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TEN PAGES.

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In addition to being a broncho buster, Colonel Watterson will kindly note that the Man on Horseback is also an illegal trust smasher and one on whom the money power has no choke bit.

Fair Play for Powderly.

THE FRIENDS of Terence V. Powderly in this community—and they are many and staunch—have read, not perhaps with surprise, but certainly with regret, the reports in the newspapers crediting President Roosevelt with the intention of displacing Mr. Powderly from the position of Commissioner General of Immigration. There has not been surprise because it has been known to them that Mr. Powderly has had powerful enemies, both among the great transatlantic steamship companies, which are opposed to a resolute enforcement of the immigration laws, and among some labor organizations, which bear resentment because Mr. Powderly declined in 1896 to lend his influential aid to the socialistic and revolutionary candidacy of William Jennings Bryan.

There has also been friction at Washington between the commissioner general's office and the first assistant secretary of the treasury, a gentleman, if report be true, of characteristics which make it difficult for a subordinate to get along with him and at the same time do what the law requires. Those who know Mr. Powderly best will not believe that he is at fault. His knowledge of the immigration problem is excelled by that of no man now in public life; his determination to enforce the laws absolutely without fear or favor to the extent of the power at his command has been demonstrated repeatedly; and if in the exercise of his authority he had received proper support from above none who know him will believe that immigration would not have been safeguarded to the legal limit.

Of Frank P. Sargent, the man named in the press reports as the president's choice for Mr. Powderly's position, the public knows nothing that is bad and much that is good. He would undoubtedly give an administration of the office as efficient as he could. But he is a man without experience in immigration affairs whilst Mr. Powderly has the duties of the office at his fingers' ends. Simply because friction has existed is not a reason why Mr. Powderly should be summarily removed. In fairness to him and to his friends the president should cause a thorough investigation into his cause. Mr. Powderly is willing to abide the result of such an inquiry. Those who aim at his scalp should be made to abide it.

In New York the hog who spits in a public place may be fined \$50 and put in jail for a year. New York certainly has one advantage over Scranton.

Fully Deserved.

NOTHING which has happened in Cuba since the American occupation speaks so hopefully in behalf of native fitness for self-government as the conviction of the three American postal embezzlers, Neely, Reeves and Rathbone. The one weak spot in the Cuban system which it has been feared American influence might not be able to strengthen is the judiciary. To steal from the government was considered a matter of course under Spanish rule, and from infancy the Cubans have been taught to look upon public office as a private shop.

Whether the court at Havana before which these postal cases were tried would have brought in a verdict so richly merited if the defendants had been Cubans instead of Americans may be stood aside at this time as immaterial. The time is not far off when the impartiality of the Cuban judiciary will have abundant test with prisoners of its own race. We need not anticipate as to the outcome then with gratification at the verdict now. It is a most righteous verdict and one that no American court could have improved upon. The crime of these postal robbers has no extenuating circumstance. It was not only an individual crime; it was in a certain sense a breach of national loyalty, a species of treason to the American people's good name. These men had been put in responsible place with the knowledge and warning that the eye of civilization was upon them. They were aware that they were expected to set a standard of official honesty which would be held up as a measure for their successors throughout generations. Knowing this, they should have resigned and come some before yielding to the temptations arising from the inadequacy of their authorized pay to meet the expenses of their position.

before a Cuban tribunal both raises the Cuban judiciary in the world's respect and removes whatever of smirch their perfidy had left upon the American name. Their escape from punishment after having been caught red-handed in the most audacious and immoral crime of modern times would have been an international misfortune.

Because there has been newspaper talk that President Roosevelt might name General Wood for lieutenant general in case of a vacancy, certain jealous warriors are saying that Wood is no soldier but "only a surgeon." A surgeon who can do in war and peace what Wood has done would come pretty close to filling almost any place that came his way. If all the army officers were as capable as he, the commander-in-chief could dismiss a lot of worries and the country save money and lives.

Still in the Saddle.

THE Pittston Gazette thinks it sees in the outcome of the Shamokin convention an indication that the once firm hold of John Mitchell upon the miners' organization is beginning to relax. It recalls that at the Hazleton convention there was unanimity of opinion in favor of throwing the final work of dealing with the corporations into the hands of the national president and his colleagues of the executive board, but at Shamokin the ultimate disposition was apparently taken out of his hands and committed to that of a special committee of which he may be a member only ex officio. But for Mitchell's success in securing an adjournment over Sunday there are rumors that the convention would have gotten entirely beyond his control.

