CAMERON COUNTY PRESS, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1908.

immediate possession. A man of the opposite party approached from inside the booth with the salutation: "Hello, Jack." "Hello, Andy," was the re-sponse, and instantly following his reply he drew his weapon and killed the man in his tracks who had just emerged from the booth. A jury ac-quitted him after it had been shown that the dead man was a "terror," who had shot three times at his slayer on one occasion, and had shot another man through the head who was then in an insane asylum from the effects of the bullets. The slayer afterwards of the bullets. The slayer afterwards said he had "keyed up" to "get" his man at that election, if he wasn't gotten first.

Underworld

In Politics

"Strong-Arm Boys" and

Their Part in the

Great Game.

By Ernest McGaffey

Men Who Want "One Put Over the Plate" Resort to

Criminal Methods.

S the motto of the game is,

generally, "win at all haz-

ards" it follows that poli-

tics is in some wards, and in

some exigencies, a desperate This applies both to the upper

and lower stratas of the men engaged If the men "higher up" wanted

something "put over the plate" that required physical force, they could

always find men lower down in ahe

scale who were guaranteed to stop at nothing. These riff-raff of the under-

current relied on political influence to bring them clear of any crime they

might commit, and it often did gain them immunity. The code of morality seemed to be that the other fellows would do the same thing if they had

the power and needed "the trick," so

that not even deliberate murder was

omitted on rare occasions to accom-

If anyone thinks I am drawing on my imagination for this statement, he

is respectfully referred to the books

of the various cemeteries and the record of the murder trials in the

In the practice of my profession as a lawyer, I had run across some mem-

bers of what were known as "the strong-arm boys" of a certain section of the city. They had figured as wit-

nesses in some criminal cases in which my firm was engaged, and I

had an opportunity to study them. They were young fellows as a rule,

and exceedingly well dressed. Some

of them were very handy with their fists, and some were regulation "gun-

fighters." All of them were "crooks" in various lines, from "card-sharps" and 'confidence" men to "shell-game

When I broke through "the crust" of politics these "strong-arm boys"

were very active in local politics, al-though they were far distant from my

political bailiwick, and mostly did not

belong to our party. Sometimes they held petty political jobs for a year or

six months, and sometimes they hung around the saloons and polling places,

the henchmen of some local politician. Another time a local politician of

considerable prominence was stabbed

in a wrangle over the alleged stuffing of a ballot box and instantly killed.

Certain of the witnesses testified that

workers" and pickpockets.

criminal courts of the city.

plish a political end.

As for ordinary assaults and sluggings, they were a matter of constant occurrence. Even the most respectable of men who really engaged in active politics had to make up their minds to a fist fight, if necessary, rather than to "back water." When I was in politics the "scrapping" was mostly confined to the rougher elements; but you had to either be ready to fight, or convey the impression that you would fight, or you would lose caste. A man might get along all right without any personal encounters, but he had to make up his mind not to "lie down" if trouble presented itself.

The Australian ballot and the rigid house-to-house canvass in the wards did away with a good deal of the abuses of illegal registration, and about "knocked in the head" the "ancient and honorable" practice of "re-peating." Sometimes these old-time schemes were tried, and the experi-menters sent to the penitentiary for their pains. Ballot-box stuffing at the regular elections was much of a "lost art" also, and stealing ballot boxes a desperate, dangerous and generally futile means of gaining an end. Each party had its judges, watchers and challengers, and the closest possible 'tab" was kept on every detail of the When a man arrived at the vote. polls and handed in his folded ballot he found that the men in charge some times knew more than he did about himself.

"What's your name?" asked one of the judges to a man who was depositing his ballot in the clerk's hand pre-paratory to having it slipped into the slit. "George H. Wilson." "Where do you reside?" "One hundred and forty-two lamos stract". "How loop here you reside?" "One hundred and forty-two James street." "How long have you lived there?" "Seven months, a little over." "How long in the state?" "All my life." "Why, you live with the Smeller." "All my life." "Why, you live with the Smalleys, don't you?" "Certainly," was the answer. Several men spoke up from both sides. "He lives with Smalley, all right." "Well, Smalley lives at 140 James street. I know you're all right, but how'd you happen to get the number wrong?" The man hesi-tated and then said: "Well, I'm single, and I get home at night so late that I can't see the number, and when I get out in the morning I never have happened to look for it. But I live with Smalley, all right." "Sure," was the universal chorus, and in went his vote.

