

The Week in Congress

With the exception of a brief time given to the general calendar, the Senate devoted the entire session Wednesday to the consideration of the railroad bill. Senator La Follette occupied the floor for almost five hours in support of the Cummins amendment requiring the approval of increases in railroad rates by the Interstate Commerce Commission. In the course of his speech he declared that it would be necessary to add greatly to the equipment of the commission in order to put it into condition to render effective service. The House considered various bills on its calendar. Measures were passed to provide a railroad in the Hawaiian Islands and to build in Nome, Alaska, a house of detention for persons suspected of being insane. Mr. Olmsted of Pennsylvania explained at length the bill to provide a new civil government for Porto Rico.

The Senate Thursday by a vote of 29 to 43 rejected the Cummins amendment requiring the approval of railroad rates by the Interstate commerce commission before they become effective. It also adopted an amendment providing for six months extension of the 120 days' suspension of new rates and regulation in case the hearing is not concluded within the time. The capitalization provisions were stricken from the bill. Because the President exceeded his traveling expense allowance of \$25,000 voted by Congress for the present fiscal year and the committee on appropriations sought to meet the deficiency by making the appropriation for next year "immediately available," the House was thrown into lively debate. Chairman Tawney offered several Democrats by suggesting that the President had made his extended Western and Southern trip largely upon the urgent solicitation of Democrats of the House. Several Democrats made angry retorts and the motion was defeated.

The Senate failed Friday to reach a final vote on the railroad bill. Senator Dixon moved an amendment placing telegraph and telephone lines under the jurisdiction of the Interstate Commerce Commission. This provision had no sooner been adopted, though in different form, than Senator Brown, of Nebraska, offered an amendment prohibiting railroads from acquiring control of competing lines under a monopoly. Unwilling to accept so important an amendment without more opportunity for consideration, the Senate adjourned. The House twice rejected amendments by Mr. Kellner, of Massachusetts to authorize canteens at soldiers' homes where such institutions are within five miles of a town or city in which the sale of liquor is authorized. It appropriated \$1,500,000 for State and Territorial homes for disabled soldiers and sailors and refused to move from New York City to Washington or anywhere else the board of managers of the national homes for disabled volunteer soldiers.

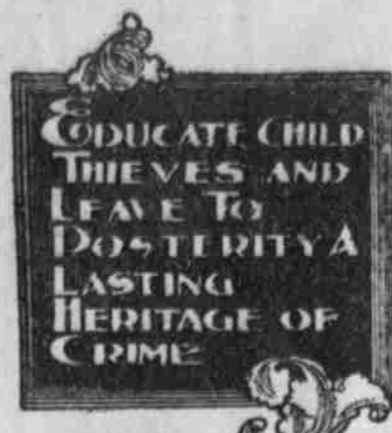
The Senate Saturday laid aside the railroad bill to listen to a personal explanation by Senator Lorimer of Illinois of the charges of corruption in connection with his election. He introduced a resolution directing the committee on privileges and elections to make an investigation. The remainder of the day was devoted to eulogies on the life of the late Representative Briggs of Georgia. The House devoted the day to the sundry civil appropriation bill. Led by the Democrats, it curtailed the appropriation for the protection of the public domain, cutting in half the amount authorized to be used in bringing the work up to date, and prohibiting the use of any of the money to meet the existing deficiency.

With the exception of the adoption of the Cummins amendment shifting to railroad companies the burden of proving the reasonableness of increases in rates, and the rejection of the Brown amendment prohibiting the consolidation of competitive railroad lines, the Senate's consideration of the railroad bill Tuesday was confined to discussion. Senator La Follette offered a resolution directing the Attorney General to bring suit to enforce the recent railroad rate increases, but Senator Curtis announced the Attorney General had acted already in that direction. Early in the day Senator Owen delivered a set speech in support of his resolution for the election of Senators by direct vote. In the House nearly the entire session was consumed by a discussion relating to appropriations to make effective recent legislation creating a bureau of mines and mining. Up to the time of adjournment \$488,000 had been appropriated for this purpose. Amendments making additional appropriations for the bureau will be voted on when the sundry civil bill is again under consideration.

INTERESTING NEWS ITEMS.

Potato fields of Minnesota averaged 112 bushels to the acre during 1909.
Alfred Wade, Montevideo, Washington, raised 123 bushels of wheat on two acres of land.
From records from nursery houses it is learned that more than \$6,000,000 cherry trees have been set out this spring by farmers of Door County, Wis. The industry in the last few years has reached such vast proportions that the territory is being given the name of the "Fruit Belt of the North."
Karl Jora, the Metropolitan opera tenor, who gave his wife her freedom to become the wife of the man she loved, sailed for Europe from New York, disguised, and with little left of his season's earnings.
Negotiations between the officials of the Erie Railway and the committee representing the conductors and trainmen were broken off owing to the refusal of the company to deal with the man direct or to promise a wage settlement on the basis of the \$ 2.00 a day or of the more recent New York Central award. A strike vote was ordered, the returns to be counted on the 16th.

