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Is proper that the demands of a hurry following be considered. We shall have a direct State tax, nicely adjusted to the good nature and ignorance of the electorate, 70 per cent. of it collected in this city, to be spent where the Republican vote is heaviest. Its product will be divided by a Legislature whose majority represents a minority of the population. Its disbursement will be regulated by statutes designed to extract the last possible penny from this town for the support of the rural sections; and its collection will be entailed by the utterance of those reprehensible phrases that so well become our rulers as they engage in the fruitful process of stripping our pockets for their benefit.

Who Blocks the Railway Lines? Three residents of one New England city, fearing a miners' strike, bought 285 cars of coal, which the railroads delivered to them. These foresighted gentlemen, reassured by their possession of an ample supply of fuel, have been unloading the cars at the rate of three a day, cheerfully paying demurrage in the meantime on those remaining on the tracks. Thus they have made an effective contribution to the freight congestion that menaces the whole country and is particularly acute in the East.

Here is a fair sample of the practices that hamper the movement of freight generally, block the sidings and keep cars out of service. The rolling stock used in this way ceases to count. It passes from the railroad's equipment and should be listed as part of the consignee's storage facilities. He robs not only the railroad but every other business man by withholding the cars from performance of their function. The railroads, if not helpless, are seriously handicapped in dealing with him, and his case can be adequately treated only by cooperation of the roads, the public officers having regulatory power over them and the commercial associations to which they belong.

The Interstate Commerce Commission has already acted to relieve the situation; the State commissions can do something; but more than any of these agencies can accomplish lies within the power of the business community itself. Without its cordial and active assistance the situation produced in part by abnormal circumstances and in part by private greed cannot be remedied, and denunciation of the carriers will bring no relief so long as it is not associated with intelligent efforts to assist them in the solution of difficulties for whose creation they are by no means wholly responsible.

Another Variety of Paper Money. Currency reform is not working exactly along the lines of promise. Judging from the statements of the Treasury Department and the weekly reports of the Federal Reserve banks, one of the avowed objects of the legislation of 1913 was to get rid of bond secured bank note circulation in the course of time, its place to be taken by Federal Reserve notes with a gold cover and secured by discounted commercial paper. Certain features of the Federal Reserve act have seemed obstructive of this process and some curious things are happening.

Two Socialists. "Only pharisees talk of war," says Socialist Dens. In a Johndonkeyish "statement" he rails at the phrase "peace with honor."

Mr. Dens's utterance is such as may be expected from a socialist issuer of statements. It attracts attention only by contrast with the tirades of its author's successor in the Presidential candidacy.

Where the former candidate confines himself to a view, however myopic and distorted, of broad principles, the present candidate indulges in personalities in which partisan interests are served at the expense of risk to the national safety. Mr. Benson gives a bad imitation of Herr Doktor Liebknecht of the Reichstag.

Measured merely by the contrast in these two unlovely outgivings, the Socialist party has distinctly taken a step down from a low level in making Mr. Allan L. Benson of Yonkers its Fly Catcher in Chief.

Why This Pretence of Astonishment? As Governor Whitman told Dr. John H. Finley on December 9, when the estimates of the Department of Education were under consideration, that there would be a direct State tax of \$6,000,000 next year, it is not necessary to take at their face value the expressions of astonishment emanating from Albany now when the time has come to impose it. The Governor then meditated a consolidation of appropriation measures, a campaign of economy, the saving of millions of dollars. The Legislature has thrown his appropriation scheme through the window, the economies have vanished before the needs of politics, and the serious business of supporting the organization requires attention.

bond secured currency outstanding? They are not primarily money earning institutions. They pay no interest on deposits, and the interest return on their Government bond holdings should be a sufficient compensation without a resort to the slight increment of income obtainable through the employment of the circulating privilege.

The Federal Reserve act allows the reserve banks to put out circulating notes on the deposit of Government bonds with the Comptroller of the Currency. This seems to be an unchecked power, unless in the general terms of the authority given to the Federal Reserve Board there is authority to regulate bond secured notes. Yet in any case the issuance of circulating notes against Government bonds could be sanctioned only in a great emergency such as neither exists nor impends.

The latest addition to our already manifold varieties of paper money carries us further away than ever from the currency reformation for which the Federal Reserve act was ostensibly intended to prepare.

Mr. Hay's Preparedness. In closing the debate upon the Kahn amendment to the army bill in the House of Representatives on Monday Chairman HAY exclaimed: "I am for preparedness!" Really Mr. HAY is for nothing of the sort. If the bill that bears his name provides for increasing the regular army by small instalments of 10,000 men a year until it reaches a strength of 140,000 it is not with the Hon. JAMES HAY's approval—his hand has been forced. Political considerations require that something shall be done about the army; besides, President Wilson's programme calls for a certain amount of preparedness; so Chairman HAY is a good Democrat. Let us see what the chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs said on the subject when it was under discussion on January 21, 1915, nearly six months after the outbreak of war in Europe:

"I am utterly opposed to adding a single man to the standing army as it now exists. I am not in sympathy with those who want to add 25,000 men and 1,000 officers to the regular army now. What would that cost? It would cost \$27,000,000 alone, just that, and would add to our military expenditures \$27,000,000 a year."

