LIFE OF THE LIFE SAVERS

HAZARDOUS NATURE SHOWN BY STATISTICS

Records Are Not Complete, but a Large Percentage of Deaths Is Shown—Claims for Benefits Indicate That About Fourteen Per Cent of the Men Are Disabled Each Year—Burton Law Protecting Niagara Falls Expires on March 1—Various Associations Are Urging That It Be Renewed—Power Companies Anxious to Use More Water

[Regular Correspondence of the Transcript]

Washington, Jan. 25.

Representative Robert O. Harris of Massachusetts, in the course of his investigations into the Life Saving Service, has come across some interesting statistics showing the large percentage of deaths which occur in the service while the men are on duty. General Superintendent S. I. Kimball, in response to an inquiry from the House, has stated that while men in the service are continually being injured while in the performance of their arduous and hazardous duties, the records of his office are by no means complete.

An examination, however, of the record of applications for benefits filed by keepers and members of crews of life saving stations gives some idea of the expense of injuries to surfmen. The law provides that if any keeper or member of the crew of a life saving station shall be so disabled by reason of any wound or injury received or disease contracted in the Life Saving Service in the line of duty as to unfit him for the performance of duty, he shall be continued upon the rolls with full pay during the continuance of his disability, not to exceed, however, the period of one year. During the calendar years from 1901 to 1910 inclusive the number of claims filed was 3519. This record covers only claims that have been allowed by the auditor of the Treasury Department and paid, the disability having been determined to have been contracted in the line of duty in the service. There is no means of showing in how many cases the disability arose from a disease as distinguished from wound or injury, but it is certain that a large per cent of the claims is based on disability arising from wounds or injury. The diseases are generally such as are peculiarly incident to exposure or hardship, such as rheumatism, grippe, lung trouble, etc.

The figures herewith show that during the ten years covered there was an average of about 316 men absent each year for short periods on account of injury or disease incurred in the line of duty. As there are only about 2200 keepers and surfmen in all, it will be seen that the percentage of men disabled is large, being about 14 per cent, or one man out of seven. This does not include the year claims, which are claims of men who are compelled to leave the service by reason of disability contracted in the line of duty. It will be observed that during the ten years in question there has been an average of about thirty-six men of this class each year.

These figures are considered sufficient in themselves to show the hazardous nature of the service. The records also show that the number of keepers and surfmen who have died during said ten-year period by reason of injury received or disease contracted in the line of duty in the service is eighty-two, an average of about eight per annum. The records show that a great many of these men died from disease caused by cold and exposure while in the line of duty, while in other cases death was due to accident or drowning while on duty. Of the eighteen persons shown to have died in 1902, seven were drowned at one time by the capsizing of a boat while returning from wreck duty.

Preserving Niagara Falls

Niagara Falls have from now until March 1 in which to pour peacefully, without fear of further depredations by the water-grabbers. On that date the Burton act, passed for the protection of the Falls, will expire by limitation and the House Committee on Foreign Affairs has been giving hearings with a view to reporting a bill which will settle permanently the question of the diversion of the waters of the Niagara River. The treaty between the United States and Great Britain, promulgated in May, 1910, allows a maximum diversion on the American side of 20,000 cubic feet per second and on the Canadian side of 36,000 cubic feet per second. It places no restrictions on the amount of power already manufactured which may be imported from Canada. Under the terms of the Burton law the limit of diversion on the American side is 15,600; and only 160,000 horsepower may be imported through power companies generating on the Canadian side. The fight between the lovers of fine scenery on the one hand and the power companies on the other to prevent further reduction of the water-level than is now permissible is as determined as ever.

Those who have for years been urging that the scenic beauties of Niagara Falls be preserved, under the leadership of the American Civic Association, are contending, as for the last six years, that the limitations prescribed by the Burton act are the ones to be maintained. They base their latest conclusions on a very extensive report of the Corps of Army Engineers, known as Senate Document No. 105, and only recently printed, although it was completed late in 1908. The power companies are insisting that they be allowed the 4400 cubic feet additional up to the limits mentioned in the treaty, and they are opposing any restrictions that may be placed by Congress on the amount of power that may be imported.

NEW YORK'S STATE CLAIM

A new phase has been given to the situation by the entrance of the State of New York through its attorney general, Mr. Carmody, who appeared before the committee this week and stated that New York's claims are that the State and the individuals of the State possess riparian rights to the Niagara River, and therefore possess the right to the use of its waters, and that the Federal Government has no further jurisdiction other than that which relates to navigation and to coast defences. That is a question which was considered in detail when the Burton bill was originally drafted and passed, six years ago. The power companies of the State of New York never saw fit to put to the test any such contention.

