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OBSERVATIONS.

A whole day of the council's investigation into the conduct of city affairs by the mayor was spent in trying to extract evidence from Melick, the former chief of police. The futility of the attempt was apparent early in the day. The incident is only another illustration of the difficulty of proving in court, actions which everyone outside of it admits have taken place.

The progress of the impeachment proceedings and the real relations of Chairman Giesler to Mayor Graham is pictured very graphically and indisputably by Harry Gage in his cartoons, which, although crude in execution, are well composed and already have the characteristic which no studio can teach, viz: that of telling the truth forcibly and without circumlocution.

The decision in the maximum freight rate case by the supreme court has been long foreseen. There is nothing so complicated nor dependant upon so many and so mysterious propositions as freight rates. The intellect of the ordinary legislator is built on simple lines of construction of which the basis is: "What's your's is mine, and what's mine s'my own." Anything so complex as freight rates cannot be grasped by the ordinary lawmaker, nor even by the legal talent which stands ready to help him compose his bills. The study of freight rates is like the study of a system which ramifies in many directions and

is dependant on so many laws and principles that simplicity has long been destroyed. When such a system is undergoing inspection with a view to comprehension and revision by a legislator who is thinking of getting up a bill to show the blame railroads what's what, there is no especial reason why the victims of his passion for composition should be alarmed, so long as all bills must not be contrary to the constitution and its interpretation by the supreme court.

It is very much to be regretted that one of the republican nominees for the school board is not a woman. The education and training of the young is peculiarly the province of woman. Most of the public school teachers are women. A clear headed woman on the school board without political designs on congress, the legislature or what not, might be a harmonious element in a body, which, up to date, has established a reputation for quarrelsomeness not surpassed by even the noisy deliberations of the Lincoln city council. A woman has very little chance to secure such a nomination because, in the first place the party has nothing to gain from naming her and, in the second place, should she be nominated and elected, she cannot be made to see the political expediency of awarding coal or other contracts to this man or that. She is such a simpleton, such a novice, that she is bent on deciding a question on its merits and she will not, or does not admit the necessity of trading votes with her associates. Of course such a member of the school board is impossible from the practical politician's standpoint, yet for the welfare of the children there should be a woman on the school board.

Richard Harding Davis has a story in the current *Cosmopolitan* called *The Man With One Talent*. It is the story of a young American who goes to Cuba and fights with and for the insurgents, is taken prisoner, a rope fastened to his wrists and dragged by a man on horseback until the rope cuts through to the bone. He is imprisoned but escapes to America in order to enlist the sympathies of somebody powerful enough to aid the men, women and children whom the Spaniards are not warring with but butchering. He meets a senator whose oratorical ability can sway people to vociferous shouting or sniffing, but whose power stops there. He can rouse neither others nor himself to action. Wall street owns him and presses the button which sets his automatic soul in motion. The young man, Arkwright, not having had much experience with

orators, takes him at his word, accepts his burning words as evidence of a heart and endeavors to show him how much good he can do by visiting Cuba. The orator consents to go but is deterred by those who work the buttons which open or close the orator's mouth and start or stop him on errands of mercy or the devil's. The story is fervid and without any of the manufactured foppery that makes Van Bibber, to whom Gibson has given the features and figure of Davis, and into whom Davis has written his own character, such a bore.

Spain's humble acceptance of the snub in regard to the preference of the United States to allow Consul Lee to remain just where he is, is an indication of her reply when asked to make all possible reparation for the Maine. The strength of the Carlist party, the poverty of the national exchequer and so far Spain's failure to negotiate a loan from any other nation, put her at the mercy of the United States government which has plenty of money and men and which can buy ships and borrow from any country on the globe, rich enough to loan money. Moreover the United States can go to war with no fear of a revolution. Preoccupation of the central government only increases the loyalty of north, south, east and west to the union. Spain is a divided, bankrupt, nation, whose king is a boy. She has no credit and her internal resources are still undeveloped because of the indolence of a *laissez faire* people. Under these circumstances a war with a nation of the size and vitality of the American means for Spain an overturning of the present dynasty and in the event of defeat disastrous concessions to the conqueror. The foe is in reality prostrate now and by the use of diplomacy and by making a great show of the ships we have and those we can buy there is reason to hope that the wise McKinley can prevent a war and secure peace to Cuba as well as reparation for our own wrongs.

Of all the clubs which women have organized, since the club movement began, which is quite different from a statement as to the first club, for no one will ever find out when that was started, there is only one species that seems to me to have been organized more especially for self aggrandizement, not for culture or to afford opportunities of good fellowship or to express the Sorosis idea of helping one another, but to exhibit and emphasize aristocratic descent, which the founders seem to have feared would be forgotten in the rush for

culture and the cultivation of the new sociableness.

The Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Order of the Crown, to the latter of which nobody can belong except those who can read their title clear to a descent from kings, belong to the species referred to and there are many others which have not a potent enough reason for being. The nominal plea for the organization of such associations is that they serve to keep alive the interest in the achievements and honors of our ancestors who are a long time dead and growing more so. In so far as the D. A. R. and other societies of the same kind stimulate love of country and the cherishing of tradition they are of service to humanity, but their meetings seems to an outsider to be given up to struggles for the high places where men can see and envy. The National society D. A. R. has twenty Vice-Presidents General—always printed with capitals. The duties of a vice-president of almost anything are scarcely ever onerous, but the honor is great and doubtless recompenses for a sense of uselessness which must occasionally, in the silence and retirement of midnight, overwhelm the twentieth Vice-President General. Margaret Hamilton Welch says of the recent meeting in Washington that "an important piece of organization work was the abolishing of the office of the First Vice President General, as distinguished from the other nineteen who make up the list of the twenty Vice-Presidents General. It was felt that the discrimination in favor of one Vice-President General was unnecessary; the only hesitation in regard to the matter arose from the fact that the then acting first Vice-President General, Mrs. A. G. Brockett, has most ably filled the office, and it was feared that to abolish it might be some reflection upon her official record. With a full recognition of her services and ability the vote was taken, which resulted in the suppression of the office." At this meeting the chairman of the Continental Hall Committee—the necessity for capitals in all reports of the D. A. R. nearly empties the upper case—reported that \$40,000 had been raised for the erection of the hall, I mean Hall, at Washington. It is the recommendation of one of the founders of the society, Mrs. Ellen H. Walworth, that the Hall when erected shall be called the Memorial Manor of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Such a Hall would be of great historical service in providing a fire-proof building for relics of the revolution, and there is besides much commendable work that