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ATHENA, JANUARY 23, 1906

There was never a better name for the Standard Oil company than "The System," for system it certainly is in the full extent of the word. The investigation into its methods by agents of the United States government has developed a series of extraordinary complications in its business management. When the report of Commissioner Garfield is made public it will disclose the existence of a bewildering number of corporation societies, and associations, all of them organized in the interest of the Standard Oil company, but many of them masquerading under curious local titles. The government investigation has shown that Rockefeller, Rogers, and other masters of the Standard Oil seldom appear personally in any transaction. They have created a network of companies one dependent upon the other, but all working toward a common end, which is the enrichment of the already rich oil magnates.

The ingenuity of the Japanese is a constant source of surprise to those whom he is gradually edging out of business wherever he is given a foothold, says an exchange. The latest line of endeavor to attract the attention of the Yankees of the East is making counterfeit money. Three of the brown men have been arrested in Seattle, and the \$5 pieces which they have been turning out so closely approach in appearance and value the real thing that their detection is very difficult. If half the stories we hear about the "cheapness" of Japanese labor are true, the counterfeiters could afford to make a better \$5 piece than that turned out by the American government and still have a shade of profit on the transaction.

The railroad rate bill introduced by Senator Elkins cannot surely have been intended for serious considerations. It contains the objectionable feature of making the interstate commerce commission merely a complaining party in proceedings in court for the adjustment of rates. It does not even say that the commission shall do anything, but uses the permissive form all the way through. It permits of delay that would be injurious to the interests of shippers affected by unjust rates. In many other respects it is clearly not the measure which the country is demanding.

John Alexander Dowie has been permanently removed from financial control of the Zion City industries, according to assurances given the big creditors by the financial agents of

the community. The appointment of the triumvirate, with great ostentation, it is now declared, merely cloak-dowie's accession to the demands of Zion City and its creditors that all business arrangements be taken from his hands, leaving him religious leader only. The awakening of the people of Zion has come at last.

Evidently Canada, too, is afflicted. This is from an exchange up there: "The Standard Oil company has paid 40 per cent dividends on its \$98,000,000 capital this year. Reports say the company will increase its capital stock by several hundred millions. If the Standard Oil company does not lose heart it will soon be as big a menace to personal liberty as the Canadian Pacific Railway company."

The Union Republican says C. W. York dropped into Haines with a four horse load of wood last week and put on return freight in the shape of a six horse load of "booze." On the way to his ranch, ten miles out, the wagon ran off a bridge, the horses got away and York wandered around and died of exposure. York was "blooded," and has paid the penalty.

Another fool professor has suggested that certain unfortunate people be killed. We suggest that all persons making such murderous propositions be tarred and feathered and run out of the country. They are suggesters of murder, and therefore dangerous citizens.

Uncle Andy sat between Schwab and Corey at the Carnegie dinner. If they entertained him with anecdotes of their experiences he must have had an interesting time.

Speaking of the way the government's policy has been conducted, Witt says that "to err is human." This looks a good deal like a knock at "divine right."

This country needs a more elastic currency, sure enough; a currency that will readily stretch around to the country newspaper offices.

France may use force to compel Venezuela to settle, and she may thereby get into trouble. Her bill is mostly graft.

Missouri loves company, but not the Standard Oil company. It's too smooth for Miss Missouri.

Machine Shops for La Grande.
Owing to the fact that the O. R. & N. Co. is now extending its line into Wallawa county, and not only that, but the bold rumor that the company will build down the Grand Ronde river to Lewiston, prominent railway officials announce that \$250,000 will be expended during the year 1906 for a large new roundhouse and machine shop at La Grande. La Grande is situated between two large mountain divides, and is the terminus of the Elgin branch.

UPS AND DOWNS OF LAWSON.
Bert Huffman.
Thomas William Lawson, born 45 years ago in Charlestown, Mass., the son of a Nova Scotian carpenter of splendid means, is a strikingly handsome man, of clear cut features and the figure of an athlete, standing over six feet in height, splendidly proportioned. Vitriolic of pen, dramatic of speech, startling of deed, a bitter inveterate, a furious worker, a phenomenal money maker, a liberal spender, of tremendous energy and wonderful resourcefulness, Lawson has had a stormier career than that of any financier in modern annals. Thrice he has "gone broke," only to duplicate the fabled Phoenix by rising from the ashes of defeat to richer heights.

Starting his career by running away from school at 12 years of age to become an errand boy in a broker's office, Lawson at 16 made a small fortune in a pool with other office boys, only to drop it in a squeeze in stocks a few days later. This break cost him \$59,841 out of \$60,000. He spent all but \$4.30 of the balance in giving a dinner to his friends, and he gave the \$4.30 to a waiter as a tip. "I decided to make a clean sweep," he said.

