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Great Britain's Correct Attitude in the Benton Case.

The attitude of the British government in the Benton case is more correct than the attitude of most of the British newspapers. The average newspaper writer in London seems to assume that the United States is responsible for General Villa's actions. This is not the fact. The administration at Washington has not recognized either Villa or Carranza. The suspension by the President of the embargo against the importation of arms from this country into Mexico constituted no recognition of the Constitutionalists.

Sir Edward Grey admitted this when he said in the House of Commons yesterday: "I should like to add that the fact that we are communicating with the government of the United States does not, of course, imply that it has any responsibility for what has taken place." He added that Great Britain is using the good offices of the United States to discover what is happening in the State of Chihuahua.

That Great Britain will not embarrass this country by trying to force upon it an imaginary responsibility for the acts of Mexican revolutionists goes without saying. In view of yesterday's statements in the House of Commons, the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Dyke Acland, announced that his government had no idea of intervening.

Great Britain can rely on the United States to intervene if violence in Mexico becomes general and intolerable. We shall have to do the work in our own interest and in the interest of the rest of the world. In order to put ourselves in a position to intervene, if need be, with the least damage to our status as an American power, a promise of co-operation on the part of some of the leading South American republics is most essential and would be most welcome.

A Court of Inquiry for Grafters.

Governor Glynn's suggestion that the Legislature create a court of inquiry made up of the living ex-members of the Court of Appeals to conduct state graft hunts is novel enough to be interesting. It is quite possible that such a tribunal might command respect and be free from accusations of political bias, as he says. These are desirable qualifications, but they are not the only ones, nor the most important ones, in a deplorable situation of scandal such as now exists.

Judges of the Court of Appeals when they retire—unless they retire as Judge Parker did—are old men, whose best years of life have been given to discussing technicalities of law. They have been removed from the crude tumult of affairs by the very nature of their work. There is not the stuff of which to make graft hunters. A graft investigation cannot be conducted under rules of evidence and procedure like a court, if it is to be successful.

The Governor's message expresses much reprehension of "our present system of inquisitorial investigation" and fear for its effect on the state. It is true that investigations frequently are diverted to political ends, but it is not true, as the Governor seems to think, that innocent men suffer even under such imperfect agencies of state. The wailing and outcries which now fill the air do not proceed from innocent men, but from "hagmen" and crooked contractors and grafting politicians and all their allies.

The Mystery of Columbus.

Success will be wished rather than expected for the latest effort to elucidate the mystery in which the origin of Columbus is involved.

It was significant—though of precisely what who shall say?—that Columbus himself seemed to conceal the story of his origin. When he gave to his son the material for his biography which that son wrote he made no mention of the place or date of his birth or of the names of his parents. He said nothing of his ancestry or relatives, excepting that all his family had been traders on the sea and that he was himself a near relative of the notorious pirate Nicholas the Greek, of whose crew he was for a time a member.

the same time most fascinating of the kind in history. If the American Jewish Historical Society succeeds in solving it, or even in throwing important new light upon its mystery, it will deserve the thanks of mankind.

Dry and Dusty Travel.

The justly celebrated 5 o'clock train to New York and the somewhat less celebrated 5 o'clock train to Boston are soon to be dry. Beginning March 1, says the announcement, the sale of liquor is to be discontinued on all New Haven trains.

So comes eastward the conversion of travel into a very dry and dusty business. Twenty-five railroads, in Chicago assembled, recently resolved against the sale of liquor in Illinois. And the number of arid spots on the transcontinental routes grows yearly. Semi-arid spots, where your whiskey is served in a tea cup, or in a glass, with an empty ginger ale bottle as "property," are even more numerous.

As for our local problem, we never could see any good reason why the 5 o'clock train from Boston should serve liquor. In that case the destination served its more ample stimulant by way of anticipation. But the train out of New York carrying the exhausted reveler homeward, or the saddened visitor thitherward! Must they be cut off from all cheer and consolation?

Canal Tolls Humbug.

Senator Chamberlain, of Oregon, entirely confuses the issue of repealing or not repealing the coastwise trade exemption provisions of the Panama Canal law when he says that Congress is being forced to yield to the demands of the transcontinental railroads. In his view the question is whether or not the country ought to aid the coastwise trade to the extent of permitting its canal charges, and he holds that if we put all shipping passing through the canal on the same basis the Pacific Coast will lose the advantage of an indirect subsidy given to water carriers in order to enable them to cut their rates below those of the transcontinental land carriers.