"Fagin" Schools of Crime



BECAUSE little is printed of late about the arrest of child pickpockets and precocious thieves the impression generally prevails that crimes of this character committed by children are on the decrease. As a matter of fact, there is—as much, if not more, of such lawlessness on the part of unrestrained children of the streets than there ever has been, declares a writer in the Chicago Record-Herald. There are to-day many Fagins whose ingenuity and depravity easily eclipse that of the fanged and repulsive creature so graphically depicted in the story of Dickens. Modern Fagins, however, have progressed with the times. While many of them lack the fiendish ingenuity of the English tutor of crime, by the adoption of modern methods to arouse the interest of children, and by reason of the growing lack of inbred morality and the increasing lack of parental care of youngsters naturally bright and hereditarily torpid as to right and wrong, their field of operations is much wider, and their profits much greater, and acquired with less risk of detection than when the original Fagin first hit upon his despicable scheme of making the world pay him a living he conceived it owed him without honest toil.
"No, 'tain't no use tryin' to do the right thing when the cops once get a line on yer. Once had, always had, is the way they figger it, an' ther ain't no use gettin' by that, I guess." The boy was speaking earnestly to a city magistrate. He was the typical smudgy-faced youth of 18 or 19 years that you will find in the districts that breeds the tenement. He was deformed, and grew up as "Humpty," and that was part of the name he cried out when he walked from the prisoner's cage. He was picked up on suspicion—though he had been arrested before and was known to the police as a pick-pocket.
With a dogged air he eyed the magistrate, as he continued, "I wasn't doin' anything, yer honor. I've been straight for near a year tryin' to be good an' help mother. I was a kid when they first pinched me an' didn't know nothin'. The Fagins got me—they did—an' made me a bad un, but I'm all right now if the p'leece will let me be."
"That's true enough, too," broke in an aged woman, standing at the rail. "You see, sir, my boy"—the old eyes, pale and faded, grew tender—"never had a chance. That's hard, it is never had a chance. It makes it awful hard. The p'leece won't let my boy be good, that's the way it seems." There was no bitterness, simply passive submission. She spoke truly and from the depths of a mother's heart. "Humpty" was the victim of the schools of crime. As a mere child he was taught to pick pockets and this he did until he was jailed for the first offense.
Almost every magistrate that has held court in the poorer sections of a large city, says a writer, has heard repeatedly of the Fagin schools, but has been rarely able to get evidence against them. It is only by the confession of one of the small pupils that an arrest can be made. This seldom occurs, as the little Oliver Twists believe that a dire punishment awaits them if they do. The Fagin rarely permits his scholars to know his home address, so that would give a possible clew for a call by the police. His haunts or loafing places during his leisure time are generally unknown. He collects them around him in tenement basements, in unoccupied houses and in places where he is likely to be unobserved, and after, in some cases, administering the most terrifying oaths of secrecy, gives them lessons in pocket livery.
In the slums of poorer sections of large cities there are hundreds of young boys, organized into gangs. In most cases the pupils get a small percentage of what they steal; the rest goes to their instructors. When they deprive some unsuspecting person of an article of jewelry it is the duty of the Fagin to dispose of it to his "fence." As he only realizes a comparatively small part of its real value one can readily see that the youths that commit the actual thefts get but a mere pittance.
School Children Recruits.
The existence of these schools of crime has been repeatedly brought to light by the police. Their investigations have many times revealed a state of affairs shocking to even those who are familiar with crime in great cities. Another thing for the reformer to ponder upon is the fact that a great percentage of the recruits of these gangs are made up of pupils from the public schools in the congested districts. There are dozens of young boys who learn reading and spelling, writing and arithmetic by day and attend the mysterious classes of their individual Fagins during recesses, after school hours and in the evenings. Some of these Fagin classes number as many as a dozen pupils, and have an alumni of hundreds. Boys who hang around corners, and boys who have been in petty encounters with the police are sought for by the assistants, or "drummers-in," of the Fagin schools.
One Fagin with originality in his criminal methods manufactured a contrivance which helped greatly in teaching his subjects that proficiency and deftness of the finger so much desired in that class of work. He had a dozen handbags of assorted shapes and colors, each containing a purse, loose money and change or other valuables. Several long strips of wood were then placed on about a level with a person's hand when at rest. With a space of six feet separating each, the handbags were hung carefully from pins placed in the strips, the slightest jar being sufficient to cause one of them to fall to the ground. Then the students were gathered and sent down the line with instructions to open each bag as they came to it, rob it of its contents, and then close it again. This was not easy by any means, for often a pupil would get at the end of the line after successfully stealing the contents of the other bags and then by one careless twitch of a

