

Financial and Commercial.

INTERESTING STORY OF THOMAS W. LAWSON.

His Recent Exploits not the Only Spectacular Portion of the Career of the Boston Financier---A "Human Pest", this Writer Calls Him.

(New York Commercial.) Lawson's Varied Career. The recent activities of this versatile human pest, to whom the stock market panic of Dec. 6, 7, and 8 is directly traceable, are too well known to call for extended notice, but of his early achievements something may be said.

Born in Charlestown, Mass., Thomas W. Lawson's early life is supposed to have been spent in North Cambridge, where he is said to have attended the public schools. When still in his teens, according to his own story, Lawson ran away from home and became an office boy for Horace Stevens, the banker, whose place of business was immediately opposite No. 38 State Street where Lawson now has his office--the Boston room.

According to his own account, he is now 47 years of age. When, periodically, he has paid to have himself written up--for his vanity is well nigh as colossal as his assurance--he invariably glosses over three years of his early career. During this period he is supposed to have conducted a bucketshop opposite the railway station at Providence R. I.

On his return from there in the later '90s he became interested in the Rand-Avery company, a publishing concern of Boston. This corporation brought out a book entitled "Why Priests Should Wed," and Thomas Lawson was entrusted the thoroughly congenial task of booming the book by the utilization of these original methods of advertising which have served his in such excellent stead since in his mining promotions.

An Ingenious Advertisement. The company filled a large corner window with the books, and as no one paid any attention to the display, Lawson hired a man to stand in the middle of the street and denounce the publication of one detrimental to morals and religion.

At the appointed time the streets were thronged by spectators, and every window contained its complement of gaily dressed ladies. Up State Street came the cavalcade, preceded by a band. It consisted of 15 burros, the small, servicable donkeys of the mining regions, with pack-saddles on their backs, and attending these were 20 theatrical superns, dressed in miners' red shirts and blue-jean overalls, and each bearing a pick and shovel.

Whenever thereafter the sales of this more or less literary production waned perceptibly Lawson was ready to supply the needful boost. On several occasions he hired and drilled a corps of street loiterers to impersonate fervent religionists, and to follow the author's carriage about town, and sometimes to throw stones at it.

On one occasion, however, he gathered a real mob together. A real mob gathered, and for a time the outlook for the unhappy author was so menacing that he protested vigorously to his publishers, and thereafter Lawson's enthusiastic exploitation of the work was seriously curtailed. Like almost every enterprise of his own that he has ever undertaken, the Rand, Avery company finally smashed up.

The Kentucky Bubble. About 1890, Lawson, in association with a body of town-site boomers, founded a paper city, which they christened "Grand Rivers." This future metropolis, manufacturing and mining center of Kentucky, as the prospectus phrased it, was situated on a sand-spit at the junction of two noble rivers," not far from Paducah.

The scheme was a most comprehensive one. It included not alone a general real estate business, lots on the installment plan, special trains from Boston to Grand Rivers, or as near to it as one could get; but also the development of marvelous deposits of coal and iron discovered by Lawson while lolling in his revolving chair in his State Street office, a tremendous lumber and timber business, wholly on paper; and many diversified industries--the gossamer-spun fabric of a Lawsonian day-dream.

Tom Lawson, it may be remarked, made money out of Grand Rivers, but if anybody else did, the public never heard of it. One of his associates named Lawrence lost \$700,000 in the venture. Though this great manufacturing center may be discovered today on an abnormally large map of the State of Kentucky, its chief industrial fame still rests upon the fact that at Grand Rivers in the early '90s there were more fresh-water cyprinoid fishes of the family of catostomidae, that is to say, more suckers, skinned, than ever before or since, in any other town of the same size in the United States.

By an extraordinary coincidence, it may be remarked iron has since been discovered in that neighborhood in workable quantities, so that if Lawson, ever eager to deliver his gold brick and pouch his dollars, had really believed the stuff he wrote and had acted upon it, he might be worth today many millions of honestly earned money.

There is something something especially alluring to Lawson in real estate speculation, for influenced doubtless by pleasant recollections of his fairly satisfactory killing at Grand Rivers, we find him in 1901 purchasing a group of islands in Penobscot Bay, near Deer Island, and announcing that he will build immediately a granite pier and sell lots for summer residences and villa sites.

Financial troubles--his own; the financial troubles of others never worry Mr. Lawson--caused him temporarily to abandon this plan, but he announced the other day, after he made his winning of \$1,200,000 out of the panic, that the pier would be built during the coming summer.

Thomas W. Lawson, viewed in any light, is an interesting study which will repay the dispassionate delver after truth or the mere seeker for innocent, though hilarious entertainment.

