war.

The Vital Difficulty.

From the Detroit News.

Much political difficulty arises from the fact that the issues that seem most likely to unite all factions interest none.

PRISON SAVED HIM.

A Self-Educated Man After Twenty-Nine Years' Imprisonment.

What President Grant made possible, President Roosevelt has now accomplished in giving freedom to Ephraim Clark, alias William Smith, last of the mutineers of the Jefferson Borden. Old sailor men told Clark's singular story in the Naval Young Men's Christian Association building in Brooklyn.

For 28 years Clark has languished in the Maine state prison. The man who went to jail as a merchant sailor, 25 years old, is now, on his own declaration, both a skilled surveyor and a capable cabinetmaker. Physically, he declares he never felt better in his life.

"Whatever adventures my youth led me into," said Clark to a reporter, "I have paid the penalty; but I have never lost hope. In jail I studied navigation and surveying, and also cabinetmaking. I now go back into the world a better man in every way than when I left it."

Sensational was the mutiny on the Jefferson Borden. She was a schooner. Twenty-nine years ago, off the coast of Maine, the crew mutinied. Murder was committed. Clark, George Miller and William Glew were arrested. Clark and Miller were sentenced to the gallows. Glew, who was a British subject, was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment. The friends of the condemned men thought the sentence was harsh and unjust. Labor organizations as well as private friends fought for the commutation of the sentence. Clark's sister, by her pleading before President Grant, saved Clark and Miller from the gallows. Then, sentenced to prison for life, Clark began to educate himself—never, as he says, losing hope.

The seamen's union took up his case eight years ago. Now the union, through President Roosevelt, has gained the old sailor's release. Clark wept like a child as he stepped into freedom.

Unlucky was the fate of the Jefferson Borden. After the mutiny she went to Scotland and was nearly wrecked. When she came back sailors would not sign on her. She became a hoodoo ship. In desperation her owners sent her to Portland to be refitted and renamed. As the Arcana she sailed away one morning 21 years ago, with Captain Humes on her quarterdeck, and Capt. William Stevenson of Portland in her pilot-house. She never returned. Her bones lie in the bay of Fundy. All that remains of her former crew is Ephraim Clark, who 29 years ago was condemned to die.

Letters From the People

Another Member of the Pale Gray Ass Family.

Portland, Jan. 18.—To the Editor of The Journal—Harry Thurston Peck who has recently brought upon himself the contemptuous anathema of Henry Watterson is scarcely worthy that gentleman's distinguished notice. It is the same creature (call him not a man) who was so desirous of establishing an "aristocracy of culture," who should "drive in harness the hewers of wood and drawers of water." It is he whose attacks upon womankind and more especially the workingwoman, has made him an object of contempt among decent people.

In a series of articles for "Maids and Mothers," a professor claims that "Man is the finest, noblest and the most godlike figure of the world in which we live."

Man as distinguished from woman, not the race.

Furthermore, "He has the physical power to work his will and this alone is a lasting badge of his superiority; while he has also the moral traits that are fitted to direct and exercise this physical power in the best and most efficient way for the welfare of the world. It is he and not woman in whom is born the instinct of even-handed justice, the love of unsullied truth, the capacity for large minded generosity and for civic devotion."

In proof of his "large minded generosity," he says that the economically independent woman is, without exception, immoral. "She must win at a frightful cost the opportunities which men alone have it in their power to give." . . . "The economically independent woman leads an emotional, morbid life, plunged into a bath of tepid sentiment or sickly sensuality."

It is quite likely that this specimen of the "Finest, noblest, etc." had a sweetly feminine, clinging vine nonentity with little heart and less brains for a mother. Otherwise he would have been trounced enough in his early youth to eradicate some of his matchless self-conceit and made to imbibe some respect for his maternal ancestor. Certainly he holds her, or her memory, in slight esteem, else he could never have penned the crowning idiocy and indecency contained in his agreement with Balzac that, "Woman's virtue is man's greatest invention," and added, "If it were not for the conventions established by man for her safety and to shield her from the temptations to which her weak, emotional nature would otherwise inevitably succumb, she would prefer many lovers to one husband and eschew all marriage." So much for Harry T. Peck.

