

THE JOURNAL

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BOTH MISREPRESENT THE PEOPLE

The senate yesterday succeeded in passing the ship subsidy bill by the vote of 42 to 31, Mr. Frye accepting some amendments which limit the operation of contracts to July 1, 1920, and makes the maximum payments in any one year \$8,000,000. It may be assumed readily that the amount paid out of the treasury will not be a cent less than this limit, and that means that \$144,000,000 will be disbursed to Americans engaged in our foreign trade to enable them, as they say, to keep their ships moving.

It is impossible to avoid the reflection that it is a very bad practice to deal out government or public money to private individuals to keep them in business. Six or seven years ago Mr. Cramp, the well-known American shipbuilder, read a paper before the convention of the Board of Trade and Transportation in New York, in which he said very emphatically:

The question of first cost of ships is so vital that it ceases to be a factor in the situation. Within this year the Cramp company has bid for the construction of certain freight ships for foreign account in competition with about twenty English concerns. The difference between the highest and lowest English bids on the same plans and specifications was 20 per cent. Several of the English bids were higher than Cramp's. Hence, instead of asking whether ships can be built as cheaply in this country as in England, the question should be, "Can ships be built as cheaply in England as in the United States?" An actual difference of 20 per cent as between the bids of different English shipbuilders on the same ships, while the American bid was between the two extremes, seems to answer that question in the negative. The matter of first cost may therefore be dismissed.

Since Mr. Cramp uttered these significant words the cost of shipbuilding in this country, through the cheapening mechanical processes, has been still further cheapened, and the question of cost, as Mr. Cramp has shown, is not to be considered. He said that the only advantage at that time enjoyed by foreigners was lower cost of operating vessels. This, however, is a matter perfectly adjustable, just as the cost of operating railroads has been reduced, so that in this country the cost per ton mile is the lowest in the world. In the face of these facts, and on reasoning utterly fallacious, this ship subsidy bill has been pushed through the senate en route to the statute book, and at a time when the word "subsidy" is largely considered to be synonymous with monopoly. The measure reflects not the demand of the people, as a defensible necessity. It was born and pushed by special interests.

The promotion of special interests is blocking the way to the performance of our national duty toward Cuba. The ways and means committee started out with the intention of permitting no tariff reductions on Cuban products imported into the United States, in return for like concessions to be granted by the new Cuban government on imports from the United States. They argued that the height and thickness of the tariff wall must not be reduced a hair's breadth. They modified this irrational attempt to evade a national pledge. They reported a 20 per cent reduction some weeks ago, and have held several republican house caucuses to decide whether solemn duty performed in committee should be allowed to stand by the party. Up to this time the conferences have only been a series of wrangles over the question of performing an obvious duty, and massing opposition to actual party legislation as to Cuba in the Platt amendment and to the president, who recommended concessions to Cuba as a national duty. Thus, in spite of the effort to stifle concessions to Cuba on the ground that such action would make a breach in the tariff wall, the irreconcilables are succeeding in developing a very strong public sentiment in favor of reciprocity, not only with Cuba, but with Europe and Spanish America and Canada.

As national legislators the irreconcilables are actually arraying themselves against a growing national demand for the effectuation of the policy declared by McKinley at Buffalo last September. They are repudiating the terms of the republican platform. The country waits to see if these men will continue to oppose the taking of the first steps toward enforcing the terms of the Platt amendment. They are trifling with a very grave subject, with an unbecoming national duty. The senate also is playing with fire in its persistent ship subsidy legislation.

Bourke Cockran says that he has confidence that the Philippine problem will be justly settled. That is about the way all Americans feel—however much they may differ as to the efforts now being made to settle it.

THE UNREST IN RUSSIA

A St. Petersburg cable reports a students' riot in that city in which 10,000 persons participated. Students' riots are very frequent in Russia. Those recorded during the past year have originated in the revolt of the students against military service under compulsion, largely, and they have generally been the outcome of resentment because of interference by the government with the liberty of reading and studying through the whole range of literature.

In Russia the student and intellectual class has been charged sometimes by the authorities with nihilism because of the rioting against the police by groups of students here and there. Even the gathering of a crowd of boys is suspected of being a nihilistic demonstration and men and women of large intelligence have through this system of espionage and actual persecution, been forced into the ranks of the nihilists. The repressive measures of the government extend everywhere and have, in fact, been the procuring cause of nihilism whose method is assassination. The nihilists are far fewer in numbers than the merely disaffected.