Attorney General Carmody stated that he believed the jurisdiction of the Federal Government ended when it had said what amount of water might be diverted and not interfere with navigation and coast defences, which, according to the treaty, would be at its maximum at twenty thousand cubic feet per second. He recommended, however, that Congress pass an act which should place with the Secretary of War the granting of permits to power companies up to the amount of twenty thousand cubic feet per second, but that these permits should be granted to the State of New York, and on its request and direction. Attorney General Carmody submitted a tentative form of a bill covering his views.

Those who have been most active in their efforts for the preservation of Niagara Falls, including Senator Theodore E. Burton of Ohio, the American Civic Association and other organizations, strongly oppose the transfer of jurisdiction from the Federal to State authorities. Following Attorney General Carmody, J. Horace McFarland, president of the American Civic Association, made a strong presentation of his side of the question, basing his opposition to any increase in the amount of water that might be diverted and to any increase of power that might be imported on the recent reports of the army engineers. In this connection, Mr. McFarland pointed out very clearly that there is a very large waste of water now going on through the power plants already holding permits. He stated one instance as mentioned in the report where it is shown that one company is operating at such a low efficiency that there is a waste of 33 1-3 per cent of the water which passes through its turbines. Mr. McFarland also recounted in detail the consideration that had been given to all the legal questions between the State and the Federal Government when the Burton bill was originally drawn, and argued that the complete jurisdiction of the Falls with relation to navigation, coast defences and the preservation of its beauty should rest with the Federal Government. In that connection Mr. McFarland called to the attention of the committee the fact that the treaty itself, in addition to the Burton law, was enacted with especial reference to the preservation of beauty, and he reminded the committee that all of the hearings held on the subject have revolved around the preservation of beauty exclusively.

W. E. B.

The Fine Arts

Exhibitions now open:

St. Botolph Club—Boston Artists' Exhibition.
Boston Art Club—Modern American Pictures.
Arts and Crafts—Exhibit of Metal-Work.
Copley Gallery—Miss Richardson's Portraits.
Copley Gallery—Miss Hills's Miniatures.
Copley Gallery—Miss Smith's Pictures.
Copley Gallery—Mrs. Hale's Drawings.
Twentieth Century Club—Mr. Dunbar's Paintings.
Museum of Fine Arts—Japanese Screens.
Brooks Reed Gallery—Group Exhibition.
Vose's Gallery—Mr. Fitler's Paintings.
No. 4 Joy Street—Group Exhibition.
Stuart Club—Miss Roberts's Paintings.
Doll & Richards's—Mr. Rouland's Portraits.
Doll & Richards's—Mr. Thompson's Landscapes.

MR. ROULAND'S PORTRAITS

His Likenesses Include Many Personages Known to Fame, Artists, Authors, Editors and Noblemen—Group of Landscapes by Mr. Thompson

The personal interest that attaches to distinguished personages known to every one by reputation is to be added to the intrinsic qualities of the portraits by Orlando Rouland, which are now on view at the gallery of Doll & Richards, 71 Newbury street. The artist has been especially favored in respect of eminent sitters. In this collection of eleven portraits there are those of the Duke of Argyll, of James Lane Allen, of John Burroughs, of Hamlin Garland, of J. J. Shannon, R. A., of Mme. Melba, of Miss Grace Middleton, and of the four editors of the Century Magazine, Richard Watson Gilder, Robert Underwood Johnson, Clarence C. Buell, and Alexander Drake. Mr. Rouland has also painted the portraits of Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, Thomas A. Edison, Paderewski, the late John Bigelow, Judge A. Terrell, Governor Campbell of Texas, Governor Merriam of Minnesota, Andrew Carnegie, Edward MacDowell, Hon. Whitelaw Reid, and many another celebrity. It is something to have associated one's name with people who have achieved so much, and it is always interesting to study the physiognomies of the successful and notable personages of the day. Mr. Rouland evidently has the faculty of getting a likeness that satisfies the exigencies of the sitters and their families, and that in itself is no small achievement.

His large life-size portrait group of the Century Magazine staff which was painted at a time (1909) when these four men had collaborated for thirty-seven years, is the most important and the most interesting of the works on view. It is seldom that a painter undertakes such a task as this nowadays, and, considering the manifold difficulties of it, Mr. Rouland has acquitted himself very well. What we see is a group of four serious men in conference in a room which has rather the aspect of a private sitting-room than a business office; and the problem of bringing them all into the picture in a natural way has been met quite successfully. While the heads are portraits, and there is no attempt to get away from the portrait idea, yet the work is a picture, and it hangs together.

Among the portraits of men, that of Mr. Shannon, the painter, is one of the most striking. The portrait of Arthur Perry (6) is a close and living likeness. "Catherine" (10) and "Lorna" (11) have pictorial interest beyond the ordinary scope of the portrait.

