

THE WASHINGTON HERALD

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1912.

The Impossible Bristow Plan.

If Senator Bristow of Kansas has not been misunderstood, it is not his desire to reduce the issue of judicial recalls to an absurdity, he is certainly upholding his State's reputation for eccentricity by the bills which he introduced in the Senate in the first days of the new session.

He would empower a President to submit to the test of a national referendum any measure upon which Congress had failed to act for six months.

But Senator Bristow goes farther. He wishes to submit to the popular verdict decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States, declaring an act of Congress unconstitutional. His amendment provides:

"If the Supreme Court shall decide a law enacted by Congress is in violation of the provisions of the Constitution of the United States, then Congress, at a regular session held after such decision, may submit the act to the electors at a regular Congressional election."

This means to deprive the Supreme Court of its most distinctive power and function, and to substitute for judicial interpretation a mere "whim."

What might have been accomplished by a President as permissive as Mr. Roosevelt at the height of his popularity?

It is quite likely that he would, for a time at least, by the aid of the popular vote, have overruled deliberate judgments of our highest court.

That would be a ready method of introducing uncertainty law. The court in a short time would be at a loss how to proceed in reaching a conclusion on any important constitutional case.

There would be on one side the constitution, the principles of law and of constitutional government, the long line of decisions rendered in interpretation of the fundamental law; and on the other side the most recent popular decision which had overturned the constitution and the court. It would proceed with the prospect that on the next occasion the popular will in all likelihood would reverse itself.

The Cabinet's Valedictories.

The members of the Taft Cabinet are writing their valedictories. This Cabinet is unique, because all but two of its members will have served a full administration period when President Taft goes out of office.

Because they have been in office long enough to learn something of the business of their departments and possibly because they are leaving, these officers are writing their reports with a free hand, and are saying what they mean.

A review of the talent points in the departmental reports this year would confirm the impression held by a good many well-informed persons that if there was any lack of real progress in the Taft administration, it has been due much more to political Congress than to the executive departments.

It is well known that Congress more or less systematically has disregarded the sound business advice given it by the experts of the various departments, and has had little sympathy with the Taft idea of administering the government as an efficient, economical business organization.

Parcel Post Stamps.

Distinctive stamps will have to be used in the parcel post service which will be inaugurated the first of the year. Where ordinary stamps are used, the package will be held for additional postage.

A Little Nonsense.

THE RAYS. Everybody emits rays—Prof. Xammer. You needn't at this statement scoff. The wise professor says that folks who are in love give off Deep violet rays.

These rays are given off by love, So take your little cue. The rays produced by hats are of A dull green hue.

With me the statement makes a hit; My boss poor wags pays. I wonder if he would emit A salary ray?

A Worried Cause. The Society for the Prevention of Useless Presents contemplates opening a food chapter. Going to join?

Bent's Frankness. "My face is my fortune," said the girl. "In that case I would advise you to go through voluntary bankruptcy," responded the man, "and then take up the intellectual pose."

December 9 in History. Little William Shakespeare writes his first letter to Strata. Henry VIII decides to start a magazine and get back at his political enemies.

Gets His Rations. "You look fatter. Quit selling copper hook!" "Yes. Now I'm selling stock in an orange grove. Every morning the company furnishes me a full orange for a sample, and at the end of the day I get the sample."

A Poor Man's Pastime. I like the dollar-fifty show. And sometimes see a bill. But for a steady diet, oh, You'd better vaultville.

She Speaks Plainly. The young man was flouting out wags and wags. "They say two can live as cheaply as one." "Do not delude yourself, Ferdinand," said the girl. "For one thing, I shall possibly have to have a separate car."

Faculty of Prophecy. "The faculty of prophecy is clearly shown to me now." "As you bow, Athelstan, as to how?" "A friend tried to tell me how California was going before the election. Now I can even tell you how California went after the election."