There are some 5,000,000 Russians out of the population of 90,000,000 to 100,000,000 in European Russia who are educated sufficiently to feel keenly the wretched tyranny which radiates in cruel tentacles from St. Petersburg. The full operation of the police system begets the full pressure of nihilism. The latter asserts that it will retire from business as soon as the czars stop talking of liberty and wielding the knout concurrently. The czars have talked sometimes of consenting to a parliamentary government. They are not sincere as yet. Some day it may come. It would have come before now had Russia possessed the element which makes for revolution such as France has. Neither the nihilists, nor the parliamentary party, if that element can be called a party, can effect a revolution of the form of government. The vast aggregation of peasantry to a great extent still have an idolatrous feeling toward the white czar and are apparently satisfied with the small measure of independence they have in their little local assemblies. Russia, moreover, is a very imperfectly developed country. Her masses are stolid and coarse grained and they love to hear of conquests by their czar. That is the reason Russia is continually adding territory to the empire; always preparing for some mysterious venture. These things keep the people quiet at home. The intellectual class cannot stimulate or lead a revolution. They are under the surveillance of the police.

A Russian revolution can come through the army. But the army is apparently loyal to the czar and the bureaucracy. There is at present no Caesar or Napoleon among the Russian generals, if there was and if he overthrown existing autocracy, what would be substituted?

The English financial world was greatly encouraged by the recent report of the Johannesburg Chamber of Mines, which showed the output of gold in February to have been \$1,405,000. In January the production was 70,340 ounces, and in December last 52,875 ounces. The February figures are the largest shown since the war began. In the facts that the railway lines between the mines and the export points are comparatively secure, that laborers may now return with some assurance of safety, and that the gold production shows steady increase, there is found a basis for satisfaction, even though the Boers still hold much of the outlying territory and the war is far from being over.

THE DEVOTION OF KING

In this cold age, which esteems itself highly for its ability to snare the fleeting dollar, there occur from time to time events that recall the age of chivalry, and remind us that beneath the icy, iron-clad exterior of life there are still flesh and blood, still warm, human hearts. We are well aware that some of the local gossips are inclined to look upon the dispute between Detective Norman King and Detective Hicks as a rather disgraceful, petty spat, quite unworthy of the space that has been devoted to it in the papers. But we see it otherwise. Rising to the surface of this seemingly insignificant dispute between the two officers—the rich cream as it were of the milk of their unkindness—is a token of a chivalrous feeling, a trace of that devotion to one's order or estate in life which was the glory of the feudal ages.

It appears that "Norm" King had appealed for mercy for a gentleman who had, unfortunately been arrested by Officer Hicks. The man was a poor, humble, outcast "big mitt" operator. But in this degraded being Officer King recognized a member of his order—the order of Hawks or something of that kind. Instantly the wells of brotherly compassion and love surged up in his heart, he exchanged the high sign with the afflicted brother and as became his sworn pledge of fraternal allegiance and fealty he appealed for consideration; otherwise, made a pull for the law, braved by the cruel talons of the inexorable law. The cruel Hicks, all unwary of the death and area and tenacity of the life that binds brother to brother in the Order of Hawks, ignorant, anyway, of the supreme duty of a member to his order, not only remarked that he cared not whether the victim was a Hawk, but even made slurring allusions to the social standing of the Hawks as a body.

And now behold the surpassing effect of the brotherly tie. Mayor Ames is a member of the order to which belong King and the victim of Hicks. A reflection upon the order is a reflection upon every member of it. For it is not written that, who kinks my dog kinks me? Whereupon says the amiable, King—in his righteous, fraternal wrath, "said things to Hicks," said things, stinging, bitter and exasperating, said things unbecoming a gentleman and an officer. Wherefore was King suspended. But the true tale of devotion to the order being wanted to the mayor's ear, the loyal King was restored to his rank, office and emoluments. And from this simple tale we may all learn much.

St. Petersburg is to hold an international exposition of sports in May. Special exhibits of bicycles, automobiles, photographic apparatus and athletic appliances will be made. Some of the larger American manufacturers will enter to show the Russians what can be done here, with an eye to possible future business.

YOU MAY BE IN THE SAME BOAT

The high prices obtained in these times for many kinds of products and goods leads to much complaining—some justified and some unjustified. The unjustified complaints come from those who are themselves producers of commodities that are enjoying high prices. The justified complaints are voiced by those whose incomes have not been increased proportionately to the increase in the cost of living.

