Moving Picture Bubble

by Richard Barry

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ONE evening in the early summer of 1901 I stood, awed, but keenly expectant, on the balcony of the Ethnology Building at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo. By my side was a short, chubby man in an old suit of clothes, a negligee shirt and a string tie that had come undone and was flopping over his capacious chest. It was a warm evening, and he had removed his battered straw hat, which he held in his hand. The size of the hat was No. 8. The man was Thomas A. Edison.

Before us spread that dream in frozen music, the buildings fronting the esplanade, mall and plaza of the exposition. The twilight was done, and the moment had arrived for the night birth of that dream into splendor. For the first time in history architecture was to be made alive at night, more living than by day. Half a million incandescent bulbs were hid along the transverse lines of the buildings. The current was turned on and they simultaneously bloomed. Ensued a spectacle for which a Caesar would have bartered a province—a joy that brought a pang of ecstacy from every one of the millions who saw it.

Edison, bare-headed, squinted his eyes. The poetry missed him. The gallop of scenic history over the verge of a new era missed him. The glory of the spectacle itself missed him. Instead, he glanced shrewdly and carefully all around on the entrancing wonder, then cautiously into his battered straw hat and said:

"I could put every filament into that hat!"

Economics, mechanics—these obsessed him. That brain, which required a No. 8 hat for covering, could think only of the compressed fact that all the space occupied by the vibrating, energizing and glory-working source of that gigantic spectacle could be replaced by about two pints of water—or a quart of human brain.

Edison is a rare man. In his speech, of which he is as careful as of his filaments, he pulls the core from a field of ideas and thrusts it at you as, if it were a poniard. "You think about what he says for a week, a month; and in years you don't forget it.

All of this is leading up to a consideration of what the wizard-sage said a few weeks ago when a select audience sat in his studio and watched the first performance of the kinetograph, that fabulous instrument which is destined to reproduce plays, operas, public spectacles with the action, the color and the voice intact.

The great old inventor was gratified once again. Another thrill had come into his life. His latest adventure into the unknown had prospered, and his friends and associates clustered about him with congratulations, with questions, with assurances.

For some time Edison was silent. He is grateful that he is deaf. Then he squinted from one to the other, and said:

"Before long you'll be working that in an aeroplane, for you'll be able to pack it into a soap-bubble!"

A soap-bubble! Rather a fragile packing-case. Rather a small compass in which to place a grand opera. A curious comparison. Did Edison mean what he said? Did he know what he was talking about?

Ever since I heard that Edison said that, I have been thinking of moving pictures in connection with soap-bubbles. And not always in the way he meant bubbles in connection with the kinetograph.

A soap-bubble is cheap. It is easy to make—if you know how. It is fragile. It is very alluring. It reflects all colors, all forms. It appeals universally to children. Sages ponder over it. Poets celebrate it. Artists reproduce it.

Conundrum—Why is a moving picture like a soap-bubble?

First, you find them everywhere.

On the back streets of Reno I saw the pictures of the bull fight at Guadalajara, Mexico. The Guadalajarans now look on the moving pictures of the prize fight at Reno.

At Punta Arenas, the southernmost port in the world, I saw Chileans applaud moving pictures of the Bowery and the New York water front. On the Bowery I saw pictured of the battleship fleet entering the harbor of Punta Arenas.

On an island 2,000 miles out in the Pacific Ocean the exiled lepers of Molokai gather daily before the flickering wonders of a world which before had been but vaguely in their dreams. The Sunday evening young people's class of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, looks in pity on the transplanted and resurrected life of Molokai which passes before their eyes on the screen.

A group of travelers in the luxurious saloon of an ocean liner study the lifelike pictures of the country for which they are bound. The beggars who line the pathways of the tourist implore backsheesh give up their pennies to see the living presentment of their prey bounding to them over the ocean wave.

In Iceland excited Eskimos applaud the heroism of a cowboy who rescues a captured maiden from the redskins. Half-way round the world, in Northern Russia, tearful peasants sorrow over the pictured plight of a French lover.

The Bengalee moves down Mowringhee Road and gives up two pennies to see the funeral of King Edward—to see it actually move. The Moro in the afters of Zamboanga goes without an extra shirt, that he may view the reception of

Universal as Froth.

Anywhere, everywhere, you find them. In the United States you will have to hunt a town of less than 2,000 inhabitants if you wish to escape the moving pictures.

Five millions of Americans daily visit these shows.

The exhibitors pay $18,000,000 a year for their films. The public pays $57,500,000 a year to see them.

