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SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 1908.

An Unrighteous Legislative Principle.

Gov. Hughes is making a strong fight against the race-track gamblers in New York. His campaign is of particular interest here because it involves the principle embodied in one section of the District code that bookmaking is lawful within a racing inclosure and unlawful outside. This distinction occurs in the laws of several States, but in others it has been legislated out of the statutes, as it was a year or two ago in Missouri. In New York and some other States discrimination in favor of race-track gambling is forbidden by the constitution, and we should think the discrimination repugnant to any constitution, whether specifically proscribed or not, for denying to some citizens the equal protection of the laws. That a thing should be outlawed in one portion of a civil jurisdiction and permitted as lawful in another portion is plainly contrary to the first principles of justice. As emphasizing this point, Gov. Hughes has called attention to the veto by President Harrison in 1890 of a bill ostensibly intended "to prohibit bookmaking of any kind and pool selling in the District of Columbia for the purpose of gaming." Mr. Harrison was not deceived by the misleading character of this title and returned the bill to the Senate with a brief veto message, in which he said:

"My objection to the bill is that it does not prohibit bookmaking and pool selling, but on the contrary, expressly saves from the operations of its prohibitions and penalties the Washington Jockey Club and any other organization owning race tracks not less than one mile in length, &c. If this form of gambling is to be prohibited, as I think it should be, the penalties should include all persons."

The principle of the bill was wholly wrong, as President Harrison quickly discovered on examination. But practically the same principle is in the District code to-day, and it is held by one of those remarkable perversions of judicial logic that characterize our administration of the law to justify the continuance of an immoral practice so injurious to the community and so prejudicial to public policy that it is absolutely prohibited everywhere—except in the one place where it can be most profitably conducted. Now it is clearly the duty of Congress to put an end to this double disgrace—the disgrace of a law that faces two ways, and the disgrace of the wrong it is alleged to permit. President Harrison took the proper view of this matter. If bookmaking should be prohibited, and there are no two opinions on that point, the penalties against it should include all persons who engage in it, no matter how or with what paraphernalia or lack of it they conduct their nefarious business. The enactment of legislation to this end will, to quote the vigorous language of Gov. Hughes, "demonstrate that we are not ruled by gamblers or dominated by money. It will be a victory for the home, for the fathers, the mothers and the youth of our State, for the integrity of administration and for that equality before the law which is of the essence of popular government."

The John A. Johnson boom moves with dignity rather than extraordinary dispatch.

Washington's Housing Problem.

Gen. George M. Sternberg, chairman of the President's Homes Commission, gave some interesting information regarding the work of that commission and the housing problem in Washington in a recent address at the Young Men's Christian Association. The commission has raised $3,500 to meet the cost of the inquiry it is making, of which $1,800 has been contributed by the members of the commission. The Sage Foundation has promised $5,000, provided a similar amount is raised here, so that $1,500 more is needed to comply with that condition. Agents of the commission are gathering facts relating to the dwellings of the poor, their sanitary condition and conveniences, and also as to the income and expenditure of the family. Inquiry will be made into the question of model homes, the opening up of alleys and the removal of insanitary houses, and the building regulations.

Something has already been done for the betterment of housing conditions among the poorer classes in Washington, but it has had much the same result as similar efforts in more crowded centers of population, where the destruction of insanitary buildings and the erection of modern dwellings has simply altered the location of so-called slums without abolishing them, and has even accentuated the overcrowding of the poor in habitations as bad as those from which they were driven. The reason for this is plain. Sanitary dwellings cost more, and consequently rent for more than the very poor are able to pay. The model homes built in Washington rent for $10 to $17 a month, yet this rent is too high, Gen. Sternberg says, for the average day laborer. The Sanitary Housing Company has built flats that rent for $7 to $9 a month, but these apartments do not yield enough on the investment to induce capital to build them. To obtain a reasonable return on the investment, sanitary houses must rent for $3 a room, a rental much beyond the means of thousands of families.

Gen. Sternberg appears inclined to find fault with the building regulations as too exacting. He spoke of extravagant rents as due to "extravagant building regulations." We are unable to judge the merits of this criticism, but it is one of the unfortunate aspects of the housing problem that the stiffer the requirements of the building regulations the less do the poor profit by them, for the reason that the higher cost of a good dwelling makes it impossible for the poor to live in it. The great problem, then, as Gen. Sternberg states it, is to find money to build cheap yet sanitary homes. This problem is growing more acute in Washington on account of the continuous condemnation of insanitary dwellings without providing better dwellings to take their place, thus causing something like a house famine, which in turn enables landlords to raise rents. Here, again, we are repeating the conditions that have arisen elsewhere out of well-meant efforts to improve housing conditions.

