

News Suppression and Endowed Papers

A Rejoinder to an Article by Prof. Edward a Ross in March Atlantic.

By Victor Rosewater.

"We waste altogether too much time on the daily newspaper. Some of you may be devoting half an hour to reading the paper each day. Cut it down to fifteen minutes and you will find that you are not losing anything. When you have succeeded in doing this, try reducing the time to ten minutes, and you will find you are doing still better. Then cut that down to five minutes a day and pretty soon you will be able to cut out reading the newspaper altogether and you will get along just as well. The daily newspaper cannot give you a true account of current events. You can get all you need to know in the weekly periodicals and the monthly magazines, and if you read two or three of these you will have all the information about what is going on about you that is worth having. Time spent in reading the newspaper is worse than thrown away. Don't waste your time on newspapers."

This exhortation of the newspaper and much more of the same tenor is what greeted my ears one day a few years ago when, in order not to disturb the lecture in progress, I slipped unnoticed into a classroom at the University of Nebraska. I had gone there to renew acquaintance with an old friend of college days. At the close of the lecture I pressed forward to shake hands and, after words of mutual delight at meeting again after many years, I said:

"Had you known I was to be here, I would have supposed your tribute to the newspaper was specially prepared for my benefit and that you were determined on putting all newspaper men out of business by depriving us of readers."

"Well, I didn't really mean that," was the answer. "I was a little rather strong language, but as I recollect it, that part of my lecture was written originally under great provocation, just after some of the San Francisco papers had been going after me viciously."

From his article in the Atlantic on "The Suppression of Important News," Prof. Ross shows that while he has not himself followed his own injunction "to cut out reading newspapers altogether," he has, however, retained his prejudice against the newspaper, and is as prone to exaggerate its faults and deny its virtues as he was just after the San Francisco papers had been grilling him unmercifully.

But taking up his bill of complaint, what sort of a case does he really make out when the evidence and arguments he adduces are sifted and shown of the ineffective and denunciatory character of the indictment is that the newspaper fails to give the news, and, of course, if it fails in this, which is its principal mission and raison d'être, it is worse than useless and time devoted to newspaper reading is time wasted. I would be the last to assert that the newspaper as it exists today is faultless or that important news is not sometimes suppressed, although more often through mistake or negligence than through design. But the idea which Prof. Ross would inculcate, that the newspaper of today is a greater offender in this respect than the newspaper of days gone by, is almost self-contradictory. The facilities and resources for gathering news are so much greater nowadays than formerly that the amount of information of public interest given newspaper publicity is many times multiplied. The searchlight penetrates to every nook and corner and the opportunity for those directly interested to suppress news by intercepting it at its source or on its way to the public has been almost completely destroyed. The hurry and speed with which the news is put out each day in successive editions under stress of the fiercest competition, and the strongest competition between newspapers is in getting the news first and scoring "beats" or "scoops" on one another—makes the suppression by one paper of news almost certain to be spread forth by a rival paper, one of the rare occurrences rather than the commonplace which Prof. Ross would have us believe.

Now what is the "important news" which we are told is being suppressed? Prof. Ross cites a few examples which he believes are flagrant and reasons on the theory of "false in one, false in all." I venture to assert, however, that it would be impossible to find two experienced newspaper men who would agree on what constitutes "important news." Most newspaper men would doubtless agree that certain classes of news items are of unusual importance, but it would not take long to develop unresolvable differences of opinion as to specific news items. The customary rule of the newspaper office is to

put the most important news each day on the front page, yet the contents of no two front pages are ever alike even where each has at its disposal every item the other has. What then makes news important? And does the wealth or business prominence of a criminal make important an offense that would attract small attention, if any, in a man in ordinary station? Is not one of the well founded criticisms leveled at our newspapers because they give undue weight to wealth and blazon the foibles and follies of the millionaire in space that might better be devoted to something more useful? Is a crime committed by an advertiser more important than the same crime committed by some one who does not advertise? If Prof. Ross were conducting the endowed newspaper, which is his remedy for all these evils, would he give publicity to "important news" to the fifty men which he accuses Philadelphia newspapers with suppressing out of consideration for their advertising patronage, while a New York scandal monger played it up in order to sell papers on the strength of that suppression? I freely admit that stuff like that is suppressed or minimized every day by reputable newspapers who will not concede its "importance" whether it concerns an advertiser or a non-advertiser.

