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TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 1913.

The Easter girl is beginning to plume herself.

A back-to-the-land movement is needed in Mexico.

How about another clean-up campaign for the city?

The new President is hitting right and left at small things.

It is the privilege of the fortunate to aid the unfortunate.

All the fans hope the Orioles have made a start for the pennant.

The Democrats are already getting into a tangle over the tariff.

There is nothing to be feared from a tariff revision done honestly.

Anyhow, there are some fine speechmakers in the new administration.

It is unfortunate for the party that there are more Democrats than plums.

Washington society is stunned by the new administration's social regulation.

Apparently, March has given up the unequal struggle with the temperature.

Probe the dynamite disaster to the bottom and spare no one in fixing responsibility.

Business is so busy filling orders it has no time to heed the croaks of calamity howlers.

The Wilsonian Democratic simplicity is even to be applied to the American legations at foreign courts.

Secretary Bryan characterizes himself as a connecting link between the President and the Public. A silver link, perhaps.

The Isle of Pines wants to be annexed. This petition will possibly put some sensitive minds in the country on pins and (Pine) needles.

The Easter bonnet is viewed as one of the necessities of life, but even with a Democratic administration there has been no reduction in the cost.

The Easter bonnet is viewed as one of the necessities of life; but even with a Democratic administration there has been no reduction in the cost.

Ex-Secretary Stimson has begun his private career by getting into a battle with the suffragists. Probably he would prefer the peace of the War Bureau.

Attacked by the militant suffragettes who surrounded his carriage, King George remained calm. In this he showed the heroism in his placid nature which some of his critics have denied.

Five Black Handers were caught redhanded, so to speak, in New York recently. This is a fine chance to show extortioners how their game can be made both difficult and dangerous.

A Chicago philanthropist says that in the matter of adoption baby girls are getting as scarce as hen's teeth, while there is no demand for the poor boy babies. Nobody wants them. Is this another straw showing how the wind is blowing toward the final say in the dominant sex?

Whether the suffragist paraders liked their treatment or not they are at least getting pretty good advertising out of it, and, as General Rosalie Jones put it, that is the thing desired above all others.

Cars, carriages and automobiles were halted in Washington until a little squirrel on the tracks had been coaxed out of the danger zone. It seems that women only lack the proper protection in the national capital.

The Boy Scouts covered themselves with glory at the suffrage parade in Washington, and their praises are still resounding. The way in which they responded to the lessons of protection and manliness instilled in them should certainly prove a stimulus to the movement.

Now an expert says that motherhood must become a trained and intellectualized vocation. It is a pity that poor old nature has failed after being at the job so long, even if she did succeed in making mother love the strongest influence the world has ever recognized.

The Mexican minister of war says it was Mrs. Madero's fault in her attempt to have her husband rescued that the unfortunate President was killed. The old excuse, "It was the woman's fault," did not work originally, and this farfetched variation is not likely to be seriously accepted, nor is it at all creditable to the source from which it is put forth.

In the interests of dress reform in China, women are to be asked to give up their trousers for robes, and probably the conservative element will denounce them for their unwomanly eagerness to discard the garb of their mothers and grandmothers. For prejudice and custom never did play up consistency as a strong point.

THE ARSON TRUST.

If the confession of Ben Fink, the instrument of the Arson Trust, may be relied upon, more than fifty insurance adjusters are involved in the wholesale incendiarism that has extended from east to west, with centers in all the great cities. The probe is being put in deeply and the facts are coming to light. Such a remarkable field of exploitation as this and one so dangerous and destructive should be curtailed by rigid treatment of all those who may be found guilty of entering into the strange league of fire.

Four hundred dollars to fifteen hundred dollars is the price said by Fink, or Finkelburg, to have been paid him for acting the part of firebug. The situation is one that parallels the dynamite outrages and shows that callousness toward property rights and rights of life is not confined to the promoters of one or another kind of program, but may be entered into in cold blood for gain by those persons who make crime a profitable practice and employment. When the courts have gotten through with the cases that are accumulating the prisons in various states will doubtless receive important additions.

MORAL POLICE.

An interesting aspect of the plan that is being strongly advanced in New York, to take vice from under police control and to institute a moral police force that shall have to do only with the enforcement of the laws relative to the social evil and its attendant vices, is the trend toward specialization in municipal policing that it indicates. Already in New York there has been established a special police squad for the Fifth avenue and allied sections, so as to draw the crime line closely at the point where the residential section begins.

It is quite conceivable that in the future the great cities will have to maintain separate police for the various needs of law and order that now fall to the lot of the general force. This is the case with regard to the policing of parks. It is a question whether there ought not to be a special branch of the police whose duties would be entirely those of attending places of public amusement and of concourse and to include responsibility for public parades and demonstrations to avoid incidents, such as in Washington, which have brought nationwide criticism upon the capital police. The advantages of specialization in policing in great cities are readily apparent.