Mr. Edison has an average weekly royalty therefrom of $8,000.

So it is a pretty big business, pretty thoroughly organized, quite universal in its reach, soap-bubbly in its universality.

The child of the poor, with a clay pipe and the suds from the weekly wash, can have just as good a time as any rich young fellow with an imported meerschaum and the best castile.

So it is with the moving-picture shows. It requires little capital to run them. A long room, easily darkened, a nine-feet square patch of white cloth, some benches for the spectators, an operator at ten dollars a week, and a rented film, now takes the place of a company of actors, stage scenery, properties, lights and a properly equipped building. And the poor boy gets as much value for his nickel as the rich boy can get for any number of dollars.

Yet, they run into dangers that no soap-bubbles can allure. Fire is of these the most patent. Of the moral dangers we will speak later. It is through the moral soap-bubble that we can see more clearly the moving picture's gossamer tinsel.

Fire, however, is the first and most vital danger. The Charity-Bazaar fire in Paris, in which so many women were trampled to death by cowardly men, was caused by the fall of a spark upon some celluloid moving-picture films which had been dropped into a basket. In Canton 600 men, Chinamen, were burned to death in a fire in a moving-picture show house. In Quito, Ecuador, fifty men and women lost their lives in a similar calamity.

It speaks well for the widespread and constant vigilance of the fire departments of the United States that no great catastrophe has yet come to the moving-picture houses of this country.

"Lives have not been lost in the moving picture shows. Lives have been lost through the moving picture shows.

Where once the dime and nickel novels suggested ways of crime to unbalanced youth the moving picture has come to make a more ready and more potent appeal. The printed word is never so ardent with an impressionable mind as the acted word.

Several ways have been thought of to lessen these obvious evils. Charles Sprague Smith, late oblef of the People's Institute in New York, thought he had solved the problem when he induced the manufacturers of the moving pictures to agree to a national board of censorship.

The manufacturers, good trade diplomats, readily assented, and then saw to it that the board of censorship should be advisory and not antagonistic. The result is that many pictures that create havoc among youthful minds when shown on the public screens "get by" the national board of censorship.

No. This bubble that Edison has loosed upon us will play itself out just so far as the instincts of the whole people of this country will permit; no farther, no sooner.

One night I went to a prize fight. Only men were present. The casual observer might have said they were all tough men. After the fight a canvas was erected in the ring and an announcer said, "An exclusive film will now be shown to the members of this club."

The picture proved to be of French manufacture and portrayed a vile situation in a dive. Instantly hisses and a storm of execration burst from the audience. The running of the film was stopped and the picture removed before it was all shown. Grim silence greeted the removal of the canvas.

The crowd that gloried in the action of the

INDUSTRIAL ERA FOR ALASKA

Title of 160,000 Acres of Valuable Coal Land in Northwest Area Vested in Government.

Nine additional indictments were returned by a federal grand jury sitting in Chicago recently in the suits which the general land office is pushing to annul alleged fraudulent titles to Alaskan coal lands. So far, in all indictments have been found affecting the claims of 649 of the private entries to these coal lands, the entire number of such locations being about 1,000. The remaining claims are held up upon evidence which seems to indicate that they are technically in violation of the law.

The land-office investigation, which was temporarily sidetracked by the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy, seems to be making a steady progress in the direction of government control of the Alaskan coal lands, and so to a leasing system that will provide for the industrial exploitation of these far north coal fields and, contingently, for the inauguration of an industrial era in Alaska of far greater scope and importance than has thus far been realized. The Alaskan situation may be said to be in a state of waiting for the opening of the coal mines. When the coal is ready to burn the railroads will be in a position to move things.

No patent to a private owner has yet been issued in connection with a single acre of Alaska coal lands, and there does not seem to be a reasonable probability that any patent will be issued as a result of the claims now on file. Present surveys indicate about 160,000 acres of commercially valuable coal lands in the northwest area and the title to these lands is vested in the government. If the government is to maintain this title in perpetuity, it will be necessary for congress to enact such legislation as will provide a plan for leasing for operating purposes. The sooner an operating system is provided, the sooner the new industrial era, which Alaska is awaiting in hopeful expectation, will begin.

FREE TEXT BOOK SYSTEM FAVORED

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION CONDEMN STATE UNIFORMITY.

HOLD DISCUSSION AT MEETING

H. R. Pattengill Attacks Representative Henry E. Straight in Connection With Bill—Officers Are Elected.

Lansing—The Michigan School Superintendents' association and school board members, unanimously favoring the free text book system for the schools of Michigan and condemning as vigorously state uniformity of text books, held an animated discussion of the subject at the joint meeting of the two associations.