Mr. Rouland exhibits, in addition to his portraits, a group of eight landscapes painted in Texas, Maine, France, etc. The artist was born at Pleasant Ridge, Ill., Dec. 21, 1871. He was a pupil of Fritjhof Smith and Max Thedy in Germany, and of Benjamin Constant and Jean Paul Laurens at the Julien Academy in Paris. He is represented in the collections of Trinity College, Cambridge University; Sheffield Scientific School, Yale University; the University of Texas; the State Capitol, Austin, Tex.; the Historical Society, State Capitol, St. Paul, Minn.; the Colony Club, Yale University; the Carnegie Institute, Washington, D. C.; the Engineers' Club and the Society of Mining Engineers, New York.

The exhibition will continue through Wednesday, Feb. 7.

LANDSCAPES BY MR. THOMPSON

A Promising First Appearance of a Connecticut Artist

In the small gallery at Doll & Richards's, a group of eight paintings by George Albert Thompson of Norwich, Conn., is to be seen. Mr. Thompson is director of the Norwich Art School. These landscapes are among his most recent works. Several of them are nocturnes, and they have for subjects the rivers and harbors of Connecticut. The low-toned and subtle evening effect at the left of the group, "The Quinnipiac River," with its dim and elusive light, its poetic and beautiful tone, and its delicate suggestiveness, is as good as any of Whistler's Thames River nocturnes, with which it is akin in style, without being a slavish imitation. The values are just and right, and the gradations of tone on the quiet surface of the stream are remarkably well rendered. Another nocturne of the same sort is "On the Mill River," which is an early evening effect, with docks, barges, and other craft looming through the shadows. "The Lumberman" is a similar motive, not quite so dark; the twilight is just coming, and a dull rosy glow envelopes the shipping and docks. There are two "Afterglow" pictures, in one of which a calm blue and green sea sleeps under a sky tinged with faint rose color. A good-sized upright landscape, which is an excellent piece of work, is called "The Brook." It is virtually a wood interior, executed with a very close degree of observation of nature. In the centre of the group is "In the Woods," a charming figure piece with a woody background. All of Mr. Thompson's work is interesting and able, and this first showing of it in Boston should not by any means be the last.

Ffoulke Collection of Tapestries

Frederic Fairchild Sherman announces a catalogue de luxe of the famous Ffoulke collection of tapestries, arranged by the late Charles M. Ffoulke, one of the greatest authorities on the subject. The work will contain four color reproductions, besides photogravures of the Barberini tapestries and other important pieces in the collection, making seventy-five full-page plates in all. The price will be fifty dollars net, and the edition will be limited to 250 copies.

BOSTON EVENING TRANSCRIPT
PUBLISHED DAILY
Except Sundays and Holidays
By The
BOSTON TRANSCRIPT COMPANY
324 Washington Street, Boston, Mass.

Subscription Rates

Postpaid in the United States (Hawaii, Philippines and Porto Rico), Canada, Mexico, Panama and Cuba.
In Boston Postal District, by mail, 1c per copy extra.
[Address changed as often as desired.]

EVENING TRANSCRIPT
Daily Except Sundays and Holidays

One Year	$9.00
Six Months	4.50
Three Months	2.25
One Month	.75

Foreign Postage Extra

PARK CONSOLIDATION AND THE DOLLAR SIDE

The possibility which is more than likely to happen, that the ordinance providing for the consolidation of the Park, Public Grounds, Bath and Music departments will go over to the next City Council without any action being taken is understood to be causing considerable annoyance to the good people anxious to bring about this grouping of the recreation activities of the city. Members of the present City Council have been approached with considerable persistance, and the argument has been made that it is their bounden duty to enact the measure in short order and bring an end to the present disjointed situation by which certain of the play activities at least are being conducted under the auspices of three distinct boards. The argument has been made, and apparently with considerable justice that this proposed ordinance which is now resting in the hands of the executive committee of the Council has substantially in its present shape been before the Council since last June, and even moving with caution can hardly be given as an excuse for such delays. It may be that the members of the City Council have dilly dallied with the matter and that they would be hard put if a demand was made of them for an outright explanation as to how the time has elapsed without action being taken, but, and this is said with a full appreciation of the situation, nothing could be more unfortunate for the welfare of the city than any attempt on the part of the Council to now compensate for that delay by rapid-fire action on the ordinance in question. Fortunately for the tax payers an appreciation of that fact is strong in the minds of the councilmen, and is the real force which is now holding the matter up.

The disinclination of the councilmen to hurry even in response to numerous very genuine and sincere calls for action which are being made has been specially strengthened by reason of certain conditions which have arisen. First the discussion of the calibre of the men whom it is said the mayor has in mind to put in charge of the consolidated department once it is authorized, and, secondly, an appreciation of the fact that the dollar side of this scheme has been ignored if not entirely overlooked. The gentlemen interested in bringing the matter about, in urging their cause have naturally and without any thought of evasion devoted themselves to urging a consolidation simply on a play basis. They have, it is true, made the point that consolidations normally spell economy in administration, but their chief aim has been to make the use of the playfields a matter of uniform regulation and administration. The thought has been that in getting men to administer the new department the primary demand was for men experts in play direction, as it were. This is a need and a great need. The city, it must be admitted, is in the position of having a very expensive plant for recreation on its hands and few if any real experts in the administration of it, and there is lost motion by reason of the general division of authority. But, with all respect to the gentlemen in question, there is a great big financial side to this whole affair which must be considered. The new board, if authorized, must be one not only competent to bring order out of the chaos, as it were, so the plant can be used to the fullest possible extent, but it must contain men competent to meet the financial problems which follow the spending of a considerable sum of money each year for maintenance and who can also handle the finances so the present debt will not become a greater burden. It is not too much to say that any board which lacks ability to serve in this dual capacity will simply bring trouble upon the city.