MOBBING THE KING.

Right of petition is dear to the hearts of Englishmen, and this purpose on the part of the women who surrounded the carriage of King George and cried out their demand for the ballot will probably minimize to some degree the outrageous exhibition and the acts of annoyance to the King and Queen. Returning to Buckingham Palace, after having opened Parliament, England's monarch was well buttressed with police and military, in expectation of some such demonstration as the women made.

The police prevented the King from receiving rough handling, in the opinion of those who are strongest in their opposition to the militant suffragettes, but there can hardly be two opinions that the women's demonstration would not have intentionally gone to the point of attack upon the monarch. The person of the King is held sacred in the eyes of the subjects.

But, with all allowance, the fact remains that the emotional insanity that has subordinated reason to rant in the case of the militants may yet break out in some individual act of the crime that would kill the suffrage case utterly. This latest outrage will tend to alienate many persons, while the objects sought will receive a setback. What the movers for such emotional outbreaks can hope to gain no one can see but themselves.

THE WAR GOD'S DEMANDS.

One of the indirect effects of the Balkan war has been to create burdens for the maintenance of armament that will weigh down the powers of Europe as they have never before been afflicted. The fears of Germany are twofold. The country has before it the vision of a great Slav state rising upon the basis of the defeat of Turkey and strengthened by the prospective defection of the Slav states from Austria upon the decease of the aged emperor. Far worse than the yellow specter ever was is the Slav peril that was pointed to by Bismarck. In the rising tide of Slav power Germany sees a threat of eventual subjection that has alarmed the counsels of the nation.

In addition to this fear is that of the policies of President Poincare of France, the man who is credited with the ambition to make his country a governing factor in the concert of Europe, and whose direct slap at Germany, in appointing Delcasse to the Russian court, has caused the world to gape with astonishment. That Germany has not promptly accepted the challenge contained in this signal honoring of the man whose downfall was brought about by Germany is looked upon as a sinister sign, rather than as a sign of acceptance of the humiliation intended.

Here then are conditions that account for the most remarkable tax, in times of peace, that Germany has ever imposed—the tax upon the capital of the nation. This tax ranges from about $1.25 on every $500, up to $50,000, and as high as $20 on every $500 in 25 millions of capital. It is so broad and sweeping, such a draft upon the resources of the country, so sure to be debilitating to trade expansion, that it seems amost inconceivable that a drain of the magnitude could be deliberately planned for the purpose of carrying out the military aims of the nation. The other powers competitive with Germany in the game of grim diplomacy will have to follow suit, and thus there will be created a military burden so vast that to get rid of it yet another will have to be assumed and the long predicted engulfment of Europe in war be brought about. For only the most simple-minded can fail to see in this latest tax of Germany a set policy to fight out the issues between it and its allies against the powers in the entente with Russia and France.

WILSON AND PATRONAGE.

Mr. Wilson may yet carry his patronage reforms to the extent of giving honor to the selections of Mr. Taft for places made vacant that the late president had full right to fill, in case his investigation of the appointees gives him assurance of the merit of the selection. There has been no intimation to this effect, but Mr. Wilson is said to have assumed another important stand—that federal officeholders who have been appointed for fixed terms shall remain in office until the expiration of their period of service, if they so desire. This is the direction good government should take, and if the policy shall be followed out it will have the effect of restraining those whose idea of patronage is to make a clean sweep of the holders of offices who can be ousted by the President. Adhering to the rule of fitness rather than partisan preference solely, the President will be well disposed to consider the men who have specified terms of appointment as deserving of filling out the period of their proper tenure. If, as report has it, he will also, in the appointment of persons to office vacant or that my become so, cross party lines and select the right individual in so far as he may be able without rigid regard to party affiliation, then there may be some acts of the quiet revolutionary nature that have already made the new President a man of distinctive initiative.

That the course of patronage is beset with difficulties every occupant of the highest office in the land has found out. Mr. Wilson in his position that applicants must first apply to the administrative head takes a departure intended to save him much of the cross-purposes that are met in personal consideration of the pleas of delegations prior to the looking over of the applicant and his exhibits by the head of the department in which he seeks service. The wisdom of this course in all its bearings will have to be justified by results, but it has certain economic advantages that will doubtless be appreciated by all concerned, save those who are prone to apply to the court of last resort in the beginning.