A feature of the session was the attack made by H. R. Pattengill, ex-superintendent of public instruction, on Representative Henry E. Straight of Coldwater, charging that there was never a bill for which the skids were so well oiled as that one providing for uniformity of books and courses of study in Michigan, that Straight attempted to railroad it through by dark lantern methods, not presenting it until just before the five-day limit, and asking the senate to pass it before the bill had been printed so that its "vicious" features could not be known.

Resolutions were adopted providing that a committee of seven be appointed, with State Superintendent of Public Instruction L. L. Wright as its chairman, to investigate the subject of free school books and to arouse public sentiment throughout the state, to the end that the next legislature may be impelled to enact such a law. The State Teachers' association will be petitioned for funds, not to exceed $50, with which to defray the expenses of this investigation.

Resolutions adopted indorse the plan of state aid for industrial and agricultural education in Michigan, also the step taken toward removing the office of the state department of public instruction from politics, the mandatory township unit plan of school districts for the entire state; recommend that denominational colleges as well as the University of Michigan should make more adequate provision for observation of expert teaching and for practice teaching by prospective teachers, and ask the board of state auditors to provide funds for the continuance of the museum of the State Pioneer and Historical society.

The association elected the following officers: President, J. M. Frost, Muskegon; vice-president, A. Holl, Houghton; secretary-treasurer, H. C. Daily, Wyandotte.

W. H. Brunson of St. Johns was re-elected chairman and William C. Klump of Saginaw secretary-treasurer of the school board section.

Governor Osborn continued cutting appropriations. This time the Lapeer Home for the Feeble-minded had to suffer for his slashing. The institution was given $92,400 by the legislature for two new cottages, two additions, quarters for employes, a dining hall and a pump, and the governor compromised by cutting out one of the cottages and other items up to $45,900.

The board refused to stand for any more, as the institution now has 987 patients, with 162 on the waiting list.

The governor listened to a long protest from a delegation of citizens from Petoskey against Senator Newton's bill giving board of supervisors the right to fix the natural level of the waters of the inland lakes. The measure is aimed at a condition which has arisen at Walloon lake, a resort in Emmet county, where a dam was torn out, lowering the lake level so that the resorters cannot build boat docks. It was claimed that if a dam is built it will interfere with the Petoskey water supply, but the governor refused to assume that the supervisors would permit anything to be done that would injure the city, so he will sign the measure.

Governor Osborn will take up the matter of corporal punishment with the boards of control of the three prisons just as soon as he can get around to it.

"I shall go into the question thoroughly," he said, "and I will ask each board to adopt a rule prohibiting corporal punishment until each specific case is presented to and passed upon by the board. In this way every case will be heard upon its merits, and it will remove any chance of injustice being done. There are other matters I shall go into also. For instance, there should be a uniform system of accounting."

Appointed to Medical Board.

Governor Osborn sent to the senate the following appointments for the state board of registration in medicine: Dr. Henry C. Maynard, Hartford, who succeeds himself; Dr. A. M. Hume, Owosso, who succeeds Doctor Hall of Ann Arbor City; Dr. Brett Nottingham, who succeeds Doctor Carrow of Detroit; Dr. Joseph A. Crowell, Iron Mountain, who succeeds Doctor Fetch of Ishpeming; Dr. A. W. Alvord, Battle Creek, who succeeds himself. They were confirmed by the senate.

Michigan Pensions.

The following Michigan pensions have been granted: Margaret J. Augustine, $12; Peter W. Bower, $12; Sylvester F. Dwight, $20; Sophia Earls, $15; Nellie Fullerton, $12; Sylvester Leach, 15; Ellen E. Marsh, $12; Emily L. McClintic, $12; Eli Drouyor, $20; William C. Farrar, $15; Jeremiah B. Gilbert, $20; William H. Millard, $15; John H. Owen, $15; Bessie E. Payne, $12; Daniel Rich, $26; John W. Sapp, $20; Mary E. Shook, $12; Cyrus H. Smeed, $15; Sigo Tyroler, $20; Rosanna Whiting, $12.

Michigan Patents.

Patents issued: William E. Allington, electric motor; Ferdinand H. Berger, Detroit, gearing; William F. Davis, Grand Rapids, arc lamp; Vernon Hoxie, Adrian, gate; Herman Laake, Detroit, combination postal card and letter; Alexander Little, Detroit, metallic fender and mud guard; Charles H. Martell, door; Albert Reason, Pontiac, threshing machine; Hayden W. Sage, Grand Rapids, tooth bending attachment; Edwin A. Searles, Detroit, milling tool.

