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Thursday, April 21, 1904.

Those who have listened to Judge Parker's cold eloquence commend him for his silence.

Chief Lynch proposes to freeze out those fighters who are addicted to the game of draw.

Brother Roberts wishes the committee to understand that he is doing wrong conscientiously.

Admiral Skrydloff is arousing much enthusiasm on his way to Port Arthur, and will be a hero till he gets there.

Pugilism which will suit both those who believe it should be a gentle art and those who want to see fierce fights, will be allowed.

On Arbor Day school children cleaned 4209 yards, and these, with a few more to be cleaned by older people, will make the city quite clean this season.

Even if the order against prize-fighting is based on the claim that contests have become too tame, it is believed that the ministers will indorse it.

Is it possible that Apostle Cowley, having heard that he was wanted in Washington, went under a misapprehention to the State of Washington?

When the Russian Admiral sent to take command at Port Arthur reaches the front he may find that the Japs have arbitrarily relieved him of his command.

Brother Roberts says he did not tell his first and second wives of his third marriage, because he did not want to embarrass them, but possibly he means he did not want them to embarrass him.

Good people among the Democrats of New York evidently did not take much part in the recent Democratic campaign in that State, the contest having been between Dave Hill and Tammany.

We do not remember many such days as yesterday, when the whole country from sea to sea seemed to be under the dripping clouds. It rained here, it rained east, it rained west, it rained north, it rained south; and it caused a universal cold. The storm was certainly wide spread; but fortunately there are no reports that it did any damage.

The breaking of smallpox quarantine at Price is a most serious matter. It is an axtraordinary thing that any one, ignorant as he may be on general matters, would not sense the danger and the outrage of his act in tearing down a quarantine flag and releasing persons detained as infected and legally held as a menace to the public safety. The vigorous prosecution of all concerned in the outrage is clearly necessary, and we are glad to see that Dr. Beatty, in behalf of the State Board of Health, has taken instant measures to that end. A severe lesson is needed in this case.

The just completed session of the grand lodge of the order of Odd Fellows in this city was an occasion both encouraging and profitable. The order was shown to be in a flourishing condition, and a strong pillar of benevolent and charitable work in Utah. The session was a pleasant one, and the officers elected for the ensuing term give assurance that the interests of Odd Fellowship will be well cared for while they are in office. The order has been fortunate in this respect hitherto; its officers have been zealous and able, as the condition of the lodges and their membership clearly attests. It is doing a splendid work in Utah, and deserves the good will of every citizen.

The Russian demand that the Turks now pay a sum of four million dollars long past due, is said to be construed by Turkey as an aggression, and suspicion is expressed that the move has something more important back of it. While it is true that Turkey always thinks something suspicious is afoot when she is asked to pay her bills, it is probable that in this case the suspicion is justified; and it may be a put-up job between Turkey to allow what the Sultan in fact wants to allow, the passage through the Dardanelles and Bosporus of the Russian Black Sea fleet. The pressure to pay the money could be applied, Turkish inability to relieve pleaded, and then as a concession to relieve the situation and let the debt run on, Turkey would with professed unwillingness but real alacrity concede Russia's demand for the passage of her warships. Things are not always what they appear to be.

THE PUBLIC MUST DO ITS DUTY.

As stated locally in The Tribune yesterday, there is a good deal of confusion existing in this city in the matter of hauling garbage away from private premises. In some cases, as we are informed, the city garbage wagons will not be taken into the back yards of people to haul away garbage, even if the people are willing to pay for having it done. In other cases, so we hear, the city wagons go into back yards of private premises and haul away the garbage free.

There should be a general, uniform rule about this, and it should be enforced. The chief thing to be kept in mind is to make it as easy as possible for the householder to get his premises cleaned up, and not as difficult.

One of the hardest things to have done in this city is to get the ordinary garbage hauled away daily, the potato peelings, the corn husks, and the like, in the summer time. We saw last summer many places where such stuff lined the outer portion of the sidewalks, with swarms of flies about it, and it stayed there day after day, often giving forth an offensive smell. The blame was plainly to be laid at the door of the man who drove the garbage wagon, and was supposed to collect such waste promptly, and haul it away. Or at least, if not to him directly, then to the one in charge of his work.

