AUGUST, 16, 1907

The Commoner.



Hot Springs, Ark., August 12 .- proud of it, he'll feel badly, for it Once more the writer is hobnobbing was Bill that gave him the first word with the "pals" of other days-the of encouragement as a "tourist" at printermen. The older the architect Rockport, Mo., in the fall of '83. My, of this department grows the better | my, but that was a long time ago! he likes to foregather with the union printers in international convention assembled and indulge in reminiscences. Where a bunch of old-time printers is assembled, there you will be sure to find that fraternity which maketh for jollity, and the good will that maketh for lasting friendships. The great feature of this convention of printers is the "Old Pirate's Reunion." And thereby hangs a tale that to be enjoyed needs some elucidation.

"Missourl River Pirates" The composed that pioneer band of union printers that worked along the Missouri river in the early days from 1877 to 1883, preaching unionism wherever they stopped, and reviv- of weeks and is now all right. "They ing the spirit of local union men who got the gold out of my system, and had grown discouraged. Unions had been established at Atchison and St. Out of my pockets, too," he said. There is only one bad feature been established at Atchison and St. Joseph even before the war, but the war, and the panic of 1873 caused them to lose their charters, and unionism was at a low ebb when good times began in the late 70's. Then it was that the "Pirates" began working along the river-Kansas City, Leavenworth, Atchison, St. Joseph, Council Bluffs, Omaha, Sloux City, and cities lying not far inland. The result was a renewal of unionism that blazed into success, and now every city of 15,000 in the Missouri valley is organized, the printers drawing top wages and are work- lington hotel yesterday. People ing the eight hour day.

The architect of this department a dissipated, forlorn, happy-gostarted to learn the printer's trade lucky, careless class of craftsmen, about the time the "Pirates" were should have been present at the rein their glory, and among the most ception. He would have seen a pleasant recollections of his life are bunch of as fine looking men as he in sight of the eternal peaks of the those concerning the "tourists" who could locate in a year's search. Fact Rocky Mountains. And for this innever lost an opportunity to drill is, they looked like a bunch of bank- surance he pays the enormous tax unionism into his youthful mind. ers, or lawyers, or Wall Street finan- of ten cents a month, or \$1.20 a year. The result was that as soon as he ciers. Some of them are getting After you have let this fact soak into had served the requisite apprentic- along in years, but the majority of ship he hiked to the nearest union them are comparatively young men. town and became a full fledged They are jollifying, for this is the union printer. But he started on the first convention held since the winroad about the time the glory of the ning of the bitter fight for the eight fifty or a hundred years. "Pirates" was fading, and it never hour day. That fight was begun on was his lot to be counted one of January 1, 1906, and since that time them.

Uncle Sam is quite a prominent citizen in Hot Springs. He maintains a bath house here for those who can not afford private baths, and he also maintains a reservation which is cared for just like Uncle Sam cares for all his parks. The springs are good for any old ailment They will relieve a man of about everything, and the hotels attend to relieving us of the rest. Met a gentleman yesterday evening who said that he had shot himself full of chloride of gold in an effort to get rid of the drink habit, but without success. But he came down here, boiled himself in the baths for a couple

about a visit to Hot Springs, and that is the sight of so many sufferers who are here for help. But even that has its bright side, for the man who has health and strength can not look on them without returning thanks for his manifold blessings. A man who has health and strength and a good digestion never knows how well off he is until he sees some poor, unfortunate who lacks all those things.

A reception was held at the Arwho have an idea that printers are the 45,000 union printers of the country put up over \$3,000,000 in ber of women who attend. The But the "Pirates" are gathering cold cash to secure victory. During printers are getting into the habit not to assert their rights as free born ing days have been eliminated-for American citizens. The general pub- all of which the rank and file is duly was so quiet the daily newspapers tion. They are a splendid crelit to could not make any news features the craft, too. Here is a good thing years of battling for the short work cal Union: Whenever you see a day, the International Typographical woman working at the case or on a Union has more money in its treas- machine in a union composing room fore, it has more men working the rate of wage as the men. "Equal working the nine hour day, and while Typographical Union's slogans. financing this battle the printers Colorado Springs, where 150 aged day's "business" to begin. First

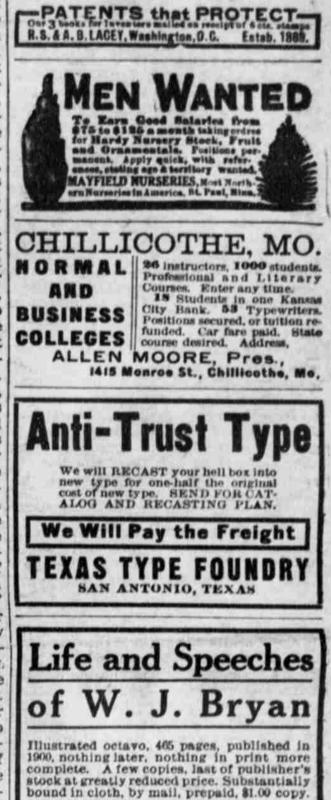
though it has been fifteen years since he worked at the case.

