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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1910.

Salaries in the Departments.

A knowledge of departmental conditions makes the fact quite clear that the plea for an increase of salaries paid to government employes is founded upon justice and right.

Congress no doubt appreciates the situation. It raised its own pay, and the country approved the act. It knows that the average of salaries in the government service is low, and all out of proportion to the present high cost of living.

Two causes are operating to prevent an equitable readjustment and proper increase—first, the administration policy of retrenchment made necessary by the condition of the public exchequer, and, second, the pending proposition to establish a pension system in the departments.

Meanwhile, positive hardships are imposed upon a large body of faithful workers, especially those in the lower grades, who cannot, in spite of the strictest economy, make both ends meet in these abnormal times. The situation has been bad for years; it is infinitely worse now.

The policy of retrenchment, against which there can be no possible criticism, if prudently enforced, is operating in some of the departments, however, in a manner that inevitably tends to aggravate a situation that should be ameliorated.

The holding up of promotions following the cut in estimates for the fiscal year means not only stationary salaries, but in the end, if continued, will result in a gradual lowering of salaries all along the line.

A resignation or death in a higher grade is not followed, under this system, by advancement that brings increased pay affecting all grades, but a moving up without increased compensation.

It is not believed that such a policy is to be continued for any length of time or become general in all departments, but it is particularly inopportune at this time.

Why cannot Congress take up this entire question—salaries and pensions both—and take it up now. It is becoming more urgent every day.

the public Treasury, that the laws shall be specific, and give to an officer only that to which he is entitled upon consideration which do not lend themselves with too much elasticity to technical application of the legal allowance.

Army Promotion by Selection.

Promotion by selection continues to furnish a topic of animated discussion among army and navy officers, who are now more than ever before, concerned with the process of advancement. In both the army and navy there are approaching conditions which threaten to create stagnation—"humps," the officers call them.

It is evident that this demoralizing stoppage of promotion must be removed unless the service personnel is to suffer discouragement and incur discontent. The personnel appears to be divided in opinion as to the safety of selection, while no one doubts that it would create vacancies and help promotion.

Selection in place of seniority is evidently to be depended upon by all, the theories which have been advanced, but the dread of it is properly justified by past experience. A writer in the Journal of the United States Cavalry Association, published at Fort Riley, Kans., says:

"In a model army selection would be the ideal form of promotion. But in one like ours, containing so many self-seekers, who will take every advantage within their power to accomplish their individual ambitions, and where the existing method of promotion favors such method of advancement, selection in any form will be most pernicious, will multiply heart burnings, promote discontent, and go far toward undermining respect for equity and true ability. No legislation for selection so far proposed will dislodge the minds of our officers at large that we have need of any form of selection other than that of promotion by seniority after proper examination. The service is less unwilling to agree to some scheme of elimination, though most of us are quite certain that present practices, as indicated above, will continue under pretty nearly any law."

This must be accepted as a service view, which is entitled to respectful consideration, but there is bound to be some surprise when it is asserted, in arguing against selection, that there are in the army "so many self-seekers" who take advantage of the opportunity of favoritism. If the army is beset by any such exploiting and aggrandizing and ingratiating personnel, it is, indeed, unsafe to establish selection as a means of promotion, unless the selective function were quite beyond personal sympathy and military bias.

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Noah. A tremendous weight of sorrow will be lifted from the hearts of a long-suffering world, we fancy, when it becomes generally known that the grave of Noah has been definitely located by a certain scientific gentleman given strenuously to knocking around and about the earth and sticking his nose into the haunts of the quaint and curious of the long ago.

Noah—surely must have been in the original edition Hon. Noah or Col. Noah—probably may safely be set down as Exhibit A among prohibitionists, if Congress had been invented during or before Noah's day, doubtless he would have been a member, and a shrewd and result-getting member at that. He knew how to play both ends against the middle most successfully—a sure sign of the intuitive and practical politician.

