

WHEN THEY WERE 21.

Occupations of Well-Known Men of To-Day at Time of Their Majority.

TAFT WAS A YALE GRADUATE

Beginning of Careers of Belmont, Maxim, Corey, Ryan, Choate, Schwab and Others.

At the age of 21 William Howard Taft was graduated from Yale, and second in a large class, says the New York Times. He was salutatorian, received Phi Beta Kappa honors and di-

He returned to New York and began his business career just before reaching his twenty-first year.

In his twenty-first year August Belmont was graduated from Harvard. He spent several months thereafter in a trip abroad, when he returned to New York and entered his father's banking house.

Following an academic education Nelson W. Aldrich plunged into mercantile pursuits. He was an ardent Republican from his first vote, and early took an active part in local politics. He became president of the common council of Providence shortly after reaching his majority.

Joseph G. Cannon was busily engaged in studying law in his twenty-first year, and for several years thereafter. Following an education in the common schools and in law, he was admitted to the Illinois bar.

Long before his twenty-first year, John D. Rockefeller was well established in business, and had given evi-

he had become a printer and publisher of subscription books, and in selling these he traveled about the country. His spare moments at this period were spent in experimenting with high explosives.

From his first job, at \$1 a day, William E. Corey advanced rapidly in the great Carnegie steel works at Pittsburgh. His twenty-first year was spent in perfecting the famous Carnegie re-enforced armor-plate. Shortly afterward he was appointed superintendent of the plate mills.

Charles M. Schwab started to earn his living as a farm hand. Next he became the driver of a coach, and later a clerk in a grocery store. At 19 he became a civil engineer's assistant at \$1 a day. At 21 young Schwab was working hard in the field with an engineer corps. Five years later he was appointed chief assistant of the division engineer, and under his direction the famous plant at Homestead was built.

he had reached his twenty-first year. The greater part of his time had been spent in a printing office, where he became an expert compositor. At the age of 21 he was threading the difficult channels of the Mississippi river as a regularly licensed pilot. His newspaper career followed.

At 21 the future Senator Tillman was living on a farm with no ambitions for a political career. He had entered the Confederate army when but 17 years old and had been retired after injuries which caused the loss of his eye.

A Fearless Woman.

Soliman, the dreaded Turkish sultan, in 1851 was going to besiege Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, his most hostile neighbor. While slowly proceeding with his military train on the dusty high road a woman stopped his unapproachable majesty. Bitterly she complained about the soldiers, who, during her sleep, had carried off her cattle, the sole fortune she had. "You

SKATING THE SWITCH-BACK.



NEWEST FEATURE FOR ROLLER RINKS.

Skating the switch: A novel feature of the world's largest rink. The most novel feature of the Empress Skating Rink, Earl's court, which has just reopened its doors for the season, is the "skating switch-back," down which those indulging in its fierce joys and its mild terrors glide on their roller skates. The device, which is the first of its kind, stretches from end to end of the building. The rink has a skating area of 60,000 feet, and will accommodate 4,500 skaters.—Illustrated London News.

MEN WHO STARTED AT THE BOTTOM.



SAMUEL L. CLEMENS.



JOSEPH G. CANNON.



NOBLE D. EVANS.



JAMES J. HILL.



CHARLES M. SCHWAB.



NELSON W. ALDRICH.



JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER.



J. PIERPONT MORGAN.

vided the first prize on his graduation in law. His plans for the future study of law were undertaken the same year.

In his twenty-first year the future Rear Admiral Evans was serving as lieutenant in the United States navy. He became a lieutenant commander in his twenty-second year.

At 21 William Dean Howells was an active newspaper man in a small Ohio community. He entered his father's newspaper office, working first as a compositor, later occupying an editorial position. He was appointed news editor of the local paper in his twenty-second year. His appointment as consul to Venice followed two years later.

After graduating from the English high school of Boston J. P. Morgan went abroad to study higher mathematics at the University of Gottingen.

dence of his genius for organization. He went to Cleveland when 15 years old and obtained his first position. Two years later he was engaged in an oil commission house. At 21 he was partner in the commission house of Clarke & Rockefeller, where he had been established for more than two years.

James J. Hill was educated with the idea of becoming a physician. His father's death compelled him to enter business, when he obtained a position in a country store at the age of 18. Later he moved to St. Paul, and in his twenty-first year was engaged as shipping clerk in that city, with the Mississippi Packet Company.

First as a school teacher, then a printer, Hudson Maxim fought his way against unusual odds. By the time he had reached his twenty-first year

An orphan at the age of 5, Thomas P. Ryan was cared for by his grandmother, and at an early age sought employment. His first position was with a dry goods commission house in Baltimore. He had saved enough money by his nineteenth year to come to New York. He entered business actively and became a member of the stock exchange in his twenty-fourth year.

The study of law was engaging the time of Joseph H. Choate in his twenty-first year and for several years thereafter. He was graduated at 21 from Harvard, with Phi Beta Kappa honors, and entered the law school at Harvard. He was graduated with the degree of LL. B. at 23.