From the Oregonian we have it that "an increasing number of American girls agree with Sapho's declaration that she would prefer to be a man's mistress rather than his wife."

No one disputes that men, generally speaking, have more brute strength than woman. A mule has more brute strength than a man, yet we do not ascribe any especial superiority to him on that account.

Generosity, love of truth and justice are human attributes. They are usually inculcated in us by a severe course of training. We have yet to see a manifestation of them in the little savages we all are, male or female, early enough to prove that they are inborn rather than acquired.

Women are quite human, as men are; good or bad, weak or strong, wise or unwise, just as men are. We inherit strength or weakness, physical, mental and moral equally from either or both, or we may occasionally see a case of atavism, like that of Peck and his followers, when the child resembles neither parent but goes back to his chimpanzee ancestors for his characteristics. In either case men inherit as much from the female as the male side of their ancestry. Their early training is nearly always received from the mother. Her impress is the earlier and stays with him the longest.

There are, unfortunately, some very weak women, as well as men, in the world; weak mentally and morally. When these women are thrown upon their own resources, poorly equipped, as most of them are, for the attempt to support themselves and, perhaps, others, they are apt to seize upon the easiest methods, just as men of the same sort do. Many a young girl whose shoulders are too weak for the burden placed upon them, seeing her youth passing without an opportunity to enjoy it as all young creatures crave for pleasure, snatches at the only kind of pleasure within her reach, not knowing the cost. Some who have not the excuse of extreme youth, yet losing their accustomed support and feeling unable or unwilling to cope with harder circumstances than they have hitherto known, take the easier downward path, perhaps too miserable to care; certainly not wise enough to foresee the end. For these and such as these (who have their prototypes in men who sell themselves for place or gain in other directions), no right thinking person can have aught but pity. It is not our province to judge or condemn; "What's done we partly may compute, we know not what's resisted."

It is no new thing for women to be "economically independent" of men, i. e., to make their own living.

During the civil war thousands of women, north and south, ploughed the fields, sowed, reaped and threshed the grain, spun, wove and made with their own hands clothes for those at home and for those in the field, scarcely taking time from their labors to weep for their dead. Thousands of them after the war, widowed or orphaned, continued the business of father or husband, or sought in new fields employment by which they might earn a support for the children and helpless aged whose sole support they were.

No baser slander was ever perpetrated than that the majority of self-supporting women are immoral.

There are thousands of women today all over the union who have proven their ability to care for themselves and their dependents honorably, asking no favor save the privilege of working; self-respecting hard-working, independent women, who would rather die than sell their souls to clothe their bodies; women who, when the necessity arises, step quietly forward and willingly assume the place of breadwinner, making no capital of their griefs, accepting nothing they do not earn.

Such falsehoods as are contained in Peck's statements and the Oregonian editorial could only come from men who associate solely with the baser sort of women. Knowing no other they conclude there is no other. They have not even the grace to conceal their contempt for the poor creatures whose guilt they share, truest sign that they see themselves mirrored in their chosen companions.

The silly outcry at the abatement of matrimony and falling off of the birth rate claims no sensible person's attention. It is far better that men and women who wish to shirk the responsibility of father and motherhood should be allowed to do so. They are unfit for it. There are far too many unwelcome, uncared for children now.

But there are and there always will be wives who marry for love and mothers who bring forth children with rejoicing; whose children "arise to call her blessed, and whose works praise her within the gates." She is the woman who breeds strong men, self-respecting, honorable women; in a word, the ideal citizen. There has never been a dearth of such as her kind else humanity would be far lower than it is.

To Harry Thurston Peck and his followers, traducers of women, defamers of the toiler, creatures who deserve to be classed with that somewhat less "noble and godlike figure," the hyena, we can only say "it is well for humanity that there are few of your kind."

Political Prospects and Candidates.

