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A WOMAN AS A JUDGE.

They were talking about the woman suffrage convention, and the ex-governor of Maryland remarked: "They have been making progress, no doubt of it. I think last Friday was the first time in the history of this country when a woman sat as a judge in a trial upon which a man's liberty or imprisonment depended. Marilla M. Ricker was the judge. You probably noticed that she was appointed United States commissioner a few years ago. She presided at the convention right along and sat on the platform every day, but didn't make any speeches. She has made enough of them in her lifetime, and she didn't propose to take up the time which the newer delegates wanted. They sent for her Friday afternoon to go to her office and try a case. I don't know whether she has any other office than a seat, but that's enough and all the office a United States commissioner needs. A pick-pocket named Whiting had been sentenced to six months in jail and fined \$100. He had served out the term, but he could never pay the \$100, and it would have amounted to imprisonment for life except for a provision of the law which enables him to get out after a month's extra time if he can't pay. He has to prove this before a United States commissioner, and that's what they wanted Marilla M. Ricker for. She sent her warrant for the prisoner and he was brought from the jail. District Attorney Worthington sent word that he could not be there to object and asked leave to have the case adjourned. It appeared that he had been given the proper notice and Mrs. Ricker decided that the case couldn't be adjourned. She heard the evidence and decided that the man was entitled to his freedom, and told the officers to let the man go. They did so and that's all there was of it. But it shows progress when a woman can bring a man out of jail on her warrant and give him his liberty by her decree. Mrs. Ricker asked to be appointed notary public some years ago, and Attorney-General Devins decided that there was no law for it and it couldn't be done. Mr. Devins' successor overruled his decision, however. He decided that there was no law against it, and if she was strong enough to press down the notarial seal so as to make a good, clear impression on the paper, there was no reason why a woman should not be a notary public. It was largely a question of strength, and most women are strong enough to press down the seal."—Washington, D. C., Republican.

A Wyoming Cowboy on Cattle Raising.

"When I struck Wyoming it would not have troubled an infant to carry my back load. But I got possession of a little land bought a few cattle, made the most of my time and money, and to-day I can round up a bunch of 200 cattle worth \$30 a head where they stand this minute. The vast mountain territory furnishes them a free living in the spring, summer and fall months, and we pool our issues and move south in the winter. I am started all right now and am bound to make big money. It isn't just like finding money, for it takes time and attention, but I don't know of any business that will pay a larger dividend on the original investment. Now I am going to tell you something. A man can invest \$11,000 in stock raising in that territory to-day, and in ten years he is bound to be worth at least \$150,000. The land costs little or nothing, and the increase is largely profit. We figure on 80 per cent increase and a loss of not more than 3 per cent. Last summer I circled around among 8,000 head of cattle, and I saw three cases of diseased animals. These were affected with what we call the 'big head,' swelling which manifests itself in the animal's jaws and eventually results in death. But the disease is not contagious and is the only form of affliction known among the cattle of that country."

"Is the business of stock raising increasing in the West? There's millions of acres of fine grazing country as the sun ever shone on, with plenty of pure water, unoccupied and waiting for the march of progress to develop it. In spite of the fact that the business is growing rapidly, the price of beef remains firm, which is proof positive that the supply is not in excess of the demand."—Pittsburg Dispatch.

Wedded to a Corpse.

AUGUSTA, Me., April 3.—Samuel B. Robbins was born in the little village of Appleton, 51 years ago. He served in the civil war and received wounds which entitled him to a pension. Last July he began to fall rapidly and a month ago it was evident that he could live only a short time. If he died his pension money would be lost, for his wife was dead and he had no children. In this emergency it was decided that a bride must be obtained for the dying soldier. In Rockland was found a woman who was willing to become a wife and widow in quick succession, and on February 26th the banns were published. The law requires five days notice before marriage. On March 2d Robbins fell into a comatose condition and did not recover his senses before he died, on March 4th.

It is said that when Squire Pease, the pension agent, learned how near dissolution Robbins was, he sent post haste to Rockland for the bride, but it is alleged that the woman did not arrive until midnight, nine hours after Robbins' death. The story goes that the woman was hurriedly taken to the chamber where Robbins lay dead and the horrible mockery of a marriage ceremony between the living woman and the corpse was gone through. Some say that Pease's son took the clammy hand of the woman, and placed it in that of the woman, while she performed the repugnant office. At the funeral she was introduced as Robbins' wife, and it is understood she claims his pension money. The case has caused so much scandal that a legal investigation will be held.