A variety of occupations had been followed by Samuel L. Clemens before

must have fallen into a most profound sleep not to have heard the thieves at their work," said the sultan laughingly. "Yes, I slept well. I slept in confidence that your majesty is watching over the safety of your people," replied the woman.

This answer, which might have cost the woman's head, pleased the sultan because of the fearless way it was said. He restored all the cattle stolen by the soldiers.

Enough to Frighten One.

"Tommy—Does your papa frighten you when he tries to make you go to sleep?"

"Ethel—Yes; he sings to me!"—Yonkers Statesman.

People who get rich quick usually get rid of it the same way.

MY FIRST LESSON.

Well-Known Composer Tells of His First Preceptor.

Next to being born, the most important event of my life was when I began the study of music, says John Philip Sousa in *The Circle*. From my earliest remembrance I wanted to be a musician. I have no recollection of ever wanting to be anything else. The first to induct me into the mysteries of the art was a Spanish friend of my father. This friend and his wife were constant visitors at our house, and when one evening I was particularly active in rolling a baseball around the room, to the evident discomfort of our visitors, my father's friend suggested that it would be a good plan to give me lessons in solfeggio. My father thought I was too young to begin the study of music, but I pleaded so hard that he finally consented. My start was not very encouraging.

The old Spaniard was a retired orchestral player and had a vocal organ that would not excite the envy of either Caruso or Bond. I believe he had the worst voice I have ever heard. All musical intervals were sounded alike by him. When he was calm he squawked; when excited he squeaked. At the first lesson he bade me repeat the syllable of the scale after him.

"Do," he squawked.

"Do," I squawked in imitation.

"No, no," he cried, "sing do," and he squeaked the note.

"Do," I squeaked in a vain effort to correspond with his crowlike vocalization.

He grew very angry, stormed and abused me. His mental ear was alert and true, but the articulated sounds of his voice conveyed nothing but a grating noise to my child mind. For an hour he squeaked and squawked do, re, fa, so, la, si, do, and I hopelessly floundered after him. At last the lesson was over and I was almost a nervous wreck. While I remained a pupil of the old gentleman the sound of his toneless voice hung over me like a pall and filled my soul with horror and despair.

BET SUGAR IN ENGLAND.

Further Plans for Securing Material and Building a Factory.

Several reports have been made in recent years by Consul Frank W. Mahin, of Nottingham, regarding projects to produce sugar from beets grown in England, particularly in Lincolnshire. The consul now writes as follows on the further developments of the enterprise, says *Daily Consular and Trade Reports*:

"After due investigation experts pronounced these various projects entirely impracticable. The chief obstacle has been the lack of government encouragement by way of exempting home-made sugar from the national tax on that commodity. The government has declined to take such action, on the presumed ground that it would be inconsistent with the policy of free trade. However, the Lincolnshire promoters have now forced the War-

Beet Syndicate of England, Limited. To the Lincolnshire farmers they propose that in consideration of a guaranty that 3,000 acres of land will be devoted five years to the growing of sugar beets they will build a sugar factory at Sleaford in that county. Half the required area has now been promised and it is hoped that the factory may be built before next winter and the industry be in full operation next year. The farmer is offered 14 shillings 6 pence (\$3.25) a ton for his beets and a market is guaranteed. The promoters are prominent and reputable residents of Lincolnshire.

"A large meeting of farmers and other interested persons was recently held at Sleaford, when all phases of the subject were discussed. It appears from the remarks made that England imports annually nearly \$100,000,000 worth of sugar, more than half of it refined, and is, so one speaker thought, the only country which does not produce some quantity of sugar; and yet, he said, experiments proved that England could produce sugar beets as well as any other country in Europe. This statement was amplified by another speaker, who testified that experiments showed the English beet to be superior to the German, containing 17.3 units of sugar, against the German 15 units; that, in fact, the English beet contained a larger percentage of sugar than was required. It was also stated that some of the experimental crops yielded twenty-five tons to the acre, the average being about eighteen tons.

"The syndicate wishes to make the business co-operative, the beet growers to take shares. It is intended to make further proposals to the government, but if these fail it will not mean, the promoters declare, that the project will be abandoned."

Metallic Ribbons.

There is a process in use in England whereby a metallic ribbon a mile long can be turned out in about the same time that it takes a locomotive to travel a mile—that is, one minute. The molten metal is caused to flow through a nozzle in a thin stream upon the outside of a rapidly rotating water-cooled drum. The metal solidifies immediately and is thrown off from the surface of the drum in the form of a continuous and uniform ribbon. It is possible to obtain the metal ribbons as thin as one-thousandth of an inch. The metals used in the making of different ribbons are aluminum, lead, zinc, tin, copper, silver and gold.

Draws from Life.

The poor artist fellow was eager to paint a picture of "wienies" and bread. But he hadn't the price of the model and so his subject was "Hunger" instead. —Kansas City Times.

Good Reasons.

Cheer Leader—Why do you think your new Yale song is so good?
Song Genius—It has only two "rahs."

As a rule we don't care much for the man who chews and smokes the same tobacco.