

SKELDON IS PLEASED.

HE TELLS OF HIS EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE AT TOPEKA.

He Says the Experiment Was a Big Success and Believes That Much Good Will Result.

Rev. Chas. M. Skeldon in N. Y. Journal. If, during my brief editorial experience, I brought one sinner to see the light more clearly and to ponder over the evils of his life, I am more than compensated for my labor. Judging from the number of letters and telegrams I have received congratulating me on my work, I am satisfied that I have accomplished some good.

I had no thought that any immediate good would result from the effort. I rather expected the world in general and especially the people who give but little thought to matters of religion to turn a cold shoulder toward the effort at the start, and I was right to some extent. Nobody knew exactly what to expect from me, except that it was generally believed that I would give the world something of a sensational character. I disappointed many lovers of sensational literature in not fulfilling their expectations, and they scoffed at my effort.

However, I paid no heed to these railings, as I had made allowance for something of the sort. I had expected my support to come from the Christian publications of the world rather than from the secular press, and am awaiting the verdict of the former on my effort before I shall decide just how much good I have accomplished. The Christian papers and magazines, I believe, better understand the motive that inspired my effort and will be in a better position to appreciate the result.

HIS HOSTILE CRITICS.

I was somewhat surprised and pained to note the attitude of the secular press of the country toward my experiment, as they have been pleased to term it. I don't mean that all of the newspapers took a hostile stand toward my work, but many of them were extremely bitter and exaggerated everything I did and said. These papers seemed anxious to belittle my work. I don't believe they would have treated me in such a fashion had they stopped to consider that I was doing nothing which would injure them in the least and could result in nothing if not good.

I take as an evidence of the good I have accomplished the determined effort made by certain of the Capital directors to hereafter conduct the paper as a "Christian daily." I am highly gratified that such an attempt was made, and would be very happy to see the Capital finally conducted as a Christian newspaper.

I would much rather permit the paper which I published to speak for itself than to say anything myself about the work. I have made the paper the best I could, and am willing to allow the world to judge of the result. Whether I made a failure in accomplishing good, such a paper could do no wrong. I don't believe there has been anything published which could exert a wrong influence on a person's action. I exerted myself to prevent anything harmful being published.

THE PLEA FOR INDIA.

One of the reforms which started during the week, and which was traceable indirectly to the work of the Capital, was the movement for the assistance of the starving people of India. The morning after the story of the first paper was sent out by the correspondents, on Monday night, I received a telegram from Amos R. Wells, editor of the Congregationalist, of Boston, asking me to throw open the columns of the paper to contributions on the subject of this stricken nation, and to agree, on the part of the Capital, to receive funds for the assistance of these people. I could not well do this, as I was only in charge of the paper for a week and very little money could be collected in that time. However, Mr. Wells' intention was an evidence that the paper had accomplished something toward relieving the starving people of India.

The temperance crusade which has commenced in Topeka this week was directly to be traced to the work of the Capital.

The anti-cigarette movement which took place in Topeka last week was also encouraged by the Capital.

I know I haven't printed what newspaper men regard as a real newspaper, but I have made a display of what I consider the best matter obtainable. It was not news, perhaps, but it was more important than any news can be. It was the best reading in the world. I think the editor should assume the position of a father toward a child. If my boy wants a green apple or a cigar, I refuse him, because I know they are bad for him.

I cannot make an ideal newspaper in a week. If I had time I would surround myself with a staff thoroughly in accord with my views. I would require that they hold the same views of religion, of politics and of every important question as I hold. I wish the newspaper men would understand that I only did weakly, and with mistakes, what I thought was best. Each day when I entered the office I prayed for divine help and guidance.

The Capital management will set aside a certain portion of the profits of the paper under my management to be used for some charity. I will use this where it will do the most good possible.

I have had several local and visiting newspaper men tell me that I have at least sown a grain of good, and this is very gratifying.

MILLIONS STOLEN BY MAIL FRAUD.

Tons of Fake Mail Matter Shipped and Re-Shipped.

Washington, D. C., April 3.—The padding of mails at a time when the average weight is determined for a four years' contract between the railroads and government is exposed in clear, convincing form by the remarkable affidavit of B. C. Fechtig, a former employe of the Colorado Midland Railway company.

