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FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 1913.

The mountains look on Marathon, And Marathon looks on the sea; And musing there an hour alone, I dreamed that Greece might still be free. —Byron.

SPRING.

By the calendar, it is spring this morning. According to the almanac, the vernal season began at ten minutes past midnight, Washington time. So, by the time the sun rises in western Montana this morning, spring will have been here several hours. Three weeks ago, we thought we had fooled the almanac this year; three days ago, we were cruelly undeceived; this morning we start with a new deal and hope again is strong. The early arrival of Easter this year did not touch the heart of the weather man; the country was this week impressed with the terrible power which the dispenser of temperature yields. We trust that he will be satisfied with the demonstration; we are. But in the meanwhile, it is just as well not to remove the covering from the recluses and the part of caution is to wear the winter underclothes a while longer.

PER CAPITA.

One of the current prize-essay subjects which is interesting many people, east and west, is the answer to the question, "What Would You Do if You Were Given a Million Dollars?" It is quite a problem because it is pretty hard for us to imagine a million dollars; the cogs of the mental machinery of very few people are set in a million-dollar gear. But the problem becomes the more interesting by the fact that today is the seventh birthday of John D. Rockefeller III, who will age of these days inherit a thousand millions. That is out of the mental range of about everybody. Meanwhile, the census shows that the rest of us have a per capita wealth of \$34.42. If we could get even what is coming to us under this distribution, we would be tolerably well satisfied while the Easter bells are coming in, though the greener and the milliner would have it all before next Monday.

HOT CROSS BUNS.

The outward and visible sign of Good Friday is the hot cross bun. This year the hot cross bun is more the vogue than ever. New York is hungry, we are told, for a bite of this toothsome dainty and Missoula is causing the hot ovens to work overtime this morning. They are the proper thing for breakfast this morning and they are good and reasonable for lunch and for supper. The custom of eating hot cross buns on Good Friday was introduced into America from England, but there is a difference of opinion as to the real origin of the practice. Similar delicacies for spring eating were fashionable long before the Christian era. Indeed, a learned Egyptologist once asserted that the hot cross bun was originally symbolical of the worship of the sacred bull in the Nile country. "Bous," which is the Egyptian word for bull, in one of its oblique cases is written "boum." This, it is triumphantly asserted,

A MATTER OF BUSINESS

We wish every citizen had the time to make personal inquiry into the conditions which attend the administration of the affairs of the city of Missoula. We hold this wish because we are sure that an honest investigation can result in but one conclusion and that conclusion would be that the best interests of the city demand the continuance of the present policy. Such a conclusion would lead to the reelection of Commissioner Houston by a vote that would be practically unanimous.

The investigation of the city's business, which was made by a citizens' committee a few weeks ago, disclosed the fact that the commission had reduced expenses to a great extent. The investigation opened the way to an agreement by which the city is relieved of a large portion of the fixed charges which had previously been paid for light and water; the commissioners entered into this agreement and the city has been saved several thousand dollars a year.

An inquiry into the situation at the city hall will reveal the fact that the city is being governed at a less expense than ever before since it has been larger than 10,000 in population. There were thirteen policemen on the force when the commission government went to work; there are now five officers and the city is peaceable and quiet beyond any precedent.

One of the street-corner campaigners, working against Mr. Houston, has declared within a few days that gambling is more general and more open than ever before in Missoula's history. Anybody who knows anything at all about Missoula and about the conditions here, knows that this assertion is absolutely false. We do not believe there is a gambling game in the city at present and we do not believe there has been one since the city officers a long time ago ordered all games stopped.

This gambling story is on a par with most of the campaign talk that is being made against Mr. Houston. It is utterly false. There can be no sound objection to the reelection of Mr. Houston. He has made a splendid official record and is entitled to another term.

As a matter of fact, the men who are fighting against Mr. Houston are not fighting against him as much as they are against the commission form of government. There are a good many men who have been disappointed in the commission form of government because they have found that it means a business-like handling of the city's affairs. These disappointed men are the sorehead politicians who want to keep partisan politics a part of city administration, regardless of the welfare of the city.