We Hope Not. The train struck a man and injured him severely. "Was the man on the tracks?" "He was. No engineer, I trust, would run the train into the woods after a man."

Suffrage League to Hold Meeting. The District of Columbia Suffrage League will hold a mass meeting in National Rifle Army on Friday, December 13, at 8 o'clock, which meeting will be the first of a series of mass meetings to be held by the citizens of the District of Columbia as a campaign for the American right to vote.

To Simplify Legal Practice. A committee of the American Bar Association has been appointed to secure the simplification of legal procedure in the Federal courts, and a plan for this return is to be brought to the attention of Congress at this session, and will be pushed energetically.

The General Is Too Emphatic. Gen. Wood believes that if the great majority of our young men had military training, as in European countries, we should be more amenable to rules. He takes this strange view while propounding a new argument for a universal military service.

Young Hebrews Organize. Plans Society Similar to Young Men's Christian Association. Members of the Jewish community at Washington, who have been for some time interested in establishing a society for the young men of their faith along similar lines to those of the Young Men's Christian Association, completed their plans at their last meeting, which was held in the vestry of the Third Street Temple, and launched the Young Men's Hebrew Association of Washington, with a charter membership of fifty.

Officers chosen for the new organization are: President, J. Steiner; vice president, H. Rubin; treasurer, W. Roberts; secretary, J. Jackson; and sergeant-at-arms, C. Lally.

In the near future it is planned to hold a mass meeting to determine ways of arousing interest in their undertaking among the local Hebrews. The founders of the organization are planning the erection of a thoroughly equipped, modern clubhouse, and are seeking to enlist the interest of their friends toward the raising of the necessary contributions. Officers of the organization confidently predict a membership of well over 500 by the coming summer.

Buckley Probe To-day. Thirty-five witnesses have been summoned to appear before a grand jury in the Corporation Court at 11 o'clock tomorrow morning to testify before that body in the death of Patrick Buckley, the "boy guide," whose body was found beside the fire escape in the rear of the old Bradwood House Sunday morning, November 17 last.

The examination will, it is expected, continue most of the day, and the testimony of the witnesses will be considered by the jury, and they are as follows: Dr. Edney, colored, petal lawyer, third offense; George Jones, colored, dispensing cocaine; Charles Vanev, colored, mail-roomer; and (falsely) cutting Samuel Scott, colored. Edney was recently convicted in the police court of theft of a Y. W. C. A. Training School for Servants & Sons. His inability to keep his hands off chickens has gotten him in trouble twice before.

The jury summoned is composed of the following: J. T. Preston, Oscar W. Phillips, Joseph T. Roberts, P. M. Bradshaw, C. H. Yobe, Mark L. Price, Jr., Thomas W. Robinson, John McCuen, Lorenzo

COURT GOSSIP ON MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Curious sidelights on court life in China, as well as on the workings of a great statesman's mind, are afforded by the diary of the greatest of modern Chinese diplomats, Li Hung Chang, the late viceroy, who recently recorded his views, impressions, and deeds day after day. His stories of his relations with that remarkable aged woman, the Dowager Empress of China, for instance, are very amusing.

It appears that on one occasion he offered to resign his office, and was rebuffed by the Empress after his visit to Russia. He describes the result as follows: "I have received notification that I am to forfeit one year's pay for the present absence from my duties. The fine itself is a small matter, but I should like to know in what respect I offended Her Majesty."

Fortunately the Dowager Empress resented his harshness, for the same day, but marked later, there is an entry in the diary to the effect that messengers from the throne had come to him bearing an edict appointing him to the post of viceroy of the Golden Dragon, which, except in very rare and extraordinary cases, is bestowed upon Chinese royalty only.

There are some particularly poignant references to the Empress and the Empress Dowager. The latter he described, after first seeing her in 1867, as "the eye of the throne." When she spoke graciously to him and lifted her cup of wine toward him and smiled, he well could remember that hers was a compliment to his person, but added, "I am a foreigner and a slave, and I should not be so presumptuous as to accept it."