At that time, fourteen months ago, Mr. HAY, as now, ridiculed the apprehension that preparedness was necessary. The United States was safer from attack than it had ever been in its history. "Why, Mr. Chairman," said he, "the United States has a latent power greater than that of any other country, or of any other three countries, in the civilized world."

Mr. HAY talks in the same strain now. "There is not a country on earth to-day," he said in the House on Monday, "that has any idea of making war on the United States." To a domestic statesman that is unanswerable logic. You must discover that some country is meditating war upon us before you prepare to defend the country against possible invasion. It will be time enough then to tap the latent resources of the nation, which Mr. HAY asserts are greater than those of "any other three countries in the civilized world."

This is the old style of preparedness. And, to quote from the gentleman's speech on January 21, 1915, any other kind of preparedness is maintained "at the expense of our harbors, of our public buildings, of our roads, and of all the other activities which ought to engage our attention."

It is not difficult to read the mind of Mr. HAY and his friends who profess to be for preparedness but actually are not. They are gambling upon the chances of the war. If the Allies should be victorious preparedness would be a dead issue. Mr. HAY assumes the Allies are going to win. But, on the other hand, if the Teutonic Powers should prevail Germany would be too exhausted to tamper with American policies. Therefore, why any preparedness? It would be expensive, and the Democrats would be held responsible for increasing the tax burden.

As for the proposal to federalize the National Guard, in spite of the protests of the best military authorities, is it not good politics from the Democratic point of view? The organized militia would be paid out of the Federal Treasury, and would want more and more money as the years rolled round. There are no votes in the volunteer army plan which the Senate army bill provides for. "I am for preparedness," exclaims Mr. HAY. For just a little, the increase of the regular army by small annual instalments, which he accepted reluctantly. The rest is politics, we fear.

Dorsy of the Star Route. Born in Vermont in 1842 STEPHEN W. DORSY served through the war in the Union army, and climbed from the ranks to a colonelcy. Settling in Arkansas, he represented that State in the United States Senate from 1875 to 1879. This election, being effected by a combination of Republican and Democratic votes, was the first recorded manifestation of the dorsiveness of DORSY.

scandal swept over the country. In the earliest '80s, the subsidence of the excitement left him broken in health and fortune. His defence in those trials is said, rather vaguely and perhaps too modestly in the estimate, to have cost him hundreds of thousands of dollars. As a cattle king he was a king who is crazy. In 1907 he went to England, peddling a copper stock that had behind it not less of sharp wits than of crude ore.

Senator DORSY's native New England shrewdness fed fat on the opportunities of Arkansas in Reconstruction. Like other migrant Northerners of the time and circumstances, he played the game of politics and business with as little sentiment as there is in a wooden Indian, and a never failing flow of the spirit of the nervous adventurer. BECKY SHARP, type of worldliness, was ethereally other worldly in contrast to these higher tiers of the wild days of the borderlands, forty-five years ago.

At Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Corinth, Chattanooga, Chickamauga, the Wilderness, Cold Harbor, and in a long list of other hardy contested fields of battle, the restless nature of STEPHEN W. DORSY found a more creditable outlet for its energies than in the railroad development of Arkansas, in the councils of a political party, or in romantically conceived enterprises of business for which the name of "get rich quick" had not yet been fittingly invented.

In striking a balance for DORSY, let it not be forgotten that as chairman of the Senate committee on the District of Columbia his energy and fertility of idea counted heavily in the making over, and making habitable and presentable of the nation's capital city.

Mr. Dorsy has left the written chapters of his life for publishers to deal with, it will be a rising contribution to the politico-biographical literature of the day. One good chapter would be the story of Mr. GARDNER's campaign, which Dorsy managed.

Our Daylight Machine Guns. From the War Department comes the subjoined enlightening explanation of the jammed machine guns that proved useless when VILLA's raiders attacked the New Mexican town of Columbus:

"The reason for the jamming of the machine guns was not the failure of the mechanism to function properly, but was due to the fact that the night was dark and it was difficult to load the guns."

In loading the feed strip has to be inserted in a narrow slot or guide.

"If the strip is not inserted properly in this guide the gun will fire about five shots and will then jam."

"This happened to two of the guns, as it was so dark that it was almost impossible to get the strips in the slots."

Are Long Drawn Out Conversations Against Public Interest? The Public Service Commission of the Second (up State) district has been "steering in," by request of business officers of the New York Central, "wire busy" on rural telephone talkers. Business men complained that their presently necessary conversations were interrupted by the chatter of those who visit by telephone, and the commission deemed it its duty to take action.

The Bureau of the constitutionality of the German Empire is not an "upper chamber," as Prince Collier, by no means an authority on German constitutional law, likes to call it. It is a body that stands for the federal idea of the empire, an organ by means of which the individual states have their own interests and where the interplay of state interests is adjusted. No close analogy to it can be found in any other governmental organization.