We believe that a great majority of the people of Missoula want to see the city's affairs administered in a business-like manner. We know that an investigation into the situation at the city hall will satisfy any reasonable man that the present administration should be continued.

gives us our own word, "bum," and the case is proved. But, wherever it came from, the hot cross bun is in our midst. Today marks the close of the penitential period of Lent and we enter upon the celebration of the Easter festival. There will be appropriate church services the country over. Even the New York stock exchange takes a holiday until Monday—and dandies Wall street welcomes the rest.

CLEAN POLITICS.

It is amusing to read in the Missoula Sentinel a plea for clean politics. Our Hessian cabinet-making friends, paid assassins as they are, have no little right to talk about clean politics as the devil has to preach Scripture. When they do it, they have the same motive which the devil has when he assures an aspect of idly. "When the devil was sick, the devil a monk would be, but when the devil got well, the devil a monk was he."

Missoula has the only electric railway in the world which can truthfully advertise a scenic mountain route across a bridge. Yet, we're not bragging about it.

We may hope for a better weather service after Wilson has been on the job a little longer. But he certainly did let his foot slip this week.

The University of Wisconsin serves meals, good meals, it is said—at \$2.50 a week. But we can't eat breakfast there and get to work in time.

The conference between President Wilson and Senator Simmons, we note, led only to a decision to have another conference.

Considering the weather reports from other places, we have reason to be well satisfied with the climate of Missoula.

The man who crossed the bridge yesterday morning had a right to stop and ask himself if he had been drinking gin.

The grizzly bear is becoming extinct in California and the Chicago News suggests that it has been danced to death.

Perhaps the storm was the result of Colonel Bryan's leaving Washington. We can't get along without him on the job.

Now comes somebody so unkind as to call the merging of burlesque shows another activity of the beef trust.

The issue of the Redbird whiskey threatens to become attached as a rider to Schedule K.

Cipriano Castro has the satisfaction of knowing that Secretary Nagel left before he did.

With a King Constantine in Athens, eastern Europe will be reminded of old times.

Protection for the Birds

By Frederic J. Haskin.

Early in April the department of agriculture will have ready for distribution a new bulletin upon birds that will have an important bearing upon the much discussed McLean bird protection bill, which was finally included in the bill making the appropriations for the department of agriculture and such approved on March 4 and signed by President Taft as one of his last official acts. The bulletin will be profusely illustrated, picturing wild geese, wild swans, snipe, plover, woodcock, brant, wild pigeons and other migratory and insectivorous birds which henceforth are to receive protection from the federal government under regulations to be formulated by the department of agriculture.

The bill proposed by Senator McLean of Connecticut, together with those presented to the house by Representatives Weeks of Massachusetts, and Anthony of Kansas is based upon the fact that the lack of uniform bird protective legislation throughout the country is responsible for the enormous decrease and even the threatened extinction of many species of birds that make migratory passages north and south each year. It is of no use for one state to pass protective laws so long as in another state, possibly even during the mating and hatching season, there is no law protecting that same bird. The passing of a federal law upon this subject was opposed by many who consider it an infringement upon states' rights to give the federal government jurisdiction over a matter which, some claim, should rest entirely with the individual states. A number of decisions of different courts are to the effect that the migratory and wild game birds belong to the whole nation and not to the citizens of any state through which they may chance to pass, and it is these decisions which constitute the recognized authority for the new bill.

Every important organization of sportsmen, as well as the Audubon society and the leading scientific associations of the country, were unanimous in their support of the bill. The American Game Protective and Propagation society, which has been organized entirely for the purpose of protecting and increasing the natural game of the country, was indelibly impressed in collecting data and statistics which were presented to congressional committees in support of Senator McLean's bill. The provision is made that the regulations to be formulated by the department of agriculture for the protection of the migratory birds are not to be permitted to interfere with the local laws of the states and territories for the protection of non-migratory game or other birds resident and breeding within their borders, nor to prevent the states from enacting laws to promote and render efficient the regulations of the department of agriculture provided for under the new bill.