NEW YORK STOCK QUOTATIONS. Chicago Market Report and New York Cotton Market. Description. Close. Open. Noon. Yesterday's Today.

IMPORTS. From Liverpool per stmr Lake Erie. United States goods--800 boxes, 532 lbs each.

EXPORTS. For Liverpool per stmr Lake Erie. United States goods--800 boxes, 532 lbs each.

CHICAGO MARKET. Dec. Corn 43 1/2, Wheat 1 1/4, May Corn 45 1/2, May Wheat 1 1/4.

WILL HAVE NO FRICTION. A dispute arose between the fireman a railway brakeman and a policeman in the west end on Wednesday evening last, when a car of eggs was on fire.

THE WORLD OF SHIPPING. MINIATURE ALMANAC. December. Rises. Sets. High Low.

REPORTS, DISASTERS, Etc. VINEYARD HAVEN, Mass., Dec. 22--The schr Annie B. Mitchell, from Boston, for Newport.

BRITISH PORTS. GLASGOW, Dec. 22--Ard stmr Pomoranian from New York. Liverpool, Dec. 22--Ard stmr Oceanic from New York.

FOREIGN PORTS. VERA CRUZ, Dec. 23--Sid stmr Himeria for New Orleans. PORTSMOUTH, N. H., Dec. 22--Ard schr Viola, from New York.

BOSTON, Dec. 22--Ard schr Josephine from Bear River. Sid stmr Marie for Louisburg, CB.

Something Special IN THE LINE OF Christmas Cakes, Macaroons, Scotch Cakes, etc.

HYGIENIC BAKERY, 'Phone 1167, 134 to 138 Mill Street.

Classified Advertisements. One cent a word each insertion. Six consecutive insertions for the price of four. Minimum charge 25 cents.

Satisfy Your Wants By Inserting Them in The Evening Times. 1 Cent a Word, 6 Insertions for the Price of Four. Minimum Charge 25 Cents.

FEMALE HELP WANTED. WANTED--A girl for general housework. Apply to Mrs. G. N. Havenor, corner Goodrich and Wright streets.

MALE HELP WANTED. CITY AGENT WANTED--To represent one of the principal Canadian Life Companies. Address "Insurance", box 61, St. John.

WANTED--Honest, intelligent young man, to learn good trade and take active part in all work. From 15 to 18. Address, Industry, care of this paper.

FOR SALE. PIANO FOR SALE at a Great Bargain, new Upright Newcomb Piano, only Three Months in use by a family leaving the city.

LOST. LOST--On the 21st Inst., a ten dollar bill, on King street. Finder kindly return same to Mrs. Col. Sharp, 218 Pitt street.

E. E. BECK & CO., Commission, Stock Broker, Correspondents of W. B. SMITH & CO.

C. E. DOWDEN, Manager. Offices 55 Canterbury Street. Rooms 37 and 38.

Carleton Granite and Steam Polishing Works, SLEETH, QUINLAN & CO. Manufacturers and Dealers in Red and Grey Granite, Freestone and Marble.

JUST RECEIVED. 5 puns Nelson Bourbon Whiskey, 7 years old.

DR. A. W. CHASE'S 25c. GATTARRH CURE. Is sent direct to the diseased parts by the Improved Blower.

Times Ads Bring Results. Choice Roses, Carnations, Hyacinths, Narcissus, Violets, etc., etc.

The Bank of British North America. ESTABLISHED 1836, Capital, £1,000,000 Reserve, £400,000.

AMUSEMENTS. YORK THEATRE! The Last 2 Performances.

Myrkle-Harder Stock Co. will present this afternoon and night, the Beautiful Comedy Drama, in four acts: "Lost on the Pacific."

NELSON BROS. and a Big Vaudeville Show. Special Xmas matinee, Monday 2.30 p. m.

OPERA HOUSE. The Dailey Co. TO-NIGHT, "The New Dominion."

"A Runway Match." Saturday Evening, "Arizona."

"Our New Minister." Last half of the week, "Tess of D'Urbervilles."

Victoria Rink! NOW OPEN for 1904--SEASON--1905.

QUEENS' SKATING RINK. Season 1904-5. Grand Opening Christmas Day.

Gentlemen's Tickets, \$5 Ladies' Tickets, \$3 Children's Tickets, \$2.50.

F. G. SPENCER, Manager. House Telephone 1595.

HOLLY FOR XMAS. SHAND'S unequalled Roses, Carnations, Violets, etc., etc.

GERMAN STREET, next Royal Hotel. Ladies' Entrance. Phone, Store, 1267 House and Conservatory 79c.