

ESTABLISHED JUNE 19, 1871.

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MAN WHO ROUTED THE GANG

Characteristics of Joseph W. Folk, Prosecutor of St. Louis Boudlers.

FAME ACHIEVED BY A COUNTRY LAWYER

Stupendous Bluff Necessary to Secure Documentary Proof of Municipal Rottenness—A Terror to Crooks.

It has been ten years since Joseph W. Folk, seeing no future for himself beyond a comfortable living in the practice of law in his native town of Brownsville, Tenn., decided to go to St. Louis, the metropolis of all that region, and hang out his shingle. He landed there an unheralded and unknown country lawyer and for seven years the average resident of St. Louis knew that no such man existed. Then, by a queer turn of the political machinery, the democratic leaders picked out this young man as their candidate for circuit attorney and elected him.

Today Joseph W. Folk is known not only in St. Louis, but in all America, as the man who pulled down about the heads of the "bosses" who lived and reigned in the political structure that had spent years in rearing; who had sent fourteen men, including the democratic leader, a millionaire or two, and city law makers, to the penitentiary for the crimes of bribery and perjury. He has been able to secure more than one similar charges and who has caused four others, one a multi-millionaire, to become exiles from American soil.

In less than three years this country lawyer has cleaned St. Louis of the municipal debauchery that had infected it for twenty. Along and unaided he has performed this monumental task by bluff, hard work, and his knowledge of criminal law gained while defending petty offenders before the courts in his home town of some 3,600 population.

Mr. Folk Goes to St. Louis.

When, in his 35d year, Mr. Folk set himself up in St. Louis, it was with the determination to begin all over again. He decided to drop criminal law, which he had been practicing ever since his graduation from Vanderbilt university three years before, and to take up the civil end of the profession. Gradually he succeeded in getting business men to trust their legal interests to him, and so firm had his purpose become never to meddle in things criminal again and so remunerative was his civil list, that when, unexpectedly, "Boss" Edward Butler, democratic boss of the city, asked him to become the party's nominee for circuit attorney, Mr. Folk instinctively refused to consider such a proposition. Nor could days of argument budge him, and then the "boss" threatened:

"If you do not accept my offer, I will refuse." Very well," was the reply. "I refuse." Then Mr. Folk's clients, backed up by other business men, stepped in and interceded with him to take the office, and the welfare of the city. They finally induced him to surrender, but when he said to "Colonel" Butler's committee, "Very well, I will accept," he added:

"As I intend to do my duty I will elect, some of you fellows, to better look out for some day I may find it my duty to prosecute you."

Where Mr. Folk Got the First Clue.

The year 1901 found a civil lawyer occupying the post of circuit attorney of St. Louis, and his name was Joseph W. Folk. Naturally, Mr. Folk felt immediately back on his knowledge of criminal law gained in his home town, and he worked at night to improve this.

His was a busy occupation, when, one day, he saw a "squib" in a newspaper stating that it was rumored that certain members of the house of delegates (St. Louis' lower legislative branch) were having some trouble in getting at \$75,000 bribe money in a safe deposit vault, which they felt they were entitled to have.

Mr. Folk's idea of politics is ideal—that politics should be clean. "He who violates the law is not a democrat," he has said. "He who is a criminal is a criminal," he has said. "He who is a criminal is a criminal," he has said. "He who is a criminal is a criminal," he has said.

A few days' inquiry satisfied Mr. Folk that the clipping was no idle tale, and on the part of the suburban railway to secure the passage of an ordinance enhancing the value of its property several million. Then, although he had absolutely nothing except his suspicions that this was so to back him, he sent him to the game house in the president, Charles H. Turner, and its legislative agent, Philip Stocke, to appear before him. When they came he informed them that he wanted them to tell him about the attempt which they had made to bribe him at the end of the game house in No. 44. They denied that any such thing had been attempted.

A Seared Millionaire.

"Very well gentlemen," said Mr. Folk. "It will be my duty to issue warrants for your arrest and prosecute you to the fullest extent of the law. Would you rather have me do that, or will you come back to me at the end of the day and give me the information demanded?"

At the end of the second day ex-Governor Charles P. Johnson of Missouri, one of the leading criminal lawyers of the middle west, walked into the prosecutor's office.

"Mr. Stocke is my client," he said. "I have come to tell you that he is so ill that he cannot appear before the grand jury tomorrow."

"Governor," was the reply. "I'm sorry that Mr. Stocke is ill, but I appear before the grand jury tomorrow and tell me what I demand of him, or I shall see to it that he is arrested and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

The quiet, determined manner of the young man and the set of his prominent jaws made the older report to his client that "Folk means business, and you'd better do as he says." The result was that next day, not only Stocke, but his millionaire wife, and the three boys of the grand jury room and told of the boodle clique in the house of delegates and city council, and of the railway's attempt to put through house bill No. 44 with the aid of \$75,000 in bribes, \$75,000 for the delegates and \$20,000 for the commission.

