Amusements.

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ALHAMBRA—2—8—Vaudeville.
ASTOR—8:15—Seven Days.
BELASCO—8:20—The Call of the Cricket.
BIJOU—8:20—The Lottery Man.
BROADWAY—8:15—The Joint Bachelors.
CASINO—8:15—The Chocolate Soldier.
CITY THEATRE—8:15—Miss Innocence.
COLONIAL—2—8—Vaudeville.
COMEDY—8:15—The Three Daughters of M. Dupont.
CRITERION—8:20—The Bachelor's Baby.
DALY'S—8:20—The Whirlwind.
EMPIRE—8:15—Mid-Channel.
FIFTH AVENUE—2—8—Vaudeville.
GAIETY—8:15—The Fortune Hunter.
GARRICK—8:15—Father and the Boys.
GLOBE—8:15—The Old Town.
HACKETT—8:30—Molly May.
HAMMERSTEIN'S—2—8:15—Vaudeville.
HERALD SQUARE—8:15—The Yankee Girl.
HIPPODROME—2—8—A Trip to Japan; Inside the Earth; the Ballet of Jewels.
HUDSON—8:15—The Spendthrift.
IRVING PLACE—8:15—Das Süsse Mädel.
KNICKERBOCKER—8—The Dollar Princess.
LIBERTY—8:15—The Arcadians.
LYCEUM—8:15—Pillars of Society.
LYRIC—8:15—The City.
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN—2:15—8:15—Circus.
MAXINE ELLIOTT'S THEATRE—8:15—Lulu's Husbands.
MENDELSSOHN HALL—8:30—Piano Recital.
NAZIMOVA'S THIRTY-NINTH STREET THEATRE—8:15—Little Eyolf.
NEW AMSTERDAM—8:15—Madame X.
NEW THEATRE—8:15—Beethoven.
NEW YORK—8:15—A Skylark.
STUYVESANT—8:15—The Lilly.
WALLACK'S—8:15—Miss Jimmy Valentine.
WEBER'S—8:15—The Lady from Lobster Square.
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New-York Tribune.

FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 1910.

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THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

CONGRESS.—Senate: The administration railroad bill and the cost of living inquiry were discussed. House: Representative Fowler, of New Jersey, introduced a resolution designed to take the power to name all committees from the Speaker; it was sent to the Committee on Rules.

FOREIGN.—There was an uproar in the British House of Commons when "Parnellism and Crime" history was revived in the course of a debate to abolish the pension of Sir Robert Anderson, who recently admitted the authorship of those letters. Paris received ex-President Roosevelt with more enthusiasm than it usually accords reigning sovereigns. At a meeting of the board of directors of the Cunard Steamship Company, in Liverpool, it was announced that two more great ships would be built, one for the New York and the other for the Boston service. The Cathedral of the Ascension, in the Kremlin, Moscow, was robbed of gems worth $500,000. The "Princes' Trust," so-called, representing the pooled investments of Prince Egon von Fuerstenberg and Prince Hohenlohe-Oehringen, secured control of the Berlin Omnibus Company. Several missions outside of Chang-Sha were reported burned, in a dispatch from Peking, but the foreigners escaped. A dispatch from Santiago, Chili, quoted the Minister of Foreign Affairs as saying that there had been no settlement of the Tacna-Arica dispute with Chili. Norman Lamont climbed the volcano of Soufriere, on the island of St. Vincent, in what is said to be record time, one hour and fifty minutes.

DOMESTIC.—Samuel Langhorne Clemens (Mark Twain) died at Redding, Conn., from angina pectoris, at the age of seventy-four. Secretary Ballinger withdrew from entry approximately 13,500,000 acres of coal lands in Southeastern Montana. Assistant Secretary Norton of the Treasury Department told a House committee that there was no law under which an embezzler at a sub-treasury can be punished. An intimation that papers lost by the prosecution came into the possession of the defence at the Hyde trial was made the basis of an investigation. Senator Hinman at Albany denounced the judiciary as "pap seekers." The state Assembly unanimously passed the resolution for a general graft investigation. The Assembly at Albany passed two debt limit measures, putting up to the Senate the question of deciding between the two. A man who was believed to have committed suicide at Jersey City returned to his home at Middletown, N. Y.