Portland, Jan. 16.—To the Editor of The Journal—Now that the Middle West has divided the convention honors between its two greatest cities and the squadron commanders have voiced their orders at "harmony dinners" and "love feasts," the average American looks on silently but suspiciously at political combinations likely to be sprung upon him from these two conclaves.

As far as the issue of Chicago is concerned, we are morally certain that Theodore Roosevelt will be nominated. And while it may be an accepted fact that certain Wall-street interests would welcome his retirement, there are other powerful interests identified with his canal policy and looking for large construction contracts which will easily checkmate the more noisy but less influential crowd. Wall street goes more in the direction of rapidly acquiring than slowly saving money. Hence the quick fortunes which will spring from digging the canal will intensify that gambling instinct into militant partisanship in behalf of the man whose policy squares with their requirements. The railroad interests being fixed on saving what they have, and protecting their bonded indebtedness, may originate some resistance among American investors to Theodore Roosevelt, but they regard their securities worth the investment, regardless of competition and will be of no vital force in overcoming the impetuous pro-canal movement headed by Roosevelt. Hence we may let Mr. Hanna rest in conspicuous retirement and see what the Democratic possibilities present.

The same financial interests that would welcome Hanna are adroitly dragging Cleveland from his Roman retreat. They figure on a solid South, with its present 151 votes in the electoral college; New York, 39; Illinois, 27; Indiana, 15; Maryland, 8—or 240 votes. This is one vote above the necessary requirement. But there is nothing in the political makeup of Illinois to justify the expectation that Mr. Cleveland could overcome the malignant hatred entertained for him by its 100,000 Bryan sympathizers. And this body of voters, regarding Mr. Cleveland in the light of a traitor, would between the two choose Roosevelt. Mr. Cleveland is therefore an impossibility.

I first heard of Parker as a presidential possibility in a conversation with Jefferson Levy in New York last winter. Mr. Levy, aside from owning Monticello and being a political protege of Richard Croker, is a man of vast wealth, excellent social qualities and superb proselytizing capacities. He had made a tour of the country, planted the Parker banner everywhere and convinced me that Parker was the choice of Tammany, although he never alluded to that organization in our interview. This was the beginning of the Parker boom. While it may be admitted that for all political purposes Mr. Parker would be more acceptable to the organized Democracy than Cleveland, his lack of attitude on any public question impairs his popularity with the people and renders Wall street skeptical of his fitness. He might retain many of the Bryan states and carry Illinois, but with Beveridge as a running mate with Roosevelt he would lose the West, Indiana and New York and be defeated. Mr. Olney stands too close to the shadow of Cleveland to reveal his full desirability to the average Democrat. And as his attitude upon the Panama coup d'etat may elevate him as a moralist, it invites political slaughter in New York, and this, in his case, is equivalent to defeat.

Mr. Gorman is a Democratic Hanna. Railroad and coal interests would feel friendly toward him. But the same interests which will nominate Roosevelt will defeat Gorman. He may be conceded the "solid South," Maryland, West Virginia, Indiana, Colorado, Illinois, Delaware, Montana, Nevada, South Dakota and Nebraska, and still lack six votes in the electoral college. But neither Illinois, Nebraska, Indiana nor any of the four silver states can be safely counted Gormanized, and even giving him New York, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, without these he would still be defeated. Again, Mr. Gorman has injured his candidacy by his altogether too refined manipulation of canal matters. While it may be good railway diplomacy to obstruct the ratification of the canal treaty, it is dangerous party scouting, and would furnish Mr. Roosevelt additional campaign thunder. The canal is popular. And while we may reserve our preference for Nicaragua, as well as our moral indorsement of the Colombian-Panama imbroglio, we are more likely to congratulate than blame the president for the very splendor of his daring achievement. Hence Mr. Gorman may be considered tabled.