It may be hoped that the Homes Commission will be able to devise some practicable method of meeting the housing problem—a problem that is essentially one of providing sanitary and comfortable homes that will be within the reach of those who most need them. If private enterprise will not furnish the means for the erection of such homes, it becomes obvious that no solution of the problem can be reached without the assistance either of private munificence or the public purse. Either charity or socialism must come to the rescue, unless a way can be shown whereby capital may make a profit out of sanitary homes for people with small incomes.

More Roosevelt luck. Former Senator Burton, of Kansas, has gone over to the Democrats!

Signs of Spring.

Who can doubt, with Texas coming to the front with a mountain of petrified fish and Connecticut getting in the game with a pickerel so long it required several minutes for it to pass a given point, that spring is at hand! Already the first robin has been seen here, yonder, and everywhere; picnics are being talked about and fishing trips are being planned!

That is as it should be, of course; spring is the season when poetical license is given its limit of latitude and no story is scrutinized too closely. We do not combat that as a broad principle; indeed, far from combating it, we indorse it, and have been known, upon rare occasions, to act upon it. We do insist, nevertheless, that such persons as we are dependent upon for our annual supply of spring yarns should observe this season a little more exactness as to detail in narrating them than has heretofore been imposed upon such story-tellers in more mollycoddlish days. We have had a good deal of trouble throughout this land during the past twelve months with nature-fakers and undesirable citizens. Through these gentry has come much discredit to hundreds of well-intentioned harbingers of spring of erstwhile good repute.

We note, apropos of this discussion, that a citizen of alleged veracity and high standing in his church reports having recently seen "a large, beautifully striped, and graceful sea serpent, somewhere near the gulf." We submit that this is too indefinite for this day and hour. It might have passed muster unquestioned a few months ago, but not now. "Somewhere near the gulf" is a trifle vague! What gulf? And what part of what gulf? Far be it from us to question this vision. The sea serpent bobs up every spring—several of them, for the matter of that. The physical appearance of this particular denizen of the deep is, we doubt not, just as this party described it, albeit unusual. But "somewhere near the gulf"—that will have to be revised before the story can be listed as one up to the modern mark.

We are not seeking to pick flaws and indulge in captious criticism. We merely call attention to the fact that the general public at this time is more or less from Missouri, so far as grand, gloomy, and peculiar tales are concerned; and while we have as much respect for the spring prevaricator, sometimes designated by a shorter and uglier word, as anybody, we sound a note of warning. Indeed, it is not that we love a good fish story less, but that we love to see it served up in swallowable shape more, that causes us to say a word in the crisis upon us.

That Iowa man who dreamed he saw Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Bryan running on the same ticket for President and Vice President, respectively, may, we think, be depended upon not to mix lobster salad and milk toast for supper again at anything like an early date.

Officeholders and Politics

If there has been any cessation of political activity on the part of Federal officeholders since President Roosevelt announced in his letter to William Dudley Foulke that no officer would be permitted to violate his instructions to the Civil Service Commission warning government employes not to cause public scandal by their participation in politics, little evidence of it appears in the reports printed every day in the press telling of the presence of officeholders at district and State conventions and meetings of campaign committees. However, one minor government employe, an unclassified laborer, has been admonished for his political activity, according to the Philadelphia Ledger, and a general warning has been issued to other Federal employes in that city who are within the classified service. Postmaster General Meyer is quoted in the Boston Herald as saying that the department does not approve of postmasters taking part in political conventions, but he adds that if they do take part they "must not be active." But, whether active or inactive, Federal officers are as thick as flies in every Republican gathering, and the outlook is that the Chicago convention will be full of them.

The situation respecting the political activity of officeholders is rather explosive, if we may believe the Washington correspondent of the Boston Transcript, who says there is considerable irritation at the White House over the zeal of some Federal officers for anti-Taft candidates, while there is a corresponding irascibility in the anti-Taft camp over the use of the Federal machinery to promote the Taft boom. "Covert threats continually are being made," says this correspondent, who deals with the subject very frankly, "on both sides that publicity is to be given to the political activity of certain prominent Federal officeholders." But as the President and his critics are tarred with the same stick, the threats are not transformed into action, for the disclosures would be painful on both sides and the ultimate consequences politically deplorable. This curious state of things doubtless stays the hand of the President, who might otherwise adhere more closely to his earlier conception of the relation of the officeholder to politics. Yet his plain duty remains the same, to compel the Federal machine to labor in the interest of the public solely, a duty that obviously he cannot perform without jeopardizing a cause he has very closely at heart, namely, the nomination of Taft.

