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TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 1909.

Jamming the Tariff Bill Through.

No one will regret the termination of the dreary general debate on the tariff bill in the House, which accomplishes very little, even in the way of information. But the House proceeds to the other extreme when it adopts a rule cutting off the right of amendment save as to certain specified subjects and paragraphs. This was the method adopted in the passage of the Dingley bill of which so much complaint has been heard. It amounts to an abdication of the constitutional right of the House to frame a tariff bill in a deliberative way by a vote of the majority. The fact that the rule is unusually liberal in granting privilege of voting on controverted points is no justification of the method, for there are other controverted points in the bill equally worthy of consideration, and the general principle of binding the House hand and foot is wrong. It is significant that the rule went through by so narrow a majority, significant of the growth of an independent spirit in the House and of the possibility of a further revision of House procedure in the interest of freedom of legislative action.

Such modifications of the Payne bill as may be accomplished by amendment, as everybody knows will amount to nothing but an expression of the will of the House. The real tariff bill is being framed elsewhere, and the influence of House opinion, as shown in recorded votes, over the Senate schedules is problematical. It is altogether probable that protective duties voted out by the House may come in again by way of the Senate. At all events, whatever may be the outcome of the next few days in the House, we do not expect to see in the tariff bill, as finally enacted, any revision downward worth mentioning, outside of a few schedules where, owing to gross overproduction, it is not likely to do any damage. The protective principle is too strongly entrenched in both Senate and House to permit of any other result.

Politics in the Civil Service.

A special committee of the National Civil Service Reform League has been inquiring into the participation of Federal officials in partisan and electoral activity. Although of the 300,000 places in the civil service some 22,000 are in the classified list, the remaining places are filled, according to the report, with men thoroughly skilled in political manipulation, most of whom are chosen on the recommendation of politicians or members of Congress. The services of many of these higher Federal officials, says the report, might be dispensed with without detriment to the government. "The average United States marshal, the average postmaster of the larger cities, the average surveyor, the average collector of internal revenue performs comparatively little service for the government. On its business side the employment of these officers is wastefulness and extravagance." Without the assistance of the classified service under them these men would be helpless and useless. They are merely parts of a political machine, and most of their time is devoted to running primaries, controlling conventions, and doing party and personal service for Senators, members of Congress, and State organizations, at the public expense.

The committee devoted especial attention to the charge that Federal officials had an important part in the nomination of Mr. Taft. As a result of a careful examination of the appointments made by Mr. Roosevelt prior to the national convention the former President is acquitted of employing Federal patronage to further the Taft candidacy. These appointments, it is asserted, were made in the usual manner upon the recommendations of Senators or Congressmen who claimed the patronage. Evidence that officeholders were coerced to support a particular Presidential candidate is said to be wholly lacking. "It was found," says the report, however, "that of the delegates to the Chicago convention, Federal officeholders constituted one in ten, and of the delegates from the Southern States nearly one in three, and of some Southern States more than half." These officeholders came from the unclassified service. Mr. Roosevelt's order forbidding employees in the competitive service to take part in politics is commended as marking a decided step in advance. Of the quality of Mr. Roosevelt's appointments this is said: "We believe that the last administration made unusual efforts to secure competent men, and that it has not blindly accepted the recommendations of Congress or Senators or party committees, but has made diligent efforts to find out the fitness of the men proposed. In the Southern States, owing to the lack of a nomination by Republicans, many Democrats have been appointed. Many of these have been rigorously punished."

The unhappy situation of the Federal service in the South and its malign influence upon the fortunes of the Republican party are gone into at some length. Mr. Taft's view that Republican officeholders in that section constitute one of the bars to building up a respectable Republican party organization is accepted by

the committee, which says that the present machine politicians in the South desire anything but Republican majorities, for their power and importance would disappear if the control of patronage went into other hands, as it would if Republican Senators and Congressmen were chosen. The method of appointment on recommendation of a Senator or Congressman is condemned in the report as unfit for the needs of a great nation. "Every large office in any department of the service should be within the hope of every employe in that department, to be won by faithfulness, diligence, and skill as a public servant." As a remedy for existing conditions in the civil service, the report offers these recommendations: "An extension by the President of the classified service to the utmost limit that the laws allow; legislation by Congress permitting the classification of the officers whose appointment is now subject to confirmation by the Senate, but who perform purely ministerial functions; a clearer definition and strengthening of the Executive order governing political activity in the unclassified service and the resting of the power to investigate cases arising under this order in the Civil Service Commission or some other body independent of departmental dictation."