Letters, telegrams and photographed fac similes show the methods by which the government is annually robbed of millions of dollars. Railroad employes are forced to assist in this robbery, though they do not share in the spoils. Tons and tons of "faked" mail, congressional records and franked documents are shipped and reshipped in United States mail sacks between points on the same road for a period of about thirty consecutive days, when the average weight is obtained and used as a basis of compensation for the four years following. Fechtig is now a government employe.

In an affidavit now in the possession of the postmaster general Fechtig swears that in April, 1894, while employed as a station agent on the Colorado Midland Division of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad, he assisted in the padding of the United States mails by direction of his superior officers.

While stationed at New Castle, Col., he received two United States mail sacks containing Congressional Records, each weighing 125 pounds. Each sack bore a tag addressed to B. C. Fechtig, and the contents came through the mails as franked or free matter. Fechtig's affidavit reads in part:

"When I received the first sack I supposed it was legitimate mail. I intended to deliver it to the postmaster on the following morning, as was my custom each day. After I had locked the mail in the baggage room I found a letter addressed to me among the railroad business letters that arrived on the train with the fraudulent mail. Such letters are sent in care of the baggage master of the train, and require no postage." The letter reads as follows:

THE COLORADO MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANY.
Superintendent's Office.
Colorado Springs, April 25, 1894.

PERSONAL:

B. C. F.

There will be a mail sack full of Congressional Record books reach you on No. 5 this p. m.

You will, of course, understand in connection with the reweighing of mails that is at present going on as to this matter. After retaining them a day or so retag this sack to E. A. Baty, trainmaster at Leadville. This, of course, should be considered confidential and this destroyed after reading.

Mr. Baty will also send you a sack in a few days, and after holding for a day or so return to me here. Answer if understood. As you have Colorado Midland cipher code No. 4, use this in reply. B. H. B.

On the margin of this letter is this annotation: "Received by No. 965, April 25. Sent to E. A. B. by 906 April 25. Received by 965 May 1. Sent B. H. B. by 965 May 2."

In May, 1896, Mr. Fechtig was in the employ of the Southern Pacific Railway company as stenographer in the superintendent's office at Columbia, S. C. Two weeks later the newspapers were filled with accounts of the padding of mails of the Seaboard Air Line. It was openly charged that 300 sacks of mail had passed over that line. Mr. Fechtig says:

"I then learned through several men who were in the United States mail service and through an official of the Southern Railway company, that that company had been engaged in the padding of mails on a large scale in March, 1896. From what the mail service men told me I am satisfied that the frauds existed on a number of railroads in the east and south.

"From what I know of the mail revenues of the Southern Railway company I am satisfied that the fraud is carried on in a gigantic way, and that the government is annually defrauded of from \$5,000,000 to \$10,000,000 by the railroads of the United States."

THE ONLY TIME LAW-

TON WAS FRIGHTENED.

Many good stories about General Lawton have come to the surface since his death. Major Putnam Bradless Strong, who was on the staff of General Lawton in the Philippines, says Lawton confessed to being afraid once in his life. That was when he was riding with his 12-year-old son Manley past Paco cemetery at Manila. It seems that a Montana detail had just buried a comrade, when a California burying detail came up. Somehow they had failed to get cartridges and asked the Montanans for some. The latter had nothing but ball cartridges. "Oh, they'll do," said the California sergeant. The bullets went whizzing over the grave and over the stone wall, on the other side of which was riding General Lawton, his head only a few inches below the wall. The bullets made a breeze as they went past. "That was the only time I can remember being scared," said the general later, "but my boy spoke up and said: 'Papa, is this like being under real fire? If it is, I like it.'"

Brooklyn Life: "Oh, you darling! I'm so glad to hear of your happiness. What did Mr. Dickinson say when he proposed?" "He said he had loved me from the very first." "I should never have suspected that; he is such a young looking man!"

COXEY IN A NEW POLE

FAMOUS "GENERAL" MAKING A FORTUNE.

He is Operating a Stone Quarry in Ohio and is Entirely Out of Politics.