There is an element of potential discord in the procedure of Mr. Wilson that may become annoyingly active. The regular Democrats in the various states where the original Wilson men are seeking to have the disposal of the patronage are asserting themselves. This is particularly the case in Pennsylvania. The regular organization men are frequently Clark men, and these declare that they are entitled to preference in the consideration by the President of respective claimants. But as the practice of politics is to give first recognition to those who were in the bandwagon, the prospects of the contestants against the original Wilson men are not regarded as bright, uness the merits of the organization applicant or candidate are so clear as to rise superior to any of the assertions made in behalf of the opponent. Here is material for a chasm deep and wide in the party in power, and it is only one of the possible elements of discord between the two factions. The appointment of Mr. Bryan to the premiership of the Cabinet has been taken as a personal affront by many of the Clark adherents. Will Mr. Wilson be enabled to navigate through the shoals of patronage successfully? He can best do this by carrying his freedom of action to the ultimate point of honoring the designations made by his predecessor in all cases where these have the support of undoubted personal fitness. If the patronage fight simply narrows down to Wilson men versus regular organiaztion men, the lining up will be sharp and deadly. But through a broader policy and one that cannot be charged up to paying off scores the President may disarm criticism at its most dangerous point. For the one question of patronage, and the attitude of present moment is that of the distribution of patronage and the attitude of the President toward aspirants for place, whether appointive or otherwise, will be waited with vast interest. A broad-gauge policy followed out in a narrow-gauge manner will not satisfy the situation. But the policy of carrying the square deal to the ultimate point and putting the equities of the case above expediency may work out the best results in the end.

FALSE HOPES FOR MEXICO.

This country is certainly not in the business of encouraging internal revolt in the republic to the south, but the effort of the State of Sonora and some of the other northern states to secede and establish an independent state cannot be regarded with unmixed disapproval in this country. For if the republic of Mexico cannot be pacified without dismemberment the accomplishing of this end might result in the creation of a new republic modeled after the United States and in close bonds of sympathy with the big republic.

The hopes for peace in the country under existing conditions are unfounded. The iron of revolution is in the blood of the nation and the multitude of persons who have been outraged by pillage, rapine, murders and torture constitute an element that will not for a moment consider the laying aside of their deep designs for revenge. The Madero-Huerta feud is as venomous as that of the feudal clans of the Kentucky Mountains. The report of the secret service of the United States in which it is affirmed full support is found for the charge that the unfortunate late president and his brother were tortured before being put to death, makes impossible any acceptance upon the part of the Maderos of peace with the party in power.

Wormwood and gall has entered into the soul of the nation and bitterness that will exist for generations to come has been created. The political atmosphere is poisoned and tainted to the last degree. Actual desire for peace is not strong save in the breasts of the passive majority whose wishes do not count in the embroilments of the contending factions. The troops of this country now upon the border will doubtless remain there for a long time if their tenure is to be subject to the establishing of even a semblance of order throughout Mexico. The new administration will not find the hopes for peace in Mexico based upon sound foundation. The facts are against peace. But these facts do not as yet constitute an obligation upon the part of the United States to intervene. It may be accepted, however, as a fact that Mr. Wilson will not be inactive, that he will move for the protection of American life and property and possibly find means to secure these ends with a measure of satisfaction without recourse to invasion.

SPECULATION AND BUSINESS.

There is an apparent manifestation of worry in the region of Wall Street, or, to be more exact, in the region of the New York Stock Exchange, because of the pending bills at Albany which aim to regulate the methods of doing business on the floor of this famous mart in a way which, it is feared, would result in reducing the average day's business to a mere fraction of what is transacted under existing methods. The great bulk of the business daily on the lower end of Manhattan Island is, admittedly, speculative.

And those who believe that speculation is not only a spur to but the very life of business are asking what is going to happen when the speculative instinct is suppressed—put out of the business game entirely. Not in Wall Street alone, but universaly men buy what they do not want for their own use with the hope and expectation of selling again at a profit. The merchant with a pushcart who deals in peanuts and bananas is a speculator just as much as the man who makes a quick and profitable turn in real estate or railroad securities.

The man of the cave age traded coon skins for roots or dried berries because he had personal use for the roots or the berries. But modern business is far more complicated. The purely speculative principle has not only crept in, but it permeates and dominates the majority of exchange transactions. It is difficult to eliminate speculation from business, but surely it should be possible to put honesty into speculative methods and transactions. If the Sulzer bills succeed in doing that, and if in consequence the business of the leading New York security exchange drops to one-half or one-fourth the former average, the country as a whole will be the better and not the worse for the limitation.

NOTES AND NOTIONS

BY JOSH WINK.

THE EXCUSES

"Why did you not protect the march,
Oh, Chief-upon-Parade?"
"I did protect them all I could,"
The Man accosted, said.
"I loved that suffragistic march—I always wanted it,
I crazy was about the thing, I thought it very fit;
But if the crowd assailed it, and broke it bit by bit,
The fault was with my men—I couldn't help it."

"Why did you let the crowd break through,
Police-upon-Parade?
Why did you let insults go on,
And hoodlums make a raid?"
"Why everything went like a breeze," accused policemen cried,
"We felt to guard the suffragists it was our joy and pride,
And not a single act of rudeness, as here testified,
We saw, or heard a word that was not proper."

"Whose fault was it that things went wrong,
Oh, People-on-Parade?"
"Just list to us, we'll tell the truth,"
The ones in charge, they said.
"'Tis true that nothing happened in the way of wreck and noise,
That never once the crowd or we lost perfect quiet poise,
But if a racket was kicked up, we couldn't blame the boys;
'Twas all the women's fault for so parading."

