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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1910.

The Next Congress.

Great stress is laid in the present campaign on the question whether candidates are conservative or progressive. The use of these terms is not limited to members of any party, but they seem to be regarded as descriptive of individuals, no matter what their political affiliation.

During the past session the progressives held what practically amounted to the balance of power in the House. They also were quite an important factor in the Senate. They take into themselves the credit of defeating the Cannon machine and improving the administration's railroad bill.

There were two grounds upon which the standpaters were found wanting by the progressives—the creation of a system of automatic machine rule and, perhaps, the use of selfish methods in framing legislation. In both instances those who were well informed during the last days of the last session know that the progressives sinned quite as much as the "old crowd," and were prone to take orders quite as freely as those they criticized.

What is essentially needed in Congress is not a set of men labeled either one thing or another, merely representing different sections or interests, but a body of legislators devoted wholly to the public interest.

The crying evils in the legislative body have been the lack of real independence and the apparent incapacity for the study and solution of public problems complex in their character and demanding careful, nonpartisan analysis.

New Jersey, perhaps, may become a better State after going to Dr. Wilson's school for a while.

Melton Prior.

It comes sometimes to a newspaper writer who chronicles the death of a public man to recall, too, the loss of a personal friend. Such was Melton Prior, who died in London on Wednesday.

The dispatches bringing the news of his death do not state his age, but he "was full of high adventure. In his death there passes almost the last of the brilliant guard of war correspondents of which Archibald Forbes was so conspicuous an early example.

Public opinion in France to-day demands a prompter solution of the labor question than was anticipated when the last cabinet was formed. And when the strike brought that issue so prominently to the front, it will be remembered, it was M. Briand himself who suggested that the most practical way out of the difficulty would be for the entire cabinet to resign and give President Fallieres a free hand to call upon any one he saw fit to form a new cabinet to face the labor issue.

The President was and is in entire sympathy with M. Briand's views as to how to meet the situation. Have government employes a right to strike? This was the question. The premier and several of his colleagues disagreed, and, as M. Briand insisted upon clipping the wings of the French Federation of Labor, his fellow-ministers tendered him their resignations. Hence, the "crisis" is merely a matter of ministerial reconstruction of a Briand cabinet on a stronger anti-Federation basis, which the President has asked his former premier to form.

The main difficulty which confronts M. Briand is that he must offer a ministry not only pledged to settle those pressing social problems, but one which will be satisfactory to the changing Republican majority, and especially to the followers of ex-Premier Combes, who are not attracted by what they term M. Briand's ultra-conservatism.

Temps and Figaro insist upon a broad programme of Social and Republican defense against anarchy, which means a settlement of labor conflicts without strikes. And yet it was the very determined stand which the government took in the recent strike which led to its being so severely attacked in the Chamber of Deputies.

The new cabinet will be made up largely of the old members, with the portfolios distributed with special reference to a settlement of the labor question, including the finding of means by which employes of public service corporations

enthusiasm of the youth that he looked forward to the days in the field. Many lands to know intimately; the distinguished of the earth, kings and princes and great generals were his friends, and the left breast of his khaki war correspondent's uniform had scarce space enough to hold the medals he had won for distinguished service.

Like all men who have looked often into the eyes of death, and who have done great deeds, he was simple and unaffected in manner. His one ambition was to do his work worthily and well, and the full-page pictures of the Illustrated London News are his most fitting memorial. Vale!

The express companies are now willing to arbitrate. Not until we get a parcels post will they be willing to abdicate.

The Duty of Care.

The pathetic case of the Gray children, suddenly left orphaned of father and mother by a distressing accident, and for whom The Washington Herald, in combination with other agencies, is doing what it can, has in it a striking lesson. It is only when such cases come close home, so that they affect our own community, that we are able to realize the full meaning and the distress of them. Nothing now can undo the dreadful accident that deprived a household of both its heads, but, as a people, we should be grossly indifferent if the spectacle of these four orphaned children brought no lesson to all of us.

In this case the lesson is one concerning the carelessness with which, too often, we deal with the facts of life. Not long ago The Washington Herald printed an editorial pointing out what efforts the various railroads had made to prevent people from trespassing on their tracks. Too often the right of way of railroads is used by pedestrians as a short cut to or from their homes.

