

**The Plattsmouth Journal**

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It is rumored that John D. Rockefeller has bought property in London and will build a marble palace there for personal occupancy. Vanity of vanities! The oil king is old enough now to check in and ought to think of palaces not built with hands.

**A Very Dark Chapter.**

From first to last during the whole period when the Courier-Journal following the lead of Senator Morgan, of Alabama, was devoting its energies and doing its utmost to expose the corrupt character of the Panama Canal Company of France, and to defeat the congressional legislation proposed in its favor—that is the Spooner Act, appropriating Forty Millions of Dollars to be paid for the concessions and properties which then appeared to us valueless and which have since proved to be so—we failed to receive any support from the press of the country, or to arouse any sufficient public interest.

It seems an established canon with the newspapers of the larger cities, particularly those with the City of New York, to take hold of no question not originating with themselves, or capable of some kind of self-appraisal and self-exploitation. Touching questions not immediately familiar, that is not going directly home to the business and bosoms of men, public opinion needs to be hammered incessantly to be effectually reached and awakened. It did look as though the agents of the French company, that is Mr. Philippe Bunau Varilla and Mr. William Nelson Cromwell, had in some mysterious manner got control of the Washington correspondence, if not the journalism of the country. For the matter of that, it looked as though they had gained control of the administration, having either bought or bamboozled their way through congress.

We make no charges. It is worse than idle to accuse men of corruption without clear and specific proof. The sudden shifting from the Nicaragua route, which had no money behind it, to the Panama route, which was backed by the French company, was suspicious in the last degree. It exposed everybody concerned in it to a remarkable distrust. It will now bear any kind of an analysis based upon the ordinary rules of conjecture as to motives. Reduced to a case of circumstantial evidence the leaders of the two houses could never be acquitted before any impartial jury. The incriminating facts are multiplied and overwhelming. Later along, and in total disregard of usage and law, the ad-

ministration submitted itself to the will of Messrs. Cromwell and Varilla, blindly. It acted as though it was itself a member of their company, a party to their deal, not only eager to force, but bent upon forcing at every hazard the success of its plans.

No man, just and thoughtful, who personally knew the late John Hay, and who personally knows the president, could believe either of them accessible to mercenary influence. John Hay was a rich man. His whole life was as open as the day. As it was seen by his familiars it gave the lie to the least question of his integrity, or patriotism. Theodore Roosevelt is not a rich man; but it is impossible to conceive him as a vulgar lover of money, or as capable of making the smallest sacrifice of honor, or pride to obtain it. Yet must we hold them in this matter sadly delinquent.

The sight of brave old Morgan, of Alabama, battling like a Tannhauser for the right—veritably a gray-haired Richard of the Lion Heart on the floor of the senate and in the committee—should have made some impression upon the hearts, if not on the minds, of the president and secretary of state. They owed it to valor, to prowess, to poetic justice, if not to the public service, to contemplate the spectacle with sympathy, even if they should not bring themselves to agree with an attitude maintained with so much manhood and ability. They might, as worldly wise men, have brought such persons as Cromwell and Varilla—managing an immense monied scheme and deeply concerned in its results—to some kind of pause and challenge.

They did nothing of the sort. They seemed to be hypnotized by Cromwell and Varilla. Perhaps they were prejudiced against Morgan, of Alabama. Anyhow they did all the French company, through its agents, required of them; in a day and a night, as it were, they aided them to set up the republic of Panama; they recognized it at once, with Bunau Varilla, the Frenchman and prime mover of the company, as its plenipotentiary; they held Columbia, an independent and friendly power, at bay, whilst a "revolution," improvised and engineered by Cromwell and Varilla, dismembered her territory; and, running roughshod over precedents and custom, as well as justice and right, they literally compelled the consummation of the forty million job, of which Cromwell and Varilla were the only visible representatives.

The president is indebted for not a little both of his character and his popularity to his imprudence. Somehow mankind is given to associating rashness with honesty. Much has also been conceded to his fighting qualities and his comparative youth as statesman and magistrate. But it will be a mistake if he intrusts too much to the impressionability of the popular sentiment, though often susceptible and sometimes through long

reaches amicable to a degree, is at bottom inconstant; a vain and fickle coquette, as cruel as love abated or a pair of dice or a pack of cards.

Mr. Roosevelt is about to make his exit from power, having enjoyed in the white house extraordinary good fortune. He is yet comparatively a young man. He possesses undeniable and rare abilities. He will always have a certain following. But he is liable to find things different from what they were, as a private citizen—particularly as a writer for the public—he can neither hope for the consideration, nor the immunity which wait upon the majesty of the official great. It is safe to say that the way ahead for him will not be a path of roses. He has had the shining gifts which is for the fairy godmother to bestow and which she promised him in his cradle. He must begin to look for the penalties exacted by nature.

