

Highland Park News-Letter

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The Widow as a Financial Factor

There seems to be no limit to which the soulless corporations will not go in their greed for gain. It is asserted that in a recent election held by a great insurance company, the grave was violated and dead men were voted. It is known that the sanctuary of the church is used with the greatest impunity by corporations, and it is the opinion of many people that a large percentage of the gifts of rich men to churches is for the ulterior purpose of binding good people to the shortcomings of the men who give them. It seems, however, to have remained for the great Western Union telegraph company to find the true value of the widow as a factor in high finance, and to employ her accordingly. When Weller the elder, according to Charles Dickens, warned his son Samuel to shun widows, he must have had some inkling of this latest use that has been found for them. As all of us, or at least most of us know, the Western Union Telegraph Company recently advanced the pay of a certain class of operators a trifle. While the words of commendation for this were still being heard, the company jumped rates for service away up yonder out of all proportion to the trifling increase given the operators, and then smiled as blandly as any heathen Chinese or the cat that eat the canary.

Of course there was a mighty outcry from the people who have to pay this advance, and who are without recourse if they wish to use the wires at all—and the use of the telegraph has come to be a necessity to a great many people. The big corporation evidently expected this howl and was right there, Johnny on the spot, with an answer, and here enters the widow upon the stage of action. This company might have very easily pleaded the simple excuse that it "needed the money," but it scorned to treat the poor people so cavalierly. It had more regard for the amenities of business life. It presented a full and exhaustive explanation in the shape of a plea for the widow and the orphan. The company most pathetically explained that the stockholders of this company embrace a great many widows," and then argued that it was all for the benefit of these poor widows that the rates were advanced. Touching in the extreme, isn't it? Sure; and it is the public that is touched.

Whether it is true that the stockholders of the company "embrace a good many widows" or not, we have no means of knowing. If they do, it is a fair presumption that they do it in private and in a perfectly circumspect manner, and with due regard for the proprieties; but if this widow argument holds good, we may expect the widow stock to take a boom, and widows as stockholders will soon be at a premium. The argument that the widow must be cared for is as old as humanity, but its application to finance in this peculiar way is as modern as it is interesting. If the Western Union game goes through, and there is no reason to doubt that it will, no self-respecting corporation can hereafter get along without its "stockholders" being a fair percentage of widows—and the fairer the better.

Age Limit Extended

There is still hope for the man that is growing old. The Reading railroad recently discovered that its rulings to employ only men under thirty-five years of age is a failure, and it has accordingly extended the age limit to forty-five.

The facts in the case go to show that however admirable and true the rule of 35 might be in theory, it dismally failed to work out in practice. Trouble began with the discovery that men under 35 were not so numerous as imagined. In these glorious days of prosperity, of which all are participants, there is plenty of work for all, and the constant cry is for workers, and good workers, with a reasonable margin of consideration for age. It quickly developed that after the desirable men of 35 had been looked after and provided for there were still a good many places to fill, and a rule that provided situations without men to take them was extremely embarrassing to a corporation or enterprise that desired to profit by the prevailing prosperity.

It was discovered, also, that youth is not always an assurance of technical equipment, and that in binding a corporation to a hard and fast age limit an alarming proportion of indifferent workmen was substituted for good men, and that the mere fact of youth and strength did not invariably compensate for the absence of experience and skill. In short, the Reading road found itself in the position common to many organizations in the United States. It needed experienced, trained and reliable employes and it could not get them. It was defeated by its own ruling and by a misconception of the real state of the labor market.

This is a vindication of the man of middle age which is likely to become widespread. The experience of the Reading road is not unique. Other corporations are having the same experience.

So the man over thirty-five may again assemble the various elements of his courage and begin to have hope. He has been acknowledged to be no back number, but a necessary being whose works are worth something. He may again step into his rightful sphere and face the world without a hang-dog look and a past-tense feeling.

This decision of the Reading road may be an indication that Dr. Osler too has made a mistake and that the time for a man to 'pass in his cheeks' is seventy-seven instead of sixty. If this is so, those who have been contemplating a dose of carbolic acid in the near future may put off the deed with a clear conscience for eleven years, and live at peace in the knowledge that an error has been made for which they are not responsible.