THE CAUSE.

She (yawning)—I thought I heard something fall.

He (nervously)—I—er—I dropped a remark.

RIVAL AMBITIONS.

First Manager—I am going to get my star a Skye terrier.

Second Ditto—And I am going to get mine a moon calf and a sun dog.

QUICK ACTION.

"Did you do anything to try and save the Professor when he fell off the observatory roof?"

"Indeed, I did. When I saw him going, I begged him not to take any precipitate action."

THE COLOR LINE.

"What's your ground of complaint against the blue laws?"

"They don't treat people white."

GOOD GUESSING.

"The blind friend whom I took to the opera, remarked that it was not a very fashionable audience present."

"How could he tell that?"

"He noticed nobody was talking during the solos."

THE RESEMBLANCE.

"I always feel that a lawyer is a catlike creature."

"What makes you believe that?"

"Because he belongs to the fee-line species."

THEIR FATE.

"Don't tell me there is nothing in a name."

"What makes you say that?"

"We had two men here, one named Cannon and the other, Ball. Well, Cannon was fired and Ball was bounced."

THE WAY OF IT.

"All actors nowadays have to be types."

"Then, I suppose, authors have to be typewriters."

NOTHING IN THEM.

"There is one trouble about so many public reforms."

"What's that?"

"They're worked on the vacuum system."

JOSH WINK.

WILLING TO HELP.

The subject under discussion was hardhearted employers, and Congressman Victor Murdock said that while he couldn't believe that the boss as a rule was calloused he was compelled to admit an exception in some cases.

"One of the exceptional cases," the Congressman went on to say, "was an employer in Kansas. Recently an employe who had held a clerkship for several years went to the boss with a plea for an increase in salary.

"'I asked you for a little more salary a year ago,' said the clerk, 'but you told me that you were not able to give it to me at that time. Now a little baby has come to our home, which will add to the expense, and I would be very glad if you could favorably consider my request.'

"'I see, I see,' thoughtfully replied the boss. 'Let me think it over a minute. Boy, I suppose?'

"'Yes, sir,' happily answered the clerk, greatly encouraged by his employer's attitude.

"'I think I can fix it,' responded the employer. 'I won't be able to give you any more money, but just as soon as the boy gets big enough we will find a position for him in the office here.'"—Philadelphia Telegraph.

LA MARQUISE DE FONTENOY

The Clerk of the Crown and His Duties—King George Buys 5,000 Acres.

Special to The American.

Sir Kenneth Muir Mackenzie, who, according to dispatches received from England, will accompany the lord high chancellor across the Atlantic in August to visit the United States and to take part in the annual meeting of the American Bar Association at Montreal, is something more than the "principal and permanent secretary to the lord chancellor." For he is the clerk of the crown, his office carrying with it a salary of $10,000 a year, while its importance may be gauged by the fact that he is a member of the king's privy council, and possesses the Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath.

It is upon him that devolves the duty, on the occasion of all general elections, to issue the king's writs calling for a new parliament to meet "at the city of Westminster." The writs in question are sent by the clerk of the crown through the mails, free of charge, and all sorts of precautions are adopted to ensure their safe and speedy transmission, wilful neglect or delay in delivering or transmitting the writ of the clerk of the crown—such as was occasionally practiced in former days—being a misdemeanor punishable by fine and imprisonment.

The writs are sent by him to those temporal peers of England and Wales who do not happen to be minors or undischarged bankrupts, to what are known as the representative peers of Ireland—but not to those of Scotland; to the spiritual peers of Parliament—that is to say, to the archbishops and bishops of English and Welsh Anglican sees, occupying as such seats in the upper house; to the judges of the High Court, not being peers—all for the House of Lords. And where the House of Commons is concerned, to the high sheriffs of counties, to the mayors of municipal boroughs, and to the returning officers of parliamentary boroughs.

In the case of the Commons, the election must be held not less than nine days after the receipt of the writ, and the returning officer, after the poll has been taken, must send to the clerk of the crown his certificate of the result, along with the poll books. With regard to the Scotch peers, they at each general election assemble at Hollyrood Palace to choose 16 of their number to represent them in the House of Lords. The returns of this Hollyrood Palace election are communicated by the lord register of Scotland to the clerk of the crown.

The latter is the official custodian of all the returns to Parliameent for the United Kingdom and Ireland, of all the poll books and ballots used at the elections, and as soon as one general election is finished, the office of the Clerk of the Crown at once commences preparations for the next general election, although the latter may be seven years off—seven years being the statutory life of a parliament, unless meanwhile dissolved by the sovereign. From this it will be seen that the Clerk of the Crown is one of the most important factors in the legislative existence of Great Britain, and that he forms a sort of connecting link between the crown and the people, since it is he who in the name of the sovereign summons peers, judges, prelates and commoners, to assemble for the transactions of the legislative business of the vast British Empire, "at the city of Westminster."