Canton, O., April 3.—General Jacob S. Coxe of "commonwealth army" fame is no longer dealing in theories, but facts. From the day that he was ordered off the grass at the national capital he became a new man. He turned his attention from politics to finance, and is now making money at the rate of four figures a day. He is operating a stone quarry five miles from Massillon, O., which is as profitable as a small gold mine. Setting up as a large employer of unskilled labor, General Coxe has had a chance to demonstrate the practicability of his commonwealth theories. His son, Jesse Coxe, a start-up young fellow, has also figured extensively in the solution of the great "hobo" problem.

It is the policy of Coxe not to turn away any man who wants work. There is a steady run of men who come and go from the quarry property. At present there are fifty employes at the plant and among these are only two of the "hobos" of the original commonwealth army. But there are plenty of recruits from the ends of the earth.

The story of Coxe's quarry has been circulated among tramps all over the country. They are sure of a welcome, a day's rations and a chance to leave when work becomes too onerous.

"De ole man's easy, but keep yer eye peeled for Jesse," is the word lately passed around.

Some time ago three stout tramps arrived on Saturday evening late and applied for work. They were so hungry, they said, they didn't know where to stay all night.

"You know me; my name's Coxe," General Coxe of the commonwealth army," said the old man, heartily. "Make yourselves at home, eat all you want and do a day's work Monday."

So on Saturday night and all day Sunday the tramps feasted and rested from their roadside wanderings. Monday morning, after a phenomenally big breakfast, they took the highway very promptly—in a direction opposite to the general's quarry. This was the last straw. The thing had happened so often that young Jesse Coxe took matters in his own hands, commonwealth or no commonwealth. He struck the trail, and, single-handed, started in pursuit. Four miles away he came upon the three commonwealthers resting on the ties of a railroad track.

"Walk," said Jesse Coxe briefly, as he leveled a gun at the party. He marched them back to the quarry and compelled them to do a day's work for their Sunday lodgings, when they were allowed to depart in peace. General Coxe was somewhat chagrined at the show of force. "You see all sorts of fellows come here," he remarked. "I am afraid there are some people who won't work when they get a chance; really, I believe it. There is no law to reach these deadbeats, and I suppose we must do something to protect ourselves."

Clad in a great fur coat, a slouch hat pulled down over his eyes, and carrying with him an air of bustling activity, General Coxe, the quarry operator and wealthy mine owner, is a different man from the Coxe who marched on Washington with his army of tramps five years ago. He owns extensive lead mines in Missouri and is preparing to put up a steel plant soon.

"Politix" queried the general. "I'm not in politics now. Not that I have changed and do not hold to the same principles as I did, but for the present I have dropped politics. I have too much work on hand."

The Coxe quarry faces to the north-east and looks down over a narrow valley in which is a railroad, the Tuscarawas river and the Northern Ohio Canal. In appearance this place is but little different from that of any other quarry, where stone is broken into cobbles and then thrown into hoppers and crushed to sand.

Coxe claims a part in making the good armor of American ships. He says he furnishes sand for the big armor plate plants of the land, and adds that he has been found to be the best. So the "general" has taken unto himself credit for recent American naval victories, and announces in flaming colors on posters pasted on the cars that American naval supremacy is due to Coxe's good sand. The general has found there are dollars in the sand and he is not anything if he is not a good advertiser of his wares. His commonwealth fame attracts the public to him wherever he goes. He does not especially court conversation on the march he made for the lost cause, neither does he shrink when the matter is brought before him. At present he evidently does not care to risk any more army trips, even for the sake of the principles which he has long advocated. He is too busy. His wealth is piling up in conical form like a little pile of sand from his crusher. His business tact has been sharpened and his income, as the report goes, is growing fast.