The departments which it is proposed to consolidate are the Park, the Public Grounds and the Music and the Bath departments. No special criticism can be made of this lay-out, though the original Finance Commission suggested that the music be transferred to the school department inasmuch as its winter activities are carried on chiefly in school buildings. That though is merely incidental. It has also been suggested, even though it may seem a little gruesome, that the cemetery department could be included, as apart from the administration of Mt. Hope Cemetery its activities are chiefly along the line of keeping up the old cemeteries of the city, many of which are used in a way at least as recreation grounds.

Taking up, though, the actual departments which the ordinance seeks to consolidate, it will be found, after even a slight review of their financial histories, that they are all calling yearly for a considerable increase in the allowance for their running expenses. During the year 1910-11, for example, close to $750,000 out of the general tax levy was spent for this general upkeep. The expenditures per department were as follows:

Bath department	$172,894.32
Music department	17,583.75
Public grounds	148,272.53
Park department	399,506.84

This money went out for labor and supplies, the labor being for upkeep and the supplies being for repairs, etc. A number of hundreds of employees have been on the payrolls all the time for whose proper direction discretion and ability are required.

But this does not represent the full of the financial responsibility which the board must be competent to meet. In the various departments enumerated all new work is done on loan money. Playgrounds and park extensions, new gymnasiums and baths and actual public grounds improvements in the way of capital investments are met in this way and during the same year it appears that the departments spent loan money to this extent:

Bath department	$70,398.23
Public grounds	63,020.95
Park department	83,655.94

This makes the actual total expenditures of the several departments for the year 1910-11 $955,332.56, close to a million of dollars. It can be easily appreciated from a study of these figures that it will not be a far cry into the future before the united expenditures of all the departments in question will exceed the million mark and be close to the million and a half figure.

There is one thing more which deserves to be centred strongly in the public mind before it urges the City Council to any greater haste in this matter. The departments in question at the present time are carrying something close to seventeen and one-half millions of debt. It is a pretty sizable sum, even when it is spoken quickly. The carrying charge for this belongs properly on the departments in question and should be added to the $900,000 figure of 1910-11 expenditures already given, but under city methods instead the cost is carried in the general city debt total. But the new board most certainly must contain men competent not only to properly safeguard the expenditures of the million, but to have an eye to this great floating debt. The debt figures of each department, as of Jan. 1, 1911, may be worth incorporating at this point:

Bath department debt	$606,500.00
Public parks debt	14,055,800.00
Playgrounds, etc., debt	1,843,800.98

These figures are not presented here for the purpose of discouraging in any way the consolidation plans which represent many months' work on the part of the promoters. They are presented here though for the purpose of centring attention sharply at least on the need of great care in picking official gentlemen to serve on the board and officials to serve under them.

The proposed ordinance will practically centre all the responsibility in the hands of one man who is to get $7500 a year and if he is competent to meet the financial as well as the play activity sides he will be a cheap man at the price. It must be well assured though, that he is a competent man from a financial standpoint. In addition it is worth remembering that while

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LOOKING OVER THE FIELD

Wilson Pronounced Brilliant, Harmon Commonplace, Clark Impossible, Dix Agreeable to Tammany Hall, Gaynor Ill-Balanced, Roosevelt a Last Resort, Cummins an Advertising Schemer, La Follette Distanced—Taft the Only Man with a Platform the People Want

[From the Baltimore American, Rep.]

That candidate who has the platform to propose that the country most needs should be the nominee of his party and the successful contestant for the election. At present attention is largely directed to individuals and their availability from the viewpoint of radical or conservative positions. These are mere general ideas. It always happens that the radical in the office becomes lamblike, even though, as in the case of Mr. Roosevelt, he covers his compliancy with sensible ideas of conservative action by a ferocious exterior and much bellowing in the jungles. The country might repose its destinies in the hands of any of the candidates prominently spoken of for the race from the point of view of their personality. There is every reason to believe that the most brilliant man on the Democratic side—the governor of New Jersey—has a profound ambition to inaugurate political departures in the methods of Government and even in its fundamental structure that would rate him with the constitutionalists of an earlier era. If this be a dangerous tendency, and masses of the people would so regard it, then the chances for the nomination of Dr. Wilson should be fixed largely by this fact. His radicalism is unlike the radicalism of anyone else; it is as distinctive and particular in its quality as is his form of political address.

