

New York Tribune.

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The Tribune uses its best endeavors to insure the trustworthiness of every advertisement it prints and to avoid the publication of all advertisements containing misleading statements or claims.

One Agency to Trail and Jail the Grafters.

Several difficulties in connection with the Assembly's proposal for an investigation of the highway graft by special committee of that body are manifest. Not the least of them is the fact that this method, unusual in legislative procedure here, would inevitably be stamped as "playing politics."

There is no doubt about the desirability of one comprehensive state-wide graft hunt. District Attorney Whitman's John Doe probe, with the accompanying indictments found by the grand jury, proves the case. He has been able to do a great deal here; other county prosecutors have been able to do their part elsewhere.

There seem to be two possible ways of securing the most far-reaching exposure and promptest conviction of grafters. One is that already rejected by Governor Glynn—the designation of District Attorney Whitman as a special assistant Attorney General to follow the grafters wherever they may have gone.

Another ideal appointment is to be credited to the administration, by way of the War Department. All that was deservedly said the other day in commendation of the nomination of Colonel Gorgas as surgeon-general of the army may be repeated concerning that of his distinguished colleague, Colonel Goethals, as the first civil Governor of the Canal Zone.

There is no reason to suppose, however, that Colonel Goethals will care to remain at Panama permanently, or for any long time after the completion and opening of the canal. Nor would it be desirable for him to do so.

More Reform Among the Aldermen.

When the Board of Aldermen voluntarily proposes to give up the aldermanic power over the licensing of newspaper, fruit and curbside stands, as an ordinance presented by Mr. Curran, majority leader, provides, it is proof positive that the spirit of reform has permeated the City Fathers.

The ordinance should be, and doubtless will be, passed. Under the changed conditions these small merchants will be relieved of graft or political intimidation, the aldermen will be relieved of suspicion of clinging to this anomalous function for personal revenue only, and responsibility for the issuance of the licenses will be concentrated where it belongs.

The President and the Canal Toll Juggle.

According to The Tribune's Washington correspondent President Wilson stands ready to facilitate the passage of the Adamson bill, suspending the free tolls to coastwise shipping clause of the Panama Canal law.

The exemption of American coastwise trade vessels from ordinary canal charges, practically giving that highly protected trade an additional direct government subsidy, was an afterthought. It was a pretext seized upon in Congress by Eastern interests which wanted to commit the country to the policy of ship subsidies, and by Western interests which wanted to have the government pay part of the freight charges on goods shipped by way of Panama to the Pacific Coast.

This combination controlled Congress in 1912 and wrote a violation of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty into the Panama Canal act. It also got a plank

justifying that breach of faith into the Democratic national platform. It is perhaps too much to hope that Congress will at once withdraw from its position as a violator of treaties. But the passage of the Adamson bill offers an easy way out. Until it is determined how nearly the canal can pay its own way it is foolish to throw away a large share of the revenue from tolls.

Let 'Jim Ham' Do It.

The Tribune's Paris correspondent must have intended to be waggish when he cabled over on Monday: "Senator James Hamilton Lewis, of Illinois, has had several conversations with Premier Doumergue and other members of the Cabinet, in company with his friend Charles Guernier, the Socialist Deputy, but the minister carefully avoided talking politics or business."

Cabinet ministers may propose, but "Jim Ham" disposes. They may have avoided talking politics or business, but they couldn't possibly avoid being talked to on those subjects. Wherever our plenary diplomatic agent goes high matters of state haven't a 100 to 1 chance of escaping discussion.

Many Democratic statesmen say that we are keeping up an expensive and topheavy diplomatic establishment. If Senator Lewis visits other European capitals and exchanges views with a few more rulers and Cabinet officials we look for the appearance at the White House of a delegation from the Capitol bearing this ultimatum: "Recall all the ambassadors and let 'Jim Ham' do their work."

Advertising for Tommy Atkins.

A real innovation for the British War Office—and an interesting sign of the modern attitude toward advertising the world over—is a page advertisement in the London "Daily Mail" calling for recruits for the British army.

The advertisement before us is headed "What the Army Offers," and is a straightforward statement of the advantages that life in the British army presents. Good wages, good food, unique opportunities for sports and games, holidays and seeing the world—it makes a rather attractive picture.

There have been sporadic attempts at advertising for recruits in this country. But no clear, well planned appeal comparable to this in the London newspapers has resulted. Will not the Hon. Josephus Daniels, for one, take notice?

Governor Goethals.

Another ideal appointment is to be credited to the administration, by way of the War Department. All that was deservedly said the other day in commendation of the nomination of Colonel Gorgas as surgeon-general of the army may be repeated concerning that of his distinguished colleague, Colonel Goethals, as the first civil Governor of the Canal Zone.

