

## Outwitted

A Political Boss Is Brought to Time

By GEORGE V. LEMOYNE

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When George Sterling's competitive plan for the state capitol building was accepted he was in a condition of supreme delight. To a struggling architect engaged to be married the obtaining of this job seemed to leave nothing to be desired. The moment the acceptance was announced to him he rushed off to Genevieve Wilson, his fiancée, to transmit the good news to her. After a joyful embrace they began to lay plans for their marriage.

Sterling was directed to superintend the cutting of the blocks of marble of which the capitol was to be built. In the papers composing his plans was a description with measurements of every block of marble of which the building was to be constructed. Not only this, on each stone was a mark corresponding to one laid down in this description.

The young architect had got most of the marble out and ready to put in place when a man with a red face, a large jewel in his shirt bosom and a waistcoat of many colors came to him and told him that since he had not thought proper to signify to the political boss that he wished to contribute to the funds needed for the coming campaign a discovery was to be made that his plans were defective and the work would be placed in other hands.

Sterling looked at the man aghast. He had not yet received a cent for his plans and realized at once that he was at the mercy of the boss. Undecided what course to take, he asked the messenger what contribution would be acceptable. He was informed that 25 per cent should go to campaign funds, 25 per cent to members of the committee who accepted his plans and 25 per cent to the boss. This would leave the architect only 25 per cent. The messenger gave no name. He named no boss and no member of the committee who was to receive a perquisite. Sterling told the man that he would think it over and he might return the next day for an answer.

George went at once with the unwelcome news to Genevieve. The first thing she did was to give that womanly encouragement which men know is not based on any solid reason, but serves its purpose. "Don't be discouraged, George," she said, with a kiss. "It will come out all right."

"How can it come out all right?" he cried bitterly. "These rascals have me in a tight grip. I might as well try to dam up Niagara as to oppose them."

When Genevieve had quieted him she began to talk to him about what would happen if he refused to contribute the bribe money. He told her that the payment of his bill would be delayed through technicalities till they would be dead and buried and wouldn't need the money. Meanwhile the construction of the capitol would go on as he had planned it. One architect after another would be employed, each architect suggesting changes in the plans, each change costing the state three or four times what the expense should be, the surplus going to the officials whose duty it was to see that the people who were paying for the building were treated fairly.

But Genevieve was determined to learn all about the work—who was competent, how far the politicians could go in the matter and all else. When she had learned these things she gave George an idea. He threw

his arms about her, gave her a bear hug and a dozen kisses and left her ready to give his answer to the nameless messenger when he came again.

"Well," said George when the messenger turned up, "I have considered the delicate matter of which you were speaking yesterday."

"I'm glad you understand it's a delicate matter."

"Why so?"

"Well, when the state prison was built the architect thought he knew more than the leader of the party under whose rule it was built, and he landed in the building he'd planned."

"How did they accomplish that?" asked George.

"Oh, they accused him of offering a bribe for the job and convicted him."

"Well, I have decided on my course. I throw up the job."

The man looked surprised, but he said nothing. He simply went away.

Two weeks passed, when George received a call from a state official, who asked him for information as to the marking of the blocks to go into the state capitol building. George told him that he had given up that job and was about to begin suit against the state for \$6,000 for the plans he had furnished.

George saw by the man's expression that he had struck home. Genevieve during her interview with her lover

had brought the fact to his attention that it would be impossible for any one except himself to tell the position of the blocks as the building was erected. A week passed, and George received another visit from an architect, who, by pumping, endeavored to elicit from him the system by which he had marked the blocks. George shut himself up like an oyster.

A month passed, and the newspapers began to comment on the delay attending the building of the state capitol. Then one day George was summoned to the office of the state superintendent of construction. The young architect left the office with his charges paid in full and an order to go on with his work.

### Date of the Row.

The Bachelor—Yes; she has threatened to make things unpleasant for him. The Benedict—Is that so? When are they going to be married?—Philadelphia Record.

### Trade Union Notes.

The French workmen's pension law goes into force on July 1.

A co-operative store has been formed by the unions at Waterloo, Ia.

About 95 per cent of the building

trades at Fort Worth, Tex., are unionized.

Efforts are being made to organize the Italian freight handlers at Portland, Me.

A metal trades council has been organized at Quincy, Mass., with thirteen unions affiliated.

Judge Goff of New York recently refused an injunction against the ladies' shirt waist makers.

The United Cloth Hat and Cap Makers of North America meet in convention in New York May 1.

A child labor law will be one of the measures which the labor unions will urge the Tennessee legislature to pass.

New Hampshire unionists have good prospects of having some favorable labor legislation, among others the employers' liability and compensation act, at the next session of the legislature.

There were 1,135 delegates at the recent convention of the United Mine Workers of the World, representing 1,217 local unions, with a voting strength of 2,485. The transportation charges amounted to \$21,103.56. The next convention will be held at Indianapolis.

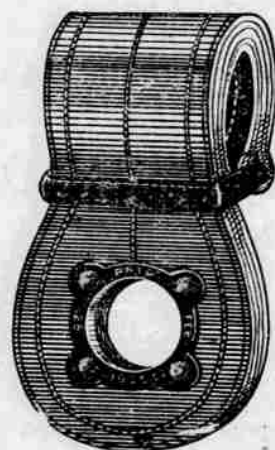
Light to Banish Sorrow.  
Sorrow dwells longest where the sun is shut out.—Florida Times-Union.

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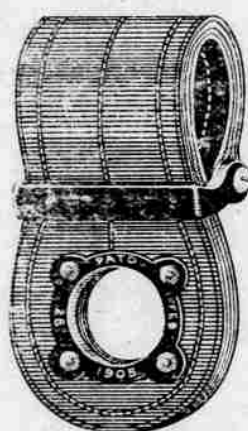
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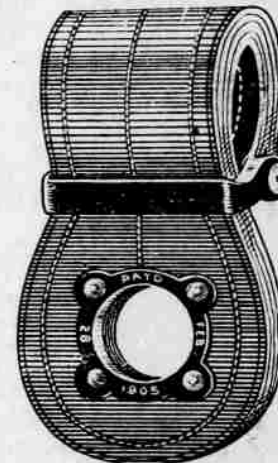
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