Otherwise as regards their personalities, the merits of the Democratic candidates are a tossup. Governor Harmon is of the slow-thinking, solidly constituted type, who would never be guilty of particular originality in an office he might fill. He probably would have the mental weight to hold down the Presidency and afford the country an administration commonplace enough to be acceptable, without exciting incidents. Champ Clark would have much to learn, and by the time his four years had expired would be competent to serve the country for four years more if the country would forgive and forget the first four years of his administration.

Men of the Van Buren type, such as Governor Dix of New York, would be the kind of President to satisfy the ideals of Tammany Hall and to place its chief, Murphy, in a position of wide national importance and influence. Gaynor would be found a man of erratic and excitable initiative, whose lack of balance-wheel quality would cause him to be constantly in hot water with somebody. The list of Democratic availables is not exhausted with these names, and dark horses, unsuspected of being such at present, may be brought forward.

On the Republican side the name of Mr. Roosevelt is presented with persistency by his friends, and there is an attempt to feature him as the savior of the Republican party—a purely gratuitous use of his personality. He has the third-term antipathy and usage against him, and could not be regarded as available except in such crises as the party and the country are far from experiencing. Senator Cummins has appeared in the arena simply to cloud the horoscope. He has little likelihood of securing the coveted preferment, but the use of his name at this time may be serviceable to him in the future. The design seems to be to get together as many Insurgents as possible. Those that the name of La Follette cannot conjure with that of Cummins may hypnotize. But this kind of inner play without proper agreement is always hazardous, and there appears to be no agreement between Cummins and La Follette. Certainly there can be no basis for the rumors of an affiliation between the friends of Roosevelt and those of the Wisconsin man.

The only man who appears before the country with the right personality, the right record and the right platform is President Taft. Neither the Wilson program of political radicalism nor the Harmon program of undefined conservatism or the Clark hodgepodge of anything available and at hand can compare with the position, the views and the achievements of President Taft. There is only one man in the Democratic party who has a platform, and that is William Jennings Bryan. His platform is utterly unacceptable to the conservative masses of his party, while probably lacking some features of acceptability even to other radicals. His present pose is for presidential preference primaries and of uncompromising opposition to anything the conservative sentiment of the country approves. Were the initiative, the referendum and the recall adopted by a Democratic administration the country would be as far removed from the goal of adjustment of its important economic interests as it was before. Those who are seeking to have introduced wide political departures are proceeding in the wrong order. Granting that more Democratic participation in the work of legislation might be desirable, the fact remains that it would prove disastrous to divert the attention of the people at this time from the need of tariff and financial reforms to a change in political methods. Much of the so-called opposition of the interests to the renomination of President Taft arises from a desire by these interests to see a radical rule inaugurated. The legitimate business interests of the country see the wide advantage of the rigorous application of the Sherman law, while corporations bent upon predatory activity would be rejoiced above measure to see instituted a radical régime that would waste its energies in seeking to bring about social and political reforms that would be distracting to the country.

CURRENT COMMENT

A PAINFUL DUTY DISCHARGED

[From the Springfield Republican]

The councillors are as human and responsive to sentiment as any of us—but they rested under a sworn obligation to uphold the laws of the Commonwealth, from whose binding force they could in honor see no escape. Put yourself in their place. The other, the easy, and perhaps the popular way, lay open to them. They took the hard road of duty, and are entitled to and will receive credit therefor from all who are governed by reason and a proper regard for the orderly and tried processes of law as it is administered with exceptional thoroughness and fairness in this State. Our judges continually face situations akin to this. The circumstances surrounding the whole affair did not warrant an overruling of the courts. Judges cannot evade their duty, and councillors the same. In the light of the statement made by the seven councillors, their moral obligation was inescapable.

GROOMING THE DARK HORSE

[From the Worcester Telegram, Rep.]

"William L. Douglas will be the Democratic nominee for president," says a Worcester Democrat. That is the best selection of a dark horse thus far mentioned by Democrats. Former Governor Douglas is a business man who has done his advertising frankly for the profit of the publicity and paid the bills. He has so few wild ideas that some of the people might fail to recognize him as a Democrat. He neglects that distinction himself a good deal of the time. He believes in American business for the people of this country, and wants a considerable share of it for himself.

AMERICAN HOSPITALITY

[From the Pittsburgh Gezette-Times]

True hospitality requires that the same treatment shall be extended an exalted personage when he is abroad that he is accustomed to receive at home. Rudeness is never more offensive than when it masquerades as democratic independence. Happily our nation has passed that stage of development. In character, ability and manly appearance the Duke of Connaught amply realizes the ideal of royalty, and the sincerity of the welcome that has been given him is eloquent of the cordial relations that exist between the two great English-speaking nations.