The other day a farmer complained to a local lumber dealer that he was being robbed by the lumber trust, because he was called on to pay \$14 a thousand for lumber that he got for \$9 a thousand five years ago. The lumberman very graciously offered to sell the load for \$9, provided the farmer would pay him in farm produce, making up the total of \$9 at rates prevailing for produce when lumber was \$9 a thousand. After it had been demonstrated to the farmer that, if he had to pay for his lumber in some kind of produce, on this basis, he would have to pay more than twice \$16, he conceded that he was not being robbed, and was, indeed, only asked a fair price, the changed conditions considered.

Before you complain of high prices and accuse your seller of robbing you because he charges more than formerly, exam-

ine your own books and see how much you have marked up prices. If you haven't changed them, you have a right to complain, not necessarily against the individual seller, but against an economic system that doesn't seem to operate to your advantage.

The entire Minnesota delegation in congress is now out of touch with public opinion in the state. The seven representatives differ from public opinion in their attitude on the Cuban question and the two senators yesterday voted for the subsidy bill. We are convinced that the senators voted against their personal inclinations, but we should have been pleased to see them stand with Quarles and Spooner of Wisconsin, Allison and Dooliver of Iowa, Dillingham and Proctor of Vermont, rather than vote as they did, probably for reasons of political expedience. Yet it is only fair to add that there is no such feeling on the Cuban as there was over the Porto Rican question. So many elements enter into the position taken by the "insurgents," and the leaders are so unconsciously opposing each other as to be almost neutralized by their independent stand, regardless of its intrinsic merit, or lack of merit.

Bourke Cockran may or may not be right in his assertion that the failure of Cuban legislation in the present session of congress will lead to democratic victory at the polls next fall. Too many other things may contribute to a different result, and the confidence the people have in the republican party is the only administrative party is probably too firm to be shaken by any one mistake.

The Nonpareil Man

Casually Observed. Somebody ought to get out and chloroform this winter.

The Commoner refuses to commit itself to Davy Hill as a future Moses. As between Tom Johnson and Bryan, the Commoner is supposed to have its preferences, if it does succeed in keeping them concealed.

The man who put his screen doors on last week spent a thoughtful Sunday.

A morning paper yesterday informed its startled readers that a year ago the Minneapolis elevators had 500,000 bushels of oats in store. This must have been a slight exaggeration.

The Louisville health department says that hamburger cheese contains microbes. We should have said elephants on a guess.

The open street car and the first Robin have been postponed.

Nobody seems to have asked General Buller his opinion of the Methuen incident.

A medical journal is trying to find out if the stomach ever becomes tired. The late Henry Hoehenzeller might have valuable testimony on this point.

We regret to report that the route of the isthmian canal is not yet laid out.

A Chicago nerve specialist, Dr. Doud Paulson, asserts that the desire for alcoholic stimulants is often caused by pepper, mustard and the like. It is also caused sometimes by the views of nerve specialists.

Minnesota Vignettes. Martin E. Tew, the warrior, is around the state giving an "Oriental Entertainment and Illustrated Lecture." It is said to be good. Features of the evening are Hawaiian and Filipino songs, together with "The Holy City," all sang by Ethel E. Tew. In the language of Oscar Wilde, the entertainment is really Tew-Tew.

Appleton has a "restroom" where ladies from the country have a warm, homelike place to rest and be comfortable when they come in from the farm after a long ride in the cold. The "rest" idea is a good one, and is said to be a trade catcher. Such rooms have been started in various parts of the state, and are proving their advantages.

A Hutchinson merchant who handles confectionery says his sales of candy will reach close to \$1,100 yearly. He is by no means the largest dealer, and a fair average for the fifteen shops in which candy is sold in Hutchinson is perhaps \$1,000 each, making \$15,000 paid out every year for sweets. The Hutchinson Independent Times thinks this is \$5,000 off, but mourns over the \$25,000 to \$30,000 paid for tobacco, beer and whiskey, with the glump little wed thrown in for gun.

A tramp printer struck Toronto with just enough money to carry him through the week. He invested it in a meal ticket. Going up the street he dropped the ticket. Just as he was about to pick it up along came a fellow with hobnail shoes on, stepped on the ticket and punched all the meals out.

A Cass county magnetite holder advertises to be "a graduate of L. A. Harriden's correspondence college of hypnotism. He has taken Thos. Akittin course of instructions in Valapathy and he has taken a full course in the American College of Science." He goes on to say that "distant is immaterial." You can be cured anyhow if you drop a line.