CITY.—Stocks closed fractionally higher. The people rested in the trial of Albert Wolter for the murder of Ruth Wheeler. An Italian woman suffering from leprosy was found in a First avenue tenement house by the Board of Health. The police were unable to find a former dockmaster for whom a warrant was issued by the Mayor, as a magistrate, following the discovery of alleged discrepancies in his accounts. The price of Stock Exchange seats showed a decline of $7,000 in the first sale in more than a month. At the closing of the grand jury inquiry into the alleged bull pool in cotton it was indicated that the government had learned the terms of the agreement in the matter. A noted yeggman was found guilty of murder in the first degree in Brooklyn for killing another who "peached" on the gang. The Tefft Weller Company announced that although solvent it would go through reorganization.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Fair. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 60 degrees; lowest, 48.

PENNY WISE.

The arguments by which the Courthouse Commission attempts to justify adhering to its original preference of City Hall Park come down in the last analysis to one—the city owns the land for a site there and would have to buy it elsewhere. All the commission's arguments in favor of placing the courthouse in the park, such as convenience, etc., apply with even greater force in favor of a site on the north side of Chambers street. The question, then, is whether the city will ruin the City Hall and cover with a building half of the present unoccupied area of the park in order to save the cost of a site.

It seems to us that the plan of the commission is selfish and unenlightened in the extreme. The city is building for the long future and should group its public buildings in a manner worthy of a great metropolis. The new courthouse should be placed with this in view. To huddle it up behind the City Hall so as to make that structure look like an old-fashioned horseblock in front of the big building would be to bar the city permanently from having a civic centre suited to its dignity. The argument of the commission that City Hall Park is not a park—because, we suppose, there is not a menagerie, a bandstand and some tennis courts in it—is too absurd to be discussed. It leads to the covering of Madison Square, Union Square, Washington Square and all similar open spaces in the city that are not playgrounds with public buildings.

The question is, as we have said, simply whether the city, in order to save the cost of a proper site, is to take this incredibly shortsighted step. Mayor Gaynor has said the city need not be "niggardly," and we hope he will see how niggardly and penny wise is the plan of the commission. If the city cannot at present buy a proper site it might better wait till it can, renting accommodation for the judges meanwhile. That would be no peculiar hardship, for if it is to build on the site of the present courthouse it will have to establish the courts in rented offices during the process of construction.

ALBANY AND THE INCOME TAX.

The vote in the Assembly on the concurrent resolution for the ratification of the income tax amendment to the federal Constitution disclosed a disposition on the part of an apparent majority of that body to be governed by other motives than the prudent safeguarding of state and local interests. The attitude of the minority party was especially regrettable. With the exception of Messrs. Chanler, of Dutchess, and Shortt, of Richmond, all the Democrats present voted for ratification, sacrificing considerations of state advantage and expediency to the dictum of the national organization to which they belong. Their fidelity to a Democratic national platform was stronger than their fidelity to the interests of the commonwealth which they are supposed to serve. In order to redeem a pledge made elsewhere for the benefit of the smaller and poorer states these ultra-nationalistic Jeffersonians are willing to give their approval as New York legislators to a method of federal taxation which, if applied, would penalize New York.

The fifty-two Democrats and twenty-two Republicans who voted to ratify the pending amendment voted to tax this state's instrumentalities and to diminish its taxable resources in an oppressive ratio which is to be applied to no other state. The amendment explicitly subjects to taxation for federal purposes income "from whatever source derived." It would therefore, if put into full effect, render taxable income derived as interest from state, city and county bonds. The value of such securities would be impaired by this deduction from the return which they yield, and the state and its sub-agencies, being forced to sell bonds at lower figures or to expend more in interest charges, would virtually have to assume the burden imposed by the federal government. New York has a larger aggregate of state, city and county debts than any other commonwealth. It would, therefore, suffer relatively more from taxation of income from state securities than any other member of the Union.

It is argued, of course, by some of the defenders of the amendment that under its terms Congress cannot tax income from state securities, because, as the Constitution has been interpreted up to date, state instrumentalities are exempted from federal taxation. But this argument minimizes the fact that the amendment, with its sweeping clause, "from whatever source derived," upsets the old interpretation. The Sixteenth Amendment, if ratified, cannot be construed in accordance with the limitations of the Constitution as it now stands. On the contrary, those limitations must be modified in the light of the new matter injected into the Constitution.

In another way also New York will be discriminated against if the amendment is ratified and a tax is imposed. Of the federal income taxes collected from 1863 to 1868 New York paid 32 per cent. Its share under a new income tax law, with a $5,000 exemption limit, would probably be even more disproportionate. Yet this state needs to conserve its resources as carefully as any other state. It has vast claims to meet, which are becoming vaster every year. A brief recently submitted to the Legislature justly said on this point:

> If New York wants canals, or highways, or water systems, or rapid transit, or conservation of forests, etc., her people must supply the funds, and hundreds of millions of dollars will have to be provided in the future to pay existing debts and to meet future needs. These state and municipal debts now amount to over $900,000,000, and we must unavoidably incur additional indebtedness every day. Hence the reason why the property of the states should be reserved to meet the necessary and constantly increasing needs of the states, unless war calls for the sacrifice of property.