Incidentally, it must be remembered that the newspaper is a legally responsible institution. It can be, and is, held to answer in damages for libel. It is easy for irresponsible to circulate rumors reflecting on people's reputations and slide out from under when the lurid tales are disproved. Loose talk and idle gossip are altogether different from cold type in black and white, the newspaper cannot say it did not print it or meant to say something else. This also accounts in part for the contrast of daring recklessness of the new-born paper with nothing to lose and everything to gain from libel suit notoriety and the established paper of character that is naturally more conservative because of what it has at stake.

Prof. Ross would apparently classify as "important news" such occurrences as the misbranding of goods, the sale of potted cheese treated with preservatives, the single tax agitation, assaults and resorts to violence instigated by employers (why not by employees) in time of labor troubles, the dismissal of a school teacher by a corrupt (?) school board, the shut-down of a factory or the lay-off of workmen, especially in times of industrial depression. The relative "importance" of news items on such subjects as these, everyone knows who knows anything about newspaper making, depends upon a whole lot of things. News is important only by comparison, and what is of first importance one day is of secondary importance another day. When there is really big news doing, everything else is out of the bone or sidetracked altogether. What is important to one newspaper because of its local bearing is unimportant to another. Some of the suppressed items mentioned by Prof. Ross may have been entitled to consideration as "important news" under the peculiar circumstances surrounding them, but it is also quite conceivable that they might be under other circumstances condensed each to a few lines and stuck away on some back page, without any malicious design or deliberate conspiracy of silence, but on the contrary with due regard to all the demands of the numerous varieties of news simultaneously clamoring for space at that very moment.

Because newspapers as a rule prefer construction to destruction, they are accused by Prof. Ross of malfeasance for selfish purposes. True, a newspaper depends for its own prosperity upon the prosperity of the community in which it is published. The newspaper selfishly prefers business prosperity to business adversity. A panic is largely psychological and the newspapers can do much to aggravate or mitigate its severity. There is no question that the wifely efforts of the newspapers as a body to allay public fear and to restore business confidence is to be credited the short duration and comparative mildness of the last financial calamity. Would an endowed newspaper have acted differently? Most people would freely commend the newspapers for what they did to start the wheels of industry again revolving, and this is the first time I have seen them condemned for suppressing "important news" of business calamity and industrial distress in subservience to a worship of advertising revenue.

Sometimes the indictment proves altogether too much. Prof. Ross ascribes the

popularity of "muck raking" magazines to their service as "vehicles of suppressed news," when he must know, or ought to know, that not one "muck raking" magazine story in 100 gives a single important fact that has not already had newspaper publicity. The "muck rake" magazine writer, with few exceptions, simply gathers together in striking succession or contrast, what the local newspapers has printed in detail, a bit at a time as it occurred. He tries to give a bird's eye view (too often grossly distorted) of a public scandal, or a civic tragedy that has been already unrolled in the newspapers in several acts, and the magazine is in great demand among the people immediately affected and familiar with the facts, eager to see what a fantastic tale can be woven and how much of the truth has been suppressed to make it thoroughly sensational.

We are told that partisan newspapers suppress news reflecting on the party and party leaders or menacing party success. If so, there is always a partisan paper of the other party sure to print it. We are told that "nonpartisan" leaders are meeting with cheering response when they found weeklies in order to reach their natural following. The reference is to weeklies founded by "nonpartisans" plainly points to William J. Bryan's Commoner, Tom Watson's Monthly and LaFollette's Magazine. Let some one who disagrees with the policy and the purpose of any one of these papers submit something that does not accord with the editors' "nonpartisan" ideas and see how quickly it is "suppressed" by prompt return to the writer as "unavailable."

We are told again that five cities have started periodical publications for the distribution of taxpayers' expenses "to acquaint the citizens with municipal happenings and affairs" as if what is thus given were suppressed by the newspapers. Every intelligent person in each of those cities knows that the reason is an entirely different one. Those municipal publications are purely advertising sheets gotten out by the officials to boost their towns and incidentally themselves and impress the people with the grand work they are doing. Not a thing of news value appears in any of them that is shut out of the daily papers, and if occasionally they produce something worth while from the pen of some one worth quoting, the whole item is eagerly seized by the newspapers and only by reprinting in the newspaper secures the publicity it deserves.

