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COPYRIGHT BY A.C.MCCLURG S. CO., MILL ner, and thought it strange nothing had been made public before it was introduced. Who wants the fran-

"They're under cover. It's the Belmont Interurban Company, a New lersey corporation, and the men named as incorporators are only dum-

"That isn't usual, is it, with honest "I don't know any more about i

than you do, but you'd better investi-"When does the bill have its next reading?" asked Wright, after considering what was the paper's best

"Not until Tuesday night." "That gives us five days. If we make a noise won't they call a special they?" meeting and push it through?"

"Kerr isn't likely to do that. He's interested, I suppose, but how?" "We'll get busy today," Wright said decisively. "A few pointed questions on the front page may bring them out from under cover."

In the conference which ensued the two men discussed every possible phase of the question, yet they never dreamed that it was part of the stockyards scheme. What aroused suspicion as much as anything else was that there was nothing they could find on which to base suspicion. When Morrison left it was with the intention of scrutinizing a copy of the proposed ordinance carefully.

Wright sent a reporter to interview Alderman Grunewald, and all other reporters were instructed to find out what the public thought of it and any definite facts that could be brought to light. The city editor himself took an hour off to go to the office of Rosenbaum & Rosenbaum, who it was learned had given Grunewald the bill to present for them.

The drag net which the News spread d'd not seem productive of results calculated to bring anything to light. Alderman Grunewald had introduced it at the request of his good friends Rosenbaum & Rosenbaum and knew nothing about it.

Rosenbaum & Rosenbaum sald that the proposed franchise spoke for itself, and that the road would prove of inestimable benefit to Belmont, since in to Corona, and all the people of that little town and the villages along the line would do their shopping in Bel mont. The incorporators were Chicago men with plenty of capital back of

Wright telegraphed a Chicago news agency to find out who the incorporators were. At his suggestion the city editor tried to get Kerr at Esmeralda Springs by telephone, but was unsuc-

Only one clue was found which of itself was suspicious, and it was not one which could be used that afternoon. The courthouse reporter had dropped into the county surveyor's office, and talked about surveying in of it." general and the work in Belmont county in particular. Was anything going advanced for the usual work, but that | tion. were seeing how they could save their tracks along the river and rearrang- from the north." ing the quarantine tracks for Texas cattle which were by themselves to there?" the east of the main yards. This was all the courthouse man brought back

to Wright by the city editor. eyes as it looked at the front page of the News. In the last column under an extended head was a story about the proposed car line down Maple avenue. It was not replete with facts and figures, but it asked a great many questions and contained several interviews which said nothing. Even the property owners along Maple avenue who had consented to the line and It read: then been pledged to secrecy until the matter was made public by the introduction of the bill in the council, knew nothing more than that Rosenbaum

Rosenbaum had secured their consent. The Chicago news agency did not send what information it gathered until too late for use on that day.

Sam Hayes bought a paper on the street, read the story, and rushed for a telephone. He paid two dollars and thirty cents for the privilege, one could not call it pleasure, of talking with Kerr at Esmerelda Springs. read the paper to the boss, the front

editorial in inquiry. Kerr asked that he be connected with Gilbert, but already the judge was trying to get Es-News just a few minutes after Hayes Their conversation was short, Kerr discussion of how the Banner should treat the matter in the morning. boss decided his paper should insist that the News was trying to knock the town. The attack was to be upon the News, thus diverting attention from the real issue. This command properly phrased, was dropped into the eager ear of Deacon Winthrow. and he proceeded to write a scathing per which would try to barricade the path of the car of progress. The dea-con felt proud of his editorial when opposite. he read it in the proof, and was warmed with a self-satisfied glow to think that he had thought of it. He still lived in the age of personal jour-

would call in the evening. They had | gines, too. pout and let him know how disappoint- street!"

arrived at the News office with a copy of the proposed franchise. As he threw it on the table in Wright's pri-

vate office he exclaimed: "If that goes through, the company can do anything according to its provision except commit murder."

"I suspected as much," replied

terminus of the proposed line. own tracks," he explained. "You see, But I'm right, I tell you. They're gothere's a provision in the charter of ing to connect with the railway tracks the Belmont Traction Company where where they cross Maple Avenue two by any interurban line can use its blocks below Bluff Street. Such a belt tracks into the heart of the city upon payment of a fair rental. Here's the able. Townsend Park Line coming down



the near future it would be extended "Are They Going to Build a Viaduct eral good, for an ideal, for his belief There?"

Bluff Street, and right here where ting aside-just for the time, his heart Bluff Street crosses Maple Avenue the Interurban's own tracks will start." "Then how does it run?"

"South on Maple Avenue and Maple road, to a private right of way which begins east of the stock-yards and parallels the county road to Corona."

Wright studied the map earnestly. "You see, I'm too new to know that neighborhood," he said. "Why did they pick Maple Avenue?"