The Legislature would do well to consider the advisability of ratifying or not ratifying the pending amendment from the pertinent and practical point of view of its effect on New York interests.

A WORLD'S COURT OF PEACE.

There is much that is encouraging in The Tribune's reports of the progress which has been made with our government's plan for the elaboration and expansion of the pending International Prize Court into an international, if not a universal, Court of Arbitral Justice. When Secretary Knox first broached that interesting project it was confidently declared by its critics that the powers of the world generally would reject it. Now it is made known that its principle has been approved by a number of important powers and that there is a prospect that such approval will be given by as many as fifteen, in which case definite action will be taken for presenting it to another congress at The Hague for formal embodiment in an effective treaty.

At the second Hague Congress there was much discussion of the practicability of such a court, and a division was indicated in which the more important powers were on the affirmative and the more numerous powers were on the negative side. The great powers pretty generally favored the creation of such a tribunal, upon whose bench each of them would probably always have a representative, while the smaller powers, which might have to be content with a joint representative for several of them, or with representatives in rotation for short terms, were averse to it. It is not clear, however, that this latter attitude is still maintained by any considerable number of powers, especially since some of them are known to have receded from it so far as a prize court was concerned, and the logic of it has never made a convincing appeal to the judgment of the world. It is obvious that to give each power in the world a permanent representative on the bench would make the court too large and cumbersome, and it surely is reasonable that since disparity of representation seems thus inevitable the greater representation should be given to the greater powers. There is in that proposition no odious discrimination, any more than there is in the great powers having ambassadors while the smaller powers have ministers.

Moreover, the fact that a number of powers declined to enter the arrangement would not necessarily nullify or defeat it. If a dozen powers, including the larger ones, should unite in such a tribunal, a great agency for peace and justice, or for peace through justice, would be established, the influence of which would doubtless be felt beneficently even by those states which were not constituents of the court. Nor is the lack of minute detail in Mr. Knox's proposal to be reckoned to its discredit. What is essential is to have the principle of the thing approved. The elaboration of details can be left to the congress at The Hague. Mr. Knox's idea seems to have been twofold—to secure adherence to and support of the general principle of an international court of arbitral justice, and to seek the creation of that tribunal through the utilization of the prize court the plans for which have already been fully drafted. It is gratifying to learn that there is a hopeful prospect that his efforts in those directions will prove successful.

A NEW DEPARTURE.

The Assembly's amendment to the graft inquiry resolution permitting a person charged with official misconduct to be represented by counsel and to subpœna, examine and cross-examine witnesses will introduce a novelty into the coming investigation. Hitherto legislative inquiries have been entirely *ex parte*. Persons accused before a legislative committee could not summon witnesses in their own behalf, and counsel looking after their interests were present only on sufferance. This has doubtless resulted in some injustice, and perhaps the fact that only one side of the story was told has led to some discounting of what was brought out at hearings, but the interests of expedition seemed to require that method of procedure.

The experiment involved in the Assembly's resolution causes doubts. A general investigation such as that proposed would probably be protracted, even if conducted in the usual *ex parte* way, but if any official or ex-official who is reflected upon in the course of it may cross-examine witnesses and insist upon having his defence heard the inquiry may become endless. The process of the investigation may become so clogged with cross-examinations and with testimony in defence that its purpose of obtaining the facts may be defeated. It is conceivable, on the other hand, that if too much time is not wasted on technicalities, cross-examinations, explanations and denials the effect of the inquiry may be strengthened by freeing it of the imputation of being *ex parte*.

IN THE LIGHT OF A RECENT INCIDENT.

Republicans in the Legislature at Albany—some of them, at least—appear to be making one last stand against the application of the direct primary system to state offices; why we are not able to see. We do not recall that it has ever been alleged by investigators that it worked well in regard to nominations for smaller political units and ill in regard to nominations for state tickets. Nor do we believe that public sentiment would be satisfied with a law which retained the convention system for state nominations and decreed the direct system for all other nominations.

If we are not mistaken, the one incident that more than any other gave point to the demand for a change was the doubt that for a long time existed two years ago whether the Republican machine would venture to defy the overwhelming public sentiment of the state and refuse a renomination to Governor Hughes. It was that more than anything else which opened the eyes of the state to the irresponsible power possessed by political machinists and showed the need of reform. It took pressure from the federal administration and the aroused sentiment of the whole country to turn the organization from its purpose, and a determination began to be formed at that time to take this power away from it. Now, this was not any mere local incident, but a state-wide incident, and the public will bear it in mind in forming its opinion as to whether a direct primary system that applies only to local offices is satisfactory.