There is a constant and just demand that the city should be kept clean. It is a demand that should be enforced; it must be enforced if we are to have a city free from epidemics. But the residents must be helped; they must have facilities to get their garbage disposed of. Every one cannot keep his own garbage wagon; it is fair that the city should provide that for him, and that its visits should be made at least once a day.

The city should also protect the garbage cans from the depredations of hoodlums, who are at times disposed in their hilarity to destroy them or carry them off, emptying the contents on the sidewalk or in the street. This and other general oversight should be provided by the city. Then punish the one who fails or refuses to obey the requirement to clean up and keep clean. But until the city does its part, talk is idle; the individual ought not to be expected to do what the community as a whole refuses to do. The private obligation is certainly no greater than that of the public.

Clean up, and keep clean, but let the city provide the means whereby this may be done.

The report of tree planting on Arbor day by the school pupils of this city is a very gratifying one. Even more gratifying is the report that the pupils cleaned up 4209 yards. They planted 20,976 trees. And now to keep those trees alive! Wouldn't it be a good idea for the teachers, the principals, or somebody in authority, to keep tab on those trees, so that the public may know by next Arbor day how many of them are then alive? If it turns out that a great proportion of them are dead, the next duty plainly would be to find a remedy; to plant fewer trees, perhaps, and see that those planted are kept alive. That, after all, is the main point. It is not material how many trees are planted, if they don't grow; it is those that survive that count.

We presume that it is not intended to pass through the Senate the bill to make two States out of the four Territories of Oklahoma, Indian Territory, Arizona, and New Mexico. The House passed the bill on Tuesday, but it is not in the least likely that it can be reached in the Senate at this session, when so many things are pressing for attention in the closing days. It is a bad disposition to make of the subject, anyway; and it is most likely that when the Senate reaches the subject at its next session, the bill will be amended so as to admit Oklahoma alone as a State, and probably Arizona and New Mexico separately. A bad jumble would result from any other course.

The House has covered the Panama situation very well by taking out the text of the Senate bill for governing the canal strip, and putting in place of it the section passed for the Government of the Louisiana purchase, by Congress in 1893. This gives the President complete power and will cover all emergencies. The preliminaries for the formal transfer of the French interests are about complete, and the final steps will be taken within a very few days now. But if it takes a year, as some intimate, to put the zone in sanitary condition to allow men to work there, as some are now saying, the beginning to dig is far off yet.

Germany has adopted a proposition to improve her consular service by adding expert commercial advisers and the promotion and organization of German chambers of commerce abroad. In the argument for this measure the course of the United States in appointing for consuls men of practical affairs was referred to as a worthy model. So that it is only in our own country that our consular system is thought to be unworthy, and even here it is only those who prefer the system that other nations have had but now wish to discard, who denounce our consular system. However, this is a practical age, and no matter how much the theorists who would like to see a regular American diplomatic service established, with the consuls appointed from young students for that service, our Government is not in the least likely to make the pleaded-for change. As long as we have a consular service which is the envy of the world, we need not mind what the academic idea would prefer.

CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENTS.

The House Committee on Reform in the Civil Service has authorized its chairman, Representative Frederick H. Gillett, to introduce a bill making the age limit for civil service employees seventy years. When the employee reaches that age, out he goes, without regard to efficiency or influence. It will cause a general suppression of ages among the employees, or else much "turning back of the clock of the years."

Doubtless the bill, if passed, would help the service very much in Washington. It would help it a great deal more if it provided that no successor should be appointed to any of those let out on account of age, until the total number of employees shown at present to be in the public employ is reduced at least fifty per cent, and sixty per cent would be even a better standard.

Of course, a good many of the clerks at seventy are as good as they ever were, which is not necessarily very high praise; but their displacement would clear the way for new appointees, and the old and decrepit thus displaced would be no doubt left to shift for themselves.

Or, is it the programme to provide for civil service pensions? In the case of the officers of the army and the navy who are retired on the age limit, half pay for life is granted. Why not some such rule in the civil service? The reason is that the persons in it enjoy especial favor all their long lives (and one who lives to seventy may fairly be said to have lived long), occupying places that others covet; and when a kindly Government has done that much, it ought not to be asked to do more.

In the same connection, it is stated that all bills granting pensions to civil service employees are to be reported with the recommendation that they lie on the table. This may or may not mean their defeat. At all events, it shows that the movement in favor of such pensions is alive and active, as there are a number of such bills pending, all of which deserve defeat.