The enforcement of this new bill is to be brought about by the appointment of deputy United States mar-

shals to do the work. Already hundreds of thousands of dollars are being paid out by the different states for the support of their game wardens, and the federal marshal could go with them and co-operate with them for the good of the game interests of the country. The sum of \$10,000 has been appropriated as a beginning for this new protective work.

Canada is joining with this nation in the endeavor to secure protection for migratory birds, since many of the birds which add to the resources of that country come to the southern states for the winter and their slaughtering migrations materially has affected the Canadian bird supply. It is believed that the passage of the McLean bill will be only the forerunner of a movement to secure international protection for all migratory birds. Senator Root already has brought the matter forward by his resolution authorizing the president of the United States "to propose to the governments of other North American countries the negotiation of a convention for the mutual protection and preservation of migratory birds," and it is hoped that the movement soon will extend so as to include both Central and South America. America has fallen pathetically behind Europe in this respect. As far back as 1870, Europe was threatened with the extinction of a number of species of migratory birds so that, in 1873, a congress of agriculturists and foresters was called in Vienna. This convention passed a resolution requesting the imperial Austrian government to secure the protection of birds by means of treaties with other countries of Europe. In 1875 Germany, Austria and Italy entered into a joint agreement for the protection of birds. Since that time four ornithological congresses have been held in Europe, and there is now in existence an international agreement consisting of 11 articles forming a code for the protection of birds, which has been ratified by 11 European powers.

From a practical as well as an aesthetic and humane standpoint, the protection of birds is important for the benefit of the nation. Most people have no idea of the protection birds give to the crops of the country. There is an annual loss of \$80,000,000 in the United States from pestiferous insects, and this loss has been steadily increasing in proportion to the decrease of the birds, most of which feed upon them. The United States biological survey has had the stomachs of more than 3,000 birds examined. Thirty grasshoppers and 250 caterpillars were found in the stomach of a cuckoo. In that of a night-hawk were found 50 grasshoppers and in another more than 500 mosquitoes. Seventy caterpillar worms were found in the crop of a cedar bird. Mr. Treadwell of the Boston Society of Natural History, fed a young robin 68 caterpillars in a single day and a Canadian scientist reports a robin which consumed 68 caterpillars in the same period. According to careful estimates the insect-eating birds of Massachusetts last year consumed over 21,000 bushels of insects from May 1 to Sept. 30. Yet the damage done by insects to the crops of that state amounted to \$5,000,000.

Thirty species of shore birds eat noxious weeds, as well as insects, and at least 150 of the insect-eating birds of the country have been classed as game in both the northern and southern states. Even the robin is being killed legally in seven states. In Virginia a petition signed by 100,000 school children secured the protection of the robin in that state by a special act of the legislature passed last year. In five states the blackbird has been a legal game bird also.

The friends of the birds have spared no pains to investigate such birds as have been charged with being enemies of the farmer. For years the king bird has been considered an enemy to the honey bee and because of that charge has been banished from many communities by the persecution of schoolboys. An investigation of this charge recently has been made by a scientist who examined the contents of the stomachs or crops of no less than 655 king birds. About one-fourth of the contents was vegetable; fully one-half was of recognizable insects including grasshoppers, rose beetles, boll weevils, potato bugs, caterpillars and kindred other pests.

This bird shows a predilection for the blister bug or meloidae. These insects contain a drug known as cantharidin which, besides blistering human skin, produces other physiological symptoms. The blister-bug apparently does not injure the king bird, however, for bugs were found in no less than 70 of the stomachs that were examined. Another insect noted was the robber which is about three times the size of the ordinary honey bee. This robber attacks the honey-laden bee, kills it and appropriates the honey. Honey bees were found in only 22 of the king birds examined and most of these were drones. So, instead of being an enemy, the king bird is really the protector and friend of the honey bee.

