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THE FAIR



FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 1902.

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UP TO THE SENATE AGAIN.

Again, the Nicaraguan canal bill comes to the senate for its consideration. Again it appears to be fated to meet death there. The house has heretofore enacted the bill into law, so far as the house is concerned, and the senate quite promptly killed it.

At this time, the measure comes to the senate with the usual expressions of caution on the part of the members of the upper house. "Let us consider" say the senators. After 100 years of consideration, after decades of scientific investigation, after favorable reports from competent committees appointed by the presidents, the facts are rather well known. It is quite well established that the Nicaraguan route is the better, better than the Panama.

The transcontinental railroads are hostile to any canal legislation. They have been the means of former defeats. They are still hostile. In fact, the railroads are and always have been hostile to all legislation by the federal government in favor of waterways. They are just as much opposed to improving the Columbia river as they are the canal across the isthmus.

Can it be that the republican majority in the senate will stultify itself by killing this bill? Can it be that they will again accept the charge that they will not go against the wishes of the big transportation companies, even when the people demand it? Certainly, the republican majority will not have the effrontery so to do. Certainly, if they do, the people will not forget it.

"AT THE OLD CROSS ROADS."

"At the Old Cross Roads," Hal Reid's play, was given at the Frazer Wednesday night. Were one to indulge in strict criticism of the piece, he would be compelled to say that the character of "Tom Martin," the young southerner who consents to marry "Annabelle" before he discovers she has in her no negro blood,

is an impossible character. Anyone acquainted with the south and its inborn sentiment against inter-marriage of the whites and colored people, will concede that "Tom Martin" cannot exist, excepting in the imagination of a writer who portrays what he thinks would be right, rather than what he thinks to be the fact.

He might be, and, of course, would be, entitled to hold any opinions regarding the inter-racial relations of the two classes of southern people. He might believe that, if he were that Tom Martin, even though born and bred in the south, he would do as this Tom Martin did—consent to wed a girl in whom it appeared at the time there was a strain of colored blood.

But, however the playwright thinks, and however he might act were he situated like that young southerner, it is not a correct portrayal of southern sentiment to represent Tom Martin as willing to marry a negro.

"At the Old Cross Roads" purports to be a picture of southern life and a reflection of southern characters. It is not in its motive a play in which it is intended to set forth what the author believes should be the conception of the people of the south. And, as a picture of southern life it is faulty, and lacks the touch of the artist just in that respect—it creates an impossible character when it creates Tom Martin. Tom Martin never lived among the higher classes south of Mason & Dixon's line.

STUDENTS WHO STRUGGLE.

Some interesting facts would undoubtedly be disclosed if accurate statistics could be obtained from some of the large educational institutions of how many students pay all or part of their expenses, and the various channels of employment which students choose of earning the money necessary to defray the cost of pursuing a college course. A glance at the statistics of one department of the University of Pennsylvania alone would furnish a fair estimate of what is undoubtedly true and of what is perhaps more pronounced in some other universities. Of the 386 students of the Law School, about 30 per cent earn at least part, and in many cases all, of their expenses. The source from which the largest number derive an income is tutoring, that is, coaching or quizzing their fellow students in the regular courses, or preparing applicants for the entrance examinations. This source is the most desirable and profitable because it generally develops the tutor's knowledge of the very subjects upon which he must pass examinations himself.

While most tutors consider themselves extremely fortunate if they are able in this way to defray the expenses, there have been some exceptionally successful tutors at Penn's Law School who have been able to cure pupils at \$2 per hour, and who have been known to earn several thousand dollars in a single year. It is only those who have a knack for teaching, however, who are at all successful at "quizzing." The most popular and most profitable employment principally among students who cannot "quiz" successfully, is that of selling stereoscopic views and canvassing books during the summer vacation. This owes its popularity to the following combination: It is mostly open air work and pays well, it does not interfere with their studies, and those who have been successful in this line agree that the experience derived from a season's tour in canvassing is invaluable. Several enor-

getic students at Penn's Law school are known to have cleared more than a thousand dollars at this work during the summer months.

Collecting insurance has been found very profitable by some men. One very energetic and enthusiastic student working only during the Christmas holidays in the past three years, has written almost enough sorting mail on the train on his daily three years' course of an economic student at the university.

Another desirable employment, and one which does not interfere with the studies in winter is that of clerk in summer hotels. These clerkships, however, are rare and hard to get, but several men have been enabled to go through the Law School by securing such positions.

Quite a number of men have also worked their way through in positions which enabled them to attend the "classes" during the day, among these there have been night watchmen, telegraph operators and railroad ticket agents. One student, living at a distance of 60 miles from Philadelphia, earns a fair living by sorting mail on the train on his daily trips to and from the city. Some students earn their board by working in kitchens, or waiting on the table, and there some who take care of furniture, etc. for their room rent;—this class of work, however, is not so popular at Pennsylvania as at some of the southern and western institutions.

Among some of the other ways which students at the Law School have done, or are doing, while pursuing their studies, are reporting, stenography, paper stuffing, running a laundry, agencies, serving milk and paper routes, painting, assisting in libraries, etc. Some of the most popular summer employments among law not heretofore mentioned are acting as conductors on cars, as park guardians, traveling as companions, canvassing and clerking in law offices. Several have also made a fair living by working in machine shops, brick yards, etc.

Every effort is put forth to secure remunerative employment for all students desiring assistance, and the officers of the Law Department have always met with much success in this respect. A fund is also being gradually accumulated, out of which temporary loans are made to students needing immediate financial assistance.

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There's a difference in dollars, for some are so pure
 And wholesome and big and delightful;
 While others which men in their hurry procure
 Are little and tarnished and frightful.
 The good kind bring riches that stand for success
 With honest, intelligent striving;
 The others bring only that sense of distress
 That comes of unmanly conniving.

'Tis the sorriest error to measure our gold
 By the number of dollars, 'tis better
 To think of their quality: find if they hold
 A genuine joy for their getter.
 For a coin that is good when we win
 Is right.
 With conscience and heart in our dealing,
 Is only a counterfeit, pleasureless quite
 To him who obtains it by stealing.
 —Nixon Waterman, in the January "National."

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