Reckless Extravagance.

St. PAUL (Minn.), March 30.—A somewhat sensational situation has been developed in Northern Pacific circles by the arrival from the west of Melira Baxter and Buckley, New York experts, who have been out on the line of the road for the last month, though their mission was not previously understood. Your correspondent is able to state that this trip has been one of joint inspection on the part of the Northern Pacific directors and the Drexel, Morgan & Co., syndicate. The latter were led to do so by reports which related them of certain extravagance and looseness in the machinery and motive power department. The gentlemen selected are English railroad experts.

What the experts have found has leaked out little by little as they progressed, but only an outline can be gained with any degree of certainty. It is understood that they have been enough to make some highly sensational disclosures touching the management of the department of mechanics and motive power, whose head is G. W. Cushing. They find, it is said, an astonishing overstocking of the road in all kinds of machinery, cars, freight and passenger, and locomotives, amounting to millions of dollars. The rule seems to have been that when machinery or rolling stock was disabled it was side-tracked on the yards and its place supplied with new from a never-ending stock. The result has been an accumulation of wrecked locomotives and broken cars running up into millions of dollars. It is an open secret that practically new engines are torn down in order to be supplied with new parts in which parts Cushing is alleged to have valuable interests in patents or royalties on the same. It is said that on this point there is a report full of meat for the stockholders of the financially disabled road. Perhaps growing out of the foregoing, there were rumors that on receipt of the information in New York important changes in the department mentioned may be expected.

The Origin of Canning.

It is a singular fact to say that we are indebted to Pompeii for the great industry of canned fruits. Years ago, when the excavations were just beginning, a party of Cincinnatians found, in what had been the pantry of the house, many jars of preserved figs. One was opened and they were found to be fresh and good. Investigation showed that the figs had been put in the jar in a heated state, an aperture left for the steam to escape, and then sealed with wax. The hint was taken and the next year fruit-canning was introduced in the United States, the process being identical with that in vogue in Pompeii twenty centuries ago. The old ladies in America who can tomatoes and peaches do not realize that they are indebted for their art to a people who were literally exterminated a few years after Christ. There is nothing new under the sun. Canned tomatoes and loaded dice—the people of Pompeii had both.

Speaking of sheep-herding, it is a saying that it takes three months to turn the strongest brain. I am very nearly ready to believe it, especially at this time of year. Just think of a human being endowed with the attributes of divinity, set down on these plains to follow, day after day, a thousand head of bleating sheep—sheep are always bleating—never to see a human face except in shearing time, unless it be once in awhile a wandering vaquero, or the "boss," who brings the supplies of provisions. Day after day to see the sun rise red and sultry, to shine all day through a cloudless, changeless sky, on a changeless landscape, and sink out of sight, red and sultry at eve. To hear night after night the west wind—always the west wind—blowing its dreary music, and the howling of the prowling coyote. Night after night the same sounds, day after day the same scenes. His companionship the horned toad, and the lizard scampering away in the dry grass—always following round and round that thousand head of bleating sheep. Yes, surely, I am ready to believe that three months of such existence could turn a brain—if not to insanity, at least to desperation."—San Jose Mercury.

The Ohio legislature has passed a bill providing "that the contract system of employing convicts shall not exist in any form in the Ohio penitentiary, but the prisoners shall be employed by the state in such a way as will in the least possible manner interfere with or affect free labor, and the managers shall use every effort to so dispose of all merchandise as to avoid injurious competition with any business of the citizens of the state. All prisoners under twenty-one years of age shall be employed at hand-work, exclusively for the purpose of acquiring a trade."

They are having trouble in Texas over a man who has just received two sentences, one of fifty years' imprisonment, and the other to be hanged. They want to hang him now, but the man claims that he ought to serve his term first, as that sentence was pronounced prior to the one of hanging. A juror gave it as his opinion that "as the prisoner was a dead sure loser, he'd better close out with the bang and swing to won't."

It is remarkable that the two evening papers with which Thurlow Wood was most identified in life have, within a few days, changed hands at large figures—the New York Commercial Advertiser on the basis of over \$300,000, and the Albany Evening Journal on the basis of \$200,000.

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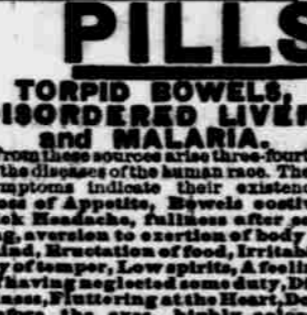


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