He built and personally conducted the greatest water-wagon expedition of all time, and yet it was known to Noah's closer friends and associates that he did not hesitate to laugh it to scorn on occasions and refuse to ride upon it quite frequently. Astute old Noah! Amid a world of wetness, he alone was able to find a place to get off!

Of course, some of the spicier tales told concerning Noah may have had no real foundation in fact. They may have been given currency by the opposition, afterward duly and truly swamped at the psychological moment, righteously enough, it is to be hoped. It must be remembered that Noah held an undisputed monopoly of the earth's transportation business for a time, and probably was, in consequence, a particularly engaging target for the muck-rakers and malcontents of the day.

Anyway, whatever may have been Noah's shortcomings or virtues, and waiving the possible preponderance either way for the moment, his was a compelling personality, and inspires solemn contemplation and speculation even at this late hour. Rest his bones over there on Jebel Judi! He played a stirring part in an exciting drama of considerably more than tank dimensions.

four years ago. It is the same old scandal, probably—they seem to be something in the nature of continuous performances.

"An American city without graft is getting as hard to find as a white blackbird," says the Baltimore American. That ghoulish guffaw you hear is Philadelphia's.

The idea is to make every day seem a sort of "Black Friday" to the haughty packers, of course.

"The Youth's Companion tells of a cure for blushing," says the Scranton Tribune. We know what it is. Move to Houston, Tex., and stick it out six months.

Gov. Hughes thinks the big insurance companies should quit buying legislators. Primarily, however, the voters should see to it that the supply of purchasables is cut off.

Dr. Cook's stenographer says he owes her for "eight days' work—\$80." Well, well; there is no reason why her young lady friends should sniff and turn up their noses about it. How are they going to prove the good doctor did not promise to pay her \$10 per day?

Whatever the merits of the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy, it is evident enough that land grabbing under the Taft administration is to be no picnic.

You ultimate consumer hath a lean and hungry look. Such men are dangerous! At a late hour last night, Gov. Vanderman was still so near and yet so far.

It must be remembered, on the other hand, that an ounce of pork chops is worth a pound of theory, as a gastronomic proposition.

"Mr. Taft is one of the best and honestest men in the country," avers the New Orleans Picayune. Why not "bestest," if "honestest"?

Gen. Leonard Wood is reported to favor "rapid promotions in the army." Gen. Wood should be considered approximately half authority on "rapid promotion in the army," moreover.

We fear the meat trust magnates are a cruel, cold storage-hearted lot, nevertheless and notwithstanding.

The Treasury Department's famous ruling that "frog legs are chicken" will not be nearly so interesting, now that the country is about to go on an anti-meat diet unanimously.

Mr. Loeb must tremble in his boots whenever he considers the possibility of a Speaker Roosevelt.

The new King of the Belgians is said to be an enthusiastic stamp collector. Good idea! Nowadays stamp collecting is one of the few things a king's loving subjects are perfectly willing for him to engage in.

For the first time in her life, Carolyn Wells has been criticized sharply for "indulging in faulty rhythm," and it has made her very happy. Adverse criticism never had that effect on Byron; but the fair Carolyn lays no claim to Byronesque literary style, we believe.

All well-regulated anti-meat crusaders should vote for "Give me three grains of corn, mother," as the official song of the order.

The tariff on beef increases the price of beef, and the tariff off hides increases the price of shoes. What is there—where the—! How old is Ann, anyway?

CHAT OF THE FORUM.

A Heavy Expression. From the Boston Transcript. Japan's reply to the note of Secretary Knox was a good illustration of the matter in mode with the former in us.

Dr. Wiley's Opinion. From the Springfield Republican. The worst of the high prices for meat is that it has cut out meat the whole business, according to Dr. Wiley, a nation of molybdenes.

Not an Easy Path. From the Philadelphia Record. To fall the trust managers and put the Republic party in odd straits is the short and straightforward path of relief.

Has No Cause for Complaint. From the Montgomery Advertiser. "O that he were here to see me down an ass!" wailed one of Shakespeare's characters, but Herborn of Idaho has no cause to make such complaint.