"PLUTO" TO THE FRONT.

The Hon. Thomas "Pluto" Taggart, of Indiana, wants to be the candidate of his party for the seat in the United States Senate now occupied by the Hon. Albert J. Beveridge, but has been reluctant to make a fight in the open against Mr. Beveridge as the nominee of the Democratic State Convention. "Pluto Tom" doesn't believe in playing his hand above the table. He doesn't relish being compelled to go before the voters and challenge odious comparisons with Mr. Beveridge as an orator, a statesman, a champion of uplift or a regenerative force in Indiana politics. "Mine Host" of the French Lick curé would greatly prefer to remain in the background till the votes are cast and take his chances of preferment subsequently in a Democratic legislative caucus. The Taggart methods of persuasion are far more fetching in the caucus room than on the rostrum.

Unfortunately Governor Marshall has declared himself against any repetition of the scandals which cropped up in the train of the last Democratic Senatorial caucus, at which John W. Kern, the "logical" choice of the party, was etherized and supplanted in the interest of Benjamin F. Shively. Mr. Marshall insists that the Democratic State Convention shall nominate a candidate for Senator. He has probably hoped thereby to discourage the aspirations of the Plutonian one. But when "Mine Host" makes up his mind nothing can discourage him. Indianapolis dispatches say that he will go into the state convention and defeat the nomination plan if he can, although the Democratic party is committed by both state and national platforms to popular nominations for the Senate. If he fails to down the Governor on that point he will become himself a convert to the theory of convention nominations and ask to be named as the Democracy's candidate for the Senate.

The ex-chairman of the Democratic National Committee will certainly have to be reckoned with this year in Indiana. He has controlled the party machinery there so long that he has come to think that the party is his personal property. If it is to be preferred, he is to be preferred. He cannot understand, if Mr. Beveridge is to be unhorsed, why he should not be elevated to the saddle. The Indiana Democracy will therefore have to decide next week both where it stands and where the Hon. "Tom" stands. Will it gladly Taggartize itself again or will it succeed in breaking for a time the strangle hold of its veteran Plutonian conductor?

THE ANTI-OPTION SOUTH.

It is impossible not to be amused at the indignant protests that are coming from the South because of the government's inquiry into the cotton pool. For years the South has been crying out against the cotton exchanges and against dealing in futures. The speculators were the enemies of the cotton grower. They held the price of cotton down, cheated the farmer of the fruits of his toil and kept the South impoverished. Anti-option movements had great support, and the anti-option bill before Congress this year was finally limited so as to apply only to cotton options, such legislation being demanded only by the Southern and Southwestern members of Congress.

Yet when the government inquires into bull speculation in cotton on the ground that there is a conspiracy to hold cotton out of the market and thus inflate prices a wail goes up throughout the length and breadth of the South. "The government is acting with the New England cotton bears," is the complaint. "It is helping the enemies of the South." Protests fill the Southern newspapers, and Southern Congressmen and cotton brokers are kept busy reading telegrams from the indignant South. But if the South had had its anti-option laws this bull movement that it looks upon as its salvation could never have taken place at all. The South, which would make a law to stop speculation altogether, is almost beside itself because the authorities inquire whether the present speculation has not overstepped the bounds of such laws as already exist.

Condemnation proceedings against the present system of condemnation proceedings would seem to be in order.

If Mr. Asquith asks the King to create enough new peers to pass the veto bill he will be taking a leaf out of Mayor Gaynor's book. The Mayor appointed new aqueduct commissioners for the purpose of winding up the affairs of the commission and going out of existence. Mr. Asquith would have the crown create two or three hundred new lords for the purpose of putting the House of Lords out of business.

We may all concede that the present courthouse is an unsanitary scandal, but it does not follow that a new one should be built in the City Hall Park.

The Egyptian Assembly took plenty of time for its consideration of the proposal for an extension of the Suez Canal franchise, but the decision was sufficiently emphatic when it was finally given, the proposal being rejected by a vote of 66 to 1. It will be remembered that the plan was to prolong the franchise for forty years for a bonus of $20,000,000 to be paid by the company to the government and also an increased yearly royalty. The Egyptian government favored the extension, and might have adopted it without reference to the Assembly, but it voluntarily submitted it to the Assembly and bound itself to be governed by the latter's decision. A great many things may, of course, happen in the next half century, and it might be rash to assume that the action now taken would be irreversible at a time when all the present members of the Egyptian Assembly had been gathered to their fathers. But if the policy which has now been adopted is maintained, the result will be that on November 17, 1968, the concession will expire and the canal will become the property of the Egyptian government. It would be a gigantic object lesson in the practical application of the principle of limited franchises, and nobody is likely to shed many tears over the loss sustained by the company in thus being compelled to surrender its property, seeing that for many years its yearly net profits have been 25 per cent of its capital stock.