New Yorkers will, of course, have regard for the relation of this appointment to the local police situation. It may be that the appointment to the Governorship was hastened by the President's knowledge of Colonel Goethals's inclination to accept Mayor Mitchell's invitation. However much New York needs such a man as Commissioner of Police, the nation has the first claim upon him to complete the great work in which he is now engaged and successfully to transfer the canal from the stage of construction to that of operation.

There is no reason to suppose, however, that Colonel Goethals will care to remain at Panama permanently, or for any long time after the completion and opening of the canal. Nor would it be desirable for him to do so.

Referendum Made Easy.

New Jersey is to-day experiencing the emotions of the man who spent years in a prison cell, until one day it occurred to him to open the unlocked and unguarded door and walk out. Many of her citizens have been longing for a referendum system, but have supposed a constitutional amendment to be necessary to authorize it, and an amendment is a monstrously difficult thing to get in that state.

It is just possible that New Jersey will conclude that if she can do this she can do some other things without a lot of red tape, and also that some other states will conclude that what she can do they can do.

"Plot to Seize Huerta"? Goodness! Who wants him?

This current search for old ballads is a thing which will not be repeated when the ballads of to-day have become old.

The Conning Tower

Composed in the Composing Room.

At stated ic times I love to sit and — off rhymes Till, rose at last I fall Exclaiming "I don't A, all."

Though I'm an \* objection By running this in this here! This of the Fleeting Hour, This lofty-ician Tower—

A fer's hope dispels All fear of deadly ill, You think these [ ] are a pipe? Well, not on your feotype.

Good morning! Can you dance "La Furlana" yet?

Well, we thought you'd know. . . . That comes of our modest notion that you read the front page before turning to weightier matters.

When Mr. Percy MacKaye says that St. Louis offers more romantic ideas than do Eastern cities, we are just as confident as he when we say that it doesn't. Romantic ideas have nothing to do with the randomally; and vice versa. Romance, to most of us, is on the next block; in last week or next year.

The Peter Bell Club is an enormous organization; the club-flower is a yellow primrose, as every member will tell you.

H\*\*H D\*R K\*\*S\*R!

Willie, vigorous and gay, Celebrated yesterday. He's the greatest man alive. Ain't he cute? He's fifty-five.

Just because the fire commissioner said that Old Hann Harrison was the Charley Faust of auction bridge players, the following night letter, prepaid, comes in:

Charleston, W. Va., 26 Jan. now willing to give authorized interview exclusive to conning tower. True that I played decisive part in career of Hon. Robert Adamson. After observing Mr. Adamson's auction bridge play for but a few minutes this summer took him aside in friendly way and urged him to become a fire commissioner. He then did so (signed) HENRY SYNOR HARRISON.

But Think of the Fun You Have.

The Boss ascended The Conning Tower, The contris ran by twos, by threes. "Pull," he cried, "with your utmost power, Pull me some goodly wheeze!"

Men say it was a swollen tide, The flood of wit that issued hence, Yet in my ears doth still abide.

The fact that while it is perfectly grand to be sitting here writing funny stuff for your Kidding Turret, I ought to be busy writing four dollar jokes, if possible.

All this at mine own expense! R. C. McELRAY.

We are as forgiving as the next man, who in this instance is the editorial writer to the left. He speaks of "John Sharp Williams's best inspirations" and his "offhand jests." Senator Williams crashed into literary fame six years ago by reciting, as his own, one of the most inconsequential of our lyric utterances. And every now and then we like to tear the Congress gaiters from his excessively clay feet.

SOUNDS AS THOUGH IT MIGHT BE REAL PRETTY.

Do you know of the beauties of Chamber Music? It is the rendition of tone poems; exquisite poetry of the soul, voiced in melody by the greatest masters to express their emotions, their joys, their sorrows, their love, their lives, almost, Music, without words which conveys to the listener a message from the masters, when rendered by supreme artists such as the Kreislers, that message becomes divine.

Mr. F. W. O'Malley, a reporter, wrote a play. The title of the play was "A Certain Party." So a World reporter, desiring to refer to Mr. O'Malley, wrote "The subject . . . was suggested to him by a reporter, a certain party, who once wrote a play with that title." But white paper costs money and copy-readers must not be idle, so it appeared:

The subject . . . was suggested to him by a reporter who once wrote a play with that title.

At the Illustrators' costume ball this evening, the classic will be revived and Joe Drum, George Buchanan Fife, Archie Gann and James Montgomery Flagg will represent The Spirit of '78.

Flonzaleys Play Schoenberg.—Evening Post headline.

A good team, the Flonzaleys. Hope they shut Schoenberg out.

CRUX CRITICORUM, OR KEEPING COMPANY. A BIG LEAGUE TRILOGY.