Objection to Mr. Dickema. From the Detroit Free Press. Now some editor takes his pen in hand to say that Representative Dickema, of Michigan, would not make a good Speaker of the House because his name sounds like a breakfast food.

Dr. Cook's Reprehensible Error. From the Chattanooga Times. Dr. Cook's failure to pay his stenographer was especially reprehensible. She was one of his chief assistants in "dismantling" Mount McKinley and "discovering" the north pole.

Mr. Ballinger and Jefferson. From the Louisville Courier-Journal. Mr. Ballinger does not share with Thomas Jefferson the view that government by the press would be better than government by law without the press. And in other respects the two statements are dissimilar.

Mr. Smoot's Responsibility. From the Cleveland Leader. Utah has only three members in Congress—two Senators and one Representative—Stanger. Of the two besides Smoot, one bears little. Were it not for him, Utah might remain in innocuous desuetude, so far as fame in stationariness is concerned.

A Member's Chief Duty. From the New York Tribune. A member's chief duty is to his constituency, and he does not perform that duty fully if he feels willing to court rejection by his constituents rather than fall in personal fidelity to the representative of another constituency temporarily acting as Speaker of the House.

THE COOK HAS GONE. The things that shake great States with doom. The things that fill red realms with gloom. The mighty and momentous deeds Omitted or committed; screams Of instant and of public wrath; Sink into naught when at the gate Of home the conquering monarch bears A grief-struck voice within his ears. Proclaim half-way across the laws: "The cook has gone! The cook has gone!"

Oh, let the wild insurgents surge; And Taft the Angus stables purge; Let Cannon fume and Pinchot fret And Aldrich all his dollars get; The Brans in his jungle seek The Ro and the Blooker; These, and all trivial circumstance Of any and of light romance Sink into utter nothing when At twilight in the ears of men Rings that sad cry through heartache drawn: "The cook has gone! The cook has gone!"

Empires decay, but in their stead New kingdoms rear a royal head; Statesmen and statescraft come and go, Only the supreme can know The poignant sorrow and the pain Of that deep heart-rending strain: Through summer twilight or the time Of instant and of public wrath; When men go home with hurt on: "What shall we do? The cook has gone!"

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

ITS SUCCESSOR. Although the stovetop joke is gone. The humorist Has kindred witticisms on His little list.

The radiator, with its tank. Its lack of steam, Is just like money in the bank— A goodly theme.

Better Harmony. "I wish the landlady would get a blond cook." "Why?" "Oh, I like to see the butter match the hair."

That Ancient Jodge. The ancients certainly were great, as we can learn by reading. There was a Roman magistrate who fined himself for speeding. He gave himself a dressing-down, evincing due repentance; acquired a lot of cheap rennet, and then suspended sentence.

Behind the Times. "Why did you quit your old family doctor?" "Oh, he didn't have any of the fashionable new ailments in stock."

A Worthy Subject. "She was a blessed damsel—" So runs Rossetti's lay. He undertook to praise his cook The commentators say.

Stay of Proceedings. "I think I'll sue for her hand." "Why, I hear she's to be married next week." "Gosh! In that case, I'd better get out an injunction."

Little Revenue. "Is there any money in poetry?" Inquired the hopeful amateur. "Not for me," replied the editor. "Few poets are able to pay for more than one insertion."

PRO AND CON.

Augusta Herald: "It is now possible to fly a mile high," observes The Washington Herald. Which makes it possible to get a fall a mile down, should be added.

Cleveland Leader: "Loan Sharks of Washington" is the title of a story in The Washington Herald. The loan sharks must be very bold to swim into Washington's floating population.

Buffalo News: The Washington Herald is right. There were a few rows in Washington when Mr. Roosevelt was President. Several persons who nursed sore heads about that time knew it, too.

New York Herald: "Montana farmer is raising cobwebs corn," says the New York Herald. A frantic attempt to discourage the breakfast food manufacturers, perhaps—Washington Herald. Perhaps an effort to encourage use of store teeth.

Arizona Republican: The Washington Herald, which is on the ground and ought to know, says that the new administration motto, "Don't be a megalomaniac," is not likely to have the popularity of the older motto, "Don't be a moiycodde."