But Coxe has with him relics of his political canvass. On the switch near his profitable quarry stand four coaches. The one, a Pullman palace car, is used by Jesse Coxe, wife and little daughter, as a dwelling place. A second car is used at kitchen and store-room for the workmen at the quarry. The dining room is a third car, the one used by Coxe in his political tour over the United States. The sides of the

car are decorated with attractive printing, telling of the principles advocated by Coxe on non-interest bearing bond, good roads and other questions. But the interior of the car has been changed. A long table of plain boards is in the center of the coach. This is to seat the hungry men as they come to their meals. Tin cups and plates are always spread ready for meal time. There is little style when the hoboes and other workmen eat, but they seem wretched to be a happy set and fairly well contented with their lot. This non-interest bearing car is also used as a sleeper. Every man has his bunk. There are lower and upper berths, plain, but warm, and, no doubt, comfortable to the man who has swung a big sledge for ten hours in crushing stone. The clothing on these beds is of a plain grade, but the beds are kept clean and the men express themselves satisfied with their sleeping quarters.

Coxe's home, at present, is near the quarry. He has a combination frame and log dwelling house. It is well arranged, and the appointments are such as to make it comfortable throughout. He is five miles from Massillon, O., and a half mile from a railway station. His communication with the outer world is by telephone and mail service. A trip is made to Massillon every day by Coxe, his son, or some employe for the business letters, which are brought to the quarry office.

Only two of the men of the old Coxe army are at work in the Coxe quarry. Pat Keenan was the color bearer of the army that marched to Washington under the banner which was raised by Coxe. Keenan, when seen by the correspondent, was raising a shovel of coal for he is today the fireman at the Coxe quarry.

"Jack," another workman at the quarry, made the march to Washington with Coxe. Both have settled down to steady work and refuse to discuss the great principles of the once famous "commonwealth."

RIG OIL WELL SHOT IN OHIO.

An Abandoned Field Proves a Big Surprise.

Tiffin, O.—(Special).—The attention of the oil world is yet riveted on the Tiffin oil field. The center of attraction is oil well No. 2, located on the Van Ness farm and owned by a Buffalo syndicate. It was drilled in last week and shot this week. Very disheartening were the indications that oil would be discovered. But just as they shot it a roar was heard and oil spouted over the derrick 60 feet, submerging acres of surrounding territory and filling rivulets.

A man working in a woods one and a half miles from the well was drenched and farmhouses near by had difficulty in extinguishing their fires. The flow continued over four hours and water wells three-fourths of a mile distant were filled with oil produced by the concussion of the earth. The gusher remained quiet for two days and then started to flow for several hours at the rate of a barrel per minute. It was estimated that over 800 barrels were lost by this action.

After another lapse the well a third time broke loose and flowed several hours at the rate of one and three-fourths barrels per minute. Three 250-barrel tanks were filled and a large amount of the costly fluid will be lost for lack of tankage.

Since 1890 this field has been abandoned by operators. At that time gas was the only thing wanted and just as soon as oil was found the well was abandoned and plugged. Today several of the finest residences in the city stand over wells which have in the past exhibited signs of good oilers.

These conditions have led prominent oil operators to the opinion that the city is located over an immense pool of oil, the richness of which is just becoming known. Every available foot of territory within eight miles of the city is under lease and the most prominent oil operators known to the oil world are on the ground. The Standard Oil company has begun the erection of a 25,000-barrel steel tank.

ALONE HE FOUGHT THE BULL.

Kansas Man Kills a Bull in Twenty Minutes to Decide a Bet.

Wichita, Kan.—(Special).—Particulars have been received here descriptive of a bloody encounter between a range bull and a man, the latter armed with a short piece of celluloid and a butcher's knife, wherein the man succeeded in killing the bull in twenty minutes. The contest was to decide a bet. A bull which had attained a bad record for viciousness was procured for the purpose. The fight took place near Chickasha in a branding pen 50 feet square, and was to continue no longer than thirty minutes.

The cowboy entered first with a large skinning knife in his right hand, and a piece of sharp celluloid in his left. The bull needed no preliminary goading, as almost any range bull will attack a man on foot. As the bull charged the man stepped quickly to the left, and turning thrust the celluloid into the animal as far forward as possible, bringing his back against the animal and using the knife with his right. The cowboy cut deep the first attempt. For fifteen minutes the fight was exciting. Once the man was struck and flung several feet. A cloud of dust prevented the bull from winning out. The ground was soon slippery with blood. The bull was terribly mangled upon the right side, falling several times from loss of blood, and was finally despatched while down.