finger send the last bag jangling down at his feet. This would mean that he would be sent to the foot of the class and wait until another opportunity gave him a chance to retrieve himself in the eyes of the Fagin.
The methods of teaching the pupils vary, of course, but as soon as they are regarded as sufficiently expert they are sent out with one of the lieutenants. When the evening's work is over they meet again to talk over their experiences and adventures. In this way these dangerous gangs of youthful criminals are formed. As they grow up most of them lose their allegiance to their Fagins and start out for themselves as full-fledged thieves. Often they graduate into a higher school of crime as burglars and begin to crack "cribs" and look for bigger game. Sometimes young girls are included in the Fagin bands, but generally speaking they are not as successful as the boys. Shoplifting is the best line for the girls, and there are many crime-hardened women ready to teach them the business, as indicated by the fact that they often instruct their own offspring and place them in this nefarious calling.

Fault with Parents
The first fault rests with careless parents. They should keep their



"BUY A PAPER, MISTER."

children closer to the fireside, keep them off the streets, where they run wild; make sure of the character of their playmates; ascertain that any display of spending money has been earned in the right way; prevent their hanging about dive corners or the doors of cheap theaters, where they are likely to hear crime freely discussed by those fully acquainted with it; and last, but not least, exercise a general and careful supervision over their education, morals and manners, for as the old adage says: "As the twig is bent so will it grow."

It is also the imperative duty of every citizen to help in this work. If he should see small boys associating with older ones of bad character he should notify the parents or the society that looks after children in such cases. These children are not bad in the beginning. They are victims of environment, associations and the evil teachings of the crime-hardened. Until some such course is adopted, or until city or State governments look more closely into the matter, these boys will become pupils of Fagins, then Fagins themselves, leaving to posterity a lasting heritage of crime.

It is a fact well known to the pupils of the Fagins, as well as to the older criminals, that it is harder to pick the pocket of the man from the country or small town than that of the average person in a large city. The man from the country, hamlet or village, not being used to crowds, feels every finger that touches him. He is alert because he is not familiar with the pushing process and is most always suspicious of such a proceeding. He comes to town with his money in his inside pocket and believes that every stranger that gets close to him has designs on it.

On an average several million dollars is stolen annually by pickpockets in the larger cities of this country. Of this amount a great proportion is lost in the crush of passengers on car lines, at theaters, parades and in crowded elevators. The detective bureaus of these cities assign men to each line, public meeting place and spots where crowds are wont to congregate. Wherever these men are the public is protected, but they cannot be everywhere at once, and consequently the Fagin bands rove about, keeping a weather eye open for the officers of the law. Many arrests are made, many convictions secured; but this does not act as much of a deterrent to those that follow. The preventative lies far below this surface. You will find that most of these children who become pupils come from the slum section, where they are allowed to run about at will and associate with any companions they may choose. This important matter is left to their childish judgment.

Thoughtless.
"Yes, George," said Mrs. Golightly, argumentatively, "but if, as you say, it's so difficult to get food to the men in lighthouses in the winter why do they build them in such out-of-the-way, dangerous places?"—Tit-Bits.

Hard to Deal.
WIFE—How do you get along with old Crusty? Don't you find him hard to deal with?
WAGE—As hard as a worn-out pack of cards.—Philadelphia Record

SAYINGS OF SAGES.
Much may be said on both sides.—Fielding.
The heart will break, yet broken live on.—J. Q. Adams.
Keeps a clean hearth and a clear fire for me.—Tennyson.
Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless.—Johnson.
No man knows so well where the shoe pinches as he who wears it.—Lincoln.

KEY WEST A GIBRALTAR

Commodore Beecher's Plan to Use Old Battle Ships as Permanent Forts.

DEFENSES ARE INADEQUATE.

With Small Expense and by Utilizing Discarded Ships Harbor Could Be Made Impregnable.

The transformation of Key West into a great naval and military station which shall rival in importance the fortress of Gibraltar, is advocated in considerable length in an article by Commodore W. H. Beecher, U. S. N., commandant of the Seventh Naval District, which appears in the Journal of the military service institution. The first part of the commodore's paper is devoted to an urgent plea for the more complete co-operation of the army and navy forces. "Their co-operation in the defense of any particular naval base should be definitely arranged in time of peace, and they should maneuver and drill, now under the command of a designated officer of the coast defense service, whether he be an army or a naval officer," says the writer.

