# AMERICAN SENTINEL

WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND

The Republican Paper of Carroll County

W. L. W. SEABROOK, Editor
GUY N. FRINGER, Manager

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## PUBLIC SCHOOL EXHIBIT DAY

Friday next, May 7, is to be Public School Exhibit Day, and is to be observed by the public schools of this county in a manner befitting its importance and the influence it is hoped will be exerted in making their work more useful and efficient. The attendance of the teachers and pupils, of all the schools in the county, as far as that can be accomplished, is contemplated and the presence of a great crowd is anticipated. A parade of the pupils will take place at 9.30 A. M. and it is probable that thousands of them will be in line, if the weather shall be auspicious. From 11 till 12 o'clock Prof. J. K. Smith will demonstrate class work in agriculture, in the High School Assembly Hall. Beginning at 1.45 P. M., a meeting will be held in Alumni Hall at which addresses will be made by Dr. M. Hates Stephens, State Superintendent of Schools; Dr. T. H. Lewis, of the State Board of Education, and others. At 3 P. M. field sports will take place on the College Athletic Field, and these events will be open to all the school boys of the county.

This brief outline of the plans for the day is given that readers of the Sentinel may be fully advised concerning them and with the hope that all, who can possibly do so conveniently, will witness this grand demonstration in the interest of public education. The schools of this county have been making notable progress under the direction of County Superintendent Morelock, whose constant aim has been to give them increased efficiency. The success of the demonstration on Exhibit Day will assure him that his work is appreciated by the patrons of the schools. No interest of a public character is more important than that of the schools and the people of the county may well make a sacrifice of time and business by attending the events of Friday next in large numbers.

## POLITICAL BOSSES, THEIR ALLIES, AND WHO'S WHO?

It has not needed the testimony of Ex-President Roosevelt, in the Barnes-Roosevelt slander case, to enlighten the public generally in reference to the existence of all sorts of political bosses. They are to be found possessed of national, State, county, township, district and neighborhood authority. Col. Roosevelt's story is nothing new. That, however, does not say that all bosses are corrupt. Many of them are looked up to by the masses simply as leaders whose judgment is depended upon to determine who should be nominated for office and how party funds should be best employed in promoting success, legitimately. It is when bribery is resorted to, for the purpose of influencing nominations or promoting elections, that the corrupt boss gets in his work. In that case he must have agents and lieutenants to accomplish his dirty purposes. They have to be paid and he must be compensated in some way, appointments to office being the most common. If higher up than a district or county boss he may become a beneficiary, individually, of contributions wrung from subordinates or officeholders. Some State bosses, as is well known, have grown immensely wealthy, without having had any other source of income. But all are not of that ilk. Some are moved, perhaps, by the love of power, prejudices against public men, or some other ulterior motive, and resort to methods to carry their ends which cannot be approved by right thinking people.

It is hardly possible to root out the system without rooting out organization, and organization is absolutely essential to the proper and orderly conduct of partisan political affairs.

As to who's who? referring to Col. Roosevelt's testimony in showing improper conduct on the part of Boss Barnes, of New York, it is apparent that with probably the exception of the contract which he received for public printing, and sub let, nothing was disclosed to show that Barnes was a beneficiary, financially, of contributions to party expenses. He played men against each other, influenced the votes of legislators on acts before the General Assembly, fought measures urged by Governor Hughes and was hostile to his running the second time for the Gubernatorial office. All this was censurable, of course, but it may be honestly questioned whether it was culpable corruption. Wherein did Barnes personally profit by it?

And this question is also applicable to Col. Roosevelt's association with State Boss Platt and New York City Boss Quigg, in his campaign for the Governorship of New York. He knew that it was only by the favor of those two men that he secured the nomination, and they knew, and he knew, that he was not eligible to election under the constitution of New York. Wherein does that act differ from much that he exposed in the conduct of Barnes, with whom, subsequently, he associated, with the hope of reforming him. Was it not the attitude of the man who condemns theft, but consents to receive the stolen goods. Of all the crookedness unearthed in this trial, thus far, the theft of the Governorship seems the most censurable. Can any excuse be made for it? No man's assertions of purity of purpose can stand in the face of acts which, in the very nature of the case, are condemnatory.