Bristol Herald-Courier: "Mr. David Lloyd-George has been dubbed 'Theodore Roosevelt of English politics,'" says The Washington Herald. That is what Mr. David Lloyd-George gets for trying to make a bigger noise than anybody else, and it serves him jolly well right.

Savannah News: The Washington Herald has reached the conclusion that life in the Federal prison at Atlanta is not all gloom and weariness and tears. There is something of harmony and light and the joy of living about it. The Herald was moved to this acknowledgment when it read in the dispatches that Hoke Smith had visited Charles W. Morse.

Nashville American: After making a miserable effort at an after-dinner speech, a Kentuckian went out and shot himself. The wonder is that the auditors did not save him the trouble. Speaking of this modern barbarism, The Washington Herald says that "an ordinary citizen of good education and sound moral training can say more foolish things in ten minutes and break more rules of grammar than in all the rest of the year, acting in his private capacity as a business or professional man."

Norfolk Virginian-Pilot: Mr. Pinchot's whistling as he proceeds through the woods is believed to be for a purpose other than to keep up his courage, nevertheless—Washington Herald. Maybe it is for the purpose of keeping the woods out of the clutches of the Western land robbers and the country's water power from the greedy grasp of his superior's former clients. If those results are not accomplished, the American people will have to do the whistling. There won't be anything else for them to do.

The Rong of the Mob. From the Asheville Citizen. Have you ever heard the roar of the mob in pursuit of a human being? The yelp of a wolf; the horrid laugh of the hyena, the snarl of the tiger, the deep growl of the bear, the howling of the dog—all are as music that is sweet when compared to the wild cry of the mob in pursuit of human prey. All the finer virtues of man's mind and soul are washed out in the lust for the blood of a brother. Reason is destroyed by insanity.

There is a fierce joy in hunting a fellow-creature in mob formation, and which is perhaps more appalling, it induces no individual risks; there is always safety in numbers. The mob, though soulless, feels the call of manifest destiny, and puts itself in the role of an avenging angel when in the safety of the numbers is assured.

A mob charges "fall and batters down the doors thereof because it is a mob and is ruled by savagery. It drags forth a helpless victim because it thirsts for blood.

The Work of One Dollar. From the New York American. A dollar invested at the beginning of the Christian Era at 6 per cent, the compound interest included, would by this time have produced a sum of money, which the market value of all property, real and personal, which exists upon the entire globe would be but a trifling fraction.

The Unfettered Press. From the Toledo Press. "We have been a newspaper man a good many years, and take it from us, the only thing a newspaper man can safely abuse is the man-eating shark."

Last Shot of Rebellion. From the Louisville Chronicle. With a sneeze Francis Rogers, a Perry veteran, who was shot in the head at Antietam, ejected three bullets from his nose.

PEOPLE AND THINGS.

Abstaining from Meat. Organized workmen in Cleveland are pledging themselves to abstain from eating meat for a month or longer, with the hope of bringing down its price. But this plan may not be effective. Flour also is dear, and eggs are relatively even more costly, while the prosaic bean is soaring in cost, as it has been doing for several years. There seems no article to which the consumer can turn if he wills to stop using a staple merely because of its higher price. However, the movement may have its use in teaching the people of Cleveland some of the economics in diet that are practiced daily in Europe. Possibly their abstention from meat may teach the wage-earners of Cleveland to substitute for it other foods whose price has also advanced, but which cost less than do beef, mutton, and pork.

Russian Wheat Production. An enormous crop of wheat has been grown in Russia this year, placing that for the first time at the head of wheat-growing countries. Its harvest of 78,000,000 bushels exceeds that of the United States by 25,000,000 bushels, and is greater than its own previous record by about 100,000,000 bushels. The development of wheat growing has been most rapid along the line of the Trans-Siberian Railway. As the home consumption is small in proportion to population, this has made Russia one of the great sources of supply for the rest of the world. France consumes much of the wheat that it grows. The present price of wheat in the United States, when placed against the surplus product of Russia, makes it more difficult for this country to hold its place as an exporter of that cereal.