On the stretch of railroad on which Mr. and Mrs. Gray were killed increasing use has for months been made of the track by pedestrians, in preference to the perfectly safe highway. The police who patrol this part of the track had even gone to the pains of serving personal notice on some twenty or thirty near-by residents of the danger in so using the railroad tracks.

When such a disaster as the killing of Mr. and Mrs. Gray comes to the public attention, accompanied by the distressing fact of five helpless children left homeless, there is naturally more or less public resentment against the railroad, even though, as in this case, it was the chief sufferers who dared the fate. The railroads do not want to kill or injure people. Nothing in the operation of their roads is so expensive or so productive of costly litigation as such accidents. To avoid them, so far as possible, the roads take many precautions. Large numbers of traffic police are employed to warn trespassers; notices are posted at all dangerous points along the line of track, and recently the Pennsylvania has issued simple posters, which are displayed in all country schoolhouses, warning children to keep off the railroads.

The only way to prevent a recurrence of such accidents is through a campaign of education. People must be brought to understand in the first place that a railroad track is a dangerous place, and, secondly, that the railroad track is the property of the railroad, on which pedestrians have no right. These are facts which the people should know, which parents should impress upon their children. So long as the duty of taking care is disregarded, so long as people uselessly brave death, the slaughter will go on, leaving distress and misery behind it.

The annual coal famine has set in promptly in the far West.

A New Briand Cabinet.

The resignation of the French cabinet merely spells reorganization. It implies neither a political nor a parliamentary change of principle, nor yet a hesitancy in carrying out the measures employed so effectively during the recent Paris strikes.

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may obtain redress for grievances without resort to a strike paralyzing traffic and industries.

John Dalzell is giving an excellent imitation of a man side-stepping an avalanche.

Seasickness in the Navy. According to naval authorities, about a dozen midshipmen and younger ensigns have left the navy within the past year because of their inability to ward off seasickness. The naval officials seem to think that the trouble is getting to be alarming.

Has the younger generation declined in ability to brave rough seas as compared with the older seadogs and salts? Seasickness almost has become epidemic among the more recent graduates of the Naval Academy. It is a serious proposition for the navy, to be robbed of valuable young officers at a time when they are badly needed to man the new leviathans being commissioned, and after they have been graduated from the Academy at an expense of several thousand dollars for each midshipman.

What Do we Murphy Mean? From the New York Globe. The votes of the Tammany members of Congress, together with that of Fitzgerald, of Brooklyn, "saved" Speaker Cannon and thus prevented a complete and satisfactory downward revision of the tariff. These men have all been re-nominated, and they are being supported by the newspapers most insistent that the tariff is too high. Not only are Fitzgerald and his fellow Cannon-aiders favored, but the election of other Democratic Congressmen is asked—men who we may safely assume will do as Murphy orders. All of this is to be done that the cost of living be reduced.

What About Pennsylvania? From the Atlanta Constitution. The historic query of William Allen White, "in regard to the State of Kansas," might be applied with timeliness and force to the Keystone State, for strange things are happening in the political world of that old Commonwealth.

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POLITICAL COMMENT.

Windsor Castle. Windsor Castle, after elaborate repairs, is in readiness to receive the royal family. It is well known that the late King Edward made many improvements to his country palace, and it would have hardly seemed possible that so much still remained to be done; but even a casual glance at the work just completed makes it obvious that these renovations were not prompted by superstitious fears.

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WINDSOR NOW READY FOR USE

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GENESIS OF THE BREAKFAST.

Historians Differ as to Chief Ingredients of Morning Meal. From the Richmond Times-Dispatch. If we are to believe the epicures who have investigated the matter, the present tendency toward light breakfasts is distinctly atavistic. It appears that "the hearty breakfast," which is still somewhat of an American institution, is a comparatively modern affair, while the frugal and light breakfast is fairly prehistoric. It is a matter of grave doubt whether or not our ancestors in the paleolithic and neolithic ages breakfasted; they did not, perhaps we may explain their savage tendency to lambaste one another with the granite primeval. Men who have not breakfasted are usually far from amiable.