REASON FOR IMPATIENCE WITH COURTS

[From the New York Tribune, Rep.]

One reason why the holding of a statute unconstitutional provokes a feeling of irritation is the time that it often takes to find out whether a law is valid or not. Were it commonly possible to get a decision as to its validity within a few months after its passage the public would be readier to put up with the inconvenience and delay necessary to operate the machinery for amending constitutions, and the unwisdom of proposals to refer questions regarding the constitutionality of laws to popular vote would be generally recognized. The Massachusetts system of obtaining from the highest court of the State an opinion as to the constitutionality of pending legislation may be exceedingly useful, preventing many vexatious disappointments and materially reducing the grounds for public impatience with the courts.

To insure our judicial system against attacks upon its independence, legal processes must be simplified and made less costly. In newspapers published in all parts of the country we find complaints of legal delays. In States where conditions are much simpler than they are here the congestion of calendars is even worse than it is in this city. President Taft has called the reform of legal procedure so as to make justice inexpensive and prompt the Nation's greatest problem, and probably nothing else would so confirm the judiciary in public confidence and so protect it from radical attacks as a method of making it impossible to defeat justice by wearing out the patience and exhausting the purse of an adversary and depriving criminals of the favor they enjoy under the present rules of trial.

CRITICISING THE CHURCH

[From the Congregationalist]

The critical element in the men and religion movement campaign in Boston last week was hardly as prominent as headlines in some daily papers would suggest. Several things were said by the visitors that might better have been left unsaid and which we think would be modified on second thought by those who said them. However, one of the objects of this movement is to stir things up, and too many churches have needed, do need and will need for some time to come, to be prodded to the work which lies close at their doors, of which some of them as yet have not taken the full measure. If the ministers get their share of the "knocking" they may look upon it as that to which the good soldier of Christ is constantly exposed. On one of his last visits to Boston, Mr. Moody seemed so censorious that one hundred or more ministers came together at a private conference to remonstrate with him. Whenever an outsider or an outside movement comes along whose express aim is to lift the spiritual level of professing Christians, it can hardly be expected to refrain altogether from criticism. Those who indulge in it should take pains to speak the truth in love and to voice their strictures at the proper time, but provided the purpose is friendly and constructive, the Church may well take heed to what is said either by its own members or by transient visitors who would clarify and enlarge its vision of duty, in such days as these when every talent the Church possesses should be called into active use.

IN WRONG

[From the Baltimore American, Rep.]

Somehow or other Governor Woodrow Wilson seems to be always getting in the way of the back draft.

A DREAM REALIZED

[From the Hartford Courant]

When he's at home, in Henderson, Ky., Hon. Augustus Owsley Stanley practises law. Before his admission to the bar, eighteen years ago, he was a schoolteacher. Now he's the great Chairman Stanley, and has the United States Steel Corporation (more or less) by the throat, and can't open a newspaper without seeing his name in it, and feels the limelight streaming upon him continually. The country lawyer who used to hear small rural Kentuckians say their multiplication table is having the time of his life. He must have to pinch himself now and then to make sure that it isn't a dream.

FLAGLER'S KEY-CHAIN

[From the New York Sun]

Henry M. Flagler's imagination was as potent as his money in the daring enterprise of extending the Florida East Coast Railway to Key West. It is a grand thing to possess the means to build an ocean railroad to the isolated city of winds and waters from which Havana can almost be seen across the strait; from an aeroplane 5000 feet aloft perhaps it could be made out on a clear day with a powerful glass. But the dollars without the imagination would never have built this prodigy of railroads.

If Mr. Flagler had not done it what other man in the United States in our time would have thought of doing it? The work was begun and completed in a period when railroad construction had practically stopped elsewhere in the United States for causes too obvious to be recited. A man approaching eighty who could plan such an enterprise and resolutely push it to completion in the face of obstacles that often seemed insurmountable, not knowing whether he would live to see the first train roll into Key West or whether the new road would ever earn a dividend, is a man of heroic mould, one of the great commanders in chief of industry and progress in a generation of great achievements.

New York has been brought within fifty hours of Havana, and the sea part of the journey has been reduced to six hours. Key West is now really in the United States and can get its supplies by rail. Its importance as a naval base has been so vastly increased that it must be treated with the utmost deference in future by the sea strategists. The most southerly county seat in the United States, with its feet in the waters of the Gulf and its eyes for nearly a hundred years straining enviously in the direction of the continental United States, it now promises to become a great seaport and metropolis, and it ought to be proud and happy in the consciousness of a shining future. Yesterday was a great day for Florida, a greater day for Key West, and the greatest day in the life of Henry M. Flagler, the magician who wrought the wonder of the railroad across the tropic sea. What man of eighty-two ever before enjoyed such a triumph?

WHO IS A DEMOCRAT?

[From the Hartford Times, Dem.]

There is evidently going to be a grand effort to establish the doctrine that no man who was born a Democrat, or who ever voted the Democratic ticket before 1896, is to be regarded as a Democrat now.