Charleston Is Ambitious. The movement for the growth of Charleston is accompanied by an agitation for a winter hotel for tourists. The advantages of its climate are pointed out with increasing earnestness. The visits of architects and contractors are noted as significant of coming enterprise from outside. Charleston regards itself as the most important stopping place between Washington or Richmond and Jacksonville. Much progress has followed the exposition, and the city highly appreciates its new yard. But it is predicted that a finely equipped modern hotel would attract and retain thousands of visitors between November and May, and even in the summer time, when every loyal resident will claim that life in Charleston is one long, sweet dream. It is stated that local capital is ready to join in the enterprise whenever it assumes definite form.

San Francisco's New Mayor. Mayor McCarthy, of San Francisco, who was elected on a labor ticket over a reform candidate, has surprised that city by the tone of his inaugural address. He favored the idea of much personal liberty and advocated new parks and boulevards and the restoration of Chinatown. But he was not demagogic. He made a sensation by reading a list of pool rooms and gambling houses, which he promised to close. He denounced the doctrine of an "open town," and declared war upon professional criminals. He proclaimed improvement in the street car service and in the water supply. He denounced graft and promised to bring suits to recover money illegally paid out of the city treasury. He declared that organized labor, through his administration, would prove that it "stands for the cleanest, purest, best, and most peaceful of all governments to be found." The city, scarred by graft and fire, may well be congratulated, as organized labor may be congratulated, if all these promises are fulfilled.

Poetry and Politics. The campaign song writer is busy in England. For instance, the Liberal audience sing to the tune of "The Flowing Bowl":

Come, landlords, pay your honest share Of national taxation; You surely will assist to bear The burden of the nation.

Chorus. For our food untaxed shall be, We will march to victory; And our trade shall still be free, For honest land taxation.

Then, to the stirring air of "Bonnie Dundee," the meeting will sing: "To the Lords and the Tories 'twas Asquith that spoke!"

"Too long you have severed the aspects of poor folk; But the rights of the laborer and landlord is clear, And we'll fight for the rights of the humble and poor."

Protection is thus assailed in verse: When the children cry at home For the tax they need to take, Shall we tell them that we'll take the tax off? When the better's all unknown And the laborer's bare of soul, Shall we starve them for the farmer over soul?

Chorus. Stamp, stamp, stamp upon Protection, Tax the value of the land; For the cheapness of our bread, And the freedom of our feet, We will make an undefeatable stand.

Or Anything Else. From the Cleveland Leader. "But why do you ask me for a Lincoln penny?" "A Lincoln penny is not a rare coin any more."

"It is to me, old man."

IN PRAISE OF FRECKLES.

A Fair Sign of Ambition, Spirit, Originality, and Honesty. From the New York Mail. The persons who refused to adopt little Jasper, an orphan, the other day, because he was freckled, and thereby endowed Jasper with ephemeral celebrity, were not well informed as to the outward marks of character.

If they had been, they would have preferred Jasper, and not have rejected him on the recommendation of his freckles. Though the matter has never, we believe, been scientifically investigated and reported upon with the authority of the faculty, there is excellent reason to believe that freckles on the face of a white boy or girl are a very fair sign of ambition, spirit, originality, and honesty.

Freckles are very frequently an accompaniment of red hair, and red hair has been immemorably regarded as a mark of spirit and independence. Sometimes it is supposed to be associated with a hot temper and a spiteful disposition; but there is really no reason to regard red-haired people as of a more violent nature than others. If a person possesses high spirit, and stoutly resists imposition, those whom he resists are quite likely to call his spirit "bad temper."

Whether the ambitious and independent spirit resides in the red hair or in the freckles is a matter of grave doubt. But from Cicero down, red-haired and freckled people have been sturdily independent. Col. Roosevelt is not exactly red haired, but he is said to have been covered with freckles when he was a boy. The freckled girl is always a good, breezy companion, and always is to be trusted. When it comes to pugacity, it need only be mentioned that Mr. Robert Fitzsimmons is one of the most freckled men that ever lived.