Chicago News: An act of charity usually discounts an act of heroism.

MR. JOHNSON'S PLANS

CHAIRMAN OF DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Gives Out An Interview of How the Subsidized Republican Press Can Be Made Powerless.

Chicago, April 4.—The democratic national committee headquarters are in suite 1944 Unity building, in this city. Hon. J. G. Johnson of Kansas is chairman of the executive committee and spends all of his time here. Hon. C. A. Walsh of Iowa, the member of the national committee from that state and its secretary, is also here and puts in regular hours at the headquarters.

THE MEN AND THEIR HABITS.

Mr. Johnson, the chairman, is a man weighing about 250 pounds, above the average height, with brown hair and eyes, and wears a mustache, but his face is smooth of beard. He is slow of speech, but quick of action. For a large man he is unusually industrious, coming to the office, as a rule, at 8 o'clock in the morning, and with the exception of a short time for lunch at noon and supper at 6 remains until 10 p. m. He is easily approached, and, when not preoccupied will talk at length on any subject that interests him or that may be uppermost in his mind.

Today when I saw him the subject uppermost in his mind was education. He first spoke of the publicity given Mr. Bryan's speeches as being a great benefit educationally, and, continuing, said:

HOW TO MEET THE ENEMY.

"The republicans outnumber us four to one in the way of metropolitan newspapers, and one of the ways to meet the situation is with a book; we have encouraged the production of such a book, and those who read it will learn among other things how this newspaper situation has come about. If we cannot have more newspapers then we must make in part a book and pamphlet campaign as was twice before done is the history of the United States."

Mr. Johnson had reference to the book entitled, "Coin on Money, Trusts and Imperialism," by Mr. W. H. Harvey, and continuing he said:

"I notice that most of the democratic editors are keeping the book before their readers and we feel grateful to them for what they are doing. The publisher cannot afford to run an advertisement of a book in the newspapers where it must be paid for. When a man buys a copy of a book, as a rule, he buys no more. It is not like a cigar, or a soap, or a patent medicine, or any article that is of daily or frequent use and that one buys often. Such and like commodities as I have named can afford to advertise, but it is different with a book, and when our friendly newspapers give us their aid in extensively calling the attention of their readers to 'Coin on Money, Trusts and Imperialism,' they in no way lessen their advertising patronage. It is a benefit to them. The study of the book will increase the number of persons who will believe in our cause and add to the circulation of the newspaper that advocates that cause. The book thus published by a newspaper will increase the clientele of that paper and force the respect of many people who do not now understand our principles."

"THRICE ARMED IS HE," ETC.

With this introduction Mr. Johnson continued: "When a man reads that book," holding one in his hand, "he can afterwards read a republican party newspaper and be as free from contamination as a man is from smallpox when he has been vaccinated. Education when understood is a powerful weapon, and this book applies education with irresistible force to the questions involved in national politics. I want you to say through your paper to our people that we want them to buy and read the book. It is mainly handled through agents, and where there is an agent we want our people to encourage him, and where there is no agent there should be one put at work. The publisher of the book is the Coin Publishing company of this city, to whom all letters of inquiry should be addressed."

WORK OF EDUCATION.

"We want this work of education," continued the chairman of the national executive committee, "to go on throughout the nation in democratic states as well as in republican and doubtful states. I want to see it carried on in Georgia, Alabama, Arkansas, and similarly democratic states, the same as in Indiana, Illinois and like states. It is important that all our people should be educated upon the elementary principles of a democratic form of government. Then, again, our people are a migratory people, moving from one place to another, and when the whole loaf is being leavened good results generally may be expected. A few years ago Kentucky and West Virginia of the southern states, were regarded as uncompromisingly safe for all time, but we see now that neglect lost them to us in 1896. If our work is done thoroughly all over the United States these setbacks will not come to us in the future. The study of statesmanship is one of the most interesting of studies, and Mr. Harvey in this book has so simplified the subject as to make it of engrossing interest. I would like to see the parents have this book read and discussed in the family circle; and that it be read especially by the young folks. When a nation of people are properly educated, as this book will tend to educate them, we will be a great people—passion and prejudice will be alloyed and justice and good government will prevail. Yes," he con-

tinued, "I want mothers to have the children over 12 years of age read this book, and after they have read it, the mothers to question them on it till its teachings are fastened in their minds. If this is generally done the republic is saved."

