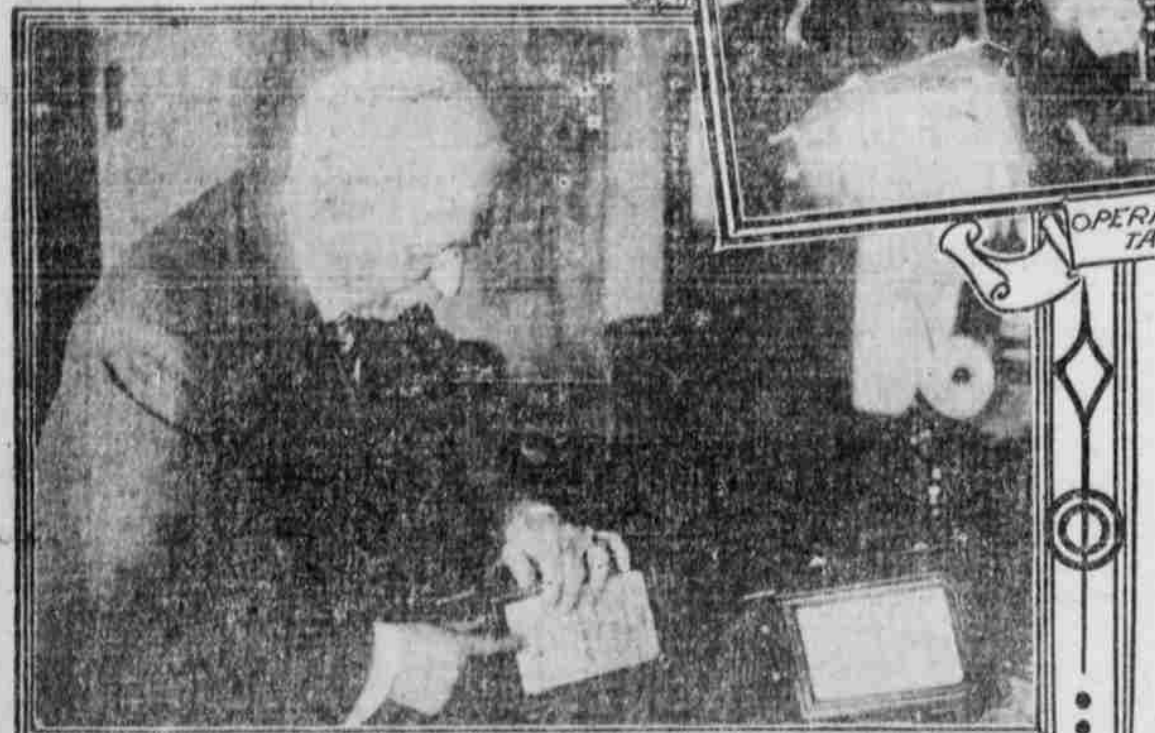


# HOW THE GOVERNMENT TESTS TAXIMETERS

**I**N ALMOST every large city in the United States taxicabs are rapidly displacing horse-drawn cabs and carriages as public vehicles for transportation in those horseless vehicles are almost always based on the distance traveled as shown on the registering dials of the taximeters it obviously becomes of the greatest importance that these automatic records shall be honest and accurate in their chronicling. Indeed, in many cities there have been loud protests due to alleged overcharging of taxicab patrons—the alleged overcharging being attributed to the faulty operation of the taximeters. Whether such false accounting was due to a desire to cheat the traveling public or merely to faulty mechanism in the mechanical bookkeeper could seldom be determined, but in either event the outcome was the same—the public got the worst of it.



PLACING A SEAL ON A TESTED TAXIMETER



ATTACHING A TAXIMETER TO THE NEW TESTING MACHINE

Various cities have made efforts to devise some means of testing taximeters, but to Uncle Sam belongs the credit of first solving the problem. The system is now in successful operation at the capital of the nation, where, by the way, there are probably more taxicabs in operation than in any other city of the size in the world. The matter of keeping tabs on the taximeters was placed in the hands of Col. W. C. Haskell, the United States superintendent of weights and measures, and he invented the first machine specially designed for testing the accuracy of the "taxi."

The first apparatus was rather cumbersome and the most conspicuous feature was a large wooden wheel which was turned by hand. The principle of operation involved the insertion of a small wire through the shaft of the meter to be tested and turning the same a certain number of times to cover distance, verifying this test over an official mile and fraction thereof. The large machine when fitted with the same size eccentric, sprocket wheel and spiral shaft in use in taxicabs gave a correct test, but it was a time-consuming process, ten revolutions of the large wheel being required to show one-quarter mile of travel. After much study of the subject Colonel Haskell perfected the small machine which has lately been introduced for this work. With it one revolution of the crank wheel—through the aid of a system of cogwheels—represents a quarter of a mile of travel. With this small machine attached direct to the shaft of the meter to be tested it is possible to test ten meters in the time formerly required for trying out one. Moreover, the system of cogwheels is so adjusted as to give an absolutely accurate test. The government now requires that all taximeters attached to cabs at the seat of government be tested at least twice a year, and when a meter upon test is found to be accurate a round blue seal is affixed to the face of the meter showing that it has been "approved." Incorrect meters are given a yellow seal with the word "Condemned" thereon and must be withdrawn from use under a penalty of \$100 fine.