Now, it may be observed that the "money power" in this country has lost its political grasp. It no longer is concentrated in the big cities. The rural West is emancipated from its intermediating control. Labor is organized into a mighty trust for self-defense against the organized wealth of the big cities. Its ranks number over 2,000,000 voters. Its treasury is full. It reveres Bryan, believes in his doctrines and has so distributed this powerful vote in New York, Illinois, Indiana and elsewhere that it will control the fate of these states. This organization has been contending for a principle which possesses almost a religious significance to them. Remembering the calamity in 1896, they have quietly amassed a fortune and acquired an independence, if not a domination, over the employer which relieves them of further fear of intimidation. They resent in their hearts the many insulting editorials aimed at their idol, but say nothing. They are awaiting their opportunity. And it will come this fall. Mr. Bryan will not be a candidate. But knowing the desires of labor, he will have much to say in selecting one who favors their propaganda. These may be briefly stated as public ownership of public utilities, compulsory arbitration and the right of labor to delegate authority in all its contractual relations.

The man who more than all others lends potency to these doctrines is W. R. Hearst. With the first doctrine he elected Carter Harrison mayor of Chicago in one of the most spectacular campaigns of modern times. He carried his own district in New York by the largest majority ever given a candidate. He elected the labor mayor of San Francisco. He broke the backbone of the coal strike in Pennsylvania and forced the administration to intercede in behalf of labor. He has been, indeed, so consistent a champion of organized labor that no one would care to contest the field with him short of Mitchell himself. Hardly a labor organization in the union has not indorsed him. So it is wise policy in Democratic councils to recognize the significance of this fact upon the political complexion of such states as New York, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland and West Virginia, with their 96 votes in the electoral college and 900,000 labor votes.

Mr. Hearst has consistently advocated the canal. He is the only man except Bryan who could reclaim the five silver-producing states. He would carry California and Washington. He believes in compelling the general government to surrender the public domain to state control, and this would give him Wyoming and perhaps Oregon. So that we may concede him at least two of the labor states—Illinois and Indiana (42); the five silver states, Colorado, Montana, Utah, Idaho, Nevada (17). In California and South Dakota, upon personal and business grounds, where labor again controls the balance of power, he may be allowed 14 more. In Washington and Wyoming he would obtain 8 more through the operation of similar influences. And with the solid South, 151, and Maryland, 8, we arrive at a total of 240, or a majority of one, which would insure his election.

Then, again, the stupendous labor vote of New York and West Virginia looks Hearstwise with 46 additional votes, while Nebraska, not altogether lost to Democracy, increases the possibilities to 54. Hence, if we place California, Washington, South Dakota, Indiana, Idaho, Utah and Wyoming in the Republican column, labor may easily elect Hearst with a solid dozen majority.

It will thus be seen that Mr. Hearst presents formidable considerations for both political parties. You can't laugh such a gentleman down. The forces behind him are too heavy to oppose with the light artillery of ridicule. He has been too successful in every undertaking to provoke any other feeling than that of insecurity to rivals. And he is too serious an advocate of popular reforms to be injured by calumny or ignored on account of youth. W. R. M'GARRY.

Wanted—A Confederate Flag.

Portland, Jan. 18.—To the Editor of The Journal: The entertainment committee having in charge the Elks' benefit, to be given at the Marquam Grand on the evening of the 29th of this month, are badly in need of a Confederate flag, to be used in the New York Herald's $1,000 prize play. They would feel under obligations for the kindly loan of same. Kindly address Elks' Entertainment Committee, Marquam Grand Theatre, City.

BARBER'S POLITICAL CONFIDENCE.

From the New York World.

"We had an exciting political campaign out in my country," said Representative Victor Murdock of Kansas. "One of the candidates for office was a young chap who had been a barber and who attempted to debate with a Populist on the issues of the day.

"'How about imperialism?' howled the Populist. 'How about imperialism?'

"'Well,' said the barber, confidently, 'I have always thought they were more becoming to certain styles of beauty than a goatee.'"

Under the Rose.

The worst thing about President Roosevelt's enemies is that most of them admit it only in private.

News, Gossip and Speculation From the National Capital

(Washington Bureau of The Journal.)