It is thus evident that civil service reformers will be able to find something for Mr. Taft to do in the way of eliminating politics from the civil service. So far the standard of his appointments has been high, though he has indicated his purpose to consult freely with Senators and Congressmen, reserving the right to exercise an independent judgment with respect to judicial appointments. The administration may be counted on to maintain, and, perhaps, to extend, the merit system, but the prospect of legislation in the direction indicated by the report under discussion is remote.

Of course, if we suppose a stocking tax, we suppose we must; only it is to be hoped Congress will not put a tariff on darning-eggs.

Army Horses, Cows, and Hens?

The Secretary of War is understood to have rendered a decision which makes it possible for an army officer to maintain on the official allowance of forage more than the two horses specified by Congress as the maximum number of animals to the credit of an individual. Congress recently abolished the extra compensation known as "mounted pay," largely on account of the controversy which prevailed among officers who believed they should receive this emolument, with the result that the peculiarity of law made it possible by a very liberal, or perhaps loose, interpretation to give certain naval officers the mounted pay originally limited to those of the cavalry arm. Congress evidently expected the limit of proprietorship in horses would be two animals for each officer, and for the foraging of these two horses an allotment of \$50 a year was provided. This certainly implied that no officer should have more than two horses, with the expectation that, if there were a surplus of funds, the unexpended balance would be covered into the Treasury.

The departmental ruling that an officer may have more than two horses, provided he does not exceed the maximum allowance for forage, presents a question which has its menace to the whole allowance. If the intention of Congress was that each officer should make use of the maximum allowance, there would have been no specification of the number of horses which might be kept, or, for that matter, whether the maintenance of animals at government expense should be confined to horses. It might as well include cows, and even poultry. If there is a manifestation on the part of army officers to avail themselves of an entire allowance when there might very well be a surplus, Congress would be justified in revising its statutory provision for horses. There is evidently need of some Congressional attention to this subject, and there has lately been in progress in Washington an investigation into the allowance of transportation in the shape of horses and carriages for army officers and members of their families. If this investigation is sufficiently thorough it ought to stop some of the abuse which civilians in this city have observed, notably in the private use of military vehicles, especially automobiles.

Mr. Harriman not only inclines to talk much, but seems disposed to make up for lost time as he goes along.

Another Lemon for the Meek.

Discouraged and disheartened consumers who have lifted their eyes and waxed glad as they listened to the numerous suggestions ament the toothsome of elephant steak and its possibilities in the line of things gastronomic must drop their arms, we fear, and search farther for that undiscovered thing that is to give us relief from the situation as it exists these beef trust days.

Much in the way of praise has been said of elephant steak and the dainty, nourishing dishes that might be fashioned from it. We were told that a little of it would go far in furnishing the human body such food as is rated indispensable to its proper support. Not only that, but one was said to eat it with ever increasing appetite as one became more and more used to it. Indeed, elephant steak looked as if it might be the one particular thing in the provisions line we have been looking for all these weary years, and we were on the point of advising our rural friends to raise a few elephants along with the chickens and things, and assume that attitude of independence toward the plutocratic packers so much to be desired if it can ever be arranged satisfactorily.

But elephant steak as a steady diet has its serious drawbacks, we find. We might have suspected as much. If we had not solemnly signed the optimists' pledge, in fact, we should be tempted to say it is always so with the downtrodden common people—in respect of whom we concern ourselves alone in this matter. In the first place, elephants are tremendous eaters. We learn that there is more truth than poetry in Mr. De Wolf Hopper's famous song having to do with the elephantine passion for packing away hay and provender of that persuasion. Then, too, it appears that it is impossible, under thirty-six hours, to cook elephant steak to that point of doneness absolutely required for the best results. This, naturally, would cause the good housewives of the

land to shy at this dish, even as you, gentle reader, shy at the man whose isolated idea in this world is to dispense information appertaining to himself and his accumulated wisdom about things in general, to the utter exclusion of you and your accumulated wisdom about things in general. A thirty-six-hour cooking bout, even for the sake of elephant steak in all of its ultimate possibilities of goodness, is not to be thought of—especially with the gas bill in mind. Wherefore passes another beautiful dream, accompanied by the mingled jeers and guffaws of the haughty best trust and its embattled cohorts of iniquity and sin. We had thought to turn a trick for the lowly by encouraging the cultivation of elephants on a large and imposing scale. And now—well, there is nothing doing. It is too bad.