There are Aldridges outside of New York. Governor Malcolm R. Patterson of Tennessee has just announced his candidacy for re-election. He would show more wisdom if he took to the woods.

A new question regarding the extent of police authority is raised by an incident which is said to have occurred in front of a hotel the other evening. A passing taxicab was hired by two men, but after they had entered it the chauffeurs of other vehicles claimed a prior right to all patronage in that particular neighborhood, and ordered them to get out. An officer of the traffic squad is reported to have enforced the demand with a threat of arrest. For the convenience of its guests the management of a hotel may be glad to have a number of cabs at its main door, and for that reason may grant special privileges to one of the local cab companies. How far out into the street it possesses legal rights, however, is a point on which the public would like further light. It would also be interesting to learn whether under any circumstances whatsoever a hotel may refuse access to a sidewalk to any carriage the driver of which wants to stop there, either to take or leave a passenger.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

"The Baltimore Evening Sun" made its bow to the public on Monday. At first glance it appears to look a good deal like its venerable "daddy," the beloved "Sunpaper" of Baltimoreans, but on closer inspection it is quite different. The heads are about like those in the parent sheet, but the body type is large and clear. In their salutatory the owners of the new paper say: "The extent to which 'The Evening Sun' uses large print is an experiment, and an interesting one, in metropolitan journalism. The combination of modest headlines with book type is a reversal of the prevalent fashion, which apparently assumes that only headlines are read in a newspaper. Whatever may be the habit in other cities, 'The Sun' has reasons to know that Baltimore people read the right kind of newspaper through and through."

"And where is your sailor son now?"

"Well, I don't rightly mind, mum, if he be gone to Gibraltar in the Jupiter or to Jupiter in the Gibraltar, but it be somewheres in them parts."—Punch.

Women's "skyscraper" heeled shoes have come in for another drubbing, this time an official one in Chicago. Building inspectors have decided, after careful scrutiny of fire escapes on buildings where large numbers of women are employed, that the French heels are a menace to life and limb in case of panic. "The slim, pointed heels would catch between the iron slats of the steps of most fire escapes," said one inspector. "The stairways and the heels together constitute a terrible danger to the girls working all over Chicago where this style of fire escape is used. The stairways should be made in such a way that heels will not catch, or working girls should wear some other kind of shoes."

"This man wants to be janitor of my new apartment house. Says he has acted in that capacity for you."

"Yes; he was janitor of one of our apartments for five years, during which time no tenant ever lodged a complaint."

"Hum! I don't think I want a man who will terrorize the tenants as completely as that."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

STRUCTURAL WEAKNESS.

What is that creaking, sund'ring sound,
From topmost beam clean to the ground,
We hear about us night and day
As though the house were giving way?
The economic structure quakes
As though it had a case of shakes,
And yet nobody seems to fear
The creaking noises that they hear,
Nor are the tenants rushing out
To learn what danger lurks about.
Instead, they seem to want it so
And calmly wait to see it go.
It may be there's no cause for fear
Because, from all reports they hear,
It is, in country and in town,
The cost of living coming down.

W. J. LAMPTON.

One Feather—How did you come out on that poker game with the cowboy?

War Bonnet—Oh, I had the lead about a mile coming home, but I saved more cartridges than he did. He's a poor shot.—Chicago News.

SENATORS BENTON AND FOOTE

Duel in Which Silence Proved More Effective Weapon than Words.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Thomas H. Benton, of Missouri, and Henry S. Foote, of Mississippi, were simultaneously members of the United States Senate sixty years ago. They were both Democrats, and, therefore, political friends, but they were very bitter personal enemies—perhaps two people have seldom, if ever, disliked one another more intensely. On one occasion Mr. Foote's indignation was such that he threatened Colonel Benton with a revolver, and but for the timely intervention of other members a tragedy would probably have occurred on the floor of the Senate.

Not long subsequent to that unseemly episode Mr. Foote, alluding on a social occasion, in conversation with several gentlemen, to Mr. Benton, was reported to have said: "I have never yet had an opportunity sufficiently to express my opinion of and contempt for him, but I am going to write a small book, and Senator Benton will figure very largely in that." Colonel Benton on being told of that remark was said to have replied: "Well, I am going to write a very large book, and Senator Foote won't figure in it at all."