"Gov. Smith tendered a banquet at Thunderbolt," says a Cracker State contemporary. Where the Hon. Hoke is, there also always is a thunderbolt.

A train smashed into an open switch down Georgia way a few days ago and spilled two carloads of whisky. If this doesn't precipitate another violent anti-railroad wave in that bailiwick, we shall conclude "refum" has spent itself entirely thereabout.

There isn't anything to be gained by calling the first robin a "nature faker." He is quite as indifferent as Dr. Long on that subject.

"Senator Platt is reported to have expressed a wish for another term," says the Cleveland Leader. No doubt in this connection the Senator often thinks of the words of Alexander Selkirk, "O Solitude, where are the charms that sages have seen in thy face?"

Now that it appears probable a number of distinguished Japanese officers and gentlemen will visit our fleet while it is in the Pacific, let us hope no Congressman will propose a resolution that they be searched for bombs and things before being permitted to go on board.

Not unnaturally, Lord Tweedmouth has played a strenuous game of shut mouth lately.

The desire of the Duc de Chaulnes to return to this country and go to work is, to be sure, commendable. His announced determination, however, to "plunge into the whirl of Wall street" may not be especially reassuring to Mr. Theodore Shonts.

"Suppose the Spaniards were to invite the Americans to pay them a visit, would the invitation be accepted?" asks the Savannah News, having reference to the cruise of the fleet. Well, if not, why not?

A North Carolina man left his son a large fortune on condition that he refrain from playing a fiddle or dancing. This will work no great hardship on him, however, as the legislature is apt sooner or later to prohibit such ungodly pastimes, anyhow.

We hope we don't need Haiti in our business!

Of course, the newly invented "noiseless gun" will force the forthcoming Deadwood Dick stories to begin with something else than "Crack! crack! crack! spoke the bandit's trusty rifle!"

A Connecticut man found $1,000 in a rat's nest. The submarine people insist that Congressman Lilley has uncovered several thousand dollars of graft in a mare's nest.

"I have had enough of married life," says Mme. Anna Gould, former Countess de Castellane. In fact, we suspect she has had considerably more than enough.

The circuses will cut out the freaks next season; this, of course, not including the persons who sell the red lemonade and the sad peanuts.

The town of Magdalena has a population of only 115. Under the circumstances, that place cannot expect to remain on the map a great while after the fleet departs.

To the New York Mail: There's that gloating individual, the prohibitionist! Have you got him on your list? Do you think that he'd be missed?

We are not sure that snails snore, notwithstanding that French scientist's opinion that they do. We should think, however, that carrying their houses on their backs would be calculated to make them groan.

Prince Helie de Sagan has been temporarily suppressed, but the ex-crown princess of Saxony has run off with a new man. Thus is the level of activity among European undesirables kept down to its usual lines.

Chicago has announced its "determination to drive out all anarchists." That will be all right with the rest of the country, provided Chicago drives them out into the lake.

This is the season of the year when the amateur gardener prepares to economize on household expenses by raising his own radishes and spring onions at a cost of something like $1.17 per bunch.

Gentle Annie's debut was genteel and ladylike.

"'Ohio solid for Taft' was the headline. Messrs. Foraker and Dick are quite sure they know where there is a hollow place," observes the Commoner. Or a holler place, anyhow.

In Mr. John Drew's play, "My Wife," he calls for "the London papers," and when they are handed him, he spends seven seconds looking them over. That's what we call the simon-pure article in the way of stage realism.

Perhaps Congress wanted the motto "In God we trust" put back on the coins in order to remind the people that Congress is not to be held responsible for everything.

A great deal of "original poetry" is being spouted in the House of Representatives these days. Don't waste any sympathy on the members, however; their knowledge of the poetry is rarely obtained until they glance through the Record next day.

A New York society woman is said to pay a certain press agent $2,500 per year "to keep her name out of the papers," which, of course, has resulted in getting it in practically every one of them in the country.

An Indiana bridegroom delayed his wedding forty minutes while he removed his evening clothes and donned a suit of loud black and white checks for the ceremony. Evidently, this bridegroom was determined to be noticed!

Held Up to Await Developments.

From the Boston Herald.

"Who makes the laws for the United States?" asked the court of the applicant for naturalization papers.

"Roosevelt," said the applicant.