From the standpoint of the welfare of the anthracite community we think that a decline in John Mitchell's power would be unfortunate. No doubt there are other men among the mine workers who are his equals in executive ability but the number of such men is necessarily few, and there is always the risk that leadership of a different character might establish itself. As the leaders of organized labor go, John Mitchell is in the very front rank. He is cool, tactful, not swayed by prejudice or passion, far-sighted and adroit in adapting means to ends; in other words, a good general. This was shown in the way he handled the strike of 1900. That was, from a labor standpoint, a beautiful piece of strategy; well-timed, carefully formulated and carried through to a substantial victory to the utter amazement of most men of long experience in the coal business. Contrasted with the strike of the Amalgamated association last summer as handled by Theo. J. Schaffer, the anthracite strike was as a diamond to a piece of cheap glass. Very few men have arisen in labor circles who have displayed the qualities in emergency exhibited by John Mitchell.

It is a matter of common knowledge that the official life of a labor leader in the United States is brief. We doubt that the average term of prominence and power exceeds five years. There are exceptions. Chief Arthur is one; Frank Sargent is another. President Lynch of the International Typographical union is a third. But on the whole the tendency is for success at the top to beget jealousy down the line until it culminates in revolt and revolution. We do not anticipate that this will take place in the miners' union. We are of the belief that John Mitchell's hold upon the confidence of the rank and file is as strong today as it ever was. That being true, his supremacy, if challenged, is not likely to be overturned.

President-elect Palma is now able to understand the sensations of the base ball umpire.

Borrowing Trouble.

AT PERIODIC intervals upon whose business it is to watch the large affairs of nations and prophesy their trend become afflicted with an epidemic of the flutters. At such times they see things in greatly enlarged perspective and not only see but imagine.

Thus for a number of years with measured frequency there have been solemn warnings of impending war between Russia and Great Britain and between Russia and Japan. The details have varied but the underlying idea has been reiterated until some commentators seem to look upon an Eastern war as an absolute certainty. It must be due to the nervous strain from long thinking about this possibility that the latest war scare has originated. The usually self-possessed London correspondent of the New York Sun has it badly. He is convinced that the politics of the world is passing through a crisis and that unless strong pressure shall be exerted by Germany and the United States it will not be long before Russia, aided by France will pounce upon Japan in spite of its recent alliance with Great Britain and the fat will be in the fire in earnest. According to his view of the situation the diplomatists of the chief nations fully understand the gravity of the situation. Prince Henry's visit is not disconnected with it. The effort of Lord Kitchener to hasten peace in South Africa is another incident having much to do with it. The insurrection in Southern China viewed as attributed to Russian inspiration, affording a pretext for the forwarding of Russian ambitions.

Of course it is impossible to deny these conjectures. There is always a possibility and it is notorious that the war feeling in Japan has been rising ever since Russia robbed Japan of the fruits of her victory over China. But that either Russia or France is seriously meditating an aggressive military campaign seems incredible in view of the readily calculable enormous costs of modern warfare. Great Britain's experience in South Africa ought to put a permanent damper on belligerent ambition, and we think it has. Of course if either Japan or Russia should commit deliberately a cause belli there would probably be an immediate response in kind by the other power. But the fighting would in all probability be localized and soon over.

Fear of a general conflict involving three or more of the major powers may be dismissed, in our judgment, as idle and unwarranted. Civilization has enough real troubles to deserve to be spared the unnecessary worrying over imagined ones.

Miss Blanche Hulse, of Tonoka, seems disposed to take up muscular reform where Charles Nation left off. Miss Hulse, however, believes that personal application of the raw hide is preferable to the destruction of property with a hatchet. Kansas officials are admonished to give Blanche a wide berth.

Later reports indicate that General Miles' talk for publication was almost as interesting as his conversation that was not intended for print.

For a man of genial temperament Mr. Watterson displays an unusual amount of versatility in the role of a calamity howler.

Surgeon General Sternberg does not regard the Manila cholera situation as serious. He is too far away.

Railway Labor as a Life Work

A RAILROADER who seeks position in any of the higher grades of railway employment, do so with the intent of making it a life-work. The railway companies, on their part, prefer men under 25 years of age, unless they had previous experience. Of young men who enter the service, there is a class for which special attention is required to begin in some subordinate position, as brakemen or firemen in order that they acquire a knowledge of the duties required in an advanced position. One of the latest railway systems in the United States places itself upon the fact that its principal officers have worked themselves up from the bottom of the service, thereby understanding the details in every particular. The question of permanency, however, is very largely an economic one, and depends upon two sets of conditions—the causes and methods of discharge, and the conditions of promotion.