Reading the "small book" and the "very large book" with reference to those facts is very amusing: expression in the one is ingenious, clear and strong, and well calculated to convey the idea and make the impression desired, but it is overmatched by the retort of silence in the "very large book."

Mr. Foote's work is a small volume, of only 232 pages, entitled "The Bar of the South and Southwest," and is well worth reading. It abounds in brief anecdote and interesting witticisms about numerous and distinguished lawyers and statesmen, among whom is Colonel Benton, who is given more space than any of the others. He is accorded credit for some very noble qualities and charged with some grave defects, to exhibit which was probably the principal object of the book, and the account is well calculated to impress the reader who is unconscious of the feelings of the author with a very unfavorable opinion of the personage criticised. Unfriendly feelings on the part of the author are very carefully and ingeniously concealed.

Colonel Benton's work is a very elaborate history, of two volumes and 1,628 double column pages, entitled "Thirty Years' View." It is an historical work of great merit. In the preface he announces: "Justice to the men with whom I have acted is my chief motive for engaging in this work. . . . I write in the spirit of truth. My ambition is to make a veracious work."

The work covers a period of thirty years, from 1820 to 1850, during which the author was a member of the Senate. Presidents Monroe, J. Q. Adams, Jackson, Van Buren, the elder Harrison, Tyler, Polk, Taylor and Fillmore, as well as such statesmen as Crawford, Clay, Calhoun, Webster, Grundy, Cass, Wright, Marcy and numerous others, receive due attention. The work also contains a list of Senators during that period, one of whom is "Henry Stuart Foote." While the author must have had Mr. Foote in mind, he appears never to have known anything worthy of noting about the latter, who is simply treated as a nonentity, too insignificant for the least comment, whether in compliment or reproach.

Thomas Carlyle, in commenting on Dante, whom he greatly admired, says: "His silence was often more eloquent than his expression." The great Italian poet probably never surpassed with his talent of "silence" Thomas H. Benton in dealing with Henry S. Foote.

W. R. BALDWIN.

Liberty, N. Y., April 18, 1910.

THAT "STRADIVARIUS."

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The agitation in musical circles caused by that violin now on exhibition, as reported in Wednesday's Tribune, at the 104th street police station as a "Strad" constitutes a pathetic evidence of the crass ignorance of some New Yorkers. I don't know what kind of music dealers there are around that neighborhood who could not give a definite opinion as to the genuineness of the instrument, nor do I know Lieutenant Davis, who offered the inscription in the violin—"Antonius Stradivarius, Cremonese, faciebat anno 1730"—as a mark of value, but I would like to know Lieutenant Sullivan, who said that a similar fiddle could be bought in Ireland for 30 cents. I think his price is a bit low, even for an Irish fiddle, but he's all right as to the "Strad" part of it.

For years, all over this country, rural and urban, these fake violins have been circulating, until now the veriest "rube" is "hep" to the fraud of that and similar inscriptions put into violins by malefactors of great names. Some of the makes are not altogether bad, and might be worth $8 or $10, but "Strads" are not picked up in hallways or from tramps at any such prices. Every "Strad" is known, and one will sell at anywhere from $5,000 up. Amatis, Stainers and other famous makes are forged in the same manner, though Stradivarius seems to be the most popular brand to fake.

Be these things as they may, if the 104th street station people want to determine what there is in that inscription, let them go over into Jersey, or some other small "rube" resort, and try to sell their "Strad" as a genuine instrument. Maybe they will get back to little old New York alive, but the fiddle won't. The "rubes" of long ago paid money for their knowledge of such violins, and their descendants have not forgotten. They hone to get even.

New York, April 20, 1910. W. J. L.

HOLIDAYS AND MORE HOLIDAYS.

From The Springfield Republican.

Congressman Keliher, of Boston, appeared before the Committee on the Judiciary of the national House to urge making October 12, the anniversary of the discovery of America, a national holiday. Mr. Keliher told the committee that there is a strong sentiment in Massachusetts in favor of Columbus Day. It must seem strange to Mr. Keliher that the newspapers of this state agree in saying that no such general sentiment is discoverable here.

REBELLION.

From The Syracuse Post-Standard.

We used to call it consumption. Then at the behest of the physicians we learned how to spell and speak tuberculosis. Now they are springing phthisis on us. We balk.

HE'S FOR IT, ANYHOW.

From The Schenectady Union.

How long would "Fingey" Conners last as boss of Erie County under the direct primary system?

People and Social Incidents

AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, April 21.—The President discussed the political situation with Representative Tawney, who has just returned from Minnesota, where he went to make preparations for the Congress campaign. He reported the situation as satisfactory.