Finally, we are told that because of newspaper suppression of news, "the spoken word is once more a power," and so the demand for lectures and speakers is "unusually" and the platform bids fair to recover its old prestige; the "amateurs" are "displaced" by the growth of the chautauqua circuit; congressional speeches give to "boycotted" trustees and legislators a "freely" and "privately" (why then free postage?); clubs are formed to listen to facts and ideas "tabooed by the daily press"; more is made of public hearings before committees of councilmen or legislators. But what is making the spoken word a power? Is it the hypnotic influence of the soul-stirring orator or the unanswerable logic with which it argues? Is it inequity to listen to learn facts that the newspapers are conspiring to stifle? Is it not rather because of the publicity which the newspapers freely accord to the speaker, because the newspaper is the speaker whose voice is heard by a mere handful of people, reaches thousands upon thousands who do not know him except by newspaper reputation, and whom he has never seen at all? Why does a chautauqua circuit rider try to beat the record for long distance talking? Why does he crowd and push to make a second speech at a great national convention? Why does he pitchfork his remarks with bizarre language? Why is he so complacent to be snap shot by his photograph? Why does he take to farming (at a loss) or to "boycotted" trustees and legislators? Why is it not a free newspaper advertising which is to create the "invaluable" demand for him as a lecturer and enable him to increase the share of the gate receipts which he hopes to get? If the Congressional Record is a mine of "boycotted" truth, why not the newspapers? It ought to be the most popular publication extant and boast a bigger circulation than them all. Why buy a "muck rake" magazine if you can get it all for nothing by a simple request to your congressman? How does it come that more is now made of public hearings before investigating committees? How do we get such investigations anyway? Are they not in nine cases out of ten the outgrowth of newspaper exposures and are they not fully exploited in the newspapers? If the work of investigating committees belonged to the class of "important news" "suppressed" by the newspapers, what effect would the investigations have if they should eventuate only in a voluminous report made weeks and months after all the heat had cooled and the whole affair had been forgotten?

Not only do I deny that democracy has been struck a "staggering blow" by the "defection of the press," but I assert that modern democracy is as much a product of the newspaper as the newspaper is a product of democracy. A few black sheep in the newspaper fold do not make the whole flock black, nor do the combined imperfections of all newspapers condemn them to failure. Personally, I would like to see the experiment of an endowed newspaper tried, because I am convinced comparison would only redound to the advantage of the newspaper privately conducted as a commercial undertaking. The newspaper most akin to the endowed newspaper in this country is published in the interest of the Christian Science church. With it, "important news" is news calculated to promote the propaganda of the faith, and close inspection of its columns would disclose news suppression in every issue. On the other hand, a daily newspaper standing on its own bottom, must have readers to make its advertising space valuable, and without a reasonable effort to cover all the news and command public confidence, the standing and clientele of the paper cannot be successfully maintained. The endowed paper pictured to us as the ideal paper, run by a board of governors, filled in turn by representatives of the various uplift societies enumerated by Prof. Ross, would blow hot and would blow cold, would have no consistent policy or principles, would be unable to alter the prevailing notion of what constitutes important news, and would be from the outset badly engaged in a work of news suppression to suit the whims of the particular hobby riders who happened for the moment to be in dominating control.

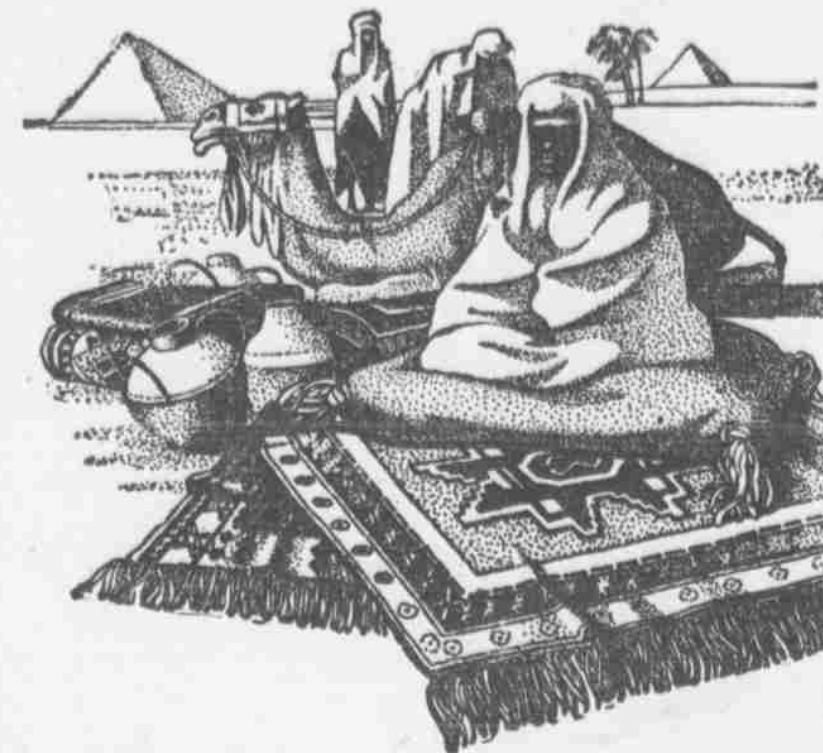
Her Clever Native.