Another Ambitious Bluff.

The bluff had worked, but it was legally necessary to see the bribe money which had been placed in the care of two safe deposit companies. So Mr. Folk began another bluff.

STILL WORSHIP AZTEC GODS

Mexican Indians Still Devoted to Long Forgotten Shrines.

STRANGE TALES HEARD BY EXPLORER

Trebert Maier Gives Some Account of the Peabody Museum of His Work—So Fruitful of Archaeological Results.

Another chapter has been added to the exploration of the ruined cities of Central America, once the seats of Aztec civilization destroyed by Cortez nearly five centuries ago, in the recently published report of Mr. Trebert Maier, who for several years has been conducting researches among the ancient ruins in the interests of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology at Harvard university, and whose fully illustrated account of what he has seen and found is shortly to be issued as one of the publications of that institution.

Dr. Maier's explorations stretched over three years, and were carried on mainly in the Usumatinta valley, in southern Mexico. Among the long-forgotten cities which Mr. Maier visited were Yachilan, literally the "City of the Green Mountains," El Cayo, the "Place Where the Bananas Grow with Stones," Budiltha, or "Smoking Water," from the mist arising from an adjacent waterfall; El Chile, so called from the herb from which chile sauce is made; Anatiche, named for the modern explorer, flourishing on the banks of the river, and El Chicocapote, named from a tree which produces a well known Mexican chewing gum. These cities are all hidden in the tropical jungle, some entirely unknown even to the exploring woodcutters and gum collectors, and others visited by a few adventurous Indians who still come to make occasional sacrifices on their fallen altars.

Definite Results Extensive.

The definite results of Mr. Maier's investigations were the study and photographing of some twenty stelae, or carved monoliths, on which are represented many of the scenes of Aztec civilization, and his religious rites; the restoration of between twenty and thirty ruined buildings—temples, tombs and communal dwellings, and the examination of nearly fifty carved and painted lintels, many of them excavated from long-accumulated debris and never before noted by modern explorers. In many cases the expedition has preserved the record of objects that in another century would have entirely vanished, for the changing course of the Usumatinta river has already eaten away the former water front of some of the cities.

Outlines of a City.

At La Mar there still remained sufficient evidence of its ancient structures to reconstruct a very good picture of one of the smaller cities of the Aztec period. The architectural center of the city, it was found, was formed by two temples, now in ruins, which crowned two pyramids, one facing to the east and the other to the west. Between the pyramids was a wide plaza bordered on the north and south by smaller buildings. The plaza was originally ornamented with stelae, one of which, although arranged only to adorn so small a city as La Mar, is a splendid specimen of the best contemporary Aztec sculpture.

It has been suggested that Yachilan, the most important of the ancient cities which Mr. Maier visited, may have been the town referred to by Cortez in a letter to his master, the Emperor Charles V., although Mr. Maier himself rather doubts the identification. The ruins have been visited in modern times by more than one explorer, and in 1832, when the city was visited by Dr. Desire Charnay, a French archaeologist, whose expedition was supported by funds from his home government and from the American millionaire, Lorillard, in whose honor Mr. Charnay called the place "Lorillard City." Mr. Maier, however, has succeeded not only in uncovering numerous stone monuments in the stone mounds, but also in discovering certain important temples.

Getting Up the River.

"There must have been heavy rainfalls in distant Guatemala and eastern Chiapas," says Dr. Maier in the new Peabody museum report, describing his approach to Yachilan, "for the Usumatinta river, which is high, having risen to the very edge of the high banks, which made progress up the river exceedingly difficult, since the poles by which the cayuco is propelled could not reach the hard bottom. Under such circumstances forked branches are made fast to the end of the poles, and with their 'horquetas' the men seize the overhanging branches of the trees and shrubs and push the cayuco forward, while those not occupied with the poles grasp the branches, if possible, with their hands, and pull with all their might. This process is exceedingly laborious, and progress is slow. In this manner I took up a day and a half to overcome the short distance between Anatiche and Yachilan. When the river is in this condition no one attempts to go upstream, but the current is so strong that, in point of fact, we had a terrible struggle. We had to force our way through branches of trees projecting out of the water, and often we had to use our machetes to remove the obstacles impeding our way. In spite of all our exertions the vessel was frequently whirled round by the force of the current and carried downstream. Masses of trees which reached far out into the river could not be surmounted, nor powerful rapids overcome, without two or three successive attempts."

Evidence of Heretics.

"When we rested at night," he continues, "we fastened our cayuco to the branches of a great chinom and protected ourselves and our baggage as well as we could with oiled cloths against the heavy night rains. It was not possible to go on shore, as every-thing was flooded, and we were frequently whirled round by the force of the current, so we finally arrived at the ruined city of the location of which one of my men recog-

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"Why," replied Elmer, "I suppose a funeral would be the next thing."

Small Bobby hurt his finger while playing, and his mother caught him up in her arms, kissed him and began to dry his tears with her handkerchief.