As to the Empress Dowager, Li Hung Chang wrote that he did not consider him a healthy man, as he stayed indoors too much, and worry about the kind of life he is compelled to lead keeps him pale and listless, quite contrary to his small man to rule so great an empire. (Old he may be physically or mentally?) "I am told that a great secret band of assassins, who were members of the court, had been plotting to kill him in the killing of men high in positions of state."

But when it comes to that, Li Hung Chang, himself, frequently had been threatened with assassination. He speaks of it with his usual frankness: "While I was viceroy and visiting Hankow, several times I was in danger of my life. One day, at Tientsin, a low fellow came into my courtyard and told the banner captain in charge that he intended to assassinate me. He had a long piece of wire and said he meant to bang me on my own gate post. I was obliged to have his head cut off before he would consent to stop talking."

With the following methods of the western world Li Hung Chang had little sympathy. He writes: "I find that they rise early. This is not to my taste. To rise early is a foolish practice, especially among men of state, who should be at night in bed, and at the end of the night most alert."

During his visit to Germany, Li Hung Chang was greatly impressed by the two men—Prince Bismarck and Herr Krupp—whom he met. In his mind, he seemed to be filling the place he was most fitted to occupy. Krupp in his quiet way to make big guns, and Bismarck in his quiet way to make big states, especially among men of state, who should be at night in bed, and at the end of the night most alert.

Bismarck's views on England are referred to in the late viceroy's diary. "You have seen and heard of your part of the world, but Germany, as a unit, is only a new nation, but the time will come when the German empire will dominate Europe, England, and the United States, and show, like a hundred weak

James Abram Garfield

By GEORGE FITCH. Author of "At Good Old Newhank."

James Abram Garfield was a young man who had a magnificent start as a canal pilot and could have risen to the top of the profession, but who ruined his chances in this line by quitting work and going to college.

Many of the oldest canal men on the old Ohio Canal back in the late '40s pleaded with young Garfield to stick to his work and rise until he had a canal boat of his own and could smoke all day on the after-deck, but he was headstrong and would not do so. Instead, he went to college and joined a Greek letter society, raised a whisker and "beeped" duck freshmen in the president's horse trough. This affected his mind so that he became president of a college himself for a short time. But his frivolous nature made him resign once more, just as things were coming his way, and became a lawyer.

No sooner had young Garfield done this than he got himself elected to the Ohio Senate, thus making a clean sweep had almost decided to retain him. And he had no sooner become a power in the Senate than he threw away his chances once more and went South as lieutenant of an Ohio regiment in the civil war.

Young Garfield had now frittered away his life until he was thirty-two years old, and he had no money, no position that he had no stability, having given up five good chances in ten years. But he persisted in his course and no sooner had he become a major general than he resigned once more and went to Congress.

This was a fine opening for Garfield, and he stuck to his job until 1868 against the express wishes of many Democrats.

Beating William T. Bailey in the United States Senate—these are merely a pair of the many accomplishments that entitle Garfield to rank among the great statesmen of his time.

When he was nine years of age, little Morris Sheppard was early the best rifle shot of his age in Morris County, Tex. And right at that time he came upon the poem in the reader about William Tell. It at once occurred to him that, if the fame of Tell had been sent hurtling down through the corridors of the State Capitol, there was a great opportunity for an enterprising young rifle shot to gain at least local renown without serious difficulty. The more he pondered over the possibility, the more he looked like a supreme citizen to young Tell up as a mere plodder. Whereas Tell had shot only one apple from the boy's head, Sheppard determined to shoot eight of the heads of half a dozen bright and promising youngsters.

Having no one to collaborate with him, like Tell did, Sheppard got hold of his father's gun, a coronet, and several silver boxes, and had them follow him, and he would make them famous. All the boys were keen to be in the feat when they heard about it, and Sheppard soon sorted out an even half-dozen that met his needs. Then he got six Ben Davis apples and his father's rifle and went about it.