In his proposal to make of Key West an impregnable Gibraltar it is pointed out that the present defenses at Fort Taylor are inadequate, for the reason that battle ships can lie at the entrance 'buor, seven miles south of Fort Taylor, beyond the range of the twelve-inch rifle mortars, and destroy Key West from that point without being exposed to any danger, the remaining velocities of projectiles from the direct firing ten-inch and twelve-inch guns being insufficient to penetrate the armor of any battle ship, whereas these same caliber guns on a battle ship could shell the city of Key West and completely destroy it.

This consideration brings the commodore to the novel proposal for rendering Key West impregnable. He points out that in place of high hills or a huge rock as at Gibraltar for the mounting of coast defense guns, Key West harbor, twenty-five miles in length, is sheltered on the north by a line of low reefs and shoals which form a complete protection on that side, while seven miles to the south of this line there is a parallel line of eastern shoals, some of which are scarcely awash at low tide and none more than eight feet above high water. Commodore Beecher proposes to take over monitors and older battle ships which have passed their period of usefulness on the high seas, mount them in selected positions upon these reefs and utilize them as permanent turret forts. Thus, for instance, selecting the shoal known as Rock Key, where there is a small natural harbor, he would lighten the old monitor Amphitrite by the removal of her propelling engines, haul her into the harbor, build around the vessel a dyke of piling, rock and riprap, and then fill in the space between the inner face of the dyke and the ship with material hydraulically dredged and deposited. He estimates that the work would not cost more than \$50,000.

The ship as thus imbued would furnish, says the commodore, a complete, modern double-turreted fort, with every necessary feature to operate the guns, and with quarters for the officers and men of the garrison. The monitors Miantonomoh, Terror and Puritan could be installed upon the adjacent reefs, and the range of the sixteen ten-inch and twelve-inch guns of these forts would command a large part of the straits of Florida, and especially that part which is used by west-bound vessels entering the Gulf of Mexico, which navigate close to the Florida reefs to avoid the strong current of the gulf stream. Incidentally it may be mentioned that the dyke would be extended in each case to form a small harbor of refuge for torpedo boats and submarines.

It is a question of great interest and of unquestionable moment whether this very novel proposal of the commodore does not provide an opportuni-

ty to greatly lengthen the useful life of the battle ship. Many obsolescent ships, because of their powerful armor and armament, would be perfectly well able to stand up in the first fighting line, if they only possessed the requisite speed and maneuvering quality; and if it should be found practicable to utilize them in the way suggested by Commodore Beecher their powerful guns and heavy protection would render them most formidable when mounted as part of the permanent fortifications of our sea coast defenses.

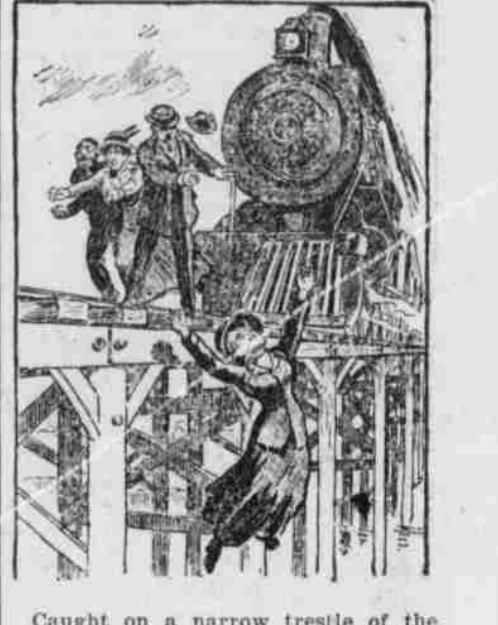
GRATEFUL CHINAMEN.

One of the Chinaman's most engaging peculiarities is his strong sense of gratitude, which is not merely personal, but racial. So, at least, the Rt. Rev. John Sheepsheads says in his book, "A Bishop in the Rough." In 1860 he was a young missionary stationed at Port Hope, British Columbia, and he came much in contact with Chinamen.

On board the river steambot there was a Chinaman with whom I conversed, and who was much astonished at my acquaintance with the religions of China, and inquired my name. It appears that he mentioned the circumstance to his fellow countryman with whom he was to lodge, and it happened that this man had been for a few months at New Westminster, and I had taught him to read. So he set to work to find out where I was staying, and presently brought me an offering of a very handsome purse and a bracelet of sandalwood. Right glad he was to see me, and we shook hands and nodded and grinned at each other heartily.