Two-Cent Fare for U. P. Passes.

The Democratic members from the upper peninsula won their right to secure a flat two-cent passenger rate on the railroads in the upper peninsula, which will quite likely produce a law suit in the federal courts, as the railroads will maintain that the rate is confiscatory in that territory.

Senator Moriarity tried hard to effect a compromise on a two and one-half cent rate, but he lost out by a vote of 15 to 16, three senators who had agreed to stand by him flopping when it came time to go on record.

Should Not Use Name "State Fair."

Senator Frank D. Scott of Alpena, who headed the joint legislative committee which "investigated" the affairs of the State Fair association, finally submitted a report, stating that the committee did not have sufficient time in which to do anything, and asking to be continued.

When the report reached the house, Representative Verdier called attention to the fact that while the members of the committee undoubtedly had a good time at the expense of the state, it was high time to call a halt, for the reason, at least, that the legislature had no authority over a private corporation. With the session so near an end, there was nothing to do but accept the report and order it filed.

Deaths, 3,784; Births, 5,194.

The mortality report for the last month shows that 3,784 deaths were returned to the secretary of state's department as having occurred during March. There were 5,194 births reported, which corresponds to an annual birth rate of 21.5 per 1,000 estimated population. Broncho-pneumonia was the principal destroyer of life, 422 deaths being credited to this disease. Tuberculosis claimed the death of 314, cancer 194 and violence 175.

Legislature Approves Budget.

The tax budget of $12,200,396.81 has been approved by both houses of the legislature. The total appropriations not provided for in special taxes are as follows:

Erection of armories	$ 45,000.00
National guard	200,000.00
Agricultural college	1,000,000.00
State fair at Detroit	200,000.00
Upper Peninsula Hospital for Insane	250,000.00
State highway department	2,000,000.00
Pool bonds in force	1,400,000.00
Home for Feeble-minded	92,400.00
Michigan reformatory	78,300.00
Western State Normal	200,000.00
Industrial School for Boys	197,000.00
Michigan Asylum for Insane	70,000.00
Central Michigan Normal school	111,300.00
Agricultural college	200,000.00
Attorney general's clerks' salary	12,000.00
General expense budget	3,125,000.00
Michigan College of Mines	135,300.00
Investigation committee for governor	10,000.00
Home for Feeble-Minded	40,000.00
State sanitarium	9,218.52
For several asylums	2,116,300.00
Public domain commission	2,000.00
Establish County School of Agriculture	10,000.00
For several prisons	382,500.00
State board of library commissioners	9,300.00
State library books and equipment	10,000.00
Releasing county of Lapeer	9,484.12
School for Blind	27,750.00
Adjutant general	1,500.00
School for Blind	112,335.00
Custer monument memorial volume	832.72
Employment Institution for Blind	42,500.00
Mackinac Island State park	12,000.00
Fort Gratiot turnpike	6,000.00
Soldiers' home	350,500.00
Industrial School for Boys deficit	10,000.00
Tax commission to investigate mines	20,000.00
To secure maneuvering ground	500.00
Geological survey	1,600.00
Eastern Asylum for Insane	70,000.00
University of Michigan	580,000.00
Michigan State Normal	480,625.00
Northern State Normal	120,300.00
School for Deaf	2,476.80
State Public school	59,632.00
Fish commissioners	82,760.00
State prison labor	25,000.00
Industrial Home for Girls	144,720.00
Michigan School for Deaf	114,500.00
Northern Asylum for Insane	70,500.00
Completing armory, Saginaw	7,982.00
State Normal College	331.77
Public domain	50,000.00
Tuberculosis sanitarium	64,515.00
To provide for dependents of those confined in prisons	20,000.00

Find Patients Are Well Fed.

The committee that investigated the Kalamazoo asylum states in its report that in the provisions purchased for the institution and the dietary nothing wrong was found, the patients being well fed and well taken care of. Continuing, the committee says:

"The evidence clearly discloses there exists no line of demarkation between the funds as they are used in the institution. There is unanimity of opinion among the witnesses who testified on this subject that current expense is used for special appropriation. The evidence does not disclose that during all the years through which the testimony carried the committee, that either a building or a single improvement was completed within the amount originally or subsequently provided by special appropriation of the legislature. Several appropriations are mentioned which, it is charged, were used for purposes different from what the amounts were appropriated for. The committee states that coal is purchased for the institution at approximately the price that it could be purchased from local dealers. It is added that $28,000 worth is used each year and the committee says:

"No bids are obtained for furnishing coal and the method of purchasing the same would seem to be anything but businesslike."