In the end, perhaps, public opinion may reach a just conclusion in regard to the merits of this controversy. Few of us can rise superior to prejudice. Somehow, perhaps, a satisfactory explanation may be made of Col. Roosevelt's acceptance of the Governorship, knowing that he was not eligible to lawfully hold the office. Even his enemies may hope that such justification will appear. Newspapers generally seem shy of commenting on the subject.

## TAFT ON THE MEXICAN SITUATION AND OTHER QUESTIONS

The City Club of Baltimore had Ex-President Taft and Secretary Bryan as lecturers on government, the closing days of last week. Taft was the guest of Theodore Marburg, while in the city, and was interviewed at his host's home by newspaper men, who sought to know his views on many questions. He talked freely and without restraint, again exhibiting, as he always does, a broadminded and unprejudiced view of individuals and events. Of the attitude of Americans towards the nations of Europe at war, he counseled absolute individual neutrality of expression, and explained that he, himself, maintains absolute silence in regard to his sympathies with the causes of the various belligerents. If he has a preference for either of them the reporters did not discover it. He spoke approvingly of the course of the Washington Administration in dealing with the perplexing problems, in connection with the war, with which it is confronted.

On the subject of this country's relations with Mexico he was emphatic in his opposition to intervention. Mexico, he said in substance, must be left to solve her own troubles and establish a stable government. He expressed the emphatic opinion that the American occupation of Vera Cruz was a mistake—he did not say blunder. His fellow-countrymen, however, if not influenced by partisan prejudice, can hardly fail to approve his view of the subject. Many of them who are opposed to the politics of the administration, were carried away with patriotic fervor when Mexico was thus invaded for the purpose of demanding an apology for a fancied insult to the flag. An army was maintained at Vera Cruz and war ships lay in the harbor, all in a threatening attitude, for months, awaiting an apology that never came, and at last the army was withdrawn. The Sentinel, in its patriotic regard for the honor of the flag, rejoiced when force was invoked to maintain it. But, oh, the lame and impotent conclusion of the matter. It was much like the king who, "with twenty thousand men marched up the hill, and then marched down again."

Mr. Taft looked deeper into the matter than most people, and felt that Huerta should have been given a better show to have established a stable government. In this he may have been wrong, but, in view of his frank and decided approval of the Administration's dealing with the European war question, it must be admitted that his condemnation of the forcible seizure of the city and government of Vera Cruz is not the result of partisan prejudice. He is one of the broadest, most fair-minded statesmen of this country.

## A QUESTION NOT FREE FROM DIFFICULTY

In the second of its articles on the tax question, the Carroll Record, in its issue of last week, argues strongly in favor of the taxation of mortgages, because the rich man should bear his share of the burdens or, rather, perhaps, it should be said, for the blessings and protection afforded by the authority under which he lives. That is not an assumption but a self-evident fact. A mortgage could be of very little value if the State did not provide the means of enforcing it, and the man who holds it should pay for that protection of his interests. This contention on that point is perfectly sound. But it is not so clear, after all, that a citizen, man or woman, should pay taxes on debts. And that is exactly what is done by the giver of a mortgage, which is, in fact, an evidence of debt and not of the ownership of the mortgaged property.

Of course this whole subject has been thoroughly discussed and threshed out, but it has never yet reached a strictly just solution. The law will demand from the lender some public compensation for the protection it affords, but will afford no relief to the borrower. He is taxed for something for which, in effect, he is not the actual owner. The owner of a mortgage has a sort of conditional ownership in the property upon which it is placed and he can sell it in default of the payment of interest, which, after all, is only a sort of rental on the mortgaged property.