With this new order of things, the world takes on a different hue to the old and growing-old. It is not so bad a place to live in after all.

The constitution of both Oregon and Michigan provide that no money shall be appropriated for the payment of any religious service in either house of the legislature. But in the same paragraph, forbidding religious services for the legislature, the Michigan constitution authorizes the employment of a chaplain for the State Prison. James Quayle Dealey, in writing on State constitutions in supplement to the "Annals of the American Academy of Political Science" for March, suggests that probably this was because the makers of the constitution thought the inmates of the State prison would be more susceptible to religious influence than the legislators.

Bad government, short crops and industrial upheavals may interrupt the current of our prosperity, but, despite the efforts of agitators and the prophecies of the Jeremiahs, who are crying aloud, there is every encouragement for continued hope.—Baltimore American.

Jamestown's Pike will be called the Warpath. It is to be a mile long, and the cost of getting thoroughly scalped will be about \$30.—St. Louis Globe Democrat.

Ravinia Park THEATRE

Sunday, April 21st, '07
PRICES, . . 50c, 75c and \$1.00

CREATORE AND HIS BAND

MME. BARILI, Soprano Soloist

MANAGEMENT, MR. HOWARD PEW
121 W. 42d St., New York
MR. ED. F. GUZMAN, REPRESENTATIVE

PROGRAM

SUNDAY AFTERNOON at 3

1. MARCH—"Venizia"..... Carlina
2. OVERTURE—"William Tell"..... Rossini
3. INTERMEZZO—"Cherry"..... Albert
4. QUARTETTE from "Rigoletto"..... Verdi
Solos by Signori Pierno, Belgiorno,
Russo and Molinari

INTERMISSION

5. WALTZ—"Blue Danube"..... Strauss
6. a. CHINESE DANCE..... Tschaiakowsky
b. DANCE No. 3..... Brahms
7. CORNET SOLO—"Serenade"..... Schubert
8. GRAND SELECTION—"Carmen"..... Bizet

SUNDAY NIGHT at 8:15

1. MARCH—"The Leader"..... Creatore
2. OVERTURE—"Mignon"..... Thomas
3. INTERMEZZO—"Cavaleria Rusticana" Mascagni
4. HUNGARIAN RHAPSODIE No. 2..... Liszt

INTERMISSION

5. SEXTETTE from "Lucia"..... Donzineti
Solos by Signori Pierno, Russo, Molinari,
Tigano, Belgiorno and Errico
6. SELECTION—"Traviata"..... Verdi
Solos by Signori Pierno and Tigano
7. SOPRANO SOLO—"Se Seran Rose"..... Arditti
Madame Barili
8. GRAND DESCRIPTIVE OVERTURE—"1812"
..... Tschaiakowsky

SYNOPSIS

In 1812 Napoleon encountered his first rebuff at Moscow, where, rather than to surrender to the French, the inhabitants set fire to their city, driving the invaders out. The broken army's miserable retreat from Moscow has been the subject of a well-known painting. It is round the story of the fighting that the Russian master has built his symphonic poem—it can scarcely be described as an overture and the reason for its popularity is not far to seek. A broad flowing melody, taken from one of the chants used in the Greek Church, opens the work, and this is presently succeeded by some vividly picturesque "battle music." The fight has begun, and the all-conquering French, oversanguine of victory, at the first, have matters all their own way. High above the tumult rises the "Marseillaise," triumphantly trumpeted forth; but presently a theme of obviously Russian extract appears, the two motives alternating as the fight gives advantage to first one side and then the other. As time goes on, the Slavonic theme becomes more and more predominate, and the "Marseillaise" dies gradually away. Napoleon is beaten, and his army is in retreat. The victorious Russians give themselves up to rejoicing; bells peal joyously and the fine rhythmic melody of a great hymn of praise is heard. As the climax approaches, the Russian hymn is thundered out on the brass, together with the march-like figure heard earlier in the work and the clamorous pealing of the joy-bells, the whole forming a magnificent finale to what is undoubtedly one of the most vivid and striking tone pictures to be found in the whole history of music.

The STARR PIANO used and endorsed by
Signor CREATORE