The apples passed off cleverly, and the six boys hustled home to boast of their part in making a second-rate out of William Tell.

So, as mothers hastily put on their hats and ran over to the home of young Morris Sheppard. Meanwhile, Morris' father had learned of his son's achievement, and he was out cutting a cordial and stout applause when the delegation of mothers arrived.

This strange thing happened. The elder Sheppard got so amused over the antics of the six mothers that he soon anger gradually disappeared, and Morris Sheppard hasn't got a whaling for his William Tell feat even to this day.

But that was only one of Sheppard's bids for fame. He began public speaking at the age of six, and kept right on, winning oratorical prizes at the university in Texas and at Yale, until to-day he is one of the best orators in the Lower House of Congress. His oratory is invariably flecked with sunlight and flowers, and he does not hesitate to refer to the stars, the sun, the moon, the twinkling birds, or even the puling brook. It was Sheppard who landed on the first page of the papers some years ago by referring to the stars, the sun, the moon, the twinkling birds, or even the puling brook.

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STATESMEN—REAL AND NEAR

By FRED C. KELLY

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James Abram Garfield, 1861-1881.

Garfield was not quite fifty when he died and had bright prospects. In fact, he could have made a good success in any one of his ventures if he had not been so restless. His education has spoiled many fine farmers, lawyers and soldiers by making Presidents out of them.

(Copyrighted by George Mackay Adams)

SUFFRAGE LEAGUE TO HOLD MEETING

Prominent Speakers to Make Addresses at Gathering Next Friday.

The District of Columbia Suffrage League will hold a mass meeting in National Rifle Army on Friday, December 13, at 8 o'clock, which meeting will be the first of a series of mass meetings to be held by the citizens of the District of Columbia as a campaign for the American right to vote.

The speakers on the programme are Senator Moses E. Clark, Mr. Justice Woodard, President of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, Attorney Charles A. Douglas and others.

Dr. Washington's chorus, composed of one hundred women, who have been practicing for 30 that few weeks, will sing patriotic songs. Prominent members of both houses of Congress will be present, and have promised their hearty support.

The merchants of the city are assisting the committee by contributing tags and buttons, and florists are doing their share of preparing plants and flowers which will make the decorations of the hall and the state elaborate.

The committee in charge comprises Roscoe Jenkins, chairman of arrangements; Dr. Thomas E. White, Dr. J. Parker, Attorney Lewis M. Bransford, H. O. Shaffer, William D. Mackenzie, Louis Johnston, A. Brand, J. W. Highman, Dr. Charles H. Bennett, chairman of the Walter Armstrong, Col. J. B. Clarke, Charles Nesbit, Elmer Carroll, chairman committee on badges, E. J. Dakin, chairman committee on printing and publication, Dr. Thomas E. White, chairman committee on distribution, W. D. Mackenzie, chairman Bose committee, J. W. Highman, chairman committee on invitations, Lewis M. Bransford, chairman committee on music and decorations, A. Brand.

YOUNG HEBREWS ORGANIZE.

Plans Society Similar to Young Men's Christian Association. Members of the Jewish community at Washington, who have been for some time interested in establishing a society for the young men of their faith along similar lines to those of the Young Men's Christian Association, completed their plans at their last meeting, which was held in the vestry of the Third Street Temple, and launched the Young Men's Hebrew Association of Washington, with a charter membership of fifty.

Officers chosen for the new organization are: President, J. Steiner; vice president, H. Rubin; treasurer, W. Roberts; secretary, J. Jackson; and sergeant-at-arms, C. Lally.

In the near future it is planned to hold a mass meeting to determine ways of arousing interest in their undertaking among the local Hebrews. The founders of the organization are planning the erection of a thoroughly equipped, modern clubhouse, and are seeking to enlist the interest of their friends toward the raising of the necessary contributions. Officers of the organization confidently predict a membership of well over 500 by the coming summer.