The present incumbent of the office, the Right Hon. Sir Kenneth Muir Mackenzie, must not be confounded that Sir Kenneth Douglas Mackenzie, who figured the other day in the cable dispatches as having invoked in London the statute of limitations for the nonpayment of a loan of $250 which he had obtained from a New York acquaintance, David Stanley Brown, and whose unpleasant financial record and frequent appearances in the London bankruptcy court I described in these columns. This Sir Kenneth Douglas Mackenzie is of Scatwell, in County Ross, and of Tarbet, whereas the Clerk of the crown belongs to the Mackenzies of Delvine, of Perthshire.

The head of this particular family is Sir Robert Muir Mackenzie, a retired colonel of the Royal Artillery, has his country seat at Delvine Castle, near Murthly, and is the fourth holder of a baronetcy created a little over a hundred years ago. The Clerk of the Crown is his brother, and still another brother, namely, the late Sir Alexander Muir Mackenzie, married one of the lovely Moncreiffe sisters, who have included Georgina, Countess of Dudley, the late Duchess of Athell, Helen, Lady Forbes of Newe and Mrs. Charles Murray; several of their brothers notably William Moncreiffe and Malcolm Moncreiffe, having married Americans, and making their homes in this country.

Sir Kenneth Muir Mackenzie holds in addition to his many other offices that of warden of the ancient college of Winchester, and despite his years—he is about 66—is still an enthusiast on the subject of football and cricket, in both of which games he achieved much fame at Charter House, and afterward at Baliol College, Oxford, in his younger days.

King George has just purchased from Sir Edward Green, the latter's Ken Hill estate, in Norfolkshire, an estate of about 5,000 acres, lying within a couple of miles of Sandringham, and extending to the Wash foreshore, on the sands of which Queen Alexandra has erected a summer bungalow. The state comprises a famous wild duck decoy, and includes a very spacious and thoroughly up-to-date country house of yellow stone, built some 40 years ago.

Sir Edward purchased the Ken Hill estate, in the first place, for the purpose of advancing the social aspirations of his manufacturing family by becoming a neighbor of King Edward. But his son and successor married one of the Wilsons of Tranby Croft, a sister of Miss Muriel Wilson. They are not personae gratae to King George and Queen Mary, nor yet to Queen Alexandra, and that is why they have been glad to get rid of Ken Hill, where King George will probably live hereafter when in Norfolk, for the future, as York cottage, his present residence, Sandringham, has become altogether too small and cramped for his accommodation. He is very fond of Sandringham, and in course of time the latter and Ken Hill will be united into one large domain.

MARQUISE DE FONTENOY.

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Getting Ready for Canal.

[Cleveland Plain Dealer.]

The world is preparing for the early completion of the Panama Canal. Within the next two or three years more money will be spent in deep water harbors than in any similar period in history. The nations are looking forward to the short-cut through the isthmus and getting ready to care for the increased commerce that will mean.

Seattle plans harbor improvements to cost $20,000,000; San Francisco and Los Angeles each proposes to spend half that amount.

Chile has decided on a loan of $20,000,000 for port developments at Valparaiso and San Antonio. This great sum will be increased by local expenditures in large amounts. Six times as much is to be spent in improving the chief ports of Brazil, while Buenos Aires has a proportionately ambitious program.

European nations are no less alert. Everywhere it is recognized that the opening of Panama will mean a great impetus to commerce and a readjustment of trade routes and terminals. Shipping is near the beginning of a new era and naturally each nation seeks its share of the advantage.

China Vindicating Itself.

Those who have thought that China could not have a strong government as a republic should note that President Yuan's soldiers are said to be shooting the poppy-raisers by the hundreds to suppress opium production. Would any other republic dare to interfere with an agricultural pursuit to such an extent?—Providence Journal.

Outside the Family.

A strange woman with a hard-luck story can get a quarter out of a man when his own wife can't get a dime.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

MEN AND WOMEN

Capt. C. B. Knapp has resigned after 46 years of service in Cleveland's fire department.

W. O. Horn, of New York, has just obtained a divorce from Mrs. Horn after a legal battle lasting three years and costing $40,000.

The trustees of Hobart College have invited Dr. E. Cushion Tolman, of Vanderbilt University, to become the head of their institution.

Dr. Charles Meine, postmaster of Germania, Pa., for more than half a century a practicing physician in Germania and for 55 years a school director of Abbott, is 82 years young.

Earl Donoughmore, who married the second daughter of William R. Grace, of New York, has been named Grand Master of the Free Masons of Ireland, in succession to the late Duke of Abercorn.

Princess Lichnowsky, wife of the new German ambassador to London, paints, plays, sings, writes and educates her children. Her most recent work deals with Egypt. Her next book is to be about children.