We by no means hold him guiltless in this Panama business, save upon the venal side. His eyes were surely blinded by his ambition. The canal would be a great feather in the cap of his administration. The Panama plan seemed a short cut. The rejection by Columbia of the Hay-Herran treaty made a mess. Cromwell and Bunau Varilla were on the ground ready to cut the Gordian knot. He really believed in them and either did not believe in Morgan, of Alabama, or else had no hope of him; regarding him to be too old to be either effectual, or interesting. Why lose a golden opportunity because of treaty obligations with a riff-raff of Latin-American brigands in Bogota, or any quibble about international equity and law, especially as the administration had both the power and a pretext?

It makes very ugly reading at long range. The least of its incidents is something worse than unsavory. Taking them together, they become scandalous, when we reflect upon the vast sums which went to the stock jobbers who organized the French company; to the conspirators who set up the republic of Panama; and which are now being poured out to save an enterprise, which should never have been attempted, and which will cost many times more than was originally specified.

Nothing, however, is likely to come of the proposed investigation of Cromwell, Varrilla and Company. Where Morgan failed, who can hope to succeed? There's was a blind-pool, with headquarters in France, and they got completely away with the swag. The bucket-shops of Paris tell no tales. The lobby at Washington keeps no books. And Morgan, of Alabama, is dead, well-a-day!—Louisville Courier-Journal.

In the meantime, don't forget that the alfalfa meal mill and a canning factory, are good propositions and ought to be built.

Remember now that it is just eight days more until Christmas. That is it is just eight more days to do your shopping. Get busy now and shop to your heart's content.

The judiciary committee of the city council is struggling with the proposition of issuing bonds for the acquirement of the water plant in this city. The city is pretty heavily laden with bonds now and it is doubtful if the people want to carry any more of the load.

The next legislature will pass a bank guaranty law and it seems safe to predict that it will include an immediate payment feature. The idea of the people who fought the members for election now coming around and telling them how to legislate is amusing. They believe they know as well as anyone else what is wanted.

The members of the state legislature seem pretty well disposed to run the affairs of that body themselves, and pass up the kind advice of officious intermeddlers who seem to believe that they are called upon to run the entire state. One of the things which has invariably caused disaster and defeat to follow democratic victory is the fact that a ring or combination has attempted to always control democratic policies. Let these self-constituted guardians of the democratic party keep their hands off this legislature.

**FREE**  
**Public Sale!**

**For the Benefit of the Farmers**

The second of the Free Public Auction Sales to be given by the merchants of Plattsmouth, will be held in said city, on

**Saturday, Dec. 12,**

Two auctioneers will be present, Sam G. Smith and Oliver Osborne, both of whom will endeavor to secure the highest possible price for your goods, so bring in anything you have to offer for sale. Good crowds are attending these sales, and you will have a good opportunity to sell your surplus stock, machinery, household goods, etc.

**Market Place**

**SMITH & SMITH, Prop.**  
Sixth and Vine Sts. Plattsmouth, Neb.

**Dr. PRICE'S**

**CREAM BAKING POWDER**

Made from healthful grape cream of tartar

Will make twice as much good bread, biscuit and cake, pound for pound, as the low priced imitations made from alum and alum phosphates, and will make the food appetizing and healthful.

Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder is not only economical but makes the food more wholesome.

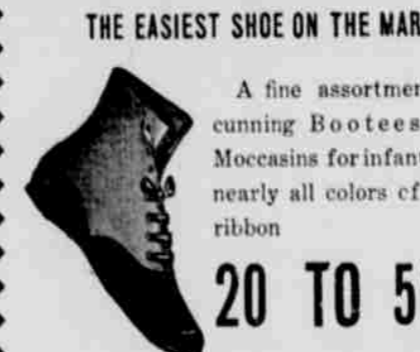


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IN  
Opera or Everett Style  
Tans, Wine, Chocolate, Brown or Black  
65c to \$1.75  
MEN'S FELT SLIPPERS 65c

Your Slippers Will Be Appreciated if They Come From This Store!

BETTER THAN SLIPPERS FOR GIFTS IS  
Dr. Reed's Cushion Insole  
Shoes FOR MEN AND WOMEN!



20 TO 50c

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYBODY!**

Puzzling propositions to be propounded by perplexed purchasers with limited purses is economically adjusted if you will take a peep into our store and see our lavish array of appropriate quality giving holiday remembrances and

**CHRISTMAS SLIPPERS,** and you'll say we've Christmas Footwear galore.

**Ladies' Felt Fur Trimmed Romeos**

BEST QUALITY  
in Brown, Wine, Green and Black \$1.25 to \$1.50. Ladies Felt Slippers 50c to \$1.25.

**LEGGINS**

50 CENTS UP  
OVERSHOES  
RUBBERS  
BUSTER-BROWN  
Shoes for Boys and Girls

QUALITY BEHIND THE PRICE!



**SHERWOOD & SON**