

against Crow because of the kidnaping of young Cudahy.

John A. McCall, former president of the New York Life Insurance company died February 18. Worry over the insurance disclosures is said to have been responsible for Mr. McCall's death.

Premier Campbell-Bannerman of Great Britain has declared himself in sympathy with the plan to establish a national system of old-age pensions.

Henry Gerald, the first editor of the Omaha (Nebr.) Bee, died at San Francisco, aged 76.

THAT BANK SCANDAL

The investigation by congress into the very amazing relations of the Standard Oil, or City National bank, and the United States treasury, asked for by Mr. Sulzer's resolution of inquiry, is certainly essential.

It ought to be demanded alike by former Secretary or the Treasury Lyman G. Gage and Frank A Vanderlip, who was Mr. Gage's assistant in the department, both of whom are now in positions of financial profit with the bank or its affiliated companies.

The story is fairly well known to New Yorkers, and, indeed, to the people of the whole country, most of whom agree with Representative Sulzer in describing it "the most scandalous in the history of our government."

In 1899 the old custom house in Wall street was sold to the City National bank for \$3,265,000. The City National bank was a depository of the national treasury, and therefore paid out no money whatsoever. It credited the United States government with \$3,215,000. The government made no demand for this money as it had at all times from \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000 deposited with this Standard Oil bank.

As the government could not expect a new custom house to be ready for occupancy for some years—it is not ready now—it proceeded to lease the old property from the purchaser at 4 per cent on the purchase price, or \$130,000 a year.

Thus the Standard Oil bank retained the purchase price of the custom house, which it could, and did, lend out at interest, and collected rent from the United States treasury as well.

But it will be noticed that the bank did not even in its bookkeeping pay the full price agreed upon. Fifty thousand dollars was to be left unpaid until the bank actually took possession. What was the meaning of this? Simply that it was an astute device by which the bank might avoid paying taxes to the city of New York on this property. It has not paid taxes yet, pleading that the government still owns the property, and that federal property can not be taxed by the city. The comptroller of New York estimates the taxes which the bank has evaded at \$80,000 a year. For these delinquent taxes the comptroller very properly promises to sue.

The whole contract or sale to the bank covers a period of ten years. In round numbers, the amount of profit which the bank will receive in this time, unless the contract shall be set aside, including rent, interest on the money it did not pay the government and saving its taxes, will be over \$3,400,000. At the end of the period the bank will own the property and will have been paid almost \$150,000 for having taken it. Moreover, competent real estate experts estimate that by that time the property will have appreciated in value more than a million dollars.

The officers of the United States government who negotiated this bargain were Lyman J. Gage and Frank A. Vanderlip. On retiring from the

office of secretary of the treasury, Mr. Gage became president of the United States Trust company, which is associated with the National City bank; Mr. Vanderlip became vice president of the bank itself.—New York American.

IN OLD NEW YORK

It is the custom of the New York papers to sneer at the unsophisticated doings of the people in other parts of the country. Apparently, however, judging from the revelations made in the evidence of Colonel Mann in the libel case now on trial, many of the most prominent and wealthy men of the metropolis were the easiest kinds of easy marks for parties who merely proposed to write them up favorably or unfavorably, according as they paid out their cash, generously or not. It is marvelous to read how easy it was to get large sums of money ostensibly as loans or in return for certificates of stock whose value bore no proper proportion to the money paid out. That the leaders of New York society should have been held up in this way argues ill for their common sense, and at the same time shows the total lack of real value to the utterances of the so-called society journal.—Pittsburg Post.

PRINTER WITH A PALACE

J. P. Nannetti, the lord mayor of the Irish capital for 1906, is the foreman printer on the Nationalist Freeman's Journal. He has long been the leader in the Dublin trades council, is a member of the corporation, and represents the College Green division in parliament. He still nightly does duty in the Freeman office, though he lives in Dublin's palatial mansion house, has a salary of \$17,500 for the year, and ranks during the tenure of the lord mayoralty as a privy councillor with the title "right honorable." His father was an Italian compositor who settled in Dublin sixty years ago.—Dublin correspondent New York World.

ONE-ARMED APPLAUSE

Mme. Bernhardt had just returned from a spin in a motor car. Her face was flushed, and she wore a skirt of sealskin.

"Madam," said a reporter who speaks French, "what do you regard as the greatest triumph of your career?"

The great artist smiled. "My greatest triumph?" she mused. "Well, I think perhaps my greatest triumph was in Paris, on the first night of 'L' Aiglon,' at the end of the third act.

"The third act was passionately applauded, but, as I stood before the curtain, the applause was drowned under a burst of laughter.

"The laughter came from the top-most gallery. The audience's eyes, and my eyes too, were turned reproachfully thither. And as we looked, the reproach died out of our faces. For what do you suppose we saw?"

"We saw two one-armed men standing up in the front row, side by side, quite oblivious of the amusement they created, co-operating with their remaining hands to add to the applause."—Minneapolis Journal.



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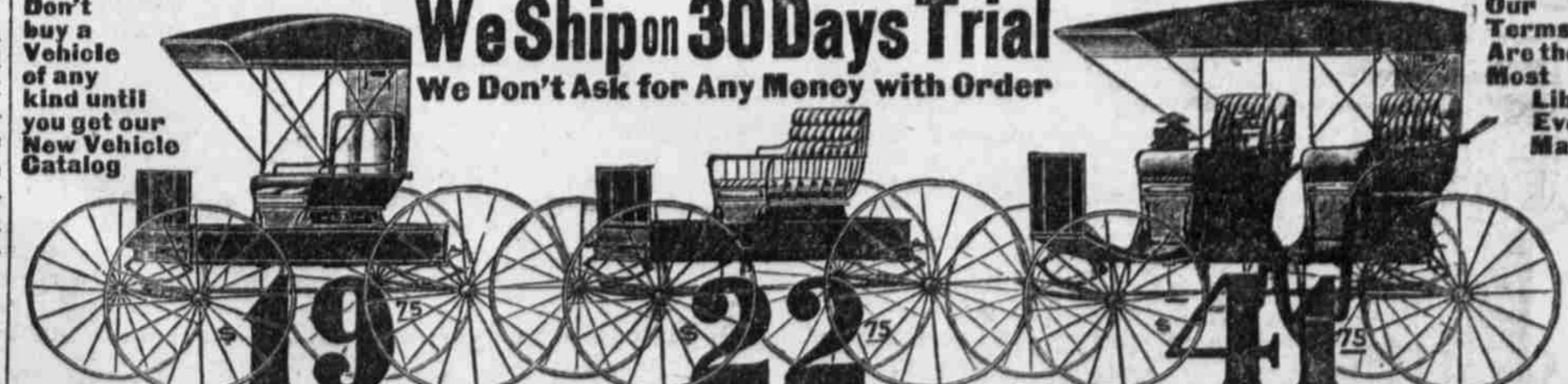
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