"Who makes the laws for the United States?" was asked of the next applicant.

"Roosevelt," the answer again.

Whereupon the court gave both applicants three months to study up. By that time the result of the Chicago convention's deliberations will be more definitely known.

Southern View of Hughes.

From the Nashville American.

Bryan can make a better race against Taft than he can against Hughes. The New Yorker is the most dangerous man the Republicans could nominate. He can get more votes where votes are needed than Roosevelt.

Exception to the Rule.

From the Fort Worth Record.

The Pennsylvania Railroad system forbids the use of profane language by its employes while on duty. Those in high places are exempt, however, every time the President issues a special message.

Her Testimony Doubtful.

From the Houston Post.

A Houston wife says she delights to hear her husband praise the beauty and sweetness of other women. Otherwise she is a woman of unquestioned veracity.

Make the Cities Better.

From the Philadelphia Bulletin.

When millions of people are determined to live in big cities, the most sensible thing is to make the cities better places to live in.

Don't Encourage Stay-at-homes.

From the Chicago News.

It would be a pity for any of the churches to be unsafe. Men find enough excuses now for not going.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A maid lived in a castle grand five
hundred years ago.
Her foot was small and eke her hand;
her hair was like the sloe.
So many came from far and near this
maiden fair to woo,
That she was aye harassed by fear; she
knew not what to do.

There was no "lovelorn" column then,
run by some lady nice,
To which a girl might scribble when in
need of sage advice.
Beset by suitors day by day, our damsel daily cried,
And pretty soon she pined away; yes,
pined away and died.

The maids to-day need fear no fate so
pitiful as this,
For lots of ladies sit up late advising
girls, I wis.
They tell one whom to wed and why;
they tell girls how to dress;
And every damsel should, say I, be
thankful for the press.

Worth the Money.

"Loan me a quarter to get my letterheads from the printer."

"I have already loaned you a dollar to get those letterheads."

"But I found he'd put on a cable address for a quarter extra."

From Prunes to Codfish.

"Mister," asked the wayfarer, "who sets the biggest free lunch in this town?"

"I guess I do," answered the local grocer, for it was none other, "but I don't do it a-puppus, I kin tell ye."

Modern Education.

"Boy, instead of roaming the fields, you ought to be home doing your lessons."

"Please, sir, I am doing my lessons. Teacher says I needn't come to school to-morrow 'less I bring six tadpoles and two toads."

Going the Limit.

All other efforts dimmed,
Wide as a tub
Her Easter hat is trimmed;
So is her hub.

Campaign Material.

"What do you think of reforming the calendar?"

"Beautiful issue," declared the statesman addressed. "Nothing in that to alarm a child."

An Old Story.

"She tells me that theirs is a platonic love. What does that mean, hubby?"

"Means that we'll have to dig up for a wedding present in about two months."

No Danger.

"I would not live alway," sang the poet.

"Rest easy," responded the scientific man. "All statistics indicate that you're not apt to."

LOBBYING UNNECESSARY.

Scandal Avoided Under English System of Parliamentary Agents.

From the Boston Herald.

The English system of dealing with legislation affecting special interests is better than the American system in many ways. Results are more satisfactory, if we are to accept Mr. Bryce's statement that action upon these measures is "always understood to be fair, impartial, and honest." The opportunity for scandal is avoided because, as the Ambassador says, there is no "class of persons whose business it is to come down and endeavor to persuade members to vote for or against a measure." The English evidently find it possible to do without a "lobby." They have "Parliamentary agents," but these appear to be of the genuine variety, and not mere lobbyists in disguise. They are often attorneys, says Mr. Bryce, but sometimes not. They are an organized body, bound by a code of rules, subject to discipline, and obliged to observe these rules just as strictly as are any kind of legal practitioners. Some of these agents receive large fees, but the compensation is for ability such as would be paid for in the employment of any legal service, and not for the possession or exertion of pull. The duties of the Parliamentary agents are confined to the technical drafting of bills and to the formal presentation of evidence and arguments before the committee.

SHOULD SERVE THE PUBLIC.

Relation of Officeholders and Politics as Defined by Mr. Roosevelt.

Theodore Roosevelt, Civil Service Commissioner in 1891.

The public service should be divorced from politics. No government office should be used to control the results of any election whatever, whether it is an election for State or Federal officers, or a primary held for the purpose of electing delegates to a nominating convention. No officeholder belonging to a dominant party should act in any way which would cause a scandal or create friction in any office if the person belonged to the party in opposition. Under the spoils system the theory is that politics belongs especially to the officeholders. Under the merit system the theory is that politics belongs to the people, and that the people are quite capable of managing their own affairs without interference and dictation on the part of those whom they have chosen to serve the whole public in purely administrative positions.