The German Ambassador and the Secretary of State will accompany President Taft on parts of his coming Western trip. Secretary Knox will go to Buffalo and Pittsburg with the President, and Count von Bernstorff will accompany Mr. Taft from Pittsburg to Cincinnati, where they will attend the May music festival. From Cincinnati the President will go to St. Louis.

Representative Smith, of Iowa, introduced Judge Horace E. Deemer, of the Iowa Supreme Court, who is being urged for the vacancy in the United States Supreme Court.

Alaskan affairs were discussed by the President, Governor Clark and ex-Governor Hoggatt.

Senator Bradley presented M. H. Thatcher, of Louisville, the new governor of the Panama Canal Zone, who wished to see the President before sailing for his post.

Representative Gaines urged the President to appoint Philip Waters, a negro, of Charleston, W. Va., Assistant Register of the Treasury should Cyrus Field Adams, who is in poor health, resign.

Because of a previous engagement the President declined the invitation of Mrs. M. Seaver Keay, state regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Pennsylvania, to attend dedicatory exercises at Valley Forge on May 14. Mrs. Keay was introduced by Representative Wanger.

The bill to abolish pension agencies and have their work done at Washington was taken up with the President by Senator Scott.

The President and the Secretary of the Treasury discussed the New York Surveyorship. It looks less probable that General Nelson H. Henry will be appointed.

Representative Weisse introduced the Rev. C. I. Bergemann, of Fond du Lac, Wis., and the Rev. G. Harders, whose work is among the Indians. Mr. Harders told the President that Yellow Dog, of the Apache tribe, wanted a photograph of the Great White Father. This Yellow Dog was willing to take in place of two horses and a wagon promised him twenty-one years ago by some government official. Mr. Taft gave the minister a signed photograph for the Indian.

Assisted by his naval and military aids, President Taft received fifteen hundred Daughters of the American Revolution in the East Room this afternoon. The Marine Band furnished music.

Among the President's callers were the Secretary of War, the Postmaster General, Senators Crane, Lodge, Warner and Scott and Representatives Morse, Jones, of Virginia; Edwards, Foster, Alexander, Steenerson, Dickinson, Coudrey, Law, Townsend, Foster, of Illinois; Gaines, of West Virginia, and Ames.

The President and Captain Butt went horseback riding this afternoon.

The President entertained several Senators and Representatives members of the committees on Postoffices and Post Roads at dinner to-night for the purpose of discussing postal savings legislation.

THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, April 21.—The recently appointed Italian Ambassador, who succeeds Baron Mayor des Planches, will arrive here in May. Marchese Cusani Confalloniere has many friends in the diplomatic corps. He will establish the embassy for the summer at Manchester, Mass.

The Minister from Bolivia and his daughter, Señorita Calderon, have returned from a trip to New York and Waterbury, Conn. Miss Calderon visited Mrs. F. P. Lilley at the latter place.

The Minister from Sweden and Mme. de Lagercrantz will not sail from this country until some time in May or later, as they were unable to obtain desirable accommodations earlier. They expected to sail next week.

Lieutenant Colonel James returned to Washington to-day from a short visit in New York, and to-night he and the Hon. Mrs. Bernard James entertained a number of guests at dinner.

IN WASHINGTON SOCIETY.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, April 21.—The Vice-President and Mrs. Sherman were the guests of honor at a dinner party entertained to-night by Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Kauffmann.

The Assistant Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Beekman Winthrop, accompanied by their house guests, Miss Alice Van Rensselaer, of New York, and Miss Elizabeth Wells, of Boston, went to Annapolis to-day to attend the Harvard-Annapolis boat race, and were the guests at luncheon of the Secretary and Mrs. Meyer, who went to Annapolis on the Dolphin yesterday. Mrs. Meyer also entertained Mr. and Mrs. Larz Anderson and their house guests, Miss Catherine Anderson and Miss Harriet Anderson, of Cincinnati. Mr. and Mrs. Winthrop and their party returned this afternoon.

Dr. and Mrs. F. Fremont Smith entertained guests at dinner to-night to meet Miss Van Rensselaer and Miss Wells. Their other guests were Baron and Baroness Korff, of Russia; Mr. and Mrs. Francis B. Crowninshield, Miss de Smirnoff, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Ellis, Professor Emory, Benjamin S. Cable and Captain Matthew A. de Laney.

Mrs. Buckner-Wallingford left Washington this morning for her home in Pittsburg after spending two weeks with her brother-in-law and sister, Count and Countess de Chambrun.