He married at 21 and is the father of six children. Once he bought a new car for \$30,000 and named it for his wife and at another time, because his wife liked the site, he bought some barren, rocky land near Scituate, Mass., and spent \$2,000,000 transforming it into a stock farm; naming it "Dreamwood," and making it famous for its magnificent blooded horses and cattle.

It has been Lawson's way and lot to make and lose millions of dollars in a single day with unconcernedness of the laborer who cleans up \$1 cutting grass or shoveling snow. He first made a name in the financial district, 17 years ago, in a fight against a store service company, [being interested in a rival patent on the cash carriers used. He won, smashed the company and reorganized it with himself on the inside.

In 1893 in a stock campaign of the Westinghouse Electric Co. against the General Electric Co., he stuffed \$2,634,000 in 58 days for himself and his backers. Then he "plunged" in sugar—and "went broke" for the second time in his career.

Next he promoted a "boom town" in Kentucky—and lost heavily for himself and those backing him.

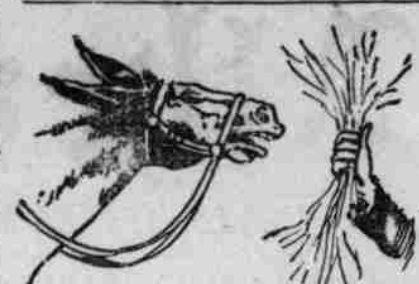
Becoming interested in Butte & Boston Copper Mining company's shares, he bought at 75 cents and "balled" it to \$75. Then he did about the same thing with the stock of the Boston and Montana company. The year 1900 found him the possessor of \$30,000,000—and about to step into the fight which has led to his present straits.

Lawson interested Henry H. Rogers and other Standard Oil men in the organization of the Amalgamated Copper company, fell out with them in 1901 and dropped about \$10,000,000 in the great crash which hit so many Detroit speculators, among them being Frank C. Andrews. Lawson vowed vengeance on Rogers and all his friends and began his famous "Frenzied Finance" stories in a New York magazine as part of his campaign of exposure and revenge. Incidentally he sought to strike his enemies occasionally in the stock market.

Articles and speculations have alike cost him dear. His vitriolic language aroused his opponents and made new ones: While he stung the Standard Oil and insurance company speculators he failed to bring them to their knees. For abuse they returned. When he called them thieves and constructive murderers, heartless, soulless worshipers of money, they called him a maniac and called in expert testimony to show that his brain was awry. Now, by their machinations in the stock market they have hit him a body blow that will take all his energy and resourcefulness to sustain.

"COAL OIL JOHNNY."
Harper's Weekly.
Just as the year went out the papers reported that "Coal Oil Johnny" was dying on a farm in Pennsylvania, in possession of the necessities of life, but no more, and with his faithful wife at his bedside as his only companion. Everybody knows about "Coal Oil Johnny." He had the misfortune to grow up in the Pennsylvania oil region before persons of superior discernment had protected the folks of that locality from the hazard of sudden subjection to the trials of fortuitous wealth. Johnny was never taught so much as to read and write. At 21, in 1862, he came in, most unexpectedly, to a petroleum fortune of about \$3,000,000. How he spent it all in seven months is part of the recorded history of the American people. His last 40 years, the papers say, have been spent in regret because of his earlier folly. Poor Johnny! He knew no better. Worse men than he, since his day, have spent more money in worse way. And he had still, at last news, the companionship of a faithful wife! That could hardly have happened to him, except by a miracle, unless he had got rid of those millions. Poverty is a severe strain on the matrimonial prosperity of persons not used to poverty, and sudden riches are very apt to upset the domestic equilibrium of persons who are not used to money. Whatever turns one's habits of life upside down strains all established relations. Strong characters will keep staunch through all vicissitudes, and disciplined and resourceful folk will adapt themselves to changes better than people of less training. But as far as concerns domestic happiness the most fortunate adjustment seems to be a moderate and steady progress as years increase towards easier pecuniary conditions. It is probably pleasant to have money to spend in one's old age. In youth there are many other available forms of entertainment.

Public Notice.
Notice is hereby given that I will apply to the Mayor and common council of the city of Athena, Oregon, at a meeting thereof to be held on the 27th day of Feb. 1906, for a license to sell spirituous, malt and vinous liquors in less quantities than one quart, said liquors to be sold only in a building situated on the west one-half of lot No. 5, in block 8, of said city.
Bert Carlano,
Applicant.
Dated Jan. 23, 1906.



PERSUADE AN OBSTINATE CASE rather than lash it into action if you want to see good progress made. This is as true when it is a faulty human system as when it is a faulty mule.

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