"Whatever else may be said of Bryanism, it is a forlorn hope," says a Democratic contemporary. And forlorn hopes lead to no pie.

The Nashville Tennessean thinks Mr. Taft is "flirting with the South." Well, the South seems rather to like it.

A Kentucky paper objects that the Ollie in Mr. James' name is surrounded by quotation marks. Ollie is most certainly not the diminutive of anything.

Some time ago we read that Senator Aldrich had secured steamship passage for Europe on June 1; then came the same story, but with the date changed to June 15; now it has bobbed up again, and reads July 1. Whoever is managing that story knows what he is doing, evidently.

The most popular and exciting game in Montgomery, we understand, is getting the hotel clerk to order you a package of oboefoyal from Chattanooga, and then beating the package to your room.

To be sure, the farmers would be pleased if the tariff tinkers did not add to the farmers' burdens; but they would probably think the tinkers crazy—and you know you do not want the farmers thinking the tinkers are crazy.

"Flour will rise to \$3 a barrel by June," says a prominent business man of New York. So much for old Dr. Congress tariff yeast.

"Eftsoon with fishing rod and line and can of squibbing bait, the younger to the creek will hit and sit him down and wait. And when the wily sucker fish with skill be doth ensnare, a more exultant soul than he will not be anywhere," carols the Punsxutawney Spirit, Gadzooks! that hath a lively lilt, and eke a happy swing. The dullest-witted lout on earth should know that it is spring when Punsxutawney was glad and chirp ecstatic lads! Odds fish, it's good to be alive these rare, sweet April days!

Under the heading "A friendly word with the railroads," the Atlanta Journal of Saturday addressed a two-column, double-column-wide editorial to them. We upline the railroads hope the Journal will not take it into its head to get up a real conversation with them.

"A poet has just died in Denmark leaving \$100,000," says the Milwaukee Sentinel. Old joke, that. The money did not belong to him.

As concerns this fishing rod that registers the correct weight of every funny victim hooked, we presume—being of the fishermen tribe truthful—that it is thoughtfully constructed on the lee-scales plan.

King Edward never before had so many ups and downs. He is up and about one day and down and out the next, according to alternate cables.

We think we may assure the Charlotte Observer that Mr. Taft is entirely too good-natured not to do as the North Carolinians do when in North Carolina. We have every confidence that he will not give the slightest sign or hint, while inside the Tarheel State lines, that might be construed into a doubt of the Mecklenburg myth.

Owing to the absence of the colonel from the country the American rabbits and roosters may perform their annual Easter nature fakes this year without fear of a call-down.

The Johnstown Democrat is laboring under the delusion that the new White House cow bears the poetic name of "Imogene." We beg to assure our contemporary it has not come to that.

Here is a typical example of where the consumer gets it. It is estimated that the new tariff on lemons will raise them 1-2 cent each in price.

"What has become of the old-fashioned man who used to dig for sasparilla every spring?" inquires the Montgomery Advertiser. He is probably leading the quiet, simple, healthy life somewhere, waiting to be overwhelmed by some curious germ he never dreamed of when digging the sasparilla in the long ago.

For the first time in ten years a circus is about to exhibit in Oyster Bay. It is but just to say, however, that it is an insignificant, unpretentious little circus, and is not seeking to enshroud in forgetfulness any of Oyster Bay's ancient glory.

Nearly all of the newspapers nowadays refer to him as "Mr. Taft" or "President Taft." One rarely sees the pert and impertinent "Bill" in reference to the Chief Magistrate. We are coming along very nicely in this country, we think.

"Uncle Shelby" Cullom still continues to represent the State of Illinois in the Senate without any unnecessary racket and flutter, albeit is he all alone on the assignment.

