The Curbstone Diplomat

BY
WILLIAM S. COLLINS

A tip for the Fire Companies of Kent County that are called out to fight chimney fires.

Way back in 1755, there was a boom on to make Charlestown up in Cecil county a city. At first the city grew to a fair size, but Baltimore, another new city, was growing faster, so many of the people of Charleston took their houses down and shipped them to Baltimore, where they erected them again.

To get back to the fire companies, here is an enactment that the city of Charlestown had. This enactment assessed a fine of ten shillings against any inhabitant, who permitted his chimney "to blaze out at the top" or to take fire, and against anyone who failed to keep a ladder long enough to reach to tap of his house. (Paul Wilstack's, Tidewater Maryland.)

The "Buy American" plan is occupying a good deal of space in the daily papers and large magazines. Buy American made products and help the American wage-earner and tax-payer. Much approval is being given the plan by people right here in our own community.

Why not narrow it down, to buy in "Kent County." The better business conditions are at home, the more taxes the business man can pay will help ease the burden of the little fellow. If you are strong for the "Buy American, plan, narrow it down to buy" "at home". The arguments are just as reasonable.

Cases are being pointed out, where people are on the state payroll and do most of their buying out of the state. Help the hand that feeds you.

The author of the Woman's Page has gone on a three or four weeks vacation; so that page has been turned over to "Yours truly." This week is my first stab and will try to do better next week. The "Now and Then" column on the front page will be absent as it has the same author as the Woman's Page. That space will also be use by yours truly for a pinch hitter. "In "Old Chestertown" on the Woman's Page No. 3, we are merely writing tales that have come to us by word of mouth. If we make a mistake, corrections will be welcomed.

The "Evening Sun" of Baltimore is again bragging editorially about its "Speedy Justice." Now, they are bragging about catching and convicting a man within a month, who robbed an apartment house. Again, let us beg the Sun, under the heading "Speedy Justice," to write an editorial on the Euell Lee case. This case is one the "Sun" took upon itself to handle. Wonder how they are coming along?

When the question cames to us about not ripping things up like we used to do, we can only say "the depression is on," or like the Mayor of Los Angeles, "The boom is not what it was."

As far as the farmer is concerned, eggs are bringing a good price but the hens are not doing their duty. Maybe they are not squeezing the hens hard enough.

Anyhow it pains to see how hard our farmer works, like sitting under a cow milking and getting struck in the mouth with a tail which the cow is not always particular about keeping tidy.

Then come to town and see how business is falling off with the business men.

Take a look at public officials and you see they have little money for improvements.

So, it hardly looks like any time to be yelling for improvements such as a disposal plant, street lights, etc. Maybe we can have all that, when a fair price is paid for farm products.

With fair prices for farm products and our community again prosperous, we can start shouting for improvements some of which are needed quick. Then, this would also abolish the talk of reduced wages and cutting out this and that. The thing we can cut out is the new postoffice.

Read the communication on page 4.

Sometime ago it was mentioned here about the colored man up in Hick's Alley who had a goat with a terrible whiff. It was so bad that we could not see how the man stood him.

The story is that the goat was sold from Hick's Alley for 75 cents and the purchaser turned around and sold him for six dollars.

Well now it is easy to expain how that man stood the whiff of the goat. This man came to Maryland from North Carolina and was working for a farmer down in Quaker Neck. One Saturday night he went away and imbibed in fire-water. Feeling just fine he was on his way home when he spied a skunk. He caught the skunk which was the first one he had ever seen and took him home alive.

On arriving he called to his empoyer who was in bed. On coming to the window the employer was asked, what the animal was. He smelled before he looked and said "a skunk, don't you smell him?" "No, sir, I don't smell nothing," said the colored man. According to the employer the skunk being held by the man was really doing a good skunking job.

This story is a little old but shows you there is a person in the cmmunity that would be just the one to crawl under the house for the dead cat or investigate when the plumber's friend failed to function.

This Week's Cartoon



Odd - But True



CROSSING 'EM UP - by LEE CROSS



FURROWS



BY JOSIAH ALLEN WEATHERBY

It looks like the people of this country can't be satisfied unless their representatives in Congress is passin some sort of class legislation. It has been like that from the beginning of our history as a nation. First one group and then another has been before Congress to git some special favor granted so that the members of that group could profit at the expense of the rest of the people. Early in our legislative history the manufacturers wanted help. As infant industries they had to have help, so as to compete with foreign producers. They got their help by means of a wet nurse called the "Protective Tariff," and they have been pilin up profits and immense fortunes by means of this species of class legislation ever since. But it looks now like these infants (?) is goin to have hard sleddin fer awhile.

Fer the first half of our history as a nation slavery come in fer a lot of special favors and wuz fattenin at the expense of free labor until the Civil War come along and busted up that species of graft. It wuz a good thing fer the cuntry that the religious fanatics of New England couldn't git no profit out of slaves, and consequently decided that slavery wuz a moral wrong.

After slavery wuz abolished Labor Unions come along and got to houndin the Legislatures and Congress fer special legislation. And then the shipowners got special subsidies passed fer their benefit. It ain't no use to keep on namin the different groups that has benefitted by legislation in their favor.

But the latest and perhaps the loudest group clammerin fer special legislation is the farmers. I ain't sayin the farmers ain't entitled to special favors as much as any other group. The farmers of this country ain't never had a square deal as compared with other groups. Because of the protective tariff they have always had to sell their stuff in an unprotected market and buy what they used in a protected market. But that ain't the point. They want special legislation of a sort now that will give them advantages that they can't git by means of protection, fer the tariff on farm products wuz passed too late to do the farmers any good.

Fer the past fifteen years certain groups of farmers has been yellin in the ears of Congress: "Help the farmers." And Congressmen, running around Washington, wild-eyed and harrassed-lookin, has been tryin to find some way to satisfy these groups and keep their jobs. They passed the land banks, the farm loans, and joint stock land banks, and the Federal Farm Board, and agricultural tariff acts, and what not. And none of them laws ain't done nothin but make things worse fer the farmer and everybody else.

Now, Congress is goin to try to pass a special piece of class legislation which they call the "Domestic Allotment Plan" so that all the people that eats any of the products of wheat, corn, and hogs, and uses anything made from cotton will have to pay extra prices (because of the domestic allotment tax) to make the buyers of these farm products git rich. This law ain't goin to help the general run of dirt farmers none. It may help the big ranch and plantation owners some, but the class that will be helped most is the first buyers of them four products.

And I don't see no good reason fer confinin this law to them four products Why not take in sugar, tobacco, tomatoes, potatoes, oats and citrus fruits? And why leave out sheep and cattle? I can't see why the hog should be singled out as a special animal of favor, when most of the small American farmers don't raise hogs no more. It's a pity that Florenz Ziegfeld didn't live long enough to put on a big show on Broadway entitled: "Glorifyin the American Hog."



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