An All-inclusive Democrat.

From the New York World.

Charles F. Murphy says Bourke Cockran was dropped from the Tammany committee because he is not a Democrat. What nonsense! Mr. Cockran has been a Cleveland Democrat, an anti-Cleveland Democrat, a Bryan Democrat, an anti-Bryan Democrat, a Hearst Democrat, an anti-Hearst Democrat, a Tammany Hall Democrat, and an anti-Tammany Hall Democrat. If Bourke Cockran, who has been every possible kind of a Democrat, is not a Democrat, who is a Democrat?

Some Democrats Will Be Happy.

From the Augusta (Ga.) Herald.

The announcement that the convention hall in Denver will be located a mile from the nearest barroom will have no terrors for the Georgia delegates. It will be so much nearer than what they have at home that they will be delighted to find it so convenient.

Two Great Issues.

From the Savannah News.

Toward the end of this year two great public questions are to be determined, namely, who will be the next President and which city has the best baseball team.

Day in Scripture.

From the St. Paul Dispatch.

The chancellor of Syracuse University is respectfully referred to in that passage of Scripture where Day unto Day uttereth speech but not knowledge.

The Need of the Times.

From the Emmitsburg (Md.) Chronicle.

Now that we have smokeless powder, noiseless guns, nogless eggs, and odorless onions, maybe somebody will discover a graftless politician.

Curtailing Feminine Privileges.

From the Philadelphia Press.

Women have a right to complain that their privileges are being curtailed when a street car is so made that they cannot get off backward.

CAPITOL GOSSIP.

Col. Henry Algernon Du Pont, about whom more is said in the Congressional Directory than any other Senator, with the exception of Senator Depew, is the senior United States Senator from Delaware.

SENATOR DU PONT

He is a native of Delaware, and after a private school education, entered the University of Pennsylvania, remaining there two years. In 1856 he entered the Military Academy, and five years later graduated at the head of his class.

His career from that time until the close of the war was one of activity. At his graduation he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Engineer Corps, and from that he rose step by step until he reached the grade of lieutenant colonel.

Several times he was promoted for gallantry, and received a Congressional medal of honor for "most distinguished gallantry and voluntary exposure."

Col. Du Pont resigned from the army in 1875 and became president and manager of the Wilmington and Northern Railroad. He retired from active business a number of years ago, and has since been engaged in agricultural pursuits. After one of the usual legislative fights with Addicks, he was elected United States Senator in 1906.

Senator Du Pont is chairman of the Committee on Expenditures in the War Department. During this session he was appointed on Military Affairs and took part in the Brownsville investigation. Up to the last minute he was lined up with the minority in that case, but when the President issued an order permitting the discharged soldiers to re-enlist, he switched to the majority.

At one time during the war, Col. Du Pont's regiment was stationed in Washington where the British Embassy now stands.

* * * *

Representative William Bill Sulzer, of New York, is a man of diversified interests, as well as diversified talents. Mr. Sulzer is the friend of the East Sider, as is well known, but he is also the friend of the downtrodden in other communities.

In fact, Mr. Sulzer's activities extend not only from the East Side of New York to the West; from Brooklyn and Coney Island to Harlem and the Bronx, but his genius often wanders forth into the far corners of the earth.

Away up in Southeastern Alaska Mr. Sulzer is the friend of the Northerner. To takes a living, breathing interest in all that affects that section of the United States. At times he rises upon the floor and speaks with vehemence concerning things Alaskan and at other times he invades the haunts of the House Committee on Territories to dwell upon matters pertaining to Alaskan government.

His devotion to Alaska has not gone unrewarded; there is a hamlet in that Territory which bears the name Sulzer proudly, as the New York Representative bears it.

Mr. Sulzer is proud of the town, and needless to remark, the town is proud of Mr. Sulzer.

* * * *

Representative Watkins, a Louisiana Democrat, entertained the House of Representatives one day last week by reciting a bit of political verse comprising ten stanzas.

It was a matter of wonder to those who heard or read it that any one could get so many meters in so short a composition, but he has surpassed himself in a campaign song of but four stanzas, with a chorus. As this is copyrighted, a sample may not be given in print, but his associates in the House, by his kindness, have been permitted to peruse the production. He has sent them copies, with this note:

"Being requested by a music house for permission to set this to music, I ask your opinion first. Respectfully,

"J. F. WATKINS."