After 49 years spent as a practicing physician and surgeon in New York, Chicago and San Francisco, Dr. Edwin J. Fraser, at the age of 81 has returned to school as a student at the University of Washington.

Frank Deen, a 70-year-old farmer, who has lived near Gentry for 60 years on the same farm, will move to Albany in a few days. Deen came to that part of the country with his parents when he was but 10 years old.

Louis St. Gaudens, a sculptor, known from his original work and as an assistant of his brother, the late Augustus St. Gaudens, died in Cornish, N. H., of pneumonia. He was born 59 years ago in New York.

Kady Brownell, the only woman veteran of the Civil War, has for the last 17 years been a caretaker of the Jumel mansion in New York. She was the only woman member of the Grand Army of the Republic, but there being no provision for taking care of women, had to be sent to an asylum when she became too old to support herself any longer.

Another Comparison.

Emperor William's defiance of the law revealed in the suit he just lost suggests again that old comparison between him and Colonel Roosevelt.—St. Louis Republic.

Landlord Justified.

The landlord of our hotel is justified in charging an extra price because he is put to the trouble and humiliation of living there all the time.—Chicago News.

GOSSIP OF THE STAGE

Frivolous Geraldine is to be revived in St. Louis.

Olive Oliver has joined the cast of The Argyle Case.

Charles Frohman is shortly to produce a new light comedy.

McKee Rankin is to have a stock company in San Francisco.

Edwin Arden and Anne Sutherland are appearing in The Stool Pigeon.

A one-act labor play called The Class Struggle, is to be seen in vaudeville.

The revival of The Amazons in New York will probably take place in May.

Gaby Deslys' engagement with the Shuberts has been extended six weeks.

The sketch in which Georgie Drew Mendum is to appear is called It Pays to Advertise.

Although Rose Melville is no longer playing in it, Sis Hopkins is making money on the road.

The Hoyt comedies are to be seen in the stock houses where they are expected to be very popular.

Philip Bartholomae's production of his play, When Dreams Come True, in Cleveland last week, proved a success.

William J. Burns, the famous detective, is to be featured in a moving picture drama called The Land Grabbers.

A. H. Woods will produce next season a musical play called The Grass Widow, by Channing Pollock and Rennold Wolf.

The Iron Door, by Allan Davis, a Pittsburgh newspaper man, was produced this week in Chicago. Russ Whytal was prominent in the cast.

Elizabeth Marbury, well known as one of the most prominent play brokers in the country, has taken a theater in New York for three weeks and will place therein a series of moving pictures and lectures, with a view of promoting real and educational amusement. She has secured a number of well-known people in different branches of art, literature, current events and adventure to deliver the lectures, and promises if her venture is successful to keep on. This venture makes her the only woman manager in New York.

THE INTERROGATORY HAT.

BY CHESTER FIRKINS.

["The latest fashion in plumes is to have the feather rise perpendicularly from the front of the hat and curve gracefully in the form of a question mark."—Fashion Notes.]

'Twas only yesterday you hid
Beneath a downcast, drooping lid,
In which no prying eye could trace
The least existence of a face.
I hoped that you had grown demure
And sought a cloistered life obscure—
But something knocked my hopings flat—
The Interrogatory Hat.

You used to trip along the street,
A-seeing nothing but you feet.
If wildly I would shout my plea
You'd TRY, at least, to look at me;
But it was best to hold aloof
When you put on that gambrel roof.
All's changed; for Fashion has begat
The Interrogatory Hat.

You used to walk in silence grim,
Sightless beneath that double brim.
You never asked a question; nay,
You never even asked your way,
But now emerging from the dark,
You are a living question mark,
You wear o'er visage thin or fat
The Interrogatory Hat.

How shall a common bard reveal
This heady quiz—this high appeal?—
A plume that rises from the front
Of every millinery stunt,
And curves just like a query sign.
The question is: "Will you be mine?"
But YOU say it does NOT mean that—
The Interrogatory Hat.

PUBLIC OPINION

Comment of Leading Newspapers on a Variety of Topics—Seniority in th Senate.

[Philadelphia Record.]

The Senate is usually, but not always, less responsive to public opinion than the House. There have been occasions when the Senate was rather the more radical of the two, and while radicalism is not always characteristic of public opinion, it always seems to be because it is aggressive and voluble. Customs have grown up in the Senate which the public feel have made it additionally unresponsive to public opinion. It has been called a club and is accused of developing interests of its own which are adverse to the interests of the country, or at least to those of the party in ostensible control of the Senate.

What is known as "Senatorial courtesy" has often served the interests or the revenges of a single member at the cost of public interests. The rule of seniority in making up committees has made the Senate less susceptible to changes in public sentiment, and its composition, constituency and tenure make it quite sufficiently unresponsive. This rule is now giving way, and while only one-third of the Senate changes at one time the disposition is now to facilitate rather than to obstruct changes in the influences controlling the chamber. It is proper tha every ebullition of public sentiment should not be at once recorded on the statute book, but the Senate is sufficiently conservative for all desirable purposes by the very conditions of its composition, and it is not necessary that this quality should be enhanced by the rules and usages of a mutual admiration society.