On some occasions candidates have been "drugged" or "doped," so that they could not come out and make speeches, and in some ward elections certain candidates have been extreme ly careful what they ate and drank during their campaigns. Not that they feared being fatally poisoned, but they did apprehend a possible "doping," as such things had been done in the past Put an orator's stomach "out of busi-ness" for a week or ten days and it may make the difference of a life time to him.

Springing some sensational charge in the opposition papers the day before election is a favorite method of trying to "cut under" a candidate's support. Sometimes these things prove a "boomerang," or a "roor-back," as it is sometimes called, and defeat their own aim by shifting support which had been with the party making the charge to the party against whom the charge was made. Sometimes they accomplished their purpose, but I recall one particular instance where a candidate had an influential paper "on his staff" up to the time he "sprung a roor-back" against his opponent. The paper promptly withdrew its support and he "lost out." of dele petty ard elections gates to the various conventions, one of the most common frauds practiced was getting out bogus tickets, either or getting a friendly printer in the ward to "hocus-pocus" the names so that certain delegates would be elected. This was one of the meanest and most contemptible of practices, but it was something that could not be stamped out and could only be guarded against by constant vigilance. Sometimes it was necessary to rout a printer up in the middle of the night before election and get out an entirely new bunch of tickets to offset the treachery or crookedness of some individuala "Jobbing" was a favorite method of "bringing down" a candidate. To "job" a man required enough plotters to "put up a job" of some kind on him so that he might be made an object of unpleasant notoriety and thus fall in the estimation of the voters. Sometimes this was accomplished in one way, sometimes another. The ingenu men's imaginations was the only limit to the scope of such schem ing. To charge a man with "graft-ing" was one way. The opposition papers could be depended upon to make the most of the charges in the way of publicity, at least, and once you got a man "explaining" the next move was to ask him to "explain" his "explanation." Alleged interviews, al-leged treachery to the "party" or to particular candidates — these tricks and hundreds of others were resorted to to do away with a candidate or to beat him if nominated. As for "counting out a candidate" pistol in his side coat pocket, and who was honestly elected, that branch something like eleven drinks in his of the game was a really classic one.

It required the utmost solemnity and decorum, surrounded by all possible "legal safe-guards," and carried on with that artistic assumption of fairness and regard for liberty's palladium commensurate with the dignified hypocrisy of the proceedings.

It can be readily imagined from the foregoing that a man had to keep his eyes open when he went into politics. Ordinary treachery and double-dealing he became accustomed to at once, par ticularly if he was in a ward where he could depend upon meeting men whose ideas of honesty were dim and fleeting; and whose word of honor was something less in substantiality than burned-out match. He might make half a dozen iron-bound compacts with the members of his own political tribe in one night, to have day break with a different combination forming in his absence. The only way to rule an ordinary ward is to have the power over the "jobs" to be distributed, and use that power with the utmost rigor. Let every political worker know that he will "walk the plank" instantly if



"What's Your Name?"

sidesteps or hesitates, and you will have discipline, faithfulness and results; never otherwise. If you hold the reins of patronage you can guide the political vehicle of your party safely.

From the newspaper end of the game you must expect not only a reckless regard for fairness and justice, but in the case of some sheets, a steady stream of slander and libel Caricature (even Lincoln was vilely caricatured) is a daily weapon, and criticism of officials, laden with ridicule and contempt, was a matter of course. Indeed, no man in any office need expect any less than this, and is foolish if he attempts to stop it. recollect the excitement of an honored citizen who served with me on the board of local improvements (sometimes called "the board of local amuse when a paper on the other ments") side of the political fence said we were a "set of lazy, useless, good-for-nothing incompetents," or words to that effect. He wanted to sue the paper for libel right away. But, pshaw, that was a mere bagatelle.