The association of character with freckles seems to suggest that they are more than skin deep; and yet science tells us that freckles are merely due to "increased local deposit of pigment granules in the epidermis." The accepted specific for their removal is hyposulphite of soda. But the question whether their artificial removal has an effect on the character, tending to lessen the spirit of independence in the individual need not to be discussed, because neither hyposulphite of soda nor anything else ever really removed freckles.

HALF BILLION IN CANDY.

Americans Spend Fabulous Sum Yearly on Confectionery. From the New York Press. The American woman is known for her sweet tooth. Neither in London, Paris, nor Berlin do you see such candy eating during the matinee performances in the theaters, nor are the confections made to serve the purpose of informal gifts to girls so much as here. But it is rather surprising to learn from a member of the breed of indefatigable statisticians that the people of the United States spend a little less than \$500,000,000 a year on candy, and, of course, the greater part of that amount is spent by or for women. Dentistry items are not included in the tables compiled by the statisticians. For several years it has been an acknowledged fact that the United States consumed as much candy as all the rest of the world put together; but since 1897 the candy appetite has grown to such an extent that the United States now accounts for just two-thirds of the candy output of the civilized world.

It is not generally known, however, that immigrants are the greatest consumers of candy in America. In New York fully one-half of the city's candy bill is said to be paid by the men, women, and children of the tenement-house districts, and that becomes all the more significant when the difference in prices between the Grand street and the Broadway candy stores is taken into consideration. Physicians who are aware of this almost inordinate appetite for sweets among the poorer classes say New York has every reason to congratulate itself that it has brought only good, instead of evil results. Not many years ago most of the candy sold, especially in the smaller stores, was almost poisonously impure, injurious acids and dyes being used in the manufacture. Medical men say that if candy of that quality had been eaten in the quantities that candy is eaten to-day, it would have had a terrible effect on the health of the generation now approaching maturity. To-day, however, it is reasonably safe to buy candy anywhere, and its consumption is especially advocated in temperance circles as minimizing the likelihood of the growth of a taste for drink.

Diary of a Meat Boycotter. From the New York Mail. Sunday—Rose at 1 p. m. Breakfast on grapefruit and bacon and eggs. Had the bacon in the house, so it didn't count. Dinner at 7 o'clock, consisting of bisque of tomato, another plate of it, potatoes, oyster plant, peach pie, and coffee. Left table feeling hungry, but virtuous.

Monday—Breakfast, orange, cereal, three eggs. Luncheon, crackers and milk. Had a drink at 2 p. m. and speared at free-lunch counter two pieces ham, three sausages, and two tongue sandwiches. Feeling better.

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AT THE HOTELS.

"Whenever there are rumors of war in the air," said Fred W. Brooks, of Boston, who is at the New Willard and is engaged in the South American export trade, "the citizens of Springfield, Mass., suddenly remember Uncle Sam's gunmaking plant and begin to watch closely to see if an extra shift of men have been put on."

Mr. Brooks did not volunteer to divulge his calling, but his conversation seems to indicate that he might in years past have supplied arms to South and Central American revolutionists.

"The old veterans talk about the work done during the civil war and the young Spanish war veterans recall how it was 'on to his job' in a like manner during the days of warfare in Cuba. As a matter of fact, the United States army at Springfield is doing business at the old stand six days in the week, and is immensely important to the government every day of that six. That the Japanese have a due regard for its importance is evidenced by various visits of Japanese military men to that institution.

"Although there is little danger from spies at this army," continued Mr. Brooks, "permits to visit the place are not issued to foreigners, but they are only allowed to enter at the invitation of the commanding officer. The law requires that every employe shall be a citizen of the United States. Last there be any imperfections, every gun in the Springfield Armory is fired five times. If it stands this test, it is considered up to specifications and demands and requirements of the department, but if there is the least indication of imperfection the gun is thrown out. American guns compare most favorably with foreign-made ordnance.

"Of course," added Mr. Brooks, "I