"So you are going to housekeeping as soon as you're married? I thought you had made up your mind to board?" "Yes, but George is equally determined to have a house of his own." "And so you are going to keep house in order to please George?" "No, I'm going to keep house so that George will be glad to board."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Miller, Stewart & Beaton

413-15-17 SOUTH 16TH STREET

Oriental Rug Sale



We have just received our new spring stock of Oriental Rugs. Among them are many rare pieces of unusual beauty and worth.

This collection consists of large and medium sizes, in room size rugs, Kis Kelm Couch Covers and Draperies. Hundreds of the smaller sizes, such as Royal and Princess Bokharas, Kazaks, Carabaghhs, Gabestans, Daghestans, Shirvans, Anatolians, Belouchistans, Sennas, Mosuls and many other weaves.

Many dealers purchase their rugs of eastern importers and pay their enormous profits. These Oriental rugs are shipped to us direct from the Orient by our oriental rug buyer, thus saving the profits asked by the New York Importer. This not only saves our customers many dollars, but assures them that every piece is genuine.

We would be pleased to have you call and inspect this grand display, feeling that it will be a source of Oriental Rug education and interest to you. There are many varieties and such a wide range of sizes that it is not difficult to fit any space you may require.

The prices we herewith quote are but an index to the general run of values this sale offers:

Khiva Rug, 9-2x7-4.....	\$110	Kashmir Rug, 11x8-2.....	\$110	Guenji Rug, 9x4-1.....	\$44
Kashmir Rug, 11x7-11.....	\$105	Khiva Rug, 8-3x7.....	\$95	Guenji Rug, 7-10x4-1.....	\$40
Muskabad, 11-3x7-3.....	\$175	Kashmir Rug, 11-9x8-7.....	\$125	Guenji Rug, 7-7x4-2.....	\$40
Kazak Rug, 9-10x4-7.....	\$48	Kazak Rug, 9-3x3-8.....	\$52	Kashmir Rug, 6-2x4-9.....	\$32
Bergama Rug, 4-2x3-1.....	\$10	Bergama Rug, 3-9x3-9.....	\$12.50	Kazak Rug, 5-7x7-7.....	\$88
Bergama Rug, 4-6x3-2.....	\$18	Belouchistan Rug, 11x7-5.....	\$145	Ghoravan Rug, 15-4x10-2.....	\$385
Belouchistan Rug, 4x3.....	\$22	Belouchistan Rug, 4-9x2-8.....	\$20	Cabistan Rug, 4-4x2-8.....	\$24
Belouchistan Rug, 4x2-11.....	\$18	Kelm Rug, 5-8x4-2.....	\$28	Hamaden Rug, 3-7x2-5.....	\$8
Kelm Rug, 6-5x3-10.....	\$24	Shiraz Rug, 5-7x4-5.....	\$56	Belouchistan Rug, 3-5x2-10.....	\$18
Mosul Rug, 6-8x4-2.....	\$44	Shiraz Rug, 6-8x4-2.....	\$100	Kashmir Rug, 6-6x4-4.....	\$29.50
Royal Bokhara Rug, 4x3-4.....	\$40	Royal Bokhara Rug, 4-2x3-2.....	\$42	Mosul Rug, 6-6x4-2.....	\$44
Taprez Rug, 6-8x4-4.....	\$100	Kirmaushan, 3x4-11.....	\$48	Muskabad Rug, 11-9x9.....	\$210

Six sales of Belouchistan Rugs, regular value, each, \$30.00; on sale for, each..... \$18.00, \$20.00 and \$22.00

New Arrivals of Lace Curtains and Curtain Nets

Bungalow Nets—Forty varieties, in natural color, red and green, all 50 inches wide; special price, per yard..... 30c
Italian Filet Nets—Twenty new patterns in white and ecru, ranging in price from \$1.25 to..... 45c
Colonial Nets—The latest importation, in white or Arab; prices range from \$1.70 to..... 85c
Curtain Scrim—Plain or fancy, white, cream and ecru; price, per yard, 35c and..... 25c
Lace Edging—We carry a complete line of lace edging to match all fancy nets; price, per yard, 5c and..... 3c