That is a clear misrepresentation of what President Wilson asks Congress to do. He simply urges a reaffirmation of our pledge to Great Britain to impose tolls equally on the shipping of all nations. Redeeming that international obligation will in no way interfere with the power of Congress to cheapen the cost of freight rates to the Pacific Coast. If they want to do so, the two houses can appropriate yearly a sum to meet the cost of the canal tolls paid by coastwise shipping. It might even vote each coastwise vessel a subsidy per ton carried or per mile sailed. The Pacific Coast still has its remedy, even if the free tolls clause is stricken out of the canal law.

Why don't Mr. Chamberlain and his fellow subsidy advocates drop the hypocritical argument that the only way that water competition with the transcontinental railroads can be fostered is through a violation of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty?

Permanence Protects the Police "System."

Senator Root's razor-edge mind has cut straight through the complicated discussion of Mayor Mitchell's police reform bills. His letter to the Mayor brushes aside all surface phases of the matter and leaves it thus:

The city, like any private employer, has a right to hire its employees on permanent or temporary basis, as seems best for the public. The police force, hired on what amounts to a permanent basis, has not made good, as the recent police scandals proved. Therefore the police privilege of permanence of place should be abolished and a new policy instituted.

It is the public's interest which must come first in this situation. The public wants an honest and efficient police force. It wants a force made up of men who will not graft or protect grafters. It wants a force capable of detecting and exposing crooks even if they wear a police uniform. It is not such a police force to-day. Some few members choose to capitalize their uniforms by selling protection to lawbreakers and standing in with crooks. They are able to do this because nothing short of proof such as would convict them in a court of law can remove them from the department; and because even the honest policemen will not take sides against them. No policeman can hide himself behind the Commissioner, as was attempted at the police lieutenant's dinner. It is not the weakness, ignorance or even viciousness of any commissioner which has demoralized the force as a whole. It is the fact that the "system" is protected by permanence of place and what Senator Root terms "a conspiracy of silence," obtained through fear or a hideously mistaken and warped esprit de corps.

Gratitude for permanency of a place which they were eager enough to get has not made the police what they should be. It is well established in other walks of life that knowledge that the worker's place is dependent entirely on the quality of the work has a salutary effect. If the existing body of men behind the brass buttons and nightsticks can't repress lawbreakers and force the "underworld" out of sight, it should give way to some other body of men. No private employer keeps acknowledged failures on his payroll or tolerates conditions which prevent the highest grade of service by his force. There's no reason why this city should. It is the Legislature's duty to change these conditions by passing the Mayor's bills.

Henry M. Teller.

Henry M. Teller might have won a high rating among American statesmen if he had not committed himself to a mistaken and losing issue. He had zeal, industry and sincerity in abundance and tried hard to get down to real causes and effects in politics. He accepted after much study the theory that the evil results of contraction in the 80's and early 90's would be best overcome by free silver coinage inflation. He wanted to cure by risky legislation a dislocation of values which Nature was about to cure by multiplying the supply of gold.

He came near getting the Democratic Presidential nomination in 1896. He was the secret choice of the Democratic silver leaders in Washington and his name was to have been sprung after a deadlock which they had planned. But Mr. Bryan's speech upset all calculations and the convention got out of the hands of its managers.

The Conning Tower

The Sterling Lining.

When Homer smote his you-know-what To sing about M. J. Ulysses, Old Veritas said it was not The thing to read to youths and misses; And Old Subscriber sent a note Whose words Hellenic I've forgotten— This, in effect, is what he wrote: "Please tin this Homer truck; it's rotten."

"We have printed in the United States millions of pictures of George Washington," says the revered Journal, "but we have not even the faintest idea of what his mother looked like. No picture of her at all. And that is really a joke on the human race." Speaking of jokes on the h. r., the esteemed Times printed, on Sunday, rather a good picture of Washington's mother.

