

About People and Social Incidents

AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

Washington, April 23.—The President had a talk after the Cabinet meeting to-day with Oscar S. Straus, ex-Secretary of Commerce, who has been appointed to an important post in the diplomatic service.

THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

Washington, April 23.—The British Ambassador left here this afternoon for Philadelphia, where he is to deliver an address at the Darwin centenary celebration. He will return to Washington to-morrow evening.

IN WASHINGTON SOCIETY.

Washington, April 23.—Mrs. James W. Pinchot received a number of women this afternoon, who listened to a lecture on lace and like fabrics given by Miss Morris, assistant to Mr. Valentine, curator of decorative art at the Metropolitan Museum, New York.

HONORS TO SHAKESPEARE'S MEMORY.

Stratford-on-Avon, April 23.—The 345th anniversary of the birth of William Shakespeare was celebrated here to-day on an unusually elaborate scale. The city was decorated and was crowded with people.

HARVARD PROFESSOR RESIGNS.

Cambridge, Mass., April 23.—The resignation of Professor Goodale, Fisher professor of natural history at Harvard University and director of the Botanical Garden, was announced at the Harvard College office to-night.

TRANSATLANTIC TRAVELLERS.

Among the passengers who will sail to-day for Europe are: THE DAISY, AUGUSTE VICTORIA, FOR HAMBURG.

FOR LIVERPOOL.

Sydney E. Hutchinson, Mrs. W. D. Reynolds, James Sheppard, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Sargent, J. W. Porter, Mrs. J. H. Markoe, Mr. and Mrs. George B. Morrison, Mr. and Mrs. Palmer B. Morrison.

FOR LONDON.

Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Powell, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Avery, Mr. and Mrs. J. Van Gilder, Miss Elizabeth Marbury.

FOR THE BALTIC.

John E. Brooke, Mrs. S. C. Chauncey, Mrs. W. D. Reynolds, James Sheppard, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Sargent, J. W. Porter, Mrs. J. H. Markoe, Mr. and Mrs. George B. Morrison, Mr. and Mrs. Palmer B. Morrison.

FOR SOUTHAMPTON.

Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Avery, Mr. and Mrs. J. Van Gilder, Miss Elizabeth Marbury.

FOR NAPLES.

The Rev. J. P. McCloskey, Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Payne, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Seymour, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Wilton, Mrs. Byron Murray.

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posed the McCumber amendment as designed to improve the Civil Service system. He expressed the opinion, in which the Washington newspapers heartily concur, that the method of geographical distribution is a mistake and that free competition without regard to state lines would be better.

But if your Civil Service has any merit in it at all and if education is to be the test, then the man with the best education, no matter where he comes from, ought to have the office.

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outlined a highly popular programme when he said that he would vote to retain all the decreases made in the House bill, and all the increases made in the Senate bill, and would oppose any increases over the Dingley draft.

Some of the Senate leaders show a disposition to insist that the Republican platform does not promise a revision downward. The platform did not specifically say that duties should be lowered, but it did not say, on the other hand, that they ought to be increased.

It held that the true policy of the Republican party was to improve "such duties as will equal the difference between the cost of production at home and abroad, together with a reasonable profit to "American industries."

It also said that the aim and purpose of the Republican policy were "to preserve, without excessive duties, that security against foreign competition" to which American producers are entitled.

A tariff which would offset the normal increased cost of production here was evidently the ideal aimed at by the convention, and is certainly the ideal aimed at by the party.

The Legislature appears determined to make an extraordinarily blank record for constructive legislation. Not merely are the greater questions, like party government reform and the extension of public service regulation to the unregulated utilities, to be passed over without action, but a number of less important constructive measures of a meritorious character have received scant attention.

The vagrancy farm bill had the general support not merely of the philanthropic societies and of the press, but of the railroads, whose voice is said by many observers in Albany to have never had a chance.

A legislative wish to point to some accomplishment of positive character might have fallen to act on other reforms proposed upon its attention.

Similarly the report of the Immigration Commission was ignored. The committees of both houses snuffed it. The commission disclosed serious evils that are a grave discredit to the state in which more than half of all the immigrants who come to this country declare their intention of taking up their residence. Yet its report was pigeonholed.

No action was taken to stop the robbing of immigrants by private bankers or by pretended steamship agents. The losses which the commission found the immigrants sustained through these two sorts of rascals illustrate the futility of federal regulation of immigration if it is not supplemented by the conditions prevailing in New York, by state regulation.

Under the conditions prevailing in New York, by state regulation. Of what use is it for the United States government to demand that an immigrant shall bring with him enough money to carry him until he is likely to find his place in this country if, when he has landed, the state permits him to be robbed of his little fund?

Perhaps the subject of state control of immigration has not yet been sufficiently discussed for the formation of intelligent public opinion on it, but the action of the Legislature in pigeonholing the report of the commission has merely checked discussion on what is a topic of great importance to the state.

For the smothering of this subject in the committees of the Senate and Assembly only one explanation is vouchsafed to members of the Immigration Commission: Governor Hughes recommended action on immigration in his message and appointed the commission, and the Legislature is determined that he shall get no credit from it. If that is the real reason that has controlled the Legislature's attitude toward this and other constructive measures, it is puerile in the extreme.

The direct nominations question seems to have robbed members of their ordinary sense of what is good politics. The failure to act upon the reform of party government might have been made more venial by abundant, wise and public-spirited action in other directions. But the Legislature has chosen to make a negative record.

It has not infrequently been the case that good Republican judges in districts strongly Republican and good Democratic judges in districts strongly Democratic have been elected, especially in districts where there are few appointments than their ratios call for, are not very strictly examined. Legal results are a highly technical status. It is chiefly a matter of intention, and the complaint is made that persons who live in the District of Columbia, having been drawn there by public employment, retain technical citizenship in the states from which they came, and for office-holding purposes transmit that citizenship to their children and grandchildren. The quota of the District of Columbia is always full, and Washington people find it easier to get into the classified service by affirming residence in some one of the states.

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DOMESTIC.—Grave charges have been made in Washington against S. N. D. North, Director of the Census, and it is said that President Taft may demand his resignation. The Commissioner of Immigration at this port, has received an indefinite leave of absence and will not return to his post.

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THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Fair. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 58 degrees; lowest, 45.

THE SCOPE OF THE REVISION. Thursday's tariff debate in the Senate brought to light some opposition to the Finance Committee's bill which will have to be taken into serious consideration. Representing the Republicans of the Northwest and Middle West, Senators Nelson, of Minnesota, and Doolittle, of Iowa, maintained the revision of the Dingley schedules accomplished by the Finance Committee was not a real revision downward, such as the Republican party promised last year and such as the country is now waiting for.

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