The next day I called upon him at his store, and he served up refreshments for me. The Chinamen are not only personally grateful for benefits or kindness received, but they have a racial gratitude. Because I did my best to teach a few Chinamen at New Westminster, and was of course courteous and kind to them, I was always most kindly and hospitably received by Chinamen throughout the colony. When I visited Victoria I was welcomed by Chinese storekeepers there, and invited to partake of refreshments wherever I called.

KILLED ON RAILROAD TRESTLE.



Caught on a narrow trestle of the Cotton Belt Railroad near Robroy, Ark., with his wife and two other persons, Frederick G. Zelsler, a construction engineer, threw his wife from the trestle and then met almost instant death under the wheels of a train. Henry Dobson of Leavenworth, Kan., and his wife were also struck by the engine, and badly hurt. Mrs. Zelsler escaped with only slight bruises.

Meyerbeer and Thunder.

Meyerbeer, like Handel, composed best in a "thunderstorm." He had a room made at the top of his house with glass roof and sides, so that he might enjoy these conditions to the full whenever they presented themselves. It is said that no beast of the field, no raven or nightjar, could scent the approach of a storm more unerringly than Meyerbeer, and nothing was allowed to interfere with his solitary enjoyment of it when it arrived. Wherever he was he would leave at the first premonitory rumble.

ROUTING DIRT FROM CHICAGO'S STREETS IS ONLY HOUSEKEEPING ON A HUGE SCALE

IMAGINE a modishly-dressed woman getting down from her electric carriage in a dirty street to give orders about the tarring of a paving strip, or the laying of a sidewalk, or the cleaning of a stopped up sewer. And imagine the men doing the tarring and stone laying and sewer cleaning, following the woman's instructions without a sign of argument or surprise. That, writes Dorothy Dale, is what Chicago sees every day and has seen every day for the last sixteen years, from the dirtiest Nineteenth District, where Hull House is located, to the busiest First Ward in the shopping "loop" district.
Chicagoans are so used to it that they don't even turn to look. Or, if they do, it's to say, "How do you do that, Mrs. Paul?"—for everyone in the city knows the woman they call their civic housekeeper. Mrs. A. E. Paul, who lives at the Palmer House, holds the most unique position of any woman in the country. She is one of the ward superintendents, a position that is like being Mayor on a small scale.
Chicago is divided into thirty-five wards. Each practically has its own government, so far as property conditions go, with the ward superintendent at the head. Mrs. Paul has from seventy to 100 men working for her all the time. She spends about \$60,000 a year keeping some one of the city's thirty-five houses in order. It's essentially a woman's work, she says. "Tarring pavements or sealing up cuts of fruit—what's the difference?" said Mrs. Paul, as she talked of her work. "I can't see why a woman who knows how to clean cupboards isn't just the proper person to clean streets and yards. And sidewalk laying isn't so different from putting down a carpet. Until I became a sanitary inspector, I remained at home and kept house. This simply is keeping house on a larger scale. I make out a payroll for 100 instead of for Mary, the cook, and Betty, the maid. And looking over bills is looking over bills, no matter whether they're for steak and potatoes or brick and mortar. Only, you see, since I undertook my big housekeeping, I had to give up the smaller task and live in a hotel."

So Foolish.
"She is neglecting her game of bridge dreadfully."
"Why is she doing that?"
"Some silly excuse. Says the children need her, I believe."—Pittsburg Post.

His Vacation.
Mourner (to widower)—You seem to be enjoying the walk.
Widower—Certainly. When one is in business it is mighty hard to get away for a day.—Pele Mele.

SPLINTERS.
Game laws—Poker rules.
Big income—ship entering the harbor.
Too many people judge the world by their own breadths.
Lots of people will help you spend, but few will help you dig.
You want to be sure of your footing before you climb too high.
The increase in the price of leather has made shoes pinch more than ever.

THINGS WORTH KNOWING.
For every \$250,000 spent on engineering it is estimated that a man is killed.
In German cities food prices are now about as high as in the United States.
There are 270 active volcanoes in the world, many of them being comparatively small.
Only about one out of every thousand married couples live to celebrate its golden wedding.

A bushel of grain will make four and one-half gallons of spirits or twenty-seven gallons of beer.
The Argentine Legislature is considering the construction of underground railways for Buenos Ayres.
It is just being realized that the Trans-Siberian Railroad was a poor job from an engineering standpoint.
Nearly two-thirds of the crime in London is perpetrated between 2 p. m. on Saturdays and 9 a. m. on Mondays.