There may be force in the argument against taxing mortgages because to do so drives capital out of the State and makes it more difficult for the poor man to borrow money. But no absolutely poor man can borrow on mortgage. His mortgaged property must be worth more than the sum borrowed. And probably it would be advantageous to him if he could not borrow at all. The forclosure of mortgages is not an uncommon practice, and many a mortgagor has lost his all by the process. That, however, is not an argument against the taxation of mortgages. Properly construed it is just the reverse of that. These evidences of the possession of wealth, little or much, should pay their full share of the cost of government. And they do so now partially but not fully.

The equity of the subject, however, demands the relief of the mortgage debtor to the extent of that indebtedness, or, at least, to the extent of the tax paid by the mortgagee. Why have not our law making solons conceived some plan to that end? Is it an impossible proposition? Maryland law exempts personal property from taxation to the value of $500. That is a real, tangible exemption. If that is equitable, how in all conscience can it be considered just to exact tax upon $15,000, for instance, when the value of the property in question is only $10,000; that is on $10,000 from the mortgagor and $5,000 from the mortgagee?

Now the Sentinel presents these thoughts more as suggestions than as arguments. The subject is undoubtedly fraught with difficulty. But it cannot well be denied that somehow there is injustice to somebody in the taxation of property to its full value, when its ostensible owner is not its real owner and a sort of inchoate title is held by another who also pays taxes on it.

## THE SORT OF BUSINESS THAT IS BOOMING

While the prophets of coming prosperity are taking a look forward in their vision, there are optimists who claim that it is here, and no longer a matter of prophecy or expectation. The latter base their assumption, for it is only an assumption, upon the remarkable increase in the volume of exports during the last few months. This is a fact, they argue, that touches all sorts of business enterprises in this country and demonstrates that the United States is reaching out and is appropriating the traffic with the outside world which has fallen away from the warring countries of Europe. That is a very pleasing conclusion to those who believe it; but it is, unfortunately not true, except to a very limited extent. Certainly exports have increased in volume, but they are of a character, to a large extent, of commodities which may cease to be needed abroad, at any moment, and for which all demand will be, in time, entirely ended. What that time limit may be nobody can tell. It may be a month, or a year, or even longer, but it is coming and coming surely. What is that commodity? In a word, the answer is, war material. Vast quantities of this are being shipped abroad to the armies of Great Britain, France and Russia. None of these countries, when the war began, were in a condition to supply their hastily mobilized armies with much more than a tithe of such material of this character as was needed to begin with, and the demand therefor has not slackened, but has grown greater. There is hardly a factory, great or small, in this country, able to produce munitions of war of any sort, that is not running overtime and the product of which is not going abroad. In the matter of powder and explosives, alone, for instance, it is said the Du Ponts are spending as much as five millions of dollars in enlarging their old ones, the demand upon them being much greater than they are able to supply, though operating their works day and night. The great and small steel works of the country capable of turning out fire arms, heavy artillery, shells, shrapnel and the like, are being taxed to their uttermost to meet the demand upon them for these products. Thus, the volume of exports has grown tremendously in comparison with imports, the latter having inevitably greatly fallen off on account of their non-production by the countries at war. That fact alone would indicate that our traffic with neutral nations has not been greatly enlarged during the last half year. Traffic, as a rule, is a mutual proposition. If other countries were buying largely from us they would not be satisfied if they were not increasing their sales to us.

So, though the war is increasing our exports, it is in a business which in the very nature of the case, has no permanency. It is logical to reason and to believe that following the war there will be a great European demand for supplies of various sorts from this country, but the expectation of this should not be overdrawn. The exhausted nations will speedily endeavor to produce, themselves, what will be most needed, will practice rigid economy and make desperate efforts to manufacture and otherwise produce and sell more than they will be compelled to buy. It is therefore a mistake to suppose that the present volume of exports is anything but ephemeral, and unwise to be too optimistic about traffic with the nations now in arms when the war shall be over.