"It's the only street they can use in that part of town. It's the natural artery for that new district out there, since there are hills on both sides

Wright still puzzled over the map. on just then? This elicited the reply Maple Avenue about two blocks south the News to be awaited with undisthat the spring was not far enough of Bluff Street?" was his next ques- guised eagerness on the second after-

the stock-yards company had had men "Those? They are the railway tracks part of the men in the syndicate inof all the lines entering Belmont except those that come down the river nent questions put to them in the

"Nothing is said about it."

would confine itself to good works. That afternoon Belmont rubbed its The most objectionable thing was the lack of frankness on the part of the men back of the enterprise. Here was the questions asked them, yet none of a corporation seeking to serve the pub. the ring men was prepared for a reve lic and not taking the public into its lation of the scheme such as the News

of the News were canvassing the sit- up most of the second page. There uation, a telegram from the Chicago was a map of the proposed interurban News Agency was delivered to Wright. | route, and pictures of pretty homes on

tary of Adolphus Koerner, Koerner & Co., packers. Others are clerks in law backing being given the bill before office of Kendall, Strang & Kendall." "By George!" exclaimed Wright

"The stock-yards company!" Then he remembered what county surveyor had innocently stock-yards company was making some any knowledge of the transaction, saymove which it did not dare maker ing that his connection with the stock-

"Have you any idea what they want?" company was interested in the line page story and the treschant short fighting the traction company, I company, it could be.

This, thought Wright, explained Gilbert's many visits to Chicago recently. meralda Springs, having seen the The stock-yards attorney had apparently no connection with the new company, but Wright and Morrison, too, both of the opinion that he was direct ing every move. If he was in it, David Kerr was in it; and if David Kerr was

> In seeking to unravel the tangled work with. They could not imagine, however, why the stock-yards company was entering the street car field in such a peculiar manner.

Wright sat with his chair tilted back against the wall, his hands behind his

trust in many cases to his sixth se that's his nose for news, for the

story. Often he misses fire, but when he does hit the bull's-eye everybody knows it." Such was Wright's preamble as he brought his chair down on the floor and prepared to tell the lawver what his sixth sense had made him feel was the real object of the game. "The stock-yards company is preparing to steal a street." "What!" gasped Morrison. "What

makes you think so?" "Everything. See how the river is eating up the only tracks to the stockyards. They've got to get to the yards farther east. Maple Avenue is the easiest way. The franchise says nothand to lambast the other felding about what kind of cars are to run. ow personally was part of his edito- how they are to be propelled, or what they are to carry. I'll bet they are Before the paper came out, Wright going to run cattle cars filled with telephoned Gloria that he would be un- bogs and sheep and cattle down Maple able to drive with her but that he Avenue, and pull them with steam en-

reached the point in their fast friend- "I won't believe it," protested the ship where she was not unwilling to lawyer. "Maple Avenue is a residence

"The stock-yards company It was four o'clock when Morrison eign corporation interested only in

"Look at Benton Park!" "Yes, take a good look; you won't want to in a year from now."

"I don't believe it." "Anyway, that's the theory I'm going on. If it is correct, I've struck the nail on the head with my first Wright. "What right of way have guess. If it is wrong, I'll keep hammering away until the public demands Morrison went to the map of Bel- and is given the truth. If I'm wrong, mont on the wall and located the city | then they'll soon be smoked out. They can't stand being so misinterpreted "Here's where they start on their when asking the public for a favor. line railway will be extremely valu-

It was after six o'clock before they decided to leave the office. As every pro and con of the situation had not been exhausted, they adjourned to the Belmont Club for dinner and there continued puzzling over the franchise and its meaning.

Shortly before eight o'clock Wright drained his coffee cup and looked across the table at his companion. "Doing anything tonight?" he in-

"No. Nothing on hand that I know "I'm calling on Miss Kerr tonight. I want you to go with me; I can't go

"I shall be very glad to," replied the young lawyer, successfully concealing is surprise.

Wright realized the fight was on He also knew what Gloria had come to mean to him, and after what they had said last night he was afraid to see her alone. Now his first duty was to the public, that public which so often accepts benefits and sacrifices all unconscious of its own gain and what the cost has been. For the genin what a paper should be, he was puttold him-the one woman who could

make him supremely happy. The deferring of hope was heavy upon Wright's heart as with Morrison walked in silence to Gilbert's house. To himself he kept repeating some verses from their "birthday

In the twilight we parted, In the night broken-hearted We dreamed a sweet dream. Again broken-hearted.

But dreams come again. CHAPTER IX.

The story Wright had printed the first day and the reply it drew from "What are those red lines crossing the Banner the next morning caused noon. This was heightened on the terested in the franchise by the pertimorning by News reporters. David "Are they going to build a viaduct Kerr was called on the telephone half a dozen times by his fleutenants, and arrangements were made to have a The new venture would be a good line open to Esmeralda Springs at to the office, but it was duly presented thing for Belmont-if the company three-thirty, the hour when the News

> Although they were prepared to dis count some of the story because of made. Black headlines ran across While Morrison and the publisher four columns and the story also took Maple Avenue. But from one end of "Hammersley is the private secre the story to the other there was no mention of David Kerr or of the local the council. It was expressly stated that the incorporators of the new company were merely dummies and that the they were acting in the interest of the

> stock-yards company. Amos Gilbert in au interview denied yards company was merely nominal "It looks like it," assented Morrison. and that he did not even know if the "Not the slightest. They're not proposed. He did not see how, as a

Gilbert sat in his office as soon as secured a paper and/read the story Kerr. The latter promptly announced

and ordered that Gloria be taken from Belmont on any pretext whatever for a few days until the fight had been allowed to die down. The next day was Sunday, on which Wright pub-Itshed no paper, and Kerr would b ome before another issued appeared He agreed with Gilbert that the Banner ought to ridicule the alleged ex-

(To be Continued.)

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PAGE ELEVEN

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