Washington, D. C., Jan. 18.—There is evidence of serious purpose on the part of Secretary Cortelyou of the department of commerce and labor to push more actively than heretofore the work of the bureau of corporations. For making inquiries by this bureau, which are necessary to reach that publicity of corporate affairs that the law contemplates, money is needed. Lack of adequate funds has hampered the work of the bureau. Accordingly Secretary Cortelyou has asked for a special appropriation for this work of $30,000, to be included in the general deficiency bill. If there is opposition in congress to this item it will be interpreted as an effort through the influence of corporations doing interstate business to tie the hands of this bureau.

It is worth recalling that it is the duty of the bureau of corporations to investigate the business of all corporations engaged in interstate or foreign commerce. This data is to be reported to the president and such portions as he may direct are to be made public. The work of the bureau thus far has been largely legal and preliminary. Secretary Cortelyou says if proper means are made available the results will be far-reaching. In order that investigations already begun may be completed a liberal addition to the present appropriation should be granted. Secretary Cortelyou also announces that the powers of the bureau will not be used to the injury of any legitimate enterprise. The publicity sought is intended only to expose corporate privileges that breed unfair dealing, dishonesty and corruption. It is not designed to disclose trade secrets, the fruits of individual thrift and initiative to competitors or to invade any private rights.

No further legislation to regulate trusts will be asked from this congress by the secretary of the department of commerce and labor. It is felt that the efficacy of legislation granted by the last congress should be fairly tested, especially in the extension of the work begun by the bureau. The work of the bureau thus far has incurred no opposition. Its inquiries have met with prompt responses. But the inquiries have related only to the laws of the various states, methods of taxation, effect of industrial combinations upon prices and similar subjects. It remains to be seen what the response will be when the inquiries are pushed a degree further. But the officials of the department do not anticipate any serious trouble and are of the opinion that all of the information desired will be forthcoming.

With the conclusions of the hearings before the house committee on territories on the several statehood bills now before congress, the friends of statehood are very hopeful that favorable action will be secured during the present session. Five statehood bills are pending; Delegate Wilson's granting separate statehood to Arizona; Delegate Rodey's a second, and granting separate statehood to New Mexico; Delegate McGuire's, a third, granting separate statehood to Oklahoma, with the provision that congress may at any time attach any part or all of the Indian Territory to the state of Oklahoma; Representative Stephens of Texas has a fourth bill admitting Oklahoma and Indian Territory as a single state, and Representative Moon of Tennessee has a fifth conferring full territorial rights on the Indian Territory; the name of it, his bill provides, shall be the Territory of Jefferson. The advocates of statehood bills have departed from the practice of previous congresses and will not join fortunes in an omnibus bill, which heretofore has been a favorable method of procedure. But the supporters of the measures are working in entire harmony. They assert the belief that the opposition in the senate, which prevented a vote at the last session has in a large measure melted away and that no serious obstacles will be placed in the way of statehood in either branch of congress. This optimistic view is not shared by those who have sought to obtain expression from members of the senate relative to possible action by that body. The members of the senate committee on territories seem to be strongly antagonistic to separate statehood as it was presented in the 57th congress, and individual members, Beveridge, Burnham, Dillingham, and others will oppose all separate statehood projects. Senator Quay who conducted the fight for statehood in the last congress is absolutely silent on the question now. At a recent conference between him and President Roosevelt, it is said, the statehood bills were discussed, but if this is so Senator Quay has not seen fit to take any one into his confidence relative to the result of his talk. The proposition to combine Arizona and New Mexico for admission as one state and Oklahoma and Indian Territory as another, meets with universal opposition from citizens of these territories and from their delegates in congress. It is certain propositions of this kind will be rejected, continuance of territorial form of government being considered preferable to the consolidation as proposed.

All of the Washington newspaper men who made the tour of the Rocky mountain region last summer have been remembered by Mr. J. B. Perrine, proprietor of the Shoshone Falls stage line. He has sent to all of the newspaper men an annual pass over his line good for the year 1904. Possibly none of the boys will be able to make use of the transportation, but all will appreciate the courtesy.