The main object is to split the Democratic party at Baltimore and, probably, to continue the Republicans in power. But we do not think this effort will be successful.

MR. TAFT'S CONVINCING QUALITIES

[From the New Haven Journal-Courier, Ind't]

We wonder if we have come upon a time when to be a success in the presidential office the country must have a man of rough feelings, brutal candor and cynical peculiarities, qualities which stamp a man as being no gentleman. We should hate to believe it and we do not. On the contrary President Taft's great hold today upon the country is his inherent gentleness.

But another of his failings is pointed out by United States Senator Townsend of Michigan. In reply to a question as to whether he had advised the President on political affairs, Senator Townsend said to the reporter: "I advised him that he ought to take advantage of the good things his administration has accomplished and advertise them." The senator then added that the President had replied that he "did not know how to advertise." Whereupon he was advised to surround himself with men who understood the art. Have we reached a condition in this country where in addition to being no gentleman, we must have an advertiser in the White House in order to win popular support? We have never had but one President who understood thoroughly the game of advertising, and it remains undisputed that he profited greatly and is still profiting by it, but that by no means proves that advertising has become an essential of successful political leadership. There is no better advertiser on the political stage today than Senator Bob La Follette of Wisconsin, but there is little likelihood of his gratifying his presidential ambition. Mr. Bryan is a prince of advertisers, but he has not gained an entrance through the front door of the White House, except by invitation of its legal occupant.

With sober people, who are not at all interested in the distribution of post-office honors, the appointment of their fellows to subordinate office and the clash of party councils, the contemplation of these failings of President Taft increases their estimate of his worth as a President. It has been intelligently said upon more than one occasion that what this country needs, from one viewpoint, is not more legislation but less, together with the repeal of many of the laws now on the statute books. Pharaphrasing this suggestion, what this country needs is not the loud voice, not the cunning, slick politician in the presidency, but rather the gentleman and the nonadvertiser.

OUR FATAL SPORTS

[From the New York Tribune]

Could football ever have shown in its most insane days such a death and injury list as is set down to coasting this winter?

PACE-MAKER JIM HARRIS

[From the Springfield Republican, Ind't]

Jim Harris has set the pace for the Taft men throughout the country. Jim seems to have been filled with the "nothing but death" spirit. That is what will knock the Teddy boom "into a cocked hat" in three months, for the colonel's immense dignity and exalted station as a former President would not permit him to accept a nomination from a bitterly divided party. The Taft men need only to set their teeth and make the "nothing but death" cry mean something that bites in order to prove that a Roosevelt nomination would be the craziest adventure American politics has known in our time.

NEWTON DOES NOT WANT IT

[From the Newton Times]

The proposition of Governor Foss to sell the Charlestown State Prison property and move the prison is good and not new. Now let him select a site for the new prison and see how popular he can make himself in that locality.

MR. BRYAN'S MAGNANIMITY

[From the Minneapolis Journal]

We would like to be as magnanimous to Mr. Bryan, as Mr. Bryan shows himself to be to Woodrow Wilson. The ego of many ordinary men and not a few extraordinary men would have been touched to resentment by a Joline letter. And, in fact, most observers expected that Mr. Bryan, as result of the Joline letter, would begin to doubt the availability of its writer as the presidential nominee of the Democratic party.

But Mr. Bryan rises above his ego. He regards his ego as inferior to the cause of the party. He is to be congratulated. Such magnanimity will commend him to the good opinion of his countrymen perhaps as much as any single act he has ever performed. It goes far to disprove the notion that Mr. Bryan is a self-seeker mainly or entirely. It tends to confirm the opinion that he is a sincere champion of a cause, an adherent of principles.

The incident helps dispose of the caricature of Bryan as a sort of jealous dog-in-the-manger, unable to get the nomination himself, and reluctant to bestow his endorsement upon any man whom he suspects to be in danger of getting it.

Mr. Bryan has a right to scrutinize the list of the aspirants. He is still the leader of a considerable portion of his party. He represents certain principles and it is his right to see that no man be named who is secretly inimical to those principles.

MIGHT GIVE PARKER A SHOW

[From the Pittsburgh Gazette-Times, Rep.]

Then again, if Mr. Taft were to withdraw, and T. R. were to decline, and Senator La Follette were to stay out, and the Republicans were to get together on some man who is neither a screaming Insurgent nor a rampant standpatter, wouldn't that jar the Democrats?