One of the latest ideas evolved for a safety attachment for automobiles is a "cow catcher." The "cow catcher," or man catcher, is attached to the front of the motor car and, when not in active use saving the life of some one who steps in front of the moving machine, it looks exactly like the pilot of a big locomotive. Used in this way, it was feared that pedestrians might be



OPERATING NEW MACHINE FOR TESTING TAXIMETERS



COL. HASKELL AND HIS FIRST MACHINE FOR TESTING TAXIMETERS

In Indianapolis alone more than 1,900 homes have been mortgaged during the past year in order that householders may buy cars.

Purchasers of automobiles have been deceived in the matter of cost and upkeep, the difference in the representations in this respect in comparison with actual experience, makes it unwise to take or own a car even as a gift.

The menace of the automobile now threatens the stability of the home, and the danger is by no means confined to any particular section. Even farmers are buying them. Perhaps you can hear or see one of these "devil wagons" while you read this paragraph about them. It would be worth while to think of them seriously, with the view of reducing the hazard they undoubtedly signify. The bankers of Kansas City and of the southwest who are dependent on the Kansas City banks have agreed to lend no money to anyone who intends to use it with which to buy a motor car. The bankers of Kansas are alive to the menace of the automobile, as well they may be when it is understood that \$32,000,000 were invested in motor cars in that state during the last twelve months.

## Physiognomy of the Salesman

The nose of a traveling salesman generally bears the appearance of breadth just above the wings. This is the nose that indicates the ability to acquire property, make good sales, secure returns through bargains and fine talking, and get large orders even when persons have indicated that they did not wish to buy or make a bargain. The thickness of the nose above the wings is the true facial sign of acquisitiveness, and a traveling salesman and a good business man have generally this characteristic strongly developed. We find it large in George Peabody, Andrew Carnegie and the Rothschilds, all of whom have made large fortunes.

The lips of a good salesman are regular and fit appropriately together.

The chin and jaw of a successful salesman are indicated by their squareness and roundness combined. The roundness gives the power of appeal, and the squareness gives the capacity to clinch the bargain.

The voice of a successful salesman is bright, cheery, optimistic. Its inflections are hopeful and airy, not heavy and dull. The salesman possesses a silvery toned voice which is so oiled to its subject that it knows exactly what to say, and says it without hesitation.

The handwriting of a good salesman is neat, regular, connected, but shows firmness, force in the lines that cross the t's and ambition is manifested in the tails of the g's and in the height of the h's, l's, etc.

The eyes of the honest business man who is engaged as a salesman or a credit man are generally small, piercing and keen in expression.

The ears of a good salesman are broad, and give to the person vitality, strength, good digestive power and comradeship. Such a person generates life readily, and is social, genial and a good conversationalist.—Phrenological Journal.

# PROMINENT PEOPLE

## CAREER OF ONE KENTUCKIAN



From the forests and the mountains of Kentucky to the position of secretary of state at Frankfort; from the state capitol to a grated cell; from the grated cell to the very shadow of the gallows; from the shadow of the gallows again to the grated cell; from the grated cell back to the forests and the mountains of Kentucky; from the forests and mountains to the halls of congress at Washington. This in brief is the history of Caleb Powers. He has been chosen as the Republican candidate for congress from his district, which is strongly Republican.

Seldom does a human life contain so much of struggle for advancement from humble beginnings, so much of tragedy and of pathos and so remarkable a rehabilitation in public honor. Caleb Powers will be a remarkable figure in Washington, because of the fact that for eight long years he was immured in a prison cell fighting to escape life imprisonment or execution for a crime of which half the people of Kentucky believe him guilty and the other half believe him absolutely innocent.

The minds of newspaper readers will instantly go back to that tragic day in January, 1900, when William Goebel was ruthlessly shot down from a high as he was walking toward the state capitol at Frankfort. Goebel and W. S. Taylor, the former a Democrat and the latter a Republican, had been opposing candidates for governor and each claimed election. Taylor was given the certificate of election and in possession of the capitol and Caleb Powers was his secretary of state. As Goebel, whom the legislature on contest had declared to be elected, walked across the grounds leading to the capitol he was shot from the window of the office of the secretary of state. The murder created a national sensation and for many years the state of Kentucky was split into two bitter factions.