So far as can be learned, responses to the note have also been copyrighted, as none can be secured for publication.

* * * *

Senator John H. Bankhead, of Alabama, who succeeded John Tyler Morgan upon the latter's death last summer, bears a close resemblance to the busts of William Shakespeare, except that his face lacks the mustache and whiskers that adorn the classic features of the Bard of Avon.

However, the new Alabama Senator frankly admits that he has no poetical talent; albeit, he is known throughout the Southland as a keen and resourceful lawyer. Incidentally, he enjoys a good story and knows how to tell one.

A few years ago the State of Alabama adopted a new constitution, which was, in plain English, designed to "restrict," if not eliminate, the colored vote. One of the requisites of the new constitution is ability on the part of an applicant for registration as a voter to read and interpret any part of that document to the satisfaction of the registration officials.

Mr. Bankhead was in Alabama right after the adoption of the new constitution, and relates an incident that came under his observation. He sauntered up to a registration booth and found the officials wrestling with a colored man of more than usual intelligence. One of the officials came over to where Mr. Bankhead was standing, evidently perturbed.

"This is a very smart negro," he whispered. "He has answered, correctly, every question we can think of. Can't you suggest something?"

"Ask him to explain a writ of certiorari," said Mr. Bankhead, with a grim smile.

This was done. The negro scratched his head for a moment.

"'Deed, boss," he said, "I reckon you'se done got me. I don't know what dat is, 'cept it is something to keep a nigger from votin'!"

All hands joined in the laughter that ensued and it was finally decided that the applicant was qualified to register as a voter.

* * * *

Senator George C. Perkins, of California, who is a strong Republican, in introducing William Randolph Hearst to a friend, said: "Mr. Hearst is a native son of the Golden West, and as such I am very proud of him, but when it comes to politics I part company with him.

"I suppose," Senator Perkins added, with a chuckle, "I am somewhat in the position of the negro who, when in jail, prayed 'Good Lord, good devil.' Asked why he did this, he said:

"'Coz I doan know which will git me first. I want to be in with the one that does.'"

* * * *

Recently Representative Dalzell, of Pittsburg, secured the appointment of a bright little chap from the Smoky City as page in the House of Representatives.

"Some day, my boy," said the venerable-looking Sereno E. Payne, the distinguished chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, placing his hand in a fatherly way on the lad's head, "you may succeed Mr. Dalzell in Congress. Who knows?"

The boy looked grave. "Don't believe," he said, "I would like to crowd Mr. Dalzell out!"

CONTROL OF WATER POWER.

Necessary that Rights of the People Should Be Guarded.

From the Outlook.

How shall we save the streams, rivers, and waterfalls, which are to be so essential to our welfare, from the inevitable drought that follows the devastation of our forests? And when we have taken steps for the preservation of these water powers from destruction, how shall we assure ourselves that they shall be used for the benefit of the public as well as for private profit? Shall we permit great capitalists to acquire them, control them, and use them, as we have in the past unwisely and improvidently permitted small groups of financiers to acquire, control, and use our streets, our highways, our coal mines, and our oil fields? Shall we wait until we are absolutely dependent upon a few great corporations distributing water-generated electricity before attempting to determine the terms upon which they may use the great natural resources of the country? Or shall we now endeavor to devise by conference and adjustment the conditions upon which the great and powerful electrical companies of the not distant future are to be created and operated? The latter course appears to us clearly to be the only wise and reasonable one to pursue.

In pursuing this course it is true that we shall be involved in some perplexing and entirely new problems of law and economics, but that is no reason for not facing those problems frankly and courageously. In discussing them, the first thing is to remember that two parties are involved. On the one hand, there are the capitalists or investors; on the other, the public or the consumers. The rights of each party deserve equal consideration. Nothing should be done to take from the capitalist either the credit or the profit which he justly deserves for the knowledge, energy, and skill which he is devoting to the creation of the new industry and for the great risks which he runs in the development of that industry; but at the same time nothing should be done to deprive the public of the common rights which they have in the natural resources of the country. The right of private profit ought to be carefully guarded and maintained, but it may be preserved, not only by present negotiation as to the terms of franchise, but also by future adjustments of these terms. If, however, franchises are given in perpetuity by either State legislatures or by Congress, the rights of the public will be lost for all time, or can be regained only by a great national controversy like that in which the country has been involved for the past three years over the relations of the great railway corporations to the public and the government. For this reason is it not clear that it is the duty of every citizen of wisdom and foresight to oppose with vigor any attempt, whenever it may be made, to obtain water-power franchises either in perpetuity or without recognition of the right of the State or the nation to exact a reasonable payment and exert reasonable control?