Crazy Snake evidently has his dates badly mixed. He imagines he is living in 1909.

"In other words, Servia has decided to let well enough alone," says the Chicago Record-Herald. Or rather, "bad enough."

"Aw, what's the use of spring mint in a prohibition State," snaps the Savannah News. The which was evidently intended neither as a sermon nor a song.

How About Bryan? From the Philadelphia Press. Some day this country is going to elect a President who plays baseball instead of tennis or golf, and then there will be a hurrah.

His Motive. From the Philadelphia Public Ledger. No wonder Harriman deplores national extravagance. He does not like to see his property wasted.

Crazy Snake Abroad. From the Indianapolis News. This year the season appears to have opened with Crazy Snake stories.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

WISER THAN SOME. A wayward lad. A common thing. Declared he had. To have his fling.

But we must own. We're tipped one day. Ere he had thrown Himself away.

Could This Happen? "What is this commotion at the depot?" "The populace has assembled to greet a college professor."

"Oh! I thought maybe it was to welcome some prize-fighter."

Sarcasm. "In some countries the cry is always 'manana'."

"It's not so in America. See how quickly we changed the date of the inauguration."

Spring Tragedy. "Oh, come into the garden, Maude!" The plot at this point thickens. With vengeance her husband jawed about the neighbors' chickens.

Exceptions. Not every person has his pros. As cynics say. For many live who daily give themselves away.

Inviting Trouble. "Her children get into more trouble!" "That's because she's too imaginative."

"Imaginative?" "Yes; thinks of so many things to tell them not to do."

Would Be Novel. "Some day we are going to have a novelty in the way of an exposition. The President will press a button and the exposition will start."

"Nothing more about that?" "Immediately, I mean, not six months later."

Quite So. "What are you reading there?" "What? Why in America?" "Ah, the cook?"

OUR SPEEDWAY PROJECT.

President Taft's Plan for the Public Enjoyment. From the Chicago Post. It is not an unpleasant idea that Washington should have a public "Parade ground," says the Post. In London, where "everybody" may be seen driving or strolling late in the afternoon. And it is pleasant that President Taft, whom the correspondents make sponsor for the plan, should apparently conceive of it not as a formula of aristocratic etiquette, but as a thoroughly democratic procedure.

The reason is, of course, that the President takes his idea of it from the Malecon of Havana and the Lunetta of Manila rather than from Rotten Row. He wants to make the daily meeting together of all sorts of people on the Speedway in Potomac Park an influence toward leveling social barriers instead of a buttress for snobocracy. The experiment will be an interesting one. The strongest factor against its success will be the fact that "everybody" may speed over the Speedway in automobiles and therefore have no adequate time either to see or to be seen. Even a democratic Rotten Row needs a horse or so to make it worth while.

Washington, in the course of time, is to be not only a more beautiful city, but also a much more joyous and gay capital than the nation has known hitherto. Forces, open and concealed, direct and indirect, financial, educational, and personal, are bringing this to pass. Washington is to be a great center for treasures of art. It will come to have higher musical standards and better permanent exhibitions than any other city in the world. The recall of Mr. Catecazy, Russian minister in President Grant's administration, was for quite different reasons than those above named, and was directly due to the stand taken by Mrs. Hamilton Fish, the wife of the Secretary of State, who, on learning that Mme. Catecazy was the mistress and not the wife of the Russian minister, refused to receive either her or her husband. She was backed in this stand by the president himself, and Catecazy's recall was demanded. Not by the president, however, the Grand Duke Alexis was recalled on the eve of visiting the United States, and Minister Catecazy supplanted the Russian royal visitor. This request was granted, and he was received at the official functions given in honor of the visiting royalty on condition that his wife did not appear.

