

Frederic S. Isham, author of "The Lady of the Mount," is on a tour of the world. At present he is in Moscow, making ready for the long journey across Siberia. At Constantinople he lost his camera, and now he is lamenting that one cannot buy a kodak for a kopeck.

Rare and Precious.
"These are my jewels," said Cornelia.

And she pointed to a couple of lamb chops she was bringing home from market.

No Time to Frct.
"Have you thought of the possibility of defeat, Mr. Taft?"

"Well," replied the rotund secretary, "what's the use of fretting about that? The campaign'll make no work off at least fifty pounds, anyhow—Philadelphia Ledger.

Gets His Du-
"No," growled the Chronie Kicker, "I don't see why I can't have everything that my neighbor has. It ain't right."

"Very well," remarked a passing microbe, "one of your neighbors has smallpox. I'll attend to you at once."—Chicago Tribune.

The Passing of Time.
"Palsty—I suppose you think that if you had the regulating of the universe you could make some improvements on the present job, don't you?"

"Kupus—I don't know about that, but I think I could suggest one change. I should like to have things so arranged that when a man is having a good time the days would seem to pass slowly instead of quickly. I'm about to take a vacation."

A Toast to the "Also Rans."
Ye have drunk, O my friends to the victors.

Ye have toasted the valiant and strong;
To the great of the earth ye have drunk in your mirth.

To the wise ye have lifted your song,
It is well—they are worthy my brothers.

As aught that the firmament spans,
But I pledge you a health to the others.

A health to the "also rans,"
To the men who went down in the struggle.

To the runners who finished unplaced,
To the weak and the young, the unknown and unsung.

The deprived, the oppressed, the disgraced,
Ye are bloated, developed, completed;
They were bred without stamina,
'Tis to them, the surpassed the defeated.

I bow as I drain my glass,
Who are ye that should dare reject them?

Do ye know what the handicaps weighed?
Did ye suffer the pain, run the race, stand the strain.

That ye scoff at the place that they made?
It may be that they were left at the post—

Far or near, 'tis to them, the ill-fated,
I bow as I drink my toast.

They have lost, they are ill, they are the weary;

Ye have won, ye are well, ye are strong;
By the drops that they bled, by the tears that they shed,

By your mirth, by your wine by your song,
By all that has e'er helped to sweeten

Your lives, by your hopes, by your plans,
I pledge you the health of the beauteous
The health of the "also rans."

Lincoln Directory

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BEHIND THE SCENES IN POLITICS

By ERNEST MCGAFFEY



'HELLO, Billy!"

"How are you, Jack? Glad to see you got that appointment. What is there in it for you?"

"Four thou-sand a year."

"Oh, I don't mean the salary—but what is there in it for you on the side?"

"Not a cent. Just the salary, that's all."

"Come off! Why, two of that last bunch cleaned up ten thousand apiece before they walked the plank."

"Well, it's a new deal. No side issues for me. Just the little old four thou. That's all."

"Why, you ain't honest, are you, Jack?"

"Well, I never had 'Honest John' tacked onto me for a handicap, but I don't want to go along the street looking back to see if anyone's following me."

"But those fellows are alive and well to-day, and the statute of limitations has run on 'em."

"Yes, maybe; but it would be just my luck to get 'snaked.' My tailor says stripes are unbecoming on tall men, any-way."

"You're foolish, Jack."

"A regular lobster, Billy; but when I'm let out I want to sleep nights, without listening for some one to ring the door-bell and ask 'how about it?'"

The foregoing conversation is verbally a correct transcript between an appointee to a city office and a political acquaintance, the well-known and almost "disbarred" attorney, the Hon. William "Skipshinane." It occurred just as written down, and is merely given to illustrate the general idea prevalent among the crooked, the crafty and the unscrupulous that public office was a private "snap."

The salary was supposed to be merely expense money for being in the political game; the real "money" was to be gotten out of "side deals," schemes where the official was to use his influence and his opportunities to get into "something good," whereby for favors either directly or indirectly granted he got what is known sometimes as his "rake-off," or his "bit."

If he was in a position where contracts were to be let "to the lowest bidder" it was his business, as a "grafter," to see that his "man" was the lowest bidder, or to have a "combination" among the bidders so that the contracts would be divided among two or three favored firms or individuals; or to work in some one as sub-contractor, or in various ways "get a finger in the pie," so that he could "help up" somebody for "a divvy." Where individual officials had the entire control of their offices, their opportunities for "graft" were, of course, extensive; where officials were co-associated in city work, there had to be either a complete and general understanding as to "crooked work," or there might be underhand work by one or two men which was hidden from the rest.