These questions are now being presented both to Congress and to various State legislatures in the form of bills asking that special privileges be granted to, or that particular regulations be imposed upon, water-power corporations. The corporations ought to make and will make every effort to see that their rights are observed by the public. The voters and legislators of the country ought to be equally insistent that the rights of the consumer and the government are properly and definitely safeguarded.

MATRIMONIAL PARADISE.

Where Uncle Sam Provides Everything for Intending Housekeepers.

From the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

It is quite evident that Panama is a matrimonial paradise. We are told by the organizer of the women's clubs on the isthmus that little Dan Cupid is a sadly overworked cherub. It is impossible, according to this authority, for a woman to remain single. She cites as an instance of the matrimonial demand that one of the hospitals lost seventeen nurses by marriage from April to June, and so discouraged did the management become that it sent word to the States to forward no more young nurses and to select for the Panama field only the very plainest ones that could be secured. In many cases the nurses became engaged on the steamers to men who were returning to work on the canal, and consequently never showed up at the hospitals. It appears that matrimony is made particularly easy in this favored section. The government provides all the necessities for the married quarters, the house, the furniture, the drinking water; everything, in fact, except the food and clothes. And it should be remembered that in Panama an earner receives nearly twice the wages he would get in the States, and the ways for spending money are few and not alluring. There are no bargain sales, and even the most careless feminine financiers are obliged to save their money. This, as the chronicler remarks, makes it a hard place for many women, but there doesn't seem to be any perceptible amount of sidestepping when matrimony is suggested.

Blessings of the Blind.

Helen Keller, in the Century.

The calamity of the blind is immense, irreparable. But it does not take away our share of the things that count—service, friendship, humor, imagination, wisdom. It is the secret inner will that controls one's fate. We are capable of willing to be good, of loving and being loved, of thinking to the end that we may be wiser. We possess these spirit-born forces equally with all God's children. Therefore we, too, see the lightnings and hear the thunders of Sinai. We, too, march through the wilderness and the solitary place that shall be glad for us, and as we pass God maketh the desert to blossom like the rose. We, too, go in unto the Promised Land to possess the treasures of the spirit, the unseen permanence of life and nature.

Popular Election of Senators.

From the Boston Transcript.

Massachusetts refuses to join the procession of States which are demanding the popular election of Senators. If the present plan worked as well throughout the country as it does in New England, the advocates of the change would be deprived of most of their ammunition. And still in New England it gives us Wetmore in Rhode Island and Bulkeley in Connecticut, neither of whom would be judicious candidates for the party to select to go before the people in a November election.

The Terms After.

From the Louisville Courier-Journal.

And, of course, after the "second elective term" found in Mr. Bourne's lexicon, there would be the third unavoidable term, the fourth inevitable term, the fifth undodgable term, and the half-dozenth necessary and obvious term.

The Indispensable Auto.

From the Detroit Free Press.

How was it that officers of justice and other public officials ever managed to discharge their duties before the automobile was invented?

Carrie Is a Spring Zephyr.

From the Los Angeles Times.

When a decent American thinks of Emma Goldman he feels that he could take a gentle old lady like Carrie Nation in his arms and most hug her to death.

And in Watching School Boards.

From the New York Herald.

Eternal vigilance in keeping up fire drills is the price of safety in our public schools.

AT THE HOTELS.

"Out where I live," said Col. Dick Plunkett, of Wyoming, Oklahoma, Colorado, and the West generally, yesterday, "we are backing President Roosevelt from start to finish. What he wants he can have.

"We don't take any stock in the talk that he has ruined the country, or that he has caused bad times. We know he is fair and square, and we trust him.

"We haven't any hard times. We feel that the people whom President Roosevelt has gotten into trouble in most cases deserve it."

The colonel is here to have "a talk" with President Roosevelt, an old friend. The Westerner is a large, jovial, fearless-looking man, with a vice-like grip when he shakes hands.

Col. Plunkett is one of the most widely known men in the West. He was born in the North of Ireland—county of Antrim—where his forefathers and the ancestors of President McKinley were friends and neighbors. He came to this country when a boy, and went West, where his reputation for courage and honesty made him a natural leader in the troublous frontier days.

He became a United States marshal in Oklahoma, and was later a sheriff in Colorado. In these capacities he proved a terror to the "bad men" and desperadoes who overran and terrorized the country. It is due more to him than any other man that the reign of law and order became supreme in Oklahoma.