A correspondent of the Boston Herald points out that the Roman morning meal consisted of a grape or two, a few raisins, a date, an olive, and some cereal that closely resembled our modern breakfast. These simple and natural ingredients suggest the menu upon which our Eden-dwelling forefathers must have subsisted. In the matter of the morning meal, the Romans showed the Homeric simplicity of the Greeks. De Quincey thus commented on the Roman morning meal:

"No such discovery as breakfast had then been made. Breakfast was not invented for many centuries after that. Breakfast was not even suspected, and prophecy, no type of breakfast had been published. In fact, it took as much time and research to arrive at that great discovery as at the Copernican system."

De Quincey wrote this in 1832. Yet but seventy-one years later the Roman breakfast is coming into vogue again. The diet ranks are substituting for a heavy breakfast a simple collection of nuts and grasses, very similar to the morning meal of primeval men. Very generally the light breakfast is becoming established everywhere. The "hygienic" breakfast of a little fruit and coffee, which was popular among those who believe that such a repast is unlikely to impede the machinery of the brain.

An old England it was frequently the case that breakfast was abolished for families for different reasons. Cotton, for instance, declares in his writings that "my diet is always one glass of ale so soon as I am dressed, and no more." There are some gentlemen to-day who think that a morning breakfast is all that is needed until noon. Breakfast, smoking a pipe at that.

On the other hand, there are many people of the same period who were rather doughty trenchmen. Lord Percy and his lady, when visiting in Kent, seemed to have believed in substantial breakfasts for the menu set before them at that meal is recorded as "a loaf of bread in trenchers, two manchetts, a quart of beer, a quart of wine, two pieces of salt fish, six bacon'd herring, four white herring, and a dish of sprats."

Except in Lent, in the last days, they very often added half a chine of mutton. Nor did the children go hungry—or thirsty—for it is chronicled that "my Lady Margaret and Mr. Ingram Percy, the son and daughter of Lord Percy, were provided 'a manchet, one quart of beer and three mutton bones broiled.' There were some, too, after the fashion of fat old Nick Wood, who could clean up a ham in the morning and hardly leave a crumb of bread."

Breakfast, indeed, may be reduced to a minimum shadow of its former self, but it is so universal an institution that there is no danger of its ultimate abolition. Even the higher cost of living cannot compel us to do without the matutinal toast.

A Very Good Record. From the Columbia Magazine. "Before I consent to let you have my daughter," said the grim old gentleman, "there are some questions I would like to ask you. Are you quick tempered?" "Well, yes, to tell the truth, I'm afraid I am."

"Hm! Ever swear?" "Sometimes, when I become very angry, I do."

"Smoke?" "Yes, but I have never noticed that it injured me."

"Ever drink intoxicating liquors?" "I occasionally take a drink, but I'm not a slave to the habit, I assure you."

"Have you ever been in jail?" "I too, some time, to which I did not go, but I did not do it deliberately, I assure you. It was the result of a misunderstanding."

"Yes, it generally is. How about your family? What kind of ancestors did you have?" "Do you think it is fair to hold a man responsible for what his ancestors did?" "Answer my question."

"Well, I can't say that my ancestors amounted to a great deal. My grandfather was—in short, he was hanged."

"You've never held a job anywhere very long, have you?" "I can't say that I have."

"What was the highest salary you ever earned?" "Nineteen dollars a week."

"Ever jump a board walk?" "I wouldn't exactly call it that. I owe a lady for several months' board that I had three or four years ago, but I fully intend to pay her some day."

"Have you ever rocked a boat?" "No, sir; never."

AT THE HOTELS.

Boston people, notwithstanding their much-vaunted claim to intellectual superiority, are poor judges of music, according to Signor Giuseppe Campanari, the barytone of the Metropolitan Opera, in New York, who was seen at the New Willard last night.

"Before I became a singer," played the cello in the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Our concerts were received with criticism and indifference by the Bostonians; they treated us as if we were a band from Kalamazoo. We played in New York, where our efforts were appreciated and we received our proper modicum of praise and approval as being one of the best musical organizations in the country. When we returned to Boston after our New York tour, the Boston public awoke to the fact that we were real musicians and knew our business; they followed New York's example, and praised us. The trouble with the Boston public is that they have no judgment of their own, so far as music is concerned.

"This country is producing the greatest singers on the oper