But the age retirement bill, with an amendment as suggested, that will reduce the employees in the departments at Washington by at least one-half, would be of great service in the dispatch of the public business. As matters are now, there are so many, and the number of bureaus, divisions and subdivisions is so great, that to find anything in the crowd is like going into a dense forest to pick out some particular tree that one may have heard of; the very multiplicity of trees makes futile the keenest search.

THE FACING BOTH WAYS PARTY.

Bryan declares that the Parker instructions by the New York Democratic convention will not strengthenn Parker as a candidate; that the platform adopted ought to beat him, unless the Democrats intend to play at St. Louis a confidence game on the public. That being the case, Parker's chances are bright; for the very thing which the Democrats are most adept in is playing a confidence game on the public.

There has never been a time when the party would have done what it claims it would do, even had Bryan been elected; while for a sample of what the party does in spite of its promises, one has to go no further back than the time when the Democracy elected Cleveland in 1892 on a silver platform, and at once proceeded to smash silver. They couldn't even wait till the regular session to do it, but President Cleveland called an extra session of Congress in the summer for the purpose.

Bryan's statement of the case as to Parker and the bunko platform on which the New York delegates were instructed for him, expresses exactly the favorite Democratic dodge, and leaves no doubt at all of Parker's nomination. In order to make it an absolute cinch, and a unanimous nomination by acclamation, all that will be necessary will be to show the delegates that by nominating Parker and indorsing the New York platform they will be facing both ways, and then the thing is as good as done.

A recent writer, discussing the fall of Spain into a place among the nations that counts any way from third downwards, attributes her former greatness to "purely artificial means," with the intimation that her fall began when that artificiality would no longer serve. That is a superficial view. Spain was in the lead of all the world until by her despostic greed and intolerance she drove from her borders not only her best thought and enterprise, but all the true independence of character that dared to manifest itself. She banished the Jews, her best commercial men, and with them untold wealth was taken from the country, and the inquisition burnt out all manifestations of freedom of mind. All the best and most enterprising men of Europe would gladly have gone to Spain had she permitted, and they would have put her on the pinnacle of domination for the world, and kept her there. The New World was hers by discovery, and the Old World would have been hers by attraction, but she would not have it so. Spain fell, not by any other means than her own perversity and malevolence.

DOES SALT MELT ICE?

From the Boston Globe.

When we say that salt melts ice we express but half a truth. Salt no more melts ice than ice melts salt.

For centuries it has been known that when certain solid bodies are brought together there is a powerful tendency to combine, and heat is drawn from all surrounding sources as well as from the latent store existing in the substances themselves.

A freezing mixture is the result, the heat dropping till that from the external and internal sources is sufficient to keep pace with the melting.

Fahrenheit in 1762 made use of a melting mixture when he secured what was then thought to be absolute cold and consequently marked the freezing point on his thermometer at 32 degrees.

A PARADISE FOR WOMEN.

From the Philadelphia Ledger.

The treatment accorded women in the island of Sumatra ought to be a great satisfaction to the advocate of women's rights. At marriage the worldly possessions of the husband are made over to the wife, and he thenceforth devotes his energies to increasing this fortune. Divorce is practically unknown, perhaps because husband and wife do not live together, but live in separate houses.

ALWAYS SOMETHING DOING THERE.

From the Jewell (Kan.) Republican.

Social life never stagnates in Jewell. As soon as the Mormon elders left, a new batch of life insurance agents came along.

SPICE.

"Goodness only knows," said the old parson, "I have had a hard time separating the good from the bad."

"Excuse me," spoke up the doubtful deacon, "but are you alluding to the congregation or the collection box?"—Chicago Daily News.

* * *

"It 'pears," said Uncle Eben, "dat success is sumpin' what you allus has to work hahd foh an' what some other feller gets by jest bein' lucky."—Washington Star.

* * *

When Forrest was a very little boy he went to his first party. When he came home he told his mother that ice cream had been served.

"I hope you remembered not to ask for a second dish," she said, knowing his weakness.

"No, mamma," he said to her relief, "they offered it to me." And after a moment's pause, added, "But I asked for the third."—Little Chronicle.

* * *

"Don't you think," asked the romantic damsel, "that the coming of spring is like the budding of love?"

"Sure," said the coarse man. "Sure. Isn't there always a hard frost about two weeks after spring opens?"—Philadelphia Telegraph.