The general rule in taking a vote in the Bundestag is that the simple majority of the members of the Bundestag is sufficient to pass a law. "G. E. K." mentions one of them, but mistakes it for the general rule, contending that it is the rule in the Bundestag with a conservative vote.

From its own membership the Bundestag chooses certain committees, which in each year elect a committee of five members. At least four states besides Prussia must be represented, but no state may have more than one vote in the committee.

The principle underlying the constitution and organization of the Reichstag is radically different from that which obtains in the Bundestag. The Bundestag state lines are sharply drawn and the federal element dominates, in the Reichstag state lines are blurred and the individual state is not represented, even by the members elected within its territory.

There is no three class system of voting for election to the Reichstag, as "G. E. K." seems to believe. The members of the empire who has completed his twenty-fifth year is entitled to vote for members of the Reichstag in whatever state he may have his residence. All votes are equal and the members are chosen by direct and secret ballot at a general election.

The chief function of the Reichstag is designated in Article V of the Constitution, which reads as follows: "The legislative power shall be exercised by the Bundestag and Reichstag, each of which consists of a majority of both bodies shall be necessary and sufficient for the passage of an imperial law."

The Reichstag is an essential factor in imperial legislation. No bill becomes a law without its consent. Existing laws cannot be changed, new laws cannot be enacted, and the Reichstag may be amended against the will of the body which represents the German people. It is a mistake to say that no law can originate in the Bundestag. The Bundestag has the right of initiative, that is, the right to propose laws and to transmit to the Bundestag or the Imperial Chancellor for his consideration.

It is true that the Reichstag may be dissolved, but a new election must be fixed by the Emperor and the newly elected Reichstag must meet within ninety days from the date of dissolution. There exists no law which forbids the reelection of the same delegates to the Reichstag, or, if, however, another election usually provides a more amenable body, as "G. E. K." says, it simply indicates that the people were not satisfied with the position of the former members.

A most powerful weapon has been given to the Reichstag by Article LXIII of the Constitution, which says: "All laws which require the expenditure of public money shall be included in the imperial budget. The latter shall be fixed by law before the beginning of each fiscal year."

IS GERMANY DEMOCRATIC? A German Compares Imperial and Popular Powers. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Letters in THE SUN have dealt with the German Constitution, its history, its activity and importance of the Reichstag and its relation to the Bundestag. The letter of "G. E. K." of February 29 contains so many mistakes that I beg you to allow me to correct them. The text of the German Constitution is given in English translation in "The German Empire," by B. E. Howard.

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SOCK MENDING WIVES. An Old Confidence Game Comes In for Deserved Reprobation. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Submerged in the amusing editorial article of "Teaching Wives Her Husband's Trade" a trenchant line which expands the philosophy of the married life and admonishes a mechanic for the cure of much of the ill-fortune which befalls the wife to return in that at first blush appears an abject and pitiful strain; protestations of continued affection, attention of the old wife, "I am your husband," little intimate touches upon "socks" and his need of her co-operation touches her heart and the like. But THE SUN, and this is its contribution, is that it is not a pitiful tale at all; "its composition was careful, not insouciant. Exactly this far sighted husband, near-sighted divorcee, set to work with cold and crafty precision to put together all the deadly drawing subtle inducements he could think of to lure the old wife into his net. Many times before, not existing again upon his sardonic chest.

That the method did not work in this case is a matter of indifference. In experience it does work, it is present, and many a continuously wrecked marriage testifies to this fact. If more women like this one, who, however, really is a case, who has been so repeatedly fed his rapacity for outrage by forgiving them, would "hook" the false and outworn conception of marriage which the old wife clings to, to which many women yield, marriage would enjoy a fresh advertisement of vigor.

But this of course begs the question. The point is that the wife is usually deluded, these cheap paraphernalia of the shattered sock and torn coat lining, the heavy shawl, the fur hat, the married husband, this tempter home going on the rocks unless you come back, leave her heart from her bosom and she will be ready to do anything. The husband must have experienced when his wife failed to remember his wife's name, the wide spread of this confidence game.

"J. Y. C." STANDS TO HIS GUNS. The Suburbs, He Says, Get a Lot More Snow Than the Town. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The promptness of attack on error by THE SUN is a commendable feature of its position of preparedness. Some misapprehensions have made a part of my calculations, irrelevant as they seemed to deal with the heavy snowfall, but in relation to the whole depth of snowfall, I was not intended so to use them, but simply to enlarge upon the body of water which a twelve inch precipitation represents, and to show that a depth of 12 inches of snow, or 24 inches of ice, or 36 inches of water, or 48 inches of water, or 72 inches of water, or 96 inches of water, or 120 inches of water, or 144 inches of water, or 168 inches of water, or 192 inches of water, or 216 inches of water, or 240 inches of water, or 264 inches of water, or 288 inches of water, or 312 inches of water, or 336 inches of water, or 360 inches of water, or 384 inches of water, or 408 inches of water, or 432 inches of water, or 456 inches of water, or 480 inches of water, or 504 inches of water, or 528 inches of water, or 552 inches of water, or 576 inches of water, or 600 inches of water, or 624 inches of water, or 648 inches of 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