Mrs. Herbert Wadsworth was hostess at a tea this afternoon, when several hundred persons from the diplomatic corps and official and resident society were her guests. Mr. and Mrs. Wadsworth also had guests at dinner to-night. To-morrow they will begin their annual pilgrimage to Avon, N. Y., on horseback, going first to Virginia. They will have friends with them, and when they reach Ashantee, their country place in New York, will entertain a series of house parties, of which many of the younger diplomats will be members.

Miss Alice Boutell entertained at luncheon to-day for Miss Edith Lee Sutherland, daughter of Senator and Mrs. Sutherland, whose marriage to A. Robert Elmore, of New York, will take place on Wednesday, when Miss Boutell will be one of the bridesmaids. Miss Alice Elmore, of New York; Miss Eleanor Ridgely, Miss Frances Goldsborough, of Washington, and Miss Virginia Beatty, of Salt Lake, the other attendants of the bride, were also guests of Miss Boutell. Mrs. Roger Boutell chaperoned the party.

Miss Winifred Munroe, daughter of Professor and Mrs. Charles E. Munroe, was married at noon to-day at the home of her parents to Charles Henry Mathews, jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Henry Mathews, of Philadelphia. The bride was attended by her sisters, Miss Dorothy and Miss Charlotte Munroe, and William B. Mathews was best man for his brother. The ushers were Russell Munroe, Kenneth Crawford, of Philadelphia, and David Rankin, of Wilmington, Del. Mr. Mathews is a Princeton man. After a wedding journey he will take his bride to Philadelphia to live. While only members of the families witnessed the ceremony, several hundred guests were at the breakfast which followed, the company including a number of diplomats, scientists and members of resident society.

NEW YORK SOCIETY.

Miss Elizabeth Hurry, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Hurry, was married to Lawrence Swift yesterday afternoon in the Church of the Epiphany, Lexington avenue and 35th street, which was decorated for the occasion with white roses and palms. The bride, who was given away by her father, was in a gown of white satin trimmed with points de Venise lace, and wore a veil of the same lace—an heirloom—fastened with orange blossoms. Her bouquet consisted of white sweetpeas and lilies-of-the-valley, and she wore the bridegroom's gift, a pearl brooch. Miss Dorothy Hurry was her sister's maid of honor and only attendant. She was dressed in green chiffon over green satin, with which she wore a lingerie hat trimmed with pink roses, and carried a bouquet of pink sweetpeas. Douglas Hartshorne was the best man, and the ushers included Dr. John B. Swift, jr., and Samuel Swift, cousins of the bridegroom; Morris T. Ballou, Gordon Smylie, Arthur P. McKinstry and Rodney Proctor. After the ceremony, which was performed by the Rev. William T. Crocker, a reception was held at the home of the bride's parents, in Lexington avenue. Mr. and Mrs. Swift will spend their honeymoon in the South, and on their return will go to the home of the bride's parents for the summer.

There was a large attendance at Sherry's last evening for the first of the three performances of "Monsieur Beaucaire" by members of Miss Spence's School Association, for the benefit of an open air class of instruction for tubercular children. The parts were well taken and the acting was cleverly done by the amateurs. Miss Olive Hitchcock appeared in the role of Beaucaire, in which the late Richard Mansfield achieved so much success; the Duke of Winterset was taken by Mrs. B. Tappen Fairchild; Miss Rosalie Elliman took the part of Beaucaire's friend, Molyneaux, while Miss Katherine Force was Beau Nash. Others who took men's parts were Mrs. Edward Meyer, Miss Gladys Robbins, Miss Dorothea Darlington and Miss Dorothy Ruxton. Lady Mary, the heroine, was portrayed by Miss Rosalind Romeyn, and the three other young women were Miss Muriel Kelley, Miss Eleanor Townsend and Miss Marjorie Dodd, while Miss Grace Henry appeared as Mrs. Mabsley, Miss Frances Cleveland Lamont as Lady Rellerton and Miss Julia A. Loomis as the Countess Greenbury. Supper was served after the play by girls dressed in eighteenth century costumes, and during the supper selections from "Hounds and Hares," "Bombs and Balloons" and "Kilts and Kelts" were sung by Miss Hitchcock, Miss Beatrice and Miss Constance Pratt and Miss Marion Stevenson. The waitresses included Miss Frances Burr, Miss Laura V. Webb, Miss Clara Fargo, Miss Doris Dick, Miss Louise Freeman, Miss Katharine McCook and Miss Hilda Holmes. The second performance will be given this afternoon and the final one this evening at Sherry's.

Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish gave a large dinner last night at her house, in East 78th street.

Mrs. George J. Gould left town y