Reaping the Whirlwind.

[New York World.]

For the first time in its history, the German Empire has failed to float a government loan. The failure is almost complete. Of a total proposed issue of $100,000,000 4 per cent. treasury notes but $42,500,000 were subscribed. Even of these offered funds only $15,000,000 take up new notes. The remaining $27,500,000 are for renewals of old notes—and not nearly enough for the purpose. Ten millions more must be provided before this old issue falls due on April 1.

The failure of the issue is frankly ascribed to the purpose of the government to increase the military establishment. The new war policy will put 168,000 more men under arms; will erect costly fortifications toward Russia; will add $50,000,000 a year to the regular war budget; will levy a forced contribution of $250,000,000 upon the well-to-do—a thing sane nations do not do except in dire necessity.

So closely are modern nations linked that the wicked folly of Germany makes the whole world suffer. Upon the financial side her waste is felt in New York and London and Amsterdam. Her military challenge will be met by France increasing the term of service from two years to three, and by heavier taxation of the Russian peasant. Is there not in Germany, the home of culture and progress, the courage, common sense and political conscience to end this course of provocatives before it ruins humanity?

No State Guarantee.

[Buffalo Express.]

The committee of 19 state and city officials and business men of Rhode Island which was appointed by Governor Pothier to consider the plan proposed by President Chamberlin, of the Grand Trunk, to have Rhode Island guarantee $6,000,000 bonds for the completion of the Southern New England Railroad has issued a statement declaring that it was the sense of the committee that no such arrangement be made. Governor Pothier favors the plan.

This proposition recalls the excuse that was given by President Chamberlin for suspending work on the Southern New England Road. When the outcry was raised upon the announcement of the suspension of work, he declared that the condition of the money market forced the Grand Trunk to take this course. There was no doubt that the money market at that time, with the Balkan troubles coming to a crisis and talk of possible hostilities among the big powers, was in a very uncertain state. There appeared to be plenty of money in this country and in Europe, but it was being taken out of the European banks and hoarded. We soon began to send gold to Europe because of this hoarding. New England did not believe that the condition of the money market was the sole cause of the suspension of work on the new line, and subsequent developments appeared to bear out its belief.

Airship Regulations.

[Pittsburgh Gazette-Times.]

The last word may be considered as spoken with regard to the arrival of the era of air navigation as something serious and altogether outside the domain of mere sport when so practical a government as that of Great Britain makes statutes relating to the use and nonuse of the atmosphere above the British Empire by foreign air craft. The statute just enacted by Parliament gives jurisdiction in the United Kingdom to the secretary of state for home affairs and he has issued regulations which bar air vessels attached to foreign armies and navies from passing over any part of the kingdom or its territorial waters except upon invitation or permission of the government, and which make it necessary for civilians to obtain clearance papers from British consuls before attempting the same flight. Air navigators who offend may be fired on, and if captured are liable to fine and imprisonment. No more flights across the Channel from France without the full knowledge and permission and absolutely none from Germany without full publicity, though Germans seem not to have attempted anything of the kind except in the fevered imagination of some Britons. The regulations are important, however, as marking an era in the development of navigation of the air.

Civil Service and Pie.

[Omaha Bee.]

One American minister, Henry P. Fletcher, in Chili, declines to tender his resignation pursuant to the custom of ambassadors and ministers resigning with incoming administrations. He will hold his post until asked to retire, maintaining that he entered the diplomatic service as a career; that he began in a minor position and has advanced to his present one, and can see no real reason for quitting merely because of a new party in power.

It will be interesting to watch results in his case, which may establish a new precedent. President Taft lent his support to the movement, urged by our commercial interests, for trained diplomatic and consular representatives abroad. The country has rather committed itself to the desirability of this, having discovered how the United States suffers in foreign countries from the lack of experience and skill in its representatives, because we are constantly changing our men, who are seldom in one place long enough to secure the advantages of others.

Now, if we are going to promote this very wise innovation, why not begin at this time to reward merit in men and encourage efficiency?

Knocking the New Nickel.

[Toledo Blade.]

The grumbling over the new five-cent pieces lays bare once more that basic conservatism of the American people. The criticisms as criticisms are laughable. None but the designer and those who approved of his work would take them seriously. But the meat of the fault finding is that people are suspicious of changes in things they are long used to, so that they have an instinctive dislike for the new.

There isn't the least probability that the buffalo nickel will be recalled from circulation, or that its coinage will be stopped. It will become familiar in every one's eyes. It will be found just as satisfactory to the grocer, the baker, the candlestick-maker, as the old nickel, buying just as much, serving just as many handy purposes, rattling just as loudly in the baby's bank.