"Will the national committee distribute any of these books?" was a question asked Mr. Johnson. NOT A BOOK WILL BE GIVEN AWAY.

"Not a book," was the reply. "If the committee purchased and distributed a hundred of these book it would destroy the sale of a thousand books by giving others to wait for them to be caused to them. We are making a fight for the people to save them from class laws and the aggression of the selfish few who through greed would utterly destroy them, and it is the best policy to encourage the people to take up their own fight and make it for themselves. A self-relying people will make a strong fight, but a people who are encouraged to wait for some one to give them literature leads to the mer of class legislation buying and supplying literature that fosters class laws. The duty of our committee is to aid the people in the management of their campaign, and to teach them to be active and self-reliant. We are doing a good deal that naturally falls to the work of such a committee as ours is, and which requires money that is being furnished by the people; and such work will be all that the committee will be able to pay the expense of—the people must do the balance.

THE WHOLE THING FOR 25c.

"The book is inexpensive at 25 cents and the people can buy and distribute a sufficient quantity of them, while the committee would not be able to do so. Say to your readers," said Mr. Johnson, in conclusion, "that this is their cause, and that I want them to see to it that a thorough campaign of education is made. This is tending our way now, but this should not breed over-confidence, but should rather cause our people to take courage, become aggressive, and leave nothing undone that may aid in assuring success."

FIGHT THE ARMOR TRUST.

The Democrats Will Fight For Government Plant.

Washington, D. C., April 3.—Unless the republicans agree to provide in the naval bill for an appropriation of \$5,000,000 for a government armor plate plant, prominent democrats and republicans will oppose the payment of the \$545 a ton demanded by the trust for armor to complete the battleships now in the course of construction.

This determination is the result of a consultation between the democratic representatives on the naval committee and Floor Leader Richardson. It was decided also to consent to buy only enough armor at \$545 a ton to complete the three battleships now ready for armor, and not to allow the purchase to be a precedent for future concessions.

Mr. Richardson said today that the democratic party intended to take cognizance of the efforts that are being made to turn over \$17,000,000 of work to the Shipbuilding Trust that can and should be done in the government yards.

Twenty-one labor organizations of New York have a petition before congress, signed by 50,000 citizens, which was introduced in the senate by Mr. Depew, favoring the building of ships in the navy yards.

Admiral Dewey has bluntly told the committee that this should be done, and Rear Admiral Hichborn and other expert instructors in the navy have asked for some of the ships.

In opposition to all of these views, Secretary of the Navy Long has made a statement that he does not think vessels should be built in the yards. It was through his efforts that the committee decided that the trust should get all of the new vessels.

The naval committee surrender to the trust is, the democrats say, one of the most abject the republican party has yet made.

Secretary Wilson Resigns.

Lincoln, Neb.—(Special).—J. M. Wilson, secretary of the state board of irrigation, has tendered his resignation as secretary, to take effect April 1, and C. B. Channel of Kearney was appointed his successor.

Mr. Wilson resigned to accept a position in Nevada, connected with the irrigation investigations of the department of agriculture of the United States government. A part of his work will be in the University of Nevada, at Reno.

Mr. Channel has been field man under Mr. Wilson, and was appointed by the board on the latter's recommendation. The board passed these resolutions, which stated:

Resolved, That, while we sincerely regret to lose the valuable services of Mr. J. M. Wilson here in Nebraska, we congratulate him and the general government as well as the people of our sister state, Nevada, where his future field of work will be, in obtaining the services of one so honest and so thoroughly competent in all the departments of engineering, and so agreeable in his associations, and with him shall go our choicest benedictions."

The newest ornamental buttons for silk, satin or chiffon-draped waists are those of French brilliants of various small sizes. They are either surrounded with a mere thread-like line of black enamel or else with no setting whatever. They fasten to the bodice by means of small gold shanks and rings.

The average man has more money back of him than he can see ahead of him.