CAUSES AND METHODS OF DISCHARGE. Changes have taken place in recent years in the rules governing discharge in force on the leading railroads. The causes for instant dismissal have been largely reduced in number. On many roads, certain causes, such as flagrant violation of rules, intoxication, insubordination, dishonesty and gross carelessness or negligence, being about dismissed without appeal, and hence such men will not enjoy executive positions, believing that it impairs the mind to such an extent as to endanger safety. Boards of inquiry have been very common, to which appeal may be taken by those who feel that they have been wrongfully dismissed.

Formerly, a different system has been adopted on most of the roads, especially in the higher grades of the service. A record is kept of each man's labor, wherein the good and bad of his work appears. Accidents will happen, and blunders will be made by the best of employees. Any accident or blunder made is entered of record against the employee in question, and, as their rolls on, if this record increases so that it should be styled an "accumulated bad record," and his previous service does not show a careful and safe person, he is liable to be dismissed. If his record for service has been favorable, slight blunders are overlooked, and the employee knows nothing of his demerits and he is continued at work.

CONDITIONS OF PROMOTION. Civil service rules apply very generally to questions of promotion, and, as a general thing, promotions are usually made within the service. Men are transferred from freight to passenger trains, and thus stimulating every man to do his best, in view of possible advancement.

About four years ago the Delaware and Hudson company passed a resolution which established their system of "discipline by record" for permanent employees. "An individual account has been opened for each employee in a book kept specially for that purpose in the superintendent's office."

Among causes for dismissal are "dishonesty, insubordination, dishonesty, gross carelessness or serious offense of the nature."

"A charge will be made on the record book for every case of neglect of duty, violation of the rules of regulation, or other serious offense, such as insubordination, improper conduct, etc. Instead of suspension except for investigation the employee will be allowed to continue at work until charges will be investigated before being removed, and notice given the person affected. The record is a private one, and no one but the person implicated will be shown it."

"When the record against an employee becomes such as to demonstrate his inefficiency for the service, he will be dismissed."

"Special records will be given on an employee's record, and may also be entered for notably excellent conduct, good judgment in emergencies, etc."

"Record bulletins will be issued by the superintendent from time to time, as may be necessary in the interest of discipline. Names will not be mentioned in these bulletins, the chief object being educational."

"They ask the co-operation of employees in giving correct accounts of any misdeeds on the road, in which they should be interested. We shall thus secure a higher state of efficiency by judging each case on its merits; enable the employee to gain in self-respect; in loyalty, watchfulness and zeal for the employer's interest; and establish discipline in which the element of force is not predominant; become acquainted with such cases as may be handled, and learn from them the reason that is taught by the failure of others; avoid loss of time and savings; develop a feeling of confidence and security which will benefit and encourage the good men, while those who are habitually careless and indifferent will be dropped from the service."

Some roads have a system of suspension for periods ranging from five to sixty days.

MOTIVE.

Sat a youth with zebra visage by the thorough approach of Fame, In his first endeavor, careless of his homestead name, Him a sage accented, smiling: "Wherefore, brother, do you wall, While the multitude sweep by you, and there's clamor at the gate, Where the oiled and timid pose not, but the youths full and elastic?"

"Of these zebraish tents I weary, 't is I abide thus to strive, When the mighty and successful on the weak and falling thrive?"

"What vision is it hide you onward? What voice was it hale you yet?"

"Twas the whisper of a faint heart, not the wall of the strongest."

"A noble man is never but in upward tiding best!"

"Forward tiding! Where is, father? Do we lose or do we gain? Is there more in all our triumphs than a softer couch for party? Said the sage, not slowly, thoughtfully: "You far more, for even we Bring a sacrifice to the spirit, and the way the nations go. Sweep up, like a boy's bound river, brooding in its shrouded flow."

"What! No gain? No kinder spirit? Ah, a larger loss is here, Even in our nearest strivings; and the traitor life is done. High the advantage of struggle to true men in days like these. When the great world drinks together, and men speak across the seas, And know no wrong, and form her doors to gentle Mosey's golden keys!"

Then the youth's deep eyes enkindled, and he stood up in his flight, Saying, "Then for all I struggle, for the weak I join the light." And he passed the upward highway, singing as he sped along: World-wide love and selfless service was the burden of his song— Till his voice and form were swallowed in the clamor and the throng. —Leader Turkey in Boston Watchman.



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Stop Worrying---OWN

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