But sometimes, especially in the case of certain papers, they hesitated at nothing. I had an experience of this kind. One morning I was charged with the committing of the crime of attempted bribery. The article was the result of a petty ward conspiracy, and was without any foundation what-soever. I read the article at noon, and by three o'clock, as soon as the necessary papers could be drawn, had the managing editor of the paper held for crimifal libel before the nearest jus-tice of the peace. In a few days the paper paid all the costs of the proceeding, paid my lawyer his fees and printed on the front page of their paper a complete retraction and apology which I dictated and headed. then dismissed the charge against their managing editor. He was a nice fellow, all right, and had never seen the article, having instructions rush everything through which he received from a certain "bureau." Yet he was the "responsible party" legally. I did not know who the reporter was who turned the stuff in, and did not care, as he would simply be the purveyor of the tale "as 'twas told I got to the bottom of the to him." thing afterwards. Now all that can be done in these cases, no matter how foul the wrong, is to jail the manag-ing editor six months and collect money damages from the owners of the paper. The only fair way to look at abuses of this kind is to give the press the fullest possible liberty and then make it a felony if they abuse the liberty.

QUITE SAFE WITH HER. One Secret "Tootsie" Surely Never Would Pass Along.

"John, love," said the young wife, 'you oughtn't to have any secrets from me. 'Well, Tootsie?"

"You go to lodge meetings, and you never tell me anything about them." "They wouldn't interest you, dear. don't mind giving you the password, though, if you'll promise never to dis-close it to a living soul."

"I'll promise never to tell it to anybody "Remember it's to be repeated only

"I'll remember. What is it?"

"Aldaborontiphosciphorniosticos."

"What? Please say it again, a little slower.'

"Have you forgotten the conditions already? I said 'only once and very rapidly

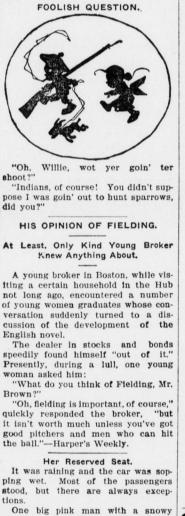
(Tearful pause.) "O, dear! I wish you hadn't told me!"

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"I had an itching, tormenting ecze ma ever since I came into the world, and I am now a man 55 years old. I tried all kinds of medicines I heard of, but found no relief. I was truly in a frightful condition. At last I broke out all over with red and white ooils, which kept growing until they were as big as walnuts, causing great pain and misery, but I kept from scratching as well as I could. I was so run down that I could hardly my work. I used Cuticura Soap, Ointment, Resolvent, and Pills for about eight months, and I can truthfully say I am cured. Hale Bordwell, Tipton, Ia., Aug. 17, 1907."

"I cheerfully endorse the above testimonial. It is the truth. I know Mr. Bordwell and know the condition he was in. Nelson R. Burnett, Tipton, Ia.'



cloth by plumping himself down on one of the drippy seats. His presum-able wife, with a laughing explanation



better call our engagement off! The Boy-Why, Genevieve?

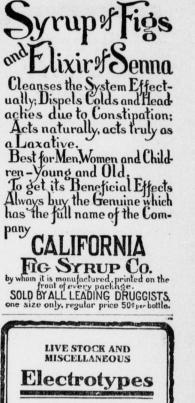
The Girl-Well, I'm just thinkin' that any man that can sit with his back to a girl, fishin' for four hours, ain't very much in love!

Fine Y. M. C. A. Building Planned. A Young Men's Christian Associa-A Young Men's Christian Associa-tion building that cost to build and equip more than a million dollars is to be opened in Philadelphia this fall, with Walter M. Wood of Chicago in charge as secretary. An effort is to be made to recruit the membership to 4,000, so that the largest possible number of boys may have the bene-fits of the new structure. Philadelphians are proudly pointing to the eight-story building in Arch street as one of the three finest Young Men's Christian Association homes in the world, the other two being the Twenty-third street branch, in New

York, and the central building in Chi-

cago.