The recall of Sir Sackville West, who was Great Britain's minister in President Cleveland's administration, is still remembered, and the results that led up to it show how easily a minister can be entrapped and how slight a breach of diplomatic etiquette is made a basis for his recall. Later on, the Spanish minister, Senor Don Dupuy de Lome, was recalled because he had written criticizing the government. This letter was stolen from his desk, and put into the hands of the Secretary of State, John Sherman, and its author promptly packed out of the city. There have been a number of other diplomats who, while their recall was not officially asked for, were given to understand that they were no longer acceptable here. Notably, in President Buchanan's administration, that beautiful, Senor Tassara, the Spanish minister, who engaged himself to three society women at one time. In fact, he was on the verge of being recalled by the widow of a noted naval officer when he refused to receive the other two women, and threatened to take the matter before the President, who had rendered the letters. The story goes that just as the father was leaving the room, the men relatives of the other two women read him a lecture, and then there was a loud and convenient to leave Washington expeditiously.

Voters Supply Funds. From the Cleveland Leader. It is the commonest delusion of voters to imagine that they have no interest in the tax duplicate. They do not understand that they would be able to obtain cheaper rent, cheaper clothing, cheaper food if the burdens of government were not so heavy. Long ago a cynical French statesman defined the science of taxation as the art of obtaining the largest possible quantity of feathers with the least possible squawking of the geese. The rule still holds, especially in respect to the millions who pay taxes without knowing it. They are the main dependence of the tax wasters everywhere.

Small Favors. From the Ohio State Journal. Bro. Harriman has kindly reduced passenger fares on his line 0.0009 cent per mile in the last three years but a fellow would have to be a D. D. B. job and spend all his time traveling to save very much money at that rate.

Mr. Payne Promptly Jilted. From the Louisville Courier-Journal. Mr. Payne threw down the glove and the woman of America promptly gave him the mitten.

WASHINGTON CHAT.

By THE SPECTATOR.

Isaac Henderson, who recently died in Rome, will be regretted by many friends in Washington, D. C., and New York. He was connected with the Saturday Evening Post, as publisher and stockholder, from 1872 until 1880, when he disposed of his interest and went abroad. Finally, in 1888, settling in London. His home in South Kensington, "The Boltons," was a charming home, the chief attraction of which was his pleasant studio, lined with books and containing many souvenirs of the famous people he had known; and he had known many, for London, of all others, is the place to meet such, and Mr. Henderson had not only the faculty of drawing interesting people about him, but also of getting the best out of his friends, and his circle in Rome, where he passed a number of seasons, and in South Kensington, was a delightful one.

If he had been a poor man, Mr. Henderson would doubtless have been a prolific writer, but his modest fortune was abundant for his needs, and he wrote but little. Italy, where he was always happy and at peace, was the scene of both of his novels, "The Prelate" and "Agatha Page," and in Italy, too, the scene of his successful play, the "Mummy" and the "Mummy's Secret."

The frontispiece of "Agatha Page" is a portrait of the heroine that recalls Mary Anderson when she was at the summit of her fame. How it came to be drawn is an interesting story. The artist, Moscheles and a number of other of Mr. Henderson's cronies happened to be together one night when Moscheles said: "Say, Henderson, what are you doing now?"

"Nothing much," answered Henderson, "except writing a novel."

"There was an immediate clamor to hear what the novel was about, which Mr. Henderson quieted by promising to read the first few chapters to the group. In these occurred a description of "Agatha Page," which so interested Moscheles that next day he made her picture and sent it to the author, who had it promptly reproduced and placed in the front of his novel.

In appearance, Mr. Henderson was a rather small man, with keen, interesting and expressive blue eyes under an intellectual forehead. His manners were those of the experienced, traveled and cultivated man of the world, and he seemed to fit immediately into whatever circle he entered; but the most attractive traits that he possessed were his quick understanding of character, his ready sympathy. To be brief, in him were united all the sterling qualities of the New World, with all the grace and charm of the old, and no one ever met him who did not remember his personality with pleasure.

Mr. Henderson was married to Miss Marion Temple Brown, of New York, who before her marriage was one of the leading members of the society circle there, and who has faithfully kept up her music since she married, which was no light task for Mrs. Henderson helped her husband in all his work, and acted not as his literary adviser and typewriter.