Lace Curtains

We have made large purchases of lace curtains, anticipating a greater demand this spring than usual. Wonderful concessions in price to be secured by extensive purchases enables us to offer exceptional values. The new stock consists of DUCHESS LACE in Ivory with plain or figured centers. CLUNY LACE, in the latest designs. LAOET ARABIAN CURTAINS with dainty edges and beautiful insertions with corner designs, very suitable for Reception Rooms, Halls or Dining Rooms; also a very complete line of REAL SAXONY BRUSSELS and POINT DE MILAN, SWISS POINTS and NOVELTY NETS. Every known variety of Lace Curtain is represented in our new stock.

Make Your Selection While the Assortment is Complete.

MEAT RATE BOOST SUNDAY

New Tariff Then Put Into Effect by All Roads but One.

GREAT WESTERN SWINGS IN LINE

Increase Will Go Into Effect May 20 on This Road—Railroad Men Say Discrimination Against This City Only Apparent.

Sunday is the day on which the railroads running out of Omaha, except the Great Western, will raise the rate on dressed meat shipments from Omaha to Chicago. The railroads have advertised the new rate and have notified the Interstate Commerce commission thirty days in advance and say the rate will go into effect March 20 as announced.

Jobbers, live stock interests, the Commercial club, business men generally and some of the towns of the state have made a protest against the advance, but the railroads say they will put it in effect anyway, making the claim that it will not hurt Omaha. Several meetings have been held and strong resolutions of protest sent to the railroads, a delegation visited the traffic heads of the railroads at Chicago, but received little satisfaction. The matter is now in statu quo, as the local interests have decided to await results for a short time.

Omaha protests against the rate, not so

much on the rate, but because it is a direct discrimination against Omaha, Sioux City and other river towns in favor of Kansas City. Two roads from Kansas City to Chicago, the Alton and the Wabash, have refused to take in the increase, and this gives Kansas City an advantage over Omaha of 5 cents per 100. It is this discrimination which the local interests object to.

President Stickney is Missed.

Local interests expected the Great Western to protect Omaha against the discrimination of the other roads, but that road has changed hands. President Stickney is no longer at the helm, and the first opportunity given to the new Moran road to show its hand found that road lined up with the others and it has given notice that it will also raise the rate May 20.

Rates on dressed meats from Omaha and Kansas City to St. Louis are the same, 18 cents per hundred. The rate on dressed meat from Omaha to Chicago after tomorrow on all roads except the Great Western will be 24 cents per 100 pounds. That road will continue to haul it for 20 cents until May 20.

Railroad men say they cannot see any discrimination against Omaha, and say they will waive it will not be six weeks before the other lines from Kansas City raise their rates so that all charges of discrimination will be done away with. They say the Alton and Wabash will be in line before the rate is made by the Great Western, so that Omaha will not suffer. The Burlington officials take the stand that they do not care for the business as there is no money in it and in proof of their

LAWYERS JOLT CATTLE FIRM AGAIN FOR THEIR OWN FEES

Gurley & Woodrough Produce Law Showing that They Get Pay in Addition to Judgment.

LET THE DOCTOR HASTEN ON

So Says Connell Reference the Coming of Marine Expert to Inspect Water.

Health Commissioner Connell has received a letter from Dr. A. Wyman, chief of the Marine Hospital service of the United States, inquiring when Dr. Lundeen should come to Omaha to make his examination of city water.

Dr. Connell has written in reply that the sooner the marine surgeon begins his investigation the better. This letter should reach Dr. Wyman Monday, and if Dr. Lundeen should start Tuesday he would arrive in Omaha probably next Thursday.

Dr. Lundeen is the marine surgeon who has been appointed to make an investigation of the Omaha city water, on request of Governor Shallenberger. The governor acted on request of the Douglas County Medical society.

suit, and his decision is expected soon. The fee, if legal, is not considered unreasonable, for the law suit was a lengthy one involving the testimony of more than two score witnesses. Three thousand sheep of a shipment of 5,000 died of thirst while being shipped from Nampa, Idaho, to St. Paul. All the parties are non-residents of Nebraska and for this reason the railroad company could not transfer the case from district to federal court.