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TELEPHONE EFFICIENCY

Maintained Best by a Well-Regulated Monopoly — Competition Impracticable, and at Double Expense—Local Irregularities Responsible for Anti-Trust Threats

[From the New York Journal of Commerce and Commercial Bulletin]

If there is any one public service or "utility," established and conducted by private enterprise, that should be a monopoly under strict public regulation, it is that of the telephone. Two lighting companies or traction companies supplying the same areas or the same transit lines cannot furnish the needed service as economically and cheaply as one with adequate facilities. Competition between them could only result in the ruin of one or the other or the merging of one in the other. What is needed is one properly organized and managed and under proper regulation by public authority. Two railroads cannot compete in precisely the same field and maintain an efficient service and reasonable and stable rates, without a much larger cost and higher charges than one. If they compete, there must be a constant shifting of rates, and sooner or later one will have to succumb. Where two lines or systems come in competition at certain points, there has to be an agreement upon rates to those points and a maintenance of schedules, or the service will be demoralized. This lesson has been taught by experience and now railroads are not allowed to compete. They must file schedules of their rates and adhere to them, and these must be just and reasonable and free from unjust discrimination. It is virtual monopoly regulated by law, with means provided for enforcing the regulation.

The peculiar character of the telephone service makes competition especially impracticable. To duplicate a local service would double the expense of installing and of conducting it, and if the rival companies could possibly work together with success it could only be by having separate customers and by each maintaining higher rates than would be necessary for one covering the whole ground. But neither service alone could possibly be satisfactory. The two companies would have to have the same customers to a large extent for the customers of each would have to have communication with those of the other in order to receive the full benefit of the service. They would not only have to pay the charges of both, but it would be a constant exasperation, a daily nuisance, to distinguish between them and get the proper connections. Attempts at local competition in telephone service would be nothing less than an absurdity and ought not to be privileged or even permitted. It could only result in the breakdown of one or the other of the competitors, the absorption of its costly facilities, a waste of capital, and higher charges than would have been necessary if it had kept out. Where such attempts are made it is more often than not for the purpose of being bought off or absorbed with a useless expansion of capital.

The same principle applies in the larger field. It is desirable to have local telephone systems connected so that there may be intercommunication between them. This gives rise to the long-distance service, which may unite adjoining fields of operation and extend over the country. Here economy, efficiency and convenience require a single harmonious system. Their advantages could not be attained by having different long-distance services connecting with a variety of local systems in different parts of the country. That would be vastly more costly and less satisfactory than a single uniform system, all parts of which can be reached from every point over the same network of lines. It is a case where monopoly brings the best results, but that makes it also a case where public regulation and spervision are a necessity, to prevent the abuses to which monopoly is always liable. That regulation should be such as to preserve the incentives and benefits to be derived from the use of private capital and personal enterprise, and not involve the deadening and demoralizing effect of direct Government ownership and management.

The American Telephone & Telegraph Company has been a natural and inevitable development from the "Bell system," so far as its telephone service is concerned. Its control of telegraph lines is a different matter. A petition has been submitted to the United States Attorney General asking that it be proceeded against as an unlawful combination in violation of the anti-trust law. This emanates nominally from a private citizen, who can hardly have much concern with the matter, but it is in the hands of a person whose sole distinction appears to be that of the one active agent of an "Anti-Trust League." It would scarcely be worthy of serious notice from the Attorney General or anybody else but for complaints of the telephone service that appear from time to time to provoke such movements, complaints, for instance, like those relating to extra charges for communication between contiguous or nearby districts of the same community, as in the case of Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx and Manhattan in the city of New York.

This is a thing to be corrected by an effective regulation and supervision. Most of the complaints, so far as we have seen or heard of them, concern local service, and that is under the jurisdiction of State authority alone. So far as long-distance service connects systems in different States and becomes a matter of interstate communication it is subject to Federal regulation, which should be made effective for its purpose in this as in other related matters. That is quite different from attacking the company which has built up the system and controls and directs its operation, as an unlawful combination and seeking its dissolution. That, if accomplished, would result in a chaotic condition and would certainly not be in the interest of the public. Whatever may be needed to make the telephone service more reasonable or more satisfactory in local communities or over long distances, the remedy does not lie that way. There are local authorities and State jurisdiction, and the habit of calling upon the United States Government every time anybody has fault to find with the service of a public utility company is childish and ought not to be encouraged.

An Easy Matter to Adjust

[From the Lowell Courier-Citizen]

The whole telephone matter is so absurdly simple that it is difficult to see how any child of school age should entertain any doubt concerning it. Nobody maintains that telephone rates should be unregulated, of course—for every monopoly has to be a regulated one to be endurable. The point is that the public would fare much better to do its regulating directly, instead of punishing itself by loading up with a dozen different telephone companies and paying charges on the entire outfit. It's easy enough to regulate telephone rates, but it's impossible to get low rates by installing two or three systems in a given district, and paying each one for a partial service almost as much as one formerly paid for a universal one. In fact there is probably not a single serious student of industrial problems in the country who would defend the contention for competition in the telephone field as a sane way to obtain low rates. Little as may be said for the efficacy of competition in the railroad line, there is far less to be said for it in the matter of telephones. The latter is the one field which probably ninety-nine men out of every hundred see clearly has got to be operated by a strictly regulated monopoly for the public good.