The quarrel is not with the humpbacked cow or with the Piute Indian of the two feathers. It is with the simple proposition of change.

The Only Way.

According to reports favorable to the new administration in Mexico, many insurgents of one stripe and another are promising allegiance. According to all accounts, that is what they had better do if they want to stay alive.—Providence Journal.

No Dividends in It.

Personally we are very fond of music, but never in our long life did we hear of a guitar paying any dividends.—Galveston News.

MUCH IN LITTLE

Boston's mayor advocates pensions for widows.

There are 6,905,000 Methodists in the United States.

New Orleans may soon add 100 men to its police force.

Denver is demanding total abstinence by police officers.

Over 10,000,000 cigarettes are consumed every month in the United States.

An English syndicate has bought 25,000 acres of cotton land in Mississippi, paying $2,000,000.

The latest piece of automobile paraphernalia consists of a combination footstool and lunch basket.

Clevelanders are raising funds to provide a permanent home for the Catherine Horstman training home for girls.

A palm tree on Temple street, Los Angeles, over 100 years old, has been cut down to make way for a business structure.

A factory in England has succeeded in making paper from Australian blue gum wood, of which there is a large supply available.

Buyers of antique furniture are advised by House and Garden that it is now almost impossible to "pick up" genuine antiques in this country.

It is estimated $7,240,000 will be required to start the new parcel post service and that the entire postal service for 1913 will require $282,805,780.

Reversing the process of keeping tropical plants in hothouses in temperate climates, a botanical garden at Calcutta utilizes a cold house for plants from cooler lands.

Zarah Howilson Pritchard, founder of the new school of submarine painting, lives at Pasadena, Cal., but is a native of India, Irish by descent and was educated in Scotland.

The area of the Belgian Congo is estimated at about 900,000 square miles, and it has a population of not more than 9,000,000 natives and 4,000 whites. Half of the latter are Belgians.

The National Chamber of Commerce of Torreon is making plans for an exposition of the products of the State of Coahuila, Mexico. The organization is planning to make experiments with the seed of cotton of the long-fiber variety, and already has ordered a supply of this seed.

With the exception of some cities in Canada, the elaborately furnished barber shops to which Americans are accustomed are practically unknown outside of the United States, according to reports received from consuls in all parts of the world regarding the market for barbers' supplies.

The working of copper forms a special trade in Turkey, and coppersmiths have their own quarters in every Turkish market. These are little shops, in each of which a master brazier and three or four apprentices pound copper into the required shapes. The only tools they use are an anvil and a hammer, the size of which depends on the kind of work to be done; there is no forge, no fire and no machinery, yet it is wonderful to see what they accomplish with such simple tools.

A Terrible Experience.

Of al the terrible things that can happen to a woman, the worst undoubtedly is to be forced to drive past a store window full of new Easter millinery when she has a stiff neck.—Florida Times-Union.

Man to Avoid.

The man who can laugh at a funny story after hearing it the third time should not be trusted. He is a hypocrite. Washington Star.

IN THE BEST OF HUMOR

Love—The Quest.
Marriage—The Conquest.
Divorce—the Inquest.—Three Arts Club Journal.

Tommy—Pop, what is flattery?

Tommy's Pop—Flattery, my son, is an ability to pay compliments instead of bills.—Philadelphia Record.

"Why doesn't Wombat's wife like you?"

"I'm the man he meets down town every now and then—the one who persuades him to have a drink."—Pittsburgh Post.

"He spent all his money on her and then she wouldn't marry him."

"No, she married the fellow who would not spend his money on her. That was the only way she could get it."—Houston Post.

"Bliggins seems tremendously busy sometimes."

"Yes," replied the cynical person. "He's one of those people who can avoid a great deal of actual work by seeming busy."—Washington Star.

Dumpleton—You're sending your daughter to a fashionable school, aren't you?

Von Blumer—Yes.

"How does she like it?"

"Fairly well, but she complains that she has no time to study."—Life.

"What do you mean by getting drunk when I send you out with a prospective customer?" asked the merchant.

"You told me to take the man's measure," explained the profligate son. "This man had a greater capacity than I had."—Buffalo Express.

Jack—Once more, Molly, will you marry me?

Molly—For the twelfth time this hour I tell you I will not.

Jack (of the Navy)—Well, 12 knots an hour is not bad speed for a little craft like you.—Tit-Bits.

"My doctor ordered two weeks at the seashore."

"He's a homeopath, isn't he?"

"Yes. Why?"

"Two weeks is a small dose. I'd go to an allopath and see if I couldn't get a trip to Europe."—Washington Herald.

"How splendid it was of Mrs. Willoughby to leave $50,000,000 to the old ladies' home! I never supposed she would do it."

"It was nice of her, wasn't it? But she left me something better than that."

"Oh, did she? I hadn't heard about that. What did she leave to you?"

"I inherited her cook."—Chicago Record-Herald.

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