Although frequently wounded and injured, it is the colonel's boast that he has never killed a man. His courage is only equaled by his modesty. He steadfastly declines to talk about his adventures and himself, although perfectly willing to talk about Roosevelt, whom he admires.

The colonel bears on his face the scar of a bullet which passed through both of his cheeks. He would not say anything about it, more than that it was the result of a slight scrap.

Col. Plunkett is known throughout the West as the "Indians' friend." At the time of the McKinley inaugural it was he who brought on a party of Indian chiefs at his own expense and marched with them in the inaugural parade.

Col. Rodman, of New York, a civil engineer, with offices in Gotham and Washington, and formerly an army officer, is at the Raleigh. Speaking of army horses, the colonel said that with good care a horse could serve about ten years.

"The government in those days," said Col. Rodman, "had no farms where horses are bred exclusively for use in the army like the celebrated government farms in Austria, Germany, and other foreign countries. Whenever horses were needed a commission of officers was appointed to scour the surrounding country for the necessary material.

"We used to send out posters and had them tacked up in public places and at the cross roads. These notified farmers we were to be expected at a certain date at their town for the purpose of buying stock.

"It was amusing how some of these country people tried to deceive us in order to get rid of their horses at a good price. They used to doctor them and paint them. Of course, the imposition would invariably be exposed by the severe test we gave the horses.

"On one occasion a farmer brought a team of fine horses, all black with the exception of the legs from knee down, which was white. Our captain wanted just such a team. He insisted the horses, however, being for the artillery, should be all black.

"The farmer went to work and painted the white legs black and offered them for sale. The captain himself, a blunt and plain-spoken officer, discovered the fraud himself. He berated the farmer in no uncertain terms.

"Another scheme was for the farmers to combine and hold out on the prices. We were allowed $150 as a purchase price per horse. Owners, perceiving the government simply had to have horses, often combined and we were obliged to ask to have the prices raised to $200, which was done. We usually had a man along, mostly an enlisted man, who understood horses, to examine them before we bought."

"Denver is getting ready, and every visitor is to be treated like a guest," according to William G. Hanley, of Denver, a prominent business man of that city, at the New Willard, last night.

"The plans which the different committees are working on," said Mr. Hanley, "are entirely unique, though perfectly feasible, and will be carried out. The Democratic national convention in July is to be made into history of which Colorado visitors will have cause to be proud.

"Outside of her gold mines and agricultural interests, perhaps the most valuable asset Colorado has is her natural scenery. As is well known, a fund of $100,000 for entertainment purposes was promptly raised when it was learned that Denver could secure the convention.

"This amount will, therefore, be expended in showing visitors a good time. It is only natural that residents of Denver want the visitors to see as much of the State as possible, and with this in view arrangements are being completed whereby special trains will be run daily, if necessary, to carry strangers to interior points and resorts.

"The slogan, 'Treat all visitors as guests,' had been unanimously adopted. Any person familiar with true Western hospitality knows that the motto will be lived up to the letter.

"The spacious auditorium will be completed early in June. Delegates to the convention will see one of the prettiest structures in the entire country.

"It is always cool at night in Denver, and no matter how hot the sun may shine by day, a person is perfectly comfortable in the shade. The citizens realize that in the selection of Denver as the meeting place of the Democrats, an opportunity for doing some judicious advertising for the city has been opened up. They are determined to avail themselves of and make the most of it."

Friedrich Wilhelm Heiler, of Stuttgart, South Germany, who is traveling in this country for pleasure, is at La Normandie.

Mr. Heiler says he is a native of a part of Germany that used to be opposed to Prussia in every possible way up to only about fifteen years ago.

"South Germany is now the most enthusiastic member of the German empire. Bavaria, Wurttemberg, and Baden had an idea they would lose their identity when Prussia became the power to bring about the German empire.

"We must admit we are just as independent as we ever were. We have our own King and our own parliament. In addition we have the prestige of the German empire. There is no more enthusiastic German now than the native of the southern part of the Fatherland.

"Yes, I am in favor of a powerful navy for Germany. I cannot understand why any member of the legislature wishes to argue against the building of a navy. In the first place, the money that is spent in the process goes right among the working people, and does, therefore, the greatest possible benefit. Then, the more powerful the navy of a country, the more certain it is that its commerce in foreign lands will grow.

"Look at England, and look at her navy and commerce. That's the whole secret of her jealousy of Germany. You can see that the commerce of Germany has kept step with the increase in her navy."