Steward Hofman testified that every act on his part was under the authority of the board and that not everything he did was approved by the board. The committee says this was admitted by members of the board sworn, except that Member Belknap "did not wish to be understood as authorizing acts which were unlawful."

"The testimony clearly discloses that the accounts have not been kept in accordance with the letter of the law. The system is not necessarily at fault, but the method of juggling funds would render any system of accounting inadequate if present conditions are permitted to continue."

Household Remedy

Taken in the Spring for Years.

Ralph Rust, Attalla, Miss., writes: "Hood's Sarsaparilla has been a household remedy in our home for years. I can remember, as a child, taking it in the spring for several years. I was troubled with boils, the poisoning of the blood being the trouble. I also took it for a run down feeling the winter. Being a farmer and compelled to be out in the weather, my system is often affected, and I often take Hood's Sarsaparilla with good results."

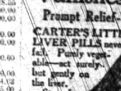
Hood's Sarsaparilla is Peculiar to Itself. There is no "just as good." Get it today.

Get it today in usual liquid form or chocolated tablets called Sarsatabs.

Constipation Vanishes Forever

Prompt Relief—Permanent Cure

CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS never fail. Purely vegetable; act surely but gently on the liver. Stop after dinner distress; cure indigestion—improve the complexion—brighten the eyes. Small Pill, Small Dose, Small Price.



Genuine must bear Signature

Brent Good

If afflicted with sore eyes, use Thompson's Eye Water

It is not necessarily true that the worst is yet to come.

To enjoy good health, take Grenfell Tea; it cures constipation and regulates the liver and kidneys.

First Set Own House in Order.

How unconscious we all are of our own faults and failings! As we see others, so others see ours. It is our own faults we have to correct first before we tell others where to get off.

Important to Mothers

Examine carefully every bottle of CASTORIA, a safe and sure remedy for Infants and children, and see that it

Bears the Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher

In Use For Over 30 Years

Children Cry for Fletcher's Castoria

Close Guess.

Schmidt—Ve got a new baby py our house yesterday.

Schmaltz—Vas he, poy or girl?

Schmidt—I vond dell you. You bet got to guess it.

Schmaltz—Ias id a girl?

Schmidt—You cho-o-o-at missed it.—Youngstown Telegram.

Johnson and the Smart Children.

Full of indignation against such parents as delight to produce their young ones early into the talking world, Samuel Johnson gave a good deal of pain by refusing to hear the very apes chirp when they were brought to him. Their cleverness was their curse. One friend told him that his two sons should repeat Gray's Elegy to him alternately, that he might judge who had the happiest audience.

"No, pray, sir," said he, "let the dears both speak at once."

Clearing Lanes of Grasshoppers.

A live grasshopper will eat a dead grasshopper. A farmer mixed paris green and bran together and left a grasshopper eat it. It died and 20 grasshoppers ate it up, and they died. Four hundred ate those 20 and they died. Eight thousand ate those 400 and they died. A hundred and sixty thousand ate those 8,000 and died, and the farmer was troubled no more.—Anthony Bulletin.

OF COURSE.

The Magistrate—You say you didn't know the pistol was loaded, yet the dealer who sold it to you says you did not pay for it.

Prisoner—What's that got to do with it?

The Magistrate—Well, if you didn't pay for it, then the dealer must have charged it for you.

DAME NATURE HINTS When the Food Is Not Suited.

When Nature gives her signal that something is wrong it is generally with the food; the old Dame is always faithful and one should act at once.

To quit the cause is to take that which may be irreparable. An Arizona man says:

"For years I could not safely eat any breakfast. I tried all kinds of breakfast foods, but they were all soft, starchy messes, which gave me distressing indigestion. I drank strong coffee, too, which appeared to benefit me at the time, but added to the headaches afterwards. Toast and coffee were no better, for I found the toast very constipating.

"A friend persuaded me to quit coffee and the starchy breakfast foods, and use Postum and Grape-Nuts instead. I shall never regret taking his advice.

"The change they have worked in me is wonderful. I now have no more of the distressing sensations in my stomach after eating, and I never have any headaches. I have gained 12 pounds in weight and feel better in every way. Grape-Nuts makes a delicious as well as a nutritious dish, and I find that Postum is easily digested and never produces dyspeptic symptoms."

Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

Read the little book, "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs. "There's a Reason."

Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.