## THE DIVORCE EVIL

Interest in the laxity of the laws of many of the States, in relation to the question of divorce, has been increased by the decision of the Court of Appeals of this State, to the effect that decrees granted in Nevada are ineffective here unless both parties to the proceeding are residents of that State, or were so when the divorce was obtained. The decision raises many questions as to the legal status, in different localities, of persons divorced by Nevada courts while one or the other of them did not live in that State. Probably the Maryland decision will stand in most of the States, or wherever the question shall arise. It should obtain everywhere outside of Nevada.

The decision is a protest against one phase of the gigantic divorce evil in this country. But it falls far short of showing the immoral and unscriptural practice prevalent in almost every section and State. If there is anything clearer than the Divine law which prohibits divorces, except for one cause, it cannot be found anywhere in the utterances of the man whom the Christian Churches worship as the Son of God. And yet only the Catholic Church recognizes its binding authority, and little is heard from Protestant pulpits in denunciation of the terribly lax practice, in force generally, of granting divorces for causes other than that allowed by the Divine Master to be legitimate.

Anything, therefore, that calls attention to the growing evil, is to be welcomed. The position of Maryland, as shown by this Court of Appeals decision, should be generally approved by believers in Divine law. It is to be regretted that the courts are not permitted to rise above manmade laws and read the higher law into the text of some of their decisions. But this may not be. Yet legislators have wider latitude of action, and Christian believers should appeal to them to pass laws on this subject in harmony with the teaching of the founder of Christianity.

It is to be said to the credit of Protestant ministers that few of them will perform the marriage ceremony for divorced persons, without first becoming acquainted with the causes and circumstances of the divorces and assuring themselves that they are not in contravention of Divine law. But they should go a step further and proclaim hostility to the divorce evil from their pulpits.

## THE STATE-WIDE PROHIBITION FIGHT

In its article, "Should There Not Be Two?" in its last week's issue, the Sentinel suggested, in substance, the idea that, coupled with the contest for State-wide Prohibition, there should be a bill enacted for State-wide Local Option. The article was really only suggestive and was written without full knowledge of the Anti-Saloon League's plans. In fact, its main purpose was to discover and make fully known to its readers, the exact status of those plans. Doubtless, readers of the "American Issue," the official organ of the league, are familiar with the methods by which it is hoped to win absolute prohibition for the whole State, but they are not so well known to the people generally. The Sentinel's article, therefore, has elicited from Dr. Hare, the league's superintendent, an explanation that fully clears up the situation and conveys valuable information. Dr. Hare's letter on the subject, to the editor, is appended. It should be read by everybody into whose hands the Sentinel may fall. It will be seen that, in the first place, it obviates the necessity of seeking an amendment to the constitution and leaves the question to a law to be voted upon by the electors, following in this respect, the action of Virginia. It does not sidetrack local option, but leaves, to the citizens of all wet territory, the opportunity to seek the passage of local option laws.

The Sentinel is not thoroughly convinced that an amendment to the constitution would not be preferable to the general law proposed, but that is probably a matter of little consequence. The Anti-Saloon League is on the right track, and the Sentinel is glad of the opportunity to give to its readers the very clear and lucid explanation of Dr. Hare on the subject, which is hereto appended.

Hon. W. L. W. Seabrook,
Editor American Sentinel,
Westminster, Maryland.
My dear Mr. Seabrook:

I read with a good deal of interest the editorial in your issue of April 23rd under the headline, "Should there Not Be Two?" and so I am writing you, that you may have the views of our organization completely before you which you may treat editorially as you think best.

A survey of the state of Maryland reveals the following facts: Maryland has twenty-three counties. Thirteen of the twenty-three are dry. St. Mary's will vote on August 3rd, and we think it will go dry beyond doubt. That will leave nine counties in which the licensed sale of liquor is permitted wholly or in part. Of these counties, Harford, Howard and Calvert license the traffic in but one place, namely, Havre de Grace, Ellicott City and Chesapeake Beach, respectively; Anne Arundel in two places—Annapolis and Brooklyn, which includes Curtis Bay. Frederick has three wet districts, and Washington more dry than wet territory. And even Baltimore county and Baltimore city have a large amount of dry territory, and Prince George's is mostly dry. This being true, and realizing that the liquor traffic will fight just as strenuously to prevent the passage of a general local option law as a state-wide prohibition law, the Anti-Saloon League has thought it unwise to continue longer the contest for a general local option provision; consequently, a year ago public announcement was made that hereafter the League would contest for state-wide prohibition.