Following the tragedy there came a succession of trials in the course of which several men were found guilty of complicity in the murder and at least one—Henry E. Youtsey—is now serving a life sentence.

Caleb Powers was tried for murder and was sentenced to imprisonment for life. He appealed, and a second trial resulted in another conviction and a second sentence to life imprisonment. A third trial followed, and this time he was sentenced to be hanged. On the fourth trial the jury disagreed, the majority being for acquittal.

Meantime eight years had rolled around and Powers was still in a prison cell at Georgetown. A petition containing the names of hundreds of thousands of persons both in Kentucky and elsewhere was presented to the governor and in 1908 Governor Wilson granted Powers a full pardon.

## GOTHAM'S QUEEN OF SILENCE



Mrs. Isaac L. Rice, the New York society woman who fought single-handed to suppress unnecessary noise in the metropolis and who accomplished so much through her determination, is known as the "Queen of Silence." Mrs. Rice has long been a sworn enemy of noise. Her beautiful Venetian palace on Riverside drive is so located that, until she began her battle and won out her ears were continually ringing with the shrieks of the switch engines on the railroad tracks that line the river front and with the clamor of boat whistles. Along the East river are located two-thirds of the hospitals of the city and this thoughtful woman realized what extra suffering the sick must endure because of the nerve-racking clamor. She began to gather evidence to prove her point and with the aid of Columbia university students, who followed the boats and kept count, learned that there were about 5,000 unnecessary but deafening shrieks each night in the harbor. The harbor men were pleased to take umbrage at her interference and proceeded to make life miserable for her till she secured law on her side. During the night boats passing her home serenaded her with the most horrible whistles and focused their flashlights upon the house.

Nothing daunted, the plucky woman secured an order from the secretary of commerce and labor forbidding unnecessary whistling on the river. The harbor men persisting in their defiance, she had one man arrested, then another, until finally the racket was quieted. This was only the beginning, however. Mrs. Rice had gained the sympathy of all peace-loving citizens and the Society for the Suppression of Unnecessary Noise was organized. City officials were interested and the fight continued against all superfluous racket. Peddlers, drivers, street organs, flatwheeled cars and noisy youths all came in for a share of attention. Zones of quiet were drawn around hospitals and at last peace reigned as much as possible in a huge city where a certain amount of noise is unavoidable. The good work has been continued and has spread not only to other cities in this country, but has been taken up in European countries.

## J. A. TAWNEY OF MINNESOTA



An insurgent victory that has attracted a good deal of attention throughout the country was the defeat in the primaries of Representative James A. Tawney, who was a candidate for renomination in the first congressional district of Minnesota. Tawney is one of the most influential representatives in congress, is chairman of the committee on appropriations. A most determined fight was waged against his renomination and the insurgents had the support and advice of Roosevelt, Pinchot, James J. Heney and other exponents of progressive Republicanism.

In his early days Tawney was a blacksmith and machinist, learning the trades in Pennsylvania, where he was born in 1855, near the village of Gettysburg. Subsequently he removed to Winona, Minn., where he worked four years at his trade, at the same time studying law. In 1882 he was admitted to the bar, was later sent to the state senate, and in 1892 was elected to congress, in which he has since served.

Tawney is a dark, almost swarthy man, with a piercing black eye and a black mustache, now streaked with gray. When Cannon made him chairman of the committee on appropriations he did so because of the strength of character and firmness which Tawney had displayed. Often the speaker referred to him as the "man of iron," a not unfitting title. As chairman of the appropriations committee Tawney was regarded as the watchdog of the treasury, but he was one of the strongest stand-patters in the house, and hence the declaration of war upon him by the insurgents.

## STARTED 'BEEF TRUST' QUIZ



Judge Keneaw Mountain Landis of the United States district court in Chicago, who started the latest investigation of the "beef trust," is the same who imposed the \$25,000,000 fine on the Standard Oil company a few years ago. His father served during the civil war in the regiment which was commanded by Judge Walter Q. Gresham, secretary of state under Cleveland, and was wounded in the battle of Keneaw Mountain. Hence the peculiar name of Judge Landis.

When Gresham was secretary of state Judge Landis, then a young Chicago lawyer, served as his private secretary. Afterward he returned to Chicago to practise his profession and was later elevated to the bench.

Of the ten indicted meat packers, charged by the federal grand jury with violation of the Sherman anti-trust law, seven have given bonds in the total sum of \$210,000 for their appearance for trial when the cases against them are called.

The fight thus begun against the meat packers promises to be one of life or death for the huge corporation, which, it has been charged repeatedly, controls the meat industry in this country.

Judge Landis is a young man with an old man's manner. He wears long hair, talks with a drawl and his language is picturesque.