"I have a dark suspicion that a modern poet might manufacture an admirable lyric out of almost every line of Pope."—G. K. CHESTERTON.

"Know, all enjoy that power which suits them best."—A. POPE.

The sweetest joy that blossoms into flower Is oft dispelled in sight of Mount Parnassus: The nearest verge that ever trimmed this bower Was but a fleeting frolic for the crass.

A jape, a cackination for an hour— What tho it was the ne plus u. of class, The name, a fascination for the sour Who wondered, "Who the dickensisthatass?"

And, yet, . . . for me, true joy lies in the power To write the stuff that nothing can surpass, But better far, to see it grace this Tower Till Death doth take us to his deep morass.

So said one empiric As she fashioned her lyric. EVELYN.

If they could make shift sturd out of the precious element, they'd probably call it—if they were frantic for a drollery—diamond jim bradium.

The monicker theme will not stay tinned. Not while D. F. Tripp takes Miss Hammer to the Yale Junior Promenade.

The National City Bank has joined the Feds.

Our notion of the indivisible zero is a rate war between the Madison avenue 'car line and the reversed subway.

If this Pisa of Persplicity had been written in 1214, it would have been even harder to read.

Inthosedayswereuntogetherwithouthbreakorpausemark.

"The main features of the modern system of punctuation," say Funk & Wagnalls, the w. k. word picturists, "are due to the Venetian printer, Aldus Manutius."

Well, 1/4 doz. cheers for the Venetian printer, Aldus Manutius! F. P. A.

THE LAST STAND.



THE PEOPLE'S COLUMN

An Open Forum for Public Debate.

A REPUBLICAN LAMENTATION

The Sad Doings of the Democrats as an Opponent Sees Them.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Many of the newspapers are engaged in the effort to bolster up the Wilson administration. But a house built upon "sand" cannot stand.

Wilson and Bryan have "sand" a-plenty, but "sand" makes a poor foundation, as we are told of old. The legislation that has been "rushed" by the Wilson administration may be likened to the growth of a weed. We all know that a weed requires no cultivation.

MOTHERHOOD AND SUFFRAGE

The Menace of the Vote Seems Pretty Small to This Reader.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Joseph Gilpin Pyle says that Miss Tarbell in her book, "The Business of Being a Woman," "has stated the unchangeable truth with rare clearness and force, that motherhood and its duties are the true business of a woman, her predestined law, provided since the dawn of life upon this planet, most to be desired, and least to be escaped, and that it is impossible for her to do this work with thoroughness and care while she is busied with political matters."

THE MUCH ABUSED TANGO

Why Visit Upon It the Sins of the Troit?

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Why is it that the newspapers and the public—because of them—persist in calling all the new dances—no matter what their true names may be—"the tango," until now the world in general looks upon the "tango" as a vulgar, sensual dance, when, as a matter of fact, it is anything but that? The "tango" is a beautiful, graceful and harmless dance, more dignified, when danced by the expert, than the stately minuet. Why these other dances go by the name of "tango" is more than I can understand, as it is danced but very little, comparatively speaking, on the ballroom floor. It is far too difficult for the uninitiated and requires too much free room.

AWAY DOWN SOUTH

"Dixie" Is Still as Popular as Ever, Affirms a Reader.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: On the editorial page of your issue of January 25 you say that the playing of "Dixie" here "will produce a demonstration, frequently to the surprise of some loyal Southerner, who doesn't see a great deal of the same kind of article south of Mason and Dixon's line." I bet to assure The Tribune that the latter part of that statement cannot be verified.

RAIDING THE CIVIL SERVICE

What Would Be Lost Through the Attack Upon the Postoffice.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: To George William Curtis, once the distinguished editor of "Harpers," belongs the honor of planting in this country the "merit system" as applicable to the working forces of the several departments in Washington, and particularly in the postoffice system, far and near. How it will fare at the hands of the Democratic majority in the present Congress remains to be seen.

POLICE LADIES.

From The Buffalo Courier. Up-to-date policemen have been appointed as follows: Chicago, twenty; San Francisco, three; Los Angeles, twenty; St. Paul and Newport, two each; Denver, Cleveland, Baltimore, Minneapolis, Dallas and Tacoma, one each.

THEY JUST KEEP "HI" EDGERTON

From The Syracuse Herald. A Syracuse ex-Mayor and a Utica ex-Mayor now have been named in that highway investigation. What does Rochester do with its ex-Mayors, or hasn't it any?

BLUFF AND THE INCOME TAX.

From The Syracuse Post-Standard. Collectors are forbidden to disclose the names of those who pay the income tax. The government will lose a great deal because of this policy. There are many who would admit an income they don't get and pay a small tax as penalty in order to get before the people as men.

AN ADMIRER OF THE TANGO.

New York, Jan. 27, 1914.

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