The public had weird and unique ideas about "graft." The fact that "grafting" was carried on in city hall and city departments to a greater or less extent during every political administration was a fact that was undeniable. Sometimes an administration was especially corrupt; sometimes the administration was headed by a man who was even by his bitterest enemies acknowledged to be strictly honest. But as no one man could oversee the ins and outs of every department in the city, there was bound to be some "grafting," however petty, somewhere in the various offices or departments.

But the public generally seemed to be of the opinion that the instant a man was appointed or elected to office his entire nature changed. The people imagined, apparently, that a business man whose integrity, through many years, had never been questioned became "crooked" the instant he took the oath of office. And because of this, the most insulting and libelous statements were being bandied back and forth by irresponsible parties, concerning men who were honestly and conscientiously doing their duty in public offices.

Citizens who appropriated without any legal right the sidewalks in front of their stores for shipping purposes—men who would follow an alderman for weeks in order to get a bay-window put in a downtown shop contrary to the ordinances, people who hung about the city hall from dawn to twilight trying to get a railroad pass, would enter a public office with the air of Daniel going down the elevator into the lions' den. And if a question was asked them when they stated their business, they always imagined it had a hint of graft in it. Well, now, let me tell you: These folks that are always scenting "graft" in every public office and officer—these "Holy Willies" that assume such an "uncolored" air, they are often the people that will bear watching themselves.

The fact of the matter was that that real "graft" was handled by men who worked it so that nearly always it was entirely legal, in the strict letter of the law. A measly five or ten-dollar bill handed here and there for some favor was a mere bagatelle. And as for "graft" in politics, the legislatures of the various states are as mighty universities to kindergarten compared to city administrations. As for the United States senate—but that is the "king row" on the political checker-board, and not a matter for comment in this article.

Money is the cheapest and least dangerous form of "graft." I mean money that buys favors; bribes, in a word. Big "graft" concerns itself with "shares," "steek," "interests"—things that cannot be traced so easily to corrupt sources. Big grafters are afraid of cold cash. They want something that can be

any friends. In the first place, he had not stolen enough so as to lay away anything for high-priced lawyers, so he could neither pose as a martyr, nor go into court and make a fight. Usually he "lost his job for quite a while," his petty speculations were laughed at, and he found himself in the street, an object of contempt and jeers. But when a man had gotten away with forty or fifty thousand dollars, it was an entirely different proposition. He could then put up a good, stiff "bluff." In the first place, it was "up to him" to pooh-pooh all rumors or assertions which had been made against his office. Next, to explain that all this talk about "graft"



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'GATOR ON THE RAMPAGE.

Edifying Story That is Vouched for by the Georgia Anachor.

"Yes," said the fisherman, "the man had fished all the forenoon, an' hadn't got a nibble, so he took another swaller out the jug, pulled off his boots, an' lay down on the river bank an' went to sleep. As soon as he went to snorin' good, a alligator had been watchin' him all the mornin' crawled up an' swallowed his boots, likewise the jug, with 'bout half a gallon in it. I reckon. The cork came out, and, of course, the 'gator got the full benefit o' the whisky, which so turned its head that it lashed the water with its tail till the river was a foam'n' mass, after which it crawled up on the bank agin an' made despr't efforts to climb trees an' turn double-somersaults, an' do all manner of impossible things!"

"Why didn't it swallow the fisherman, instead of his boot?" some one asked.

"'Gators, gentlemen," said the storyteller, "can't stand over'thing. They must draw the line some'ers."—Atlanta Constitution.

Starch, like everything else, is being constantly improved, the patent Starches put on the market 25 years ago are very different and inferior to those of the present day. In the latest discovery—Defiance Starch—all injurious chemicals are omitted, while the addition of another ingredient, invented by us, gives to the Starch a strength and smoothness never approached by other brands.

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Friend—What has become of Celestine, your maid?

Mrs. Snoblotts—I had to discharge her. She had no consideration for Fido.

Friend—Why, I always thought she took the most tender care of the pet.

Mrs. Snoblotts—So did I till I found she was using her own comb on him without first sterilizing it.

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"SKATE NO 1 WOULD INTRODUCE SKATE NO 2"



"WHAT'S THE CONSTITUTION BETWEEN FRIENDS?"



"THE CHEAP GRAFTER NEVER HAS ANY FRIENDS"

manipulated so that the ugly word "money" can be eliminated in case of an exposure. Cash is a hard commodity to "juggle," but shares and stocks can be better explained to a jury. So only the ignorant or most brazen of the big "grafter" go after the money in the form of U. S. bank bills. Records are tell-tales; and money taken wrongfully and unaccounted for often returns to plague the hypotheater with a penitentiary sentence.