It is not the purpose of the League to continue the fight for a constitutional amendment, as we believe that the Virginia method—a statute to be referred to the voters and which upon receiving their approval will make the state prohibition territory—is the shortest and most direct route to the goal of our desires. Therefore, such a proposition will be introduced. We have been working upon the draft of such a law for some weeks. After it has been passed upon by some of the eminent legal talent of the state, we will furnish it for publication.

In the meantime, the League will be glad to promote the passage of a measure that will give to any of the wet counties the right to vote on the question. In other words, we will stand for such legislation as was secured for Charles, Carroll and Garrett counties at the last session, and we expect that such legislation will be proposed for Harford, Howard, Calvert, Prince George's, Washington, Frederick and Allegany; and we also believe that all of these counties will vote dry by very large majorities. But we shall certainly concentrate our forces for the battle for state-wide prohibition. We believe the state is ready for this, and that if the question is once submitted Maryland will go dry by not less than 25,000 majority.

Hoping that I have covered every point that may be in doubt, and that you will make what use of this information you deem wise, I am

Very cordially yours,
T. M. HARE,
Superintendent.

## THE BARNES-ROOSEVELT LIBEL SUIT

The defendant in this suit was under cross-examination from Friday last till day before yesterday and was subjected to inquiries designed, chiefly, to show his close relations with Senator Platt, from the time he was picked by that gentleman as a candidate for Governor of New York, until after he became President. While he maintained, in reply to questions propounded by counsel for the plaintiff, that he was only influenced by Platt to do acts which he considered proper, it is impossible to believe, by those who can lay aside all prejudice, that he was not utterly subservient to the boss. He refused to say that he took Pratt's advice, and substituted for the word advice, that of consultation. But he appeared, as was shown by their correspondence, produced in court, and by his account of their personal interviews, that he generally accepted the Senator's opinion and acted upon.

It developed, too, that he was intimate with Barnes and was familiar with his methods as the head of the Republican organization of the State, and only broke with him at a comparatively recent date. He did not like Governor Hughes, whose renomination for the Governorship Barnes bitterly opposed, and assured the latter of his sympathy with his feeling on the subject, but thought it was the best they could do.

While Col. Roosevelt, neither in his testimony in chief, nor upon cross-examination, was able to instance any direct act of Barnes to connect him with Murphy, the Tammany boss, he told of an act of his own, if his testimony was correctly reported, that made him closer to Tammany than his opponent. At the request of Boss Platt, he made an appointment that Platt said would please Croker, who was then the Tammany boss.

The cross-examination on other subjects than his close relations with Platt, took a wide range and covered much of his official life, eliciting his reasons for acts the propriety of which has been questioned. His relations with Perkins of the Harvester Company, and his failure to have proceedings instituted against monopolies that had contributed to his campaign fund, were some of the subjects upon which he was grilled. He became irritable and surly at times, during the cross-examination, and evidently realized that he was being held up in a light that might mar his popularity, even with some of his old time adherents.

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At this time of year much damage is annually reported from forest fires. This is a matter affecting not merely the localities where these fires occur. The heavy damages of this kind have done a great deal to reduce the supply of lumber, thus adding to the cost of all building operations.

Also in many sections woodland is owned by farmers, and its increase in value is often a large part of the profit in their business. If this growing reserve is wiped out, the losers become disgusted with land holding, and go into other occupations. At a time when efforts are being made to encourage people to go back on the soil and increase the food supply, such losses are doubly unfortunate.

The match or cigar end or campfire may start a conflagration destroying many thousands worth of property. When so much capital goes up in smoke, it is a blow to the industry of the country. If the forest is owned by a farmer, he has that much less capital for development of his land and increase of his food production.

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