Speaking about the Union Printers' Home at Colorado Springs brings to mind the fact that this Home contains one of the finest libraries in the United States. Two years ago James Monroe Kreiter, a member of Columbia Typographical Union, Washington, D. C., conceived the idea of having every visitor to the Colorado Springs convention in 1906 bring a book for the Home. This was done, with the result that the library was enriched by something like 2,000 volumes. Then B. Frank Swigart of St. Louis Typographical Union, got into the game and began writing authors, publishers, statesmen and everybody else. telling them about the Home and its library, and asking for donations. The result is that the library now contains upwards of 8,000 volumes, many of them priceless. President Roosevelt contributed a complete set of his books, autographed. Emperor William of Germany is on the list, and his imperial signature looms up on the fly leaves of the books he sent. King Edward VII of Great Britain and Ireland, contributed autographed books of great value. Every cabinet office is represented, every justice of the United States supreme court is represented, and Mark Twain sent in a set of his books with a characteristic dedication, for Mark is an old-time printer. The library today, apart from its sentimental value, is worth not less than \$30,000, and now the printers are going to assess themselves and raise enough money to build a library annex to the Home. The writer of this department carries quite a bunch of what people call "life insurance," and the fruits of which he can never enjoy. It costs him a lot of money every year, too. But in the Typographical Union he has insurance that simply can not be beaten. He donesn't have to die to get it, either. If ever he becomes crippled, ill or incapacited from work, he can go to the Union Printers' Home at Colorado Springs and live on the fat of the land in a home that is a home in all that the name implies, surrounded by a veritable garden, and your mind perhaps you can begin to realize what a soft snap the managers of the big "life" insurance companies have had for the past A growing feature of these annual conventions is the increasing numventions in the writer's early print-

GENUINE BARGAINS IN HIGH-GRADE UPRIGHT Blightly used instrument 6 Webers from 1200 up; 9 Krakaners from also ordinary second-hand Uprights, 750 up very fine Parlor Grand plance at about his plance, mahogany, 5145 and up. Write for par Cash or easy monthly payments.

13

LYON & HEALY, 32 Adams St., CHICAGO We ship planos everywhere on appreval



here from the four quarters of the the struggle not one union printer of bringing their wives along, and earth, and they are going to have a so far as known was arrested on any the result is beneficial in more ways reunion that will go down in union charge of violence, although three than one. The social times are more printer history. It will be held Wed- or four were arrested and fined for thoroughly enjoyed, and some of the nesday, long before this shall reach contempt of court, the contempt con- features that used to mark the con-The Commoner readers, but next sisting in ignoring a judicial order week we'll tell you all about itthat is, most all about it. Just as soon as this letter is finished the lic heard very little about the eight thankful. There are several women writer is going out to hunt up Ben hour strike, for the reason that it delegates on the floor of the conven-Hill, foreman of the St. Joe Gazette, for it was under Hill's supervision that the writer set up his first line out of it. Now, after less than two to remember about the Typographiof type on a mornin; newspaper, 'way back in '83. He expects to meet "Red" Hill, the old proof reader on the Omaha World-Heral, who ury than it ever had at one time be- you know she is getting the same once marked Webster's Dictionary when a compositor called him down eight hour day than it ever had pay for equal work," is one of the for a correction and offered old Noah as ocular demonstration. He expects to see "Gig" Martin, who al-ways comes into town "by hand." Colorado Springs, where 150 aged He'll look for Dixie Dunbar who, and invalid printers are cared for as comes the "German lunch," which disgusted with his gas jet put on his they deserve to be. When a man is now about ready to serve. Then coat and started out of the office to thinks of all these things he has a comes a balloon ascension, followed "ketch some lightnin' bugs to dissi- right to be proud of the fact that he by a visit to the alligator and ostrich pate this gloom." If he doesn't meet has carried a union printer's card for farms. This will be followed by a Bill Boyer, Native Missourian an' nearly a quarter of a century, even vaudeville entertainment. So the CONTRACTOR DE

It is pretty nearly time for the

Duris Dir Lath Office (Self.)

WAT I BEERATI AND LOCAL P

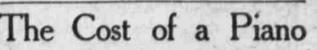




Banking by Mail is the simplest, safest and most convenient. 4 per cent interest paid from the moment your money reaches us. Your sav-ings are constantly on deposit, carning good interest, yet you have the money in your pos-

which fully explains the merits of this won derful plan. Write today. The Depositors Savings and Trust Co.,

Tom L. Johnson, President Cleveland, Ohio



should not be reckoned entirely upon what you pay to get it. A very important factor, as the years pass, is what you pay to keep it in order, and more important still is the length of service and the degree of satisfaction it gives you.

while neither the highest nor the lowest prices, are unsurpassed by any instrument made in America or Europe in the service and satisfaction they give for each dollar expended. The "GABLER TONE" is famous, and the no-less-famous "GABLER WORKMANSHIP" makes that tone permanent through generation after generation of use. A Gabler is cheapest BECAUSE BEST. Investigate

Ernest Gabler & Bro. ESTABLISHED 1884. 500 Whitlock Ave., Bronx Borough, N. Y. City.