In view of the impending Russian-Japanese war much interest centers in Korea, the bone of contention between the two powers. According to a statement just issued by the department of commerce and labor bureau Korean commerce amounts to about $15,000,000 per annum. Imports amount to about $10,000,000 and exports to about $5,000,000. American products, both manufactured and otherwise, are very popular in Korea, but the very large proportion reach that country through China and Japan, and the direct trade of the United States with Korea is very small. In 1897 the exports from the United States to Korea were $500 in value; in 1898, $135,000; in 1903, $251,000, and for the 11 months ending with November, 1903, $386,819, indicating that for the entire calendar year 1903 the total exports from the United States to Korea will amount to about $400,000. Even this rapid growth does not show by any means the entire value of merchandise from the United States entering Korea. As above indicated, many of these articles from the United States consumed in Korea are sent first into Japan or China and from those countries shipped into Korea. The value of American petroleum consumed in Korea in 1901 is stated at over $300,000; machinery and supplies, $250,000; electrical goods and lumber, $236,000. The area of Korea is 82,000 square miles and the population is variously estimated at from eight to sixteen millions.

A protest which for intensity might be styled an uproar goes up from 30,000 clerks working in government departments here, who have been required to add one-half hour each day to the 6½ hours of labor heretofore required. The extra half hour interferes seriously with the pleasure and comfort of the clerks. It bars them from baseball games, matinees, afternoon concerts, and makes them late to dinner. The extra half hour's labor imposes a hardship likely to change the political complexion of the entire force. All are now against the present administration, and all are particularly vehement against Representative Hemenway, chairman of the house committee on appropriations, at whose instance the extra half hour was imposed. Mr. Hemenway is not disturbed, and says of the matter: "In my opinion it is a reform which should have been begun years ago. The law requires that not less than seven hours shall constitute a day's work in the departments. Instead of working seven hours heretofore, the clerks have actually been working only 6½ hours, and certainly they have no right to complain against a law which has been upon the statute books for years, and which the heads of the departments have been lenient enough not to enforce for a long time. Government clerks are not, as a rule, overworked, and seven hours' labor is no hardship. The working day in business and commercial houses is from one to two hours longer. In my opinion Uncle Sam treats his employes fairly; he is not a hard taskmaster. From practically all of the departments have come requests for an increase in the appropriations for clerk hire, owing to the growth of business of these departments, and the committee simply thought that they ought to get along with the clerks which they now have."

The largest gun in the army is a new experimental 16-inch cannon, recently successfully tried at Sandy Hook. A photograph of the giant piece of ordnance is in the office of General Crozier, chief of ordnance, the designer of the gun, and it never fails to attract the attention of callers at his office. An odd feature of the photograph is the fact that 37 men were standing or sitting on the gun when the picture was taken. The range of the gun is estimated to be 21 miles. The trajectory is so great that if Mount Blanc were piled on top of Pike's peak a shot from this gun would clear both. The weapon throws a projectile weighing 2,370 pounds. The shell itself is 5 feet 4 inches in length and has a penetrating power in steel at the muzzle of 42 inches.

In the future the United States mints at Denver, Philadelphia and San Francisco are to furnish the money for the country. A subcommittee of the house committee on appropriations has decided to recommend the abolishment of the mint at New Orleans as a mint, and its continuance as an assay office. With the ending of the present fiscal year the mint will be closed.

Prof. Willis Moore, chief of the weather bureau, was before the house committee on agriculture a few days ago, asking for an increase in the appropriations for conducting the weather bureau for the next fiscal year. Professor Moore was asked by a member of the committee what percentage of the forecasts made by his bureau within the past year were incorrect. "Only 17 per cent," was the reply. "How about today?" asked Chairman Wadsworth. The weather card, hung in the room, read: "Partly cloudy and falling temperature." As the members read the forecast, the sun streamed brightly through the committee-room windows, and a glance at the melting snow and ice on the streets showed that the temperature was rising instead of falling. The forecast for that day was put down as one more in the list of weather bureau failures. The weather bureau service desires to establish eight additional stations during the coming year, these to be at Providence, R. I.; Hartford, Conn.; Honolulu, H. I.; Sitka, Alaska; Madison, Wis.; Durango, Col.; Roswell, N. M., and one in Illinois. The total appropriation asked for is $1,500,000.