The new minister from Nicaragua, Senor Don Rudolph Espinosa, has made an agreeable impression in Washington, and if, as now seems probable, the Emery case is to be immediately settled, much gratification will be felt. His recall or dismissal has not been expected. He would not be the first minister to be sent away because of the displeasure of this government at his conduct. The first French minister to this country, Citizen Genet, was recalled by the actual reason for his being his violation of the international law of fitting out privateers in America for the French service. Mr. Crampton, the British minister, made himself objectionable to this government through his efforts to recruit soldiers in the United States for service in the British army, which was then at war with Russia, and was recalled. The recall of Mr. Catecazy, Russian minister in President Grant's administration, was for quite different reasons than those above named, and was directly due to the stand taken by Mrs. Hamilton Fish, the wife of the Secretary of State, who, on learning that Mme. Catecazy was the mistress and not the wife of the Russian minister, refused to receive either her or her husband. She was backed in this stand by the president himself, and Catecazy's recall was demanded. Not by the president, however, the Grand Duke Alexis was recalled on the eve of visiting the United States, and Minister Catecazy supplanted the Russian royal visitor. This request was granted, and he was received at the official functions given in honor of the visiting royalty on condition that his wife did not appear.

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ADMIRAL CERVERA.

How the Spanish Commander Behaved in Defeat.

George E. Graham. I saw him first through my binoculars from the forward bridge of the Brooklyn, where I rushed when the signal was made, "The enemy is escaping." His beautiful ship, the Maria Teresa, painted black with a gold and yellow crest of Spain in its bow, looked as if it had been newly varnished for the occasion. Above her floated the great ensigns of Spain, flags of double silk with heavy bullion embroidery, as if she were coming out to a feast instead of a fight. As she turned her prow west, I saw him for a second on the forward bridge, in his immaculate white, with his binoculars glued to his eyes, taking a look at the opening between the Brooklyn and the Iowa where the Massachusetts should have been, but which position she had left to go down for coal. Then she shells began to hit his ship, and as they exploded, he was covered in a mass of dense smoke. I saw him no more during the fight.

I saw the old admiral the next day aboard the Harvard, a prisoner of war, and waiting to be taken to Annapolis. I went aboard the Harvard with Commodore Schley.

His short, rather pathetic figure, with a white, almost womanlike skin, not at all of the Spanish hue, and with clear, bright eyes snapping from under heavy eyebrows, was clad in an ill-fitting pair of blue trousers which some officer on the Gloucester had contributed to cover his nakedness, for when he was picked out of the water he simply lay on his underwear. A loose black alpaca coat, which somebody else had given, a straw hat a size or two too large for him, and a pair of white canvas "sneaks," like the ordinary sailor wears, made up his attire. With all this ludicrous dress, he was still dignified in looks and action when he rose to greet Commodore Schley, and the two covered in the purest Castilian, the defeated admiral smiling with joy over the fact that Schley would speak his native tongue volubly. When they had finished, I sat down along side and talked with him. He spoke fairly good English, and told me frankly that he did not expect to see any more of the fleet when he came out. He said, in rather low voice, "I was ordered out. My government ordered me to come out, and I obeyed. I knew your force was superior, but I hoped to get one or two of our ships away." Fortunately, your Brooklyn and your Oregon were too fast for us, and my ships did not seem to be able to reach their accredited speed. But it is the fact of the matter that you are superior in every respect, and you are entitled to all that comes from the victory. I shall go back to Spain. And then he added, with a little note of doubt in his voice, "I hope my people will believe I did my best." He held out his hand, and the interview was over.

SIXTY-CENT GAS AT LAST. Indianapolis People Solve the Problem of Cheap Fuel.

From the Indianapolis News. Indianapolis. Sixty-cent gas in Indianapolis is at last a reality—not to be sure, for all the people, but to those who happen to live near the new Citizens company's plant. Block by block the company will extend its operations throughout the East Side, and finally to the whole city. It is reasonably certain that hereafter Indianapolis will be able to claim the distinction of having the lowest priced permanent fuel gas of any city of its class in this country.

Gas in several cities is sold for less than 50 cents a cubic foot, but usually by the producing company, or a distributing company, and there are two profits in it before it gets to the consumer. In Indianapolis, on the contrary, the consumer himself is manufacturing his own gas. The Citizens is a consumers' company. He gets the product at 25 cents, and he gets the profit, if one accrues. Even if there should be no profit for several years the benefit to the city from the cheap fuel would be incalculable; and the probability is that the profit will come sooner rather than later.