The law firm of Gurley & Woodrough, which jolted the Oregon Short Line case months ago with a verdict for \$2,000 in the suit of the North Wisconsin Cattle company, has deeply pained the railroad and the railroad's attorneys by digging up a statute under which it is asked that the road be made to pay the attorneys of the winning side.

An attorney fee of \$1,500 is asked under the Hepburn law, one section of which provides that in the event of losses on interstate shipments, the railroad, which is stuck by a verdict for this, may also be called upon to pay the lawyers on the other side. There have been one or two decisions under this section, but the point is novel in Nebraska.

It is contended by the other side that the Wisconsin Cattle company won its victory under the 2-hour shipment law and not under the Hepburn act, the sections of which, therefore, do not apply. The motion to grant the \$1,500 was argued before Judge Redick, who heard the original

statement show that over a year ago they took off their meat train and have not tried to get any of that business.

The law firm of Gurley & Woodrough, which jolted the Oregon Short Line case months ago with a verdict for \$2,000 in the suit of the North Wisconsin Cattle company, has deeply pained the railroad and the railroad's attorneys by digging up a statute under which it is asked that the road be made to pay the attorneys of the winning side.

An attorney fee of \$1,500 is asked under the Hepburn law, one section of which provides that in the event of losses on interstate shipments, the railroad, which is stuck by a verdict for this, may also be called upon to pay the lawyers on the other side. There have been one or two decisions under this section, but the point is novel in Nebraska.

It is contended by the other side that the Wisconsin Cattle company won its victory under the 2-hour shipment law and not under the Hepburn act, the sections of which, therefore, do not apply. The motion to grant the \$1,500 was argued before Judge Redick, who heard the original

The Fountain Head of Life Is The Stomach

A man who has a weak and impaired stomach and who does not properly digest his food will soon find that his blood has become weak and impoverished, and that his whole body is improperly and insufficiently nourished.

DR. PIERCE'S GOLDEN MEDICAL DISCOVERY makes the stomach strong, promotes the flow of digestive juices, restores the lost appetite, makes assimilation perfect, invigorates the liver and purifies and enriches the blood. It is the great blood-maker, flesh-builder and restorative nerve tonic. It makes men strong in body, active in mind and cool in judgement.

This "Discovery" is a pure, glyceric extract of American medical roots, absolutely free from alcohol and all injurious, habit-forming drugs. All its ingredients are printed on its wrappers. It has no relationship with secret nostrums. Its every ingredient is endorsed by the leaders in all the schools of medicine. Don't accept a secret nostrum as a substitute for this time-proven remedy of known composition. Ask your druggists. They must know of many cures made by it during past 40 years, right in your own neighborhood. World's Dispensary Medical Association, Dr. R. V. Pierce, Pres., Buffalo, N. Y.

Engraved Stationery
Wedding Invitations, Announcements, Visiting Cards
All correct forms in current social usage engraved in the best manner and punctually delivered when promised.
Embossed Monogram Stationery
and other work executed at prices lower than usually prevail elsewhere.
A. I. ROOT, INCORPORATED
1210-1212 Howard St. Phone D. 1604

PLAYER PIANO
Problem Solved
BE IT THE
\$375 OR THE \$1,500
PLAYER PIANO
or at any figure between

A. HOSPE CO. THE PLACE WE WILL CONVINCE YOU

TWELVE LEADING MAKES TO CHOOSE FROM

If you wish the world's best piano—the Mason & Hamlin—with outside player attachment, especially with the Welte-Royal—the greatest combination on earth.
If you desire the player piano which contains the best player mechanism, buy the Apollo player, with the marvelous new Solo accompaniment device.
If you are seeking the highest grade automatic player piano, we have it in the Welte & Zeller, at \$1,500; if the lowest priced, we have that in the Houdoir at only \$275.
If you want a well known piano, with a good player on the inside of it, we have the Knaus, Knaus & Bach, A. R. Chick, Bush & Lane, Mas & Baker, Cable-Nelson, Kimball, Universal, Hospe, etc., etc. Each has special advantages.
It is impossible to judge a player piano from hearing it alone, without a chance to compare it with other makes, and it is very difficult to carry a mental impression around from store to store.
It was to remedy this condition, and to make selection both simple and sure, that we arranged to represent the player pianos of the twelve leading makes. By making comparisons at Hospe's you can secure the ideal player piano, and the reasons why.
We allow liberal amounts for used pianos in exchange and arrange easy terms.

Complimentary demonstrations daily to visitors or buyers.
A. HOSPE CO., 1513-1515 Douglas St.
THE PLAYER PIANO CENTER OF OMAHA.