"Don't wipe my eyes yet, mamma," sobbed the little fellow. "I a-in't done cryin'."

Mamma—Didn't you feel afraid of something when you went into the closet to get a piece of cake without permission?

Elmer (aged 2)—Yes, mamma.

Mamma—And do you know why you had that feeling of fear?

Elmer—Sure I do. I was afraid I couldn't find the cake.

He had recited to his class the story of Abraham, who entertained the angels in a cave. Feeling that the children might not know the meaning of the word "unaware," he asked them if they did. One little hand went up promptly, and the smallest girl in the class said:

"The thing you wear next your skin."—Harper's Magazine for March.

The Same Old Game.

"And who," whispered a member of the legislative assembly, "is to get the hot end of this deal?"

"The people," wildly exclaimed the traitor member who was floating with the reformers.

"O well, then, go ahead," said the first member, in a relieved tone. "I didn't know but what it was to be one of us for a change."—Baltimore American.

MODERNS IN SECOND PLACE

Omaha Book Borrowers Still Cling to the Standard Works of Fiction.

EXPERIENCE OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Miss Tabitt Gives Some Information as to the Demand for Stories of Various Classes and Other Writings.

In these days when the printed page plays an ever-increasing part in our sum of existence, anything which gives information as to the relative popularity of authors and their various books and helps to show which works have the merit to outlive their first burst of popularity, is of considerable interest. The public library of the city library for the year 1902 gives us some interesting comparisons.

The works of fiction are of course the most popular and are read by all classes. Next in demand are works of a religious character, especially those of an optimistic and reassuring nature. Books classed under literature, biography and travels rank next and are all about equally popular. Books dealing with philosophical subjects seem to have a certain popularity and works of a scientific nature are also in demand. The most popular are the historical volumes are not read as much as one would expect to find them.

One Volume Wins.

In the department of fiction it seems that the popular book is the one-volume story. Readers do not like to be troubled with volumes at all, and frequently do not read the second at all, either because they have lost interest, or are attracted to some other author when they return the first volume to the library. The short story, unless the collection is of the popular sort, does not seem so popular. The reader, at least here in Omaha, appears to enjoy best the book with a considerable and well worked out plot. The novels of the romantic school do not have the popular demand which they are supposed to excite, and while they are introduced into the library, there is a rush among certain readers to obtain them, this is satisfied during the first year, and the books fall to a comparatively low average of circulation. It is interesting to note that taking a period of five years in the library, such books as Weyman's, Anthony Hope's and others of the kind, fall in average circulation below some of the old standards, Dickens or Dumas for instance. This is contrary to the popular belief and goes far to settle the statements of decadence in modern literary taste. As a rule, some particular work of an author rises far above his other books in popular favor. One such popular book, however, draws attention to the other works of the writer and secures for them an increase of circulation, owing to the curiosity of those who have been pleased by the popular tale. While there is a demand among a class of readers for stories of foreign countries and characters, the popular American tale is still the American life. Of these books of home life, plain living, lead. The second volumes of various works do not reach the circulation of the first.

Popularity of Authors.

Among all the recent authors Stevenson has perhaps the highest average of popularity and this interest in his books seems to be growing. "Treasure Island" has a demand among all classes. "St. Ives" is also popular. There is a strong demand for all of Dickens' works and Dumas is in considerably larger demand. "Monte Christo" is the great favorite of this writer. Thackeray and Bulwer are also wanted. The books of Jane Austen seem to be rapidly growing in popularity, especially "Sense and Sensibility," and "Pride and Prejudice." "Janice Meredith" enjoys a large and well sustained circulation and a number of new copies have been ordered to replace the worn-out books.

Other Than Fiction.

The library list was made with the idea of ascertaining that the books were purchased which the people wished to read. From orders made at holiday time, 1901, a list of volumes in each department was made, taking them as purchased, without any selection. The circulation for the year was then taken, and the results are as follows: "Deborah," Delzryple's "That Wager of Dots" and Waterloo's "The Seekers" ran out one book each, or over forty times in circulation. These were among the sixteen books first on the purchasing list. Hawthorne's "Mosses from an Old Manse" had the best circulation in popular fiction; Chestnut's "Marrow of Tradition," thirty-four times; Oppenheim's "The Survivor," thirty-three times; French's "The Colonials," thirty-one times, and the lowest in the list, Bourget's "The Screen," thirteen times. Moffett's "Carroll's" were read about seven times, was the most popular juvenile.

Other Than Fiction.

Poetry and the drama: Field's "Book of Tribuna Verses" went out twenty times; Wells' "Mother Goose's Menagerie," twelve times, and Dunbar's "Candle Light" Time," eleven times. The average for the other twenty-four books was only three times out, with seven books not out at all.

In the natural history list, "Amateur Bee Keeper" reached its second year; "Life on the Stage" (literature), Morrison, was circulated twenty-nine times; "Bible Stories" was out twenty-seven times; "Life