Another thing that seems to be overlooked is that legislation will not cure "grafting." True, it can and does punish the individual; but nothing but an aroused spirit of higher citizenship will effect a general cure of the evil. If you want to know how many people in your city and county are out after "something for nothing" get into a political position which either actually gives you chances for bestowing favors, or apparently offers the opportunity. Ninety-five per cent. of the people who call on you come for the purpose of having you do them some favor, either for themselves or others; and they are not at all particular about how the favor is done, so that it be done. For myself, I know I was bombarded day and night after I got into office with requests that ranged all the way from the impudent to the ignorant. Requests to aid in the way of evading or ignoring city ordinances were matters of daily occurrence. And the charming thing about it was that the parties assumed that this was a matter of course in the routine business of the city hall. It was not merely "what's the constitution between friends?" but "what's honesty between acquaintances?"

"Skate" No. 1 would introduce "Skate" No. 2, and the latter would unfold a scheme to "pull off" something in some other department of the city hall, which was not only against all canons of decency as regarded common honesty, but so ridiculously apparent that no one but an ignoramus would concoct such a plan. Now these things happened so often that if you got mad at each occurrence you would be in a state of semi-apoplexy half the time. The only thing to do was to cut the interview short by saying "I haven't anything to do with that department; if you have any business with that end of the city go there yourself."

But when you come to pin down any great amount of "graft" in most of the city administrations' offices you failed, from the simple reason that there was comparatively little of it. Was it because greater publicity and greater vigilance was being had through a hostile press and a watchful opposite party? Or was it because an improvement was being made in the character of the men elected and appointed? Or was it both? At any rate, there was a steady advance for the better during the cycle of at least eight years of my experience in politics. Given an able and vigilant man at the head of a city's affairs, and "graft" will be reduced to a minimum during his term of office. Given any other kind of a man, and once more "graft" will lift its hydra head. It is a curious thing about manifestation, that the tendency to make "a little on the side" seems to be apparent in all administrations, but is either dormant or active as the man at the helm is either alert or inattentive. Like yellow fever in Cuba, it is always present, even if only one case of it.

The cheap "grafter," when found out, never had

was the work of political enemies or "a discharged employe seeking revenge." A very fine article of "rosy talk" was usually indulged in by a "grafter" who "was on the run."

Then, when he was finally indicted, his lawyers would consent to tell what an outrage it was that their client should be so persecuted. All criminal proceedings which seek to bring a "grafter" to "book" are known by his lawyers as "man-hunts." The big "grafter's" friends flock to the courtroom, and quite frequently the utmost courtesy is extended to him by officials high up in jail circles; especially if he be of the same party as the jail officials. If he happens to be on the other side of the political fence, these courtesies are omitted.

After a big "grafter" is convicted there is the usual appeal to the higher courts and a lot of skirmishing to keep him out of the penitentiary, but he gets there just the same. He may, after serving a year of his sentence, become so ill that he will have to be pardoned. If he has returned part of the money he stole, this is a chance not to be overlooked. But if he is "stiff-necked" and insists on hanging on to what he got, the chances are not so favorable. Only a ridiculously small percentage of the big "grafter" have been punished. Some of the biggest of them all have absorbed their graft legally. But it was "graft," nevertheless. On many, the statute of limitations has "run," and prosecution made impossible. But it is cheering to relate that "grafting" is not quite so fashionable as it used to be by reason of these prosecutions; and much as the "reformer" has been held up to ridicule, it has been the reformer and the reform organizations that have made "grafting," if not unpopular, at least dangerous.

Petty "grafting" can never be wholly stamped out, as it can be handed around by means of presents, privileges, etc., in such a way that it cannot be traced so as to provide ground for criminal prosecutions.

The technical term "graft," while peculiarly applied to politics, is not confined to that sphere only. Business, banking and railroad circles have the disease. In city administrations the spot where it is liable to make most insidious headway is in city councils. There it may be found either indirectly or directly apparent. And it is there, after all, that it is most dangerous, because affecting an entire city. If a public official steals from his office, it is not such a direct injury to the public man as the man who "sells out" to jam a franchise through a council.

And so, in the last analysis, the eyes of the reformers and the citizens should be fixed steadily on city councils. The best candidates for aldermen are none too good; the salary should be such that a man could give all of his time to the work and be well and even handsomely paid. If the public expects a man to give \$5,000 worth of time in the city council for \$3,000 salary, they are merely putting a premium on "grafting."

The day of the brazen "grafter" has gone by. The new regime is making for better things. The only way that "grafting" can flourish nowadays is by having a city administration in full accord with the most influential newspapers of a city, apply the "graft" legally, pocket the "rake-off," point to the "statutes in such case made and provided," and so far as the public is concerned, "let the galled jade wince."