The interest in bird protection has increased enormously during the past 10 years and the McLean bill is only one of the measures by which it is being forwarded. The number of bird refugees is being increased every year. They now number 61 under federal or state control besides a large number of private ones. The latest one is Marsh Island, which lately has been purchased by Mrs. Russell Sage for \$150,000. Marsh Island is located about 200 miles southwest of New Orleans and contains about 75,000 acres of land. Mrs. Sage was interested in this project by Edward A. McIlhenny of Avery Island, Louisiana, who recently united with Charles Willis Ward of Michigan, in the gift of a bird refuge of 15,000 acres to the state of Louisiana. This is located just west from Marsh Island and is separated from it by a narrow pass. These two bird refuges coming so near together will give breeding places to millions of birds each year. The American Game Protective and Propagation association has gone farther. They have established a breeding farm on a small island just off of Cape Cod, in which they already have been able to breed many



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Order now for Easter delivery. Missoula Nursery Company CHARLES F. DALLMAN, Proprietor City Store, Montana Building PHONES—Bell 192. Independent, 526

birds of the species which seemed most in danger of becoming extinct. It is intended to establish similar breeding farms in other localities in order that the depleted bird life of the country may be restored as speedily as possible.

The growth of the Audubon society has been marvelous within the past few years and its influence has been especially fortunate among schoolboys, who no longer take a keen pleasure in robbing bird nests or slaughtering the tiny creatures with a sling-shot. The Boy Scout movement has a strong protective influence for birds and there are many other agencies at work, so that it is believed that within the next 10 years the bird life of the country markedly will be increased. Aside from the pleasure to be derived by nature lovers from this enforced protection, the department of agriculture predicts most noticeable results in the battles with insect pests which now are waged so violently in all parts of the country. The time has come when birds are recognized as of advantage to man and, therefore, are to be protected and fostered by him.

Tomorrow—"Stopping the Tipping Evil."

WORD FROM SIMONSON. Mullan, March 19.—(Special)—C. P. Anderson is in receipt of a letter from Hans Simonson, formerly in the employ of A. P. McRae of Mullan. Mr. Simonson is now located in Seattle. He says that since he has been in Seattle he has met Paddy Welch, former lefty pitcher for the Mullan baseball

team, and L. E. Conrad, formerly catcher for the same team. Mr. Welch is at Marysville, Wash., where he has a half interest in a shingle mill. Mr. and Mrs. Welch also have a 2-year-old daughter, born since leaving Mullan. Paddy will play ball this year with a coast team. Mr. Conrad is employed at Cedar Falls, Wash.

SMUGGLED SILKS CONFISCATED. San Francisco, March 20.—A huge case labeled "Medical supplies," which was brought from the Philippines by the United States transport Logan was confiscated by custom officials today and found to contain \$1,000 worth of silks and other oriental goods. The case was consigned to Mare Island navy yard and its contents were wrapped in packages directed to four women. An investigation is under way.

HEARINGS CLOSE. Minneapolis, March 20.—Hearings in the government's so-called anti-trust suit against the Northwestern Lumbermen's association and the Mississippi Valley Lumberman, its official organ, were closed here today.

CLARK MCKEECHER, assistant attorney general, who has been conducting the hearings, left tonight for Milwaukee, where the proceedings will be resumed tomorrow. The defense will open its side at hearings to be held here in June.

PRIZE FOR PLAY. New York, March 20.—Winthrop Ames, former director of the New Theater, announced tonight a prize offer of \$10,000 for the best play by an American author submitted before August 15.

Women at the Age of Forty Are fast approaching a time in life when they should be particularly careful about everything that relates to their health—particularly their health as women. For soon nature makes a very important change in the distinctly feminine organism. Now is the time to prepare for this change. Now is the time that the whole physical constitution should be uplifted. Weaknesses and irregularities now neglected means serious consequences when the "change" does come. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription Has been recommended for over forty years to overcome the sufferings and dangers of this important period in the life of every woman. It is a regulator and tonic, composed of only those ingredients which authorities in the science of medicine have demonstrated benefit womankind, without producing after-ill-effects. To be forewarned is to be forearmed. Your druggist can supply you in liquid or tablet form—send 50 one-cent stamps for trial box of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription Tablets. Address Dr. Pierce's Invalids Hotel, Buffalo, N. Y.