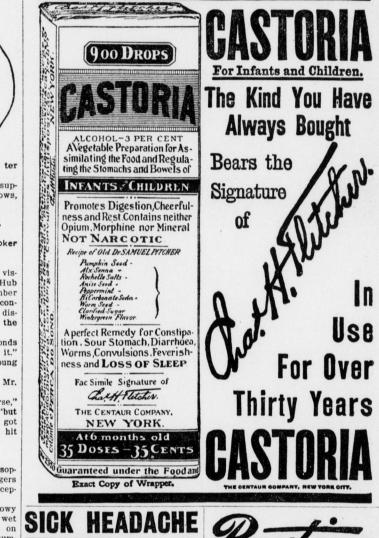
Newspapers of the World. There are 12,500 newspapers published in the United States; about 1,000 of them are published daily and 120 are managed, edited and pub-lished by negroes. In Asia there are 3,000 periodical publications, of which the greater part appear in British India and Japan; the latter country pub-lishes 1,500 newspapers. Africa has only 200 newspapers, of which 30 are published in Egypt and the rest appear in the various European colonies.



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Politician of Considerable Prominence Was Stabbed

some one cried "get him" just before the fatal thrust. An open knife, ready there to "sharpen a lead pencil," was the cause of his death. His slaver. after a bitterly contested legal battle carried to the supreme court of the state, was sentenced to serve a penitentiary term. Another time one crowd broke into the doors of a closed meeting, with a revolver volley from both sides as the doors crashed in. Two men dead and several wounded was the result of this fracas. No one was ever tried for any crime in connection with this.

Of course these desperate affrays were not frequent, nor did they usually happen except in the tough wards: but they sometimes did occur in good wards, where the people were above the average in intelligence and order-Anywhere, in the flerce animosities engendered by the excite-ments of an election, of a primary, or a city convention, there was a very strong probability that somewhere within the city's limits there would be a death to lay at the door of party politics. Whisky, of course, often was a contributory agent of no little importance. One time a would-be voter lined up to get into a polling booth, a pistel

The reputable newspapers do not libel nor slander, although they criticise bitterly. No man will object to partisan criticism, politically, how ever biting. But deliberate or even careless criminal libel should be punished when shown to be the result of malice or utter lack of caution.

In the political game on the lower levels while a man will meet good men and true occasionally, he will be surprised at the rarity of such individ-uals. I don't know what it is in petty municipal politics that makes men as they are, unless it is the cowardice that depending absolutely upon it for a living engenders. Or is it-

"Because their natures are little, and whether he heed it or not, Where each man walks with his head in a cloud of poisonous flies."

ERNEST M'GAFFEY.

(Copyright, 1908, by Joseph B. Bowles.)

that she was tired, seated herself in his lap. And when the conductor came along to collect fares she inquired, with the earnestness of one who seeks knowledge:

"Do I have to pay extra for a re-served seat?"

The conductor spoke no words that could go resounding down the corri-SMALL PILL. SMALL DOSE. SMALL PRICE. dors of time. He just grinned, and the passengers grinned with him.

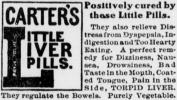
Sporting Offer. As he entered the restaurant the cut of his clothes betrayed him as a member of the sporting fraternity. Choosing a corner seat, he ordered oyster stew. When the dish brought to him, he looked at it with a critical frown, and then he began excitedly to peel off his coat and vest.

"What's the matter? What's the matter?" said the landlord, hurrying to the table.

The man looked at the stew, then at the landlord, and said: "Bet you a dollar I can swim from

one oyster to another.

Largest Rock Crusher in Operation. The largest rock crusher in the world was recently thrown into operation in a cement mill at South Pittsburg, Tenn., and it crushes all the rock used by a 4,000-barrel plant. The machine has an hourly capacity of 800 tons and 60 per cent. of the product is in pieces four inches or less and 30 per cent. in pieces two inches or less. The crusher is 19 feet in height and weighs 425,000 pounds. The hopper is 20 feet in diameter. The operation of this machine alone requires 29 horse power.



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