A Painful Moment at Wadena. The Wadena Pioneer Journal reports one of those almost fatal accidents that cause the heart of the printer to swell within him. The accident referred to, the "pling of a form," can only be compared in domestic life to the excitement engendered when the housewife's prize custard pie, which she sets in a chair and sits on, inadvertently by a hired man weighing 175 pounds. "The Pioneer Journal" says: "The forms were put on the press at 2:30 in

the afternoon, a little later than usual, and in the rush to catch the mails, some of the force neglected to lock them on the press. It has not been discovered as yet exactly who was to blame, but any rate, after a few revolutions of the press one of the forms flew from the floor. It was a bad news. The news before in the history of this office was that such a panic.

How, after the editor had dashed around the ruins and talked freely and painfully for a few moments, everybody set to work with a will under the most of their opportunities, and showing slight evidences of stress.

AMUSEMENTS

The "Princess Chic" at the Metropolitan.

There is in "The Princess Chic" the saving grace of romance which takes it at once out of the music hall and class new filling the stage with foolery and glitter. Foolery has its place in the production, and a funny enough broad foolery it is, but it never interferes with the telling of a story which notwithstanding its somewhat flimsy texture, has the true shimmer of romance. In this respect Mr. La Shelle's work approaches more nearly the standard set by "Robin Hood" than any recent American offering.

And the illusion has been most cleverly supported by the brilliant and busy music by Julian Edwards, admirably suited to the book and lends a briskness and buoyancy to the atmosphere of the piece. The score is well and the brilliant quality is not only characteristic but rather better than the average. Indeed, very few comic or romantic operas of the day offer anything so delightfully humorous as the "Story Book" song, and the river god, so melodious as "The Love Light in Her Eyes," or so strikingly quaint as the "Collecting 'War is a Beautiful Jade' Number."

The settings, too, are not merely rappings of color, tastefully contrived and artfully light. History has been consulted and not given out too slavish obedience to its dictates, the producer has furnished rich and accurate costumes of the period and scenery to match.

The company this year seems individually as strong as that of last year, but somehow the production has been somewhat lessened and it seems indefinitely to have lost the vivacity and freshness of youth. No doubt, this thought would not occur to one seeing it for the first time. Marguerite Berri brings to the title role a beauty less radiant but a dramatic understanding keener and surer than her predecessor, Marguerite Syva. She is the first time that a woman has taken the role of the dashing princess who is as ready with her sword as with her smile, and who knows how to charm the duke, whether in the guise of a dashing cavalier, or a peasant maiden of grand dame. Miss Berri sings, too, with a clear, pure soprano that is most effective, notwithstanding the lack of good head tones.

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MINNESOTA POLITICS

The following dispatch has been received from The Journal's Washington correspondent: Without quoting members of the state delegation, it may be said that there was a bit of politics in the recent correspondence which passed between Attorney General Douglas and Senator Nelson, regarding the proposition to amend the judiciary act so as to permit the state to get into the federal courts with its merger case. As the case is looked at here, the state authorities have under the most of their opportunities, and have blundered along in quite a distressing manner, at length running up bump against the stone wall of the supreme court ruling. Then, to hide so far as might be possible, the matter along to the delegation, possibly thinking that in the end there would be a division of responsibility between the state and Senator Nelson's letter to Mr. Douglas said in effect, "I will not do so in terms, but the attorney general did not know what he was talking about when he requested certain legislation at the hands of congress. The delegation has politely passed the ball back to the state authorities, and it is their next move."

This view does not come from any member of the delegation, but I believe it very accurately reflects what the members would say if they were to talk right out of their hearts about the matter.

It was very natural that such a view of the episode should be taken at Washington. Attorney General Douglas, however, has no intention of making political capital, and seems very much annoyed that anything in the nature of a controversy should arise. He has absolutely refused to discuss the question, and has from the first. Though the correspondence as it stands has put him "in the hole," he declines to say a word.

Mr. Douglas wrote a letter to Senator Nelson last Saturday, which was probably received by the delegation. He declined to give out a copy of the letter for publication, or to discuss its contents. All the correspondence has been given out at the other end of the line.

The mistake in the attitude of the congressional members from their idea that the state authorities are trying to get relief in the Northern Securities case. This is not the case. There are several ways of getting at the state, but they have been out three days against the Northern Securities company. The state has several remedies, and is now engaged in preparing them. The resolution comes from their idea that the state authorities are trying to get relief in the Northern Securities case. This is not the case. There are several ways of getting at the state, but they have been out three days against the Northern Securities company. The state has several remedies, and is now engaged in preparing them. The resolution comes from their idea that the state authorities are trying to get relief in the Northern Securities case. This is not the case. There are several ways of getting at the state, but they have been out three days against the Northern Securities company. 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