THE DIARY OF OUR OWN SAMUEL PEPYS

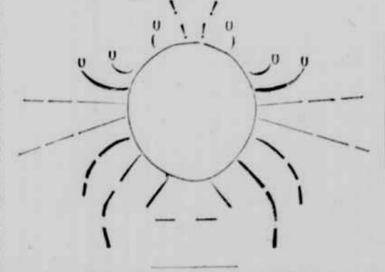
February 21—With Mistress Alma and H. Harrison to luncheon at Mr. Ford's publick, and a fine luncheon, too, with no fripperies and musickall follies, but fine things to devour, and it cost me less than £1. To the playhouse and saw Mabel and Edith Tallaferro in "Young Wisdom," of Mistress Rachel Crothers, a far better piece than I hoped, and H. Harrison thought so, too. But Mistress Edith doth irritate me greatly, forasmuch as she hath a pleasing appearance, but a way of enunciation one might not expect in a girl of low origin. And Mabel, too, might profit by a study of locution, for when these girls do have words to say that are the least uncommon, they do founder about and do not well at all.

22—Olive is gone for a holiday, so up and to G. Flory's for breakfast, and his Mary brewed me some fine coffee, and we talked, as I am doing too much, methinks, of journalistic affairs. Yet I do admire to hear what is said on all sides of our Journal, and I am glad all do like it so well.

23—To my office, and W. Trumbull the scrivener came to visit me, and told me many matters of interest. Thence to the ferry, to meet my wife, but I did not meet her, albeit I did cross the river therefor. For the folk at the station there did lie to me about the trains, and told me many untruths, and I did wait 2 hours in the cold, and thence to the office, where my wife hath telephoned in great worriedness I had perished, and saith she is glad I had not. So she came in town, and we all to dinner, a frugal meal, but indifferent good.

Land Thoughts About Water Animals.

BY SAMUEL HOPKINS ADAMS. THE CRAB. The crab is largely legs and claws; You catch him when you go out fishing; I hold him in esteem because Of his retiring disposition.



A little Mexicooperation, as you might say, might help.

THE ETERNAL TRIANGLE: A COLLABORATION.

This poem was writ in Chicot's hand, And Nat supplied the feet; The stuff by J. O. L. was planned. This poem was writ in Chicot's hand (Here's hoping that it won't be canned; It's rather hard to beat.) This poem was writ in Chicot's hand And Nat supplied the feet.

One hears, in a newspaper office, a good deal of comment about affairs like the recent Mexican trouble. It seems to have been Villadvised.

RHYME VS. REASON IN MEXICO.

General Pancho Villa went an' Killed a chap named William Benton. Why won't some one up and kill a Murderer like Pancho Villa? C. H. Suggestion for a cartoon: When a Villa Needs a Friend. E. P. A.

SNOW, BEAUTIFUL SNOW.



THE PEOPLE'S COLUMN

An Open Forum for Public Debate.

THE PARTY'S FUTURE

This Republican Thinks with Mr. Taft That Obstruction Is Its First Duty.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: In view of the wealth of profound and lucid statement on the worth of the Republican party, past, present and future, in Mr. Taft's article in last week's "Saturday Evening Post," one fails to see "Saturday Evening Post," one fails to see how in to-day's "Outlook" the Republican party shall be placed in the category of obstructionist. If its main work or mission for the next four or eight years shall be to frustrate the constructive efforts of the third party and urging the fulfillment of the constructive ideas mentioned by Mr. Taft, its future glory will suffer no detriment, but will have passed another great crisis in its history of building and sustaining this country.

"THE BENTON INCIDENT"

A Clear Discussion of the Whole Tangled Mexican Situation.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Permit me to express my appreciation of the sane and rational editorial entitled "The Benton Incident" which appeared in your publication this morning. Sober second thought on the part of the people of this country will leave them in full accord with the ideas and conclusions you have so timely expressed.

PANAMA TOLL EXEMPTION

A Reader Opposes The Tribune's Stand for Repeal.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: It is with feelings of sorrow that I note the attitude of The Tribune in its advocacy of President Wilson's determination to compel the American coastwise vessels that will go through the Panama Canal to pay toll.

EVERYTHING IN ITS PLACE

Which Means That Women Stay at Home, Declares an "Anti."

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The suffragists are asking for emancipation. This is but a departure from private life into public life. They do not seem to realize that the man possessing the greatest power is not the public man. It is the man in private life that really governs the world.

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