Indianapolis knows from fifteen years' experience the advantage of a cheap fuel gas. No city had more natural gas while it lasted than Indianapolis. It revealed its possibilities in it, and burned up in fifteen years a supply that ought to have lasted for thirty years. Even at the ridiculously low price at which this gas was served the people's company made great profits. Not the profit of a distributing company, but the profit of a manufacturer of their own gas, thus settling the question of permanency of the supply, and with the continuance of the able management that has thus far characterized this enterprise, the operations that are carried on ought to be profitable to the citizens who have put their money into it.

Trend Toward Municipal Reform. William Allen White, in the American Magazine. "A typical case of the trend of the average citizen toward municipal reform is found in the Merchants' Association of Indianapolis. It was organized, as most such organizations are organized, to go junketing around its commercial territory with a baggage car, drumming up trade for Indianapolis. Then it took up the matter of organizing a credit system, and established local commercial ratings. Finding business men who were not doing so well, it took a hand in the suppression of smallpox, which brought it into city affairs. Then it secured the elevation of railroad tracks, and with its own capital it effected the treatment of the lighting for the business part of the town. Gradually it edged into municipal affairs, and last year it found that its city and county governments were so incompetently and scandalously managed that the grand jury voted to impeach the Merchants' Association to-day has a municipal programme. Incidentally the usual list of indictments, fugitives from justice, and resignations from office have followed its summer's work."

Union Old Age Pensions. From the Springfield Republican. The International Typographical Union has in operation an old-age pension scheme which, in practice, is proving more favorable from a financial standpoint than the estimates. It was adopted by the referendum vote in October, 1907, 17,177 voting in favor of it, and 5,154 against it. It went into effect about a year ago, members being assessed one-half of 1 per cent of their earnings. The estimates were that this assessment would yield \$185,000 a year, while expenditures would amount to \$200,000. Ten months of trial have brought in \$156,000 and caused \$228,000 to be paid out. Of course, so brief a time affords no certain test, particularly as to the number of pensioners, but the plan is obviously obtaining a most favorable start. The assessment amounts to \$4 a week, and are paid to members of the union in good standing for twenty years who, at the age of sixty or beyond, have become incapacitated for work. Some 54 persons are now on the pension roll of the order, their ages ranging from sixty to ninety-three years.

Of Course. From the Pittsburgh Dispatch. People seem to be in danger of forgetting the great principle that the forger will pay the tax on gloves and stockings.

Where They Are Fooled. From the Chicago Record-Herald. Few women are more badly fooled than those who believe they regulate the habits of their husbands.

AT THE HOTELS.

"There are many cases of suspended animation, as every doctor knows," said Dr. William Conner, of Philadelphia, at the Raleigh last night. "In which there is semblance of death. That live persons are sometimes killed by embalming, or are buried alive, in such cases is well known."

"Many persons have a haunting fear of being buried alive," continued the Philadelphia physician, "especially certain kinds of invalids. It is our duty to rescue the human mind from such fears, to make the last days of having them serene, and to prevent a frightful tragedy—if only seldom."

"There is a society in this country devoted to burial reform. It is called the Society for the prevention of premature entombment, burial, or cremation. This society is engaged in spreading knowledge of the need of burial reform."

"An incident in a career of a friend of mine impressed on me the fallibility of human diagnosis, and turned my thoughts to the ease under certain circumstances with which a man might be called dead when he was alive."

In the early '70s, shortly after my friend left Harvard, he took a long sea voyage and contracted ship fever, which resulted in an abscess on the liver. He got home and was very sick. A consultation of the leading doctors of Boston was held over him, and they declared that it was useless to operate, as he had only a few minutes to live. He could hear their conversation, but was too sick to say anything."

"He knew that if he went into camp he was in danger of being considered dead, as the doctors had said he was dying. He was a doctor himself, and he precipitated a crisis in his malady that led to recovery, though it might have ended his life."

"In foreign countries the law requires that bodies be kept a certain number of days. In Munich, there is a handsome man, a student, who is laid on an sarcophagus, and generally banks in flowers, except the head. An electric signal will call an attendant if there is any sign of life. The records show a number of cases of lives saved by this method."

"The trouble," added Dr. Conner, "is that the world is in too much