PAGEANT OF WOMEN.

A pageant in costume, theme, and songs, illustrating the work of the Young Women's Christian Association in foreign lands, will be produced by several groups of members of the local Y. W. C. A. in Old Fellows Hall, 627 Seventh Street Northwest, to-night. About 150 young women will participate, and in four successive scenes an accurate delineation will be given of Y. W. C. A. work in Japan, China, India, and South America.

The "book" of the pageant was written by the class of 1912 of the National Y. W. C. A. Training School for Servants & Sons, and it will be given in association entertainments all over the country. Particular interest attaches to its production in Washington, because Miss Jennie L. Steiner, vice president, and it is being used this winter in association entertainments all over the country.

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ATTACHMENT GIVEN BEFORE JUDGMENT

Suit for Damages Entered Against Henry West, Charged with Girl's Assault.

Alexandria, Va., Dec. 8.—Suit to recover damages in the sum of \$10,000 for alleged assault on his daughter, Mrs. Merritt, twelve years old, has been filed by her father, John Merritt, of Washington, against Henry West, alias Arthur Shanks, in the Circuit Court for Alexandria County, through his attorneys, Leo P. Harlow and Nelson Wilson, of Washington. An attachment against West's property, located in Alexandria County, was also filed at the same time, and this is the first case in the history of the court where an attachment has been issued before a judgment has been given.

West is now a prisoner in the city jail here, being held on the action of the January term of the United States Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, following a preliminary hearing on a charge of improper conduct with the Merritt girl.

The prisoner was formerly chief engineer at the United States Pumping station at Rossville, Alexandria County, and was arrested in Washington November 28 last, following statements of other little girls made against him, charging him with improper conduct.

West, or Shanks, was recently given a preliminary hearing here and held for the action of the grand jury, which will convene the first Monday in January next. In default of a bail bond in the sum of \$5,000 he was committed to jail.

Buckley Probe To-day. Thirty-five witnesses have been summoned to appear before a grand jury in the Corporation Court at 11 o'clock tomorrow morning to testify before that body in the death of Patrick Buckley, the "boy guide," whose body was found beside the fire escape in the rear of the old Bradwood House Sunday morning, November 17 last.

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The jury summoned is composed of the following: J. T. Preston, Oscar W. Phillips, Joseph T. Roberts, P. M. Bradshaw, C. H. Yobe, Mark L. Price, Jr., Thomas W. Robinson, John McCuen, Lorenzo

Welford, J. M. Duncanson, C. B. Marshall, and Thomas H. Lyson.

City Assessment Hearing. Attention General Samuel W. Williams, of the State, will come here Wednesday to assist Commonwealth's Attorney Samuel G. Brent in conducting the case of the State in the motion made by this city to the assessment of the city of \$100,000 for the city hall building set aside.

This assessment was recently made by Commission of the Revenue, Charles H. Callahan at the request of the City of the State auditor. Heretofore the city has never paid any taxes on this property and the city would like to enter a caveat against the assessment. In this matter the city will be represented by Corporation Attorney Samuel G. Brent, who is in charge of the city's case.

Enlistment Officers. Alvin Aerie, No. 87, Fraternal order of Eagles, has elected the following officers to serve for the ensuing year: Thomas Travers, worthy president; Robert Travers, worthy vice president; Harry Chapman, worthy chaplain; Joseph H. West, worthy secretary; Fred Kaur, Jr., worthy inside warden; Thomas Downey, worthy outside warden; Charles E. McKenna, Heron's troubadour; and James T. Luckett, worthy trustee.

Following an annual convocation, members of Old Dominion Commandery, No. 11, Knights Templar, will meet on Christmas Day at 8 o'clock in the evening and drink a Christmas toast in the Elch Eminent Sir William H. McNeill, grand commander of the Knights Templar of the United States, whose home is in Cincinnati. The