

The Washington Herald

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1915.

A Line of Cheer Each Day of the Year. By JOHN KENDRICK BANGS.

First printing of an original poem, written only for The Washington Herald.

THE UNDERSTUDY.

Tempest's ragin'? S'pose it is? Let it rage, and roar, and whizz. Jest becaz the weather's mean, Castin' gloom across the scene.

Cupid seems determined to hang around the White House until he has made a complete job of it.

Germany is going to coin some real "iron men," and those who take them in exchange for real dross may find that they have received the iron double cross.

Let the Washington social writers discard their air of haughty superiority. We had to get the news that Mrs. Galt weighs 160 pounds from Harpers Ferry, W. Va.

It is announced that the winner of that South Carolina primary election fight, in which one man was killed and four wounded, is a man named Hyde, who wasn't even on the firing line.

Those careless proofreaders! "Let the cowardly English," says a distinguished German-American publication "meet the old sea dog (Von Tirpitz) in his bar." It cannot be done.

The imperial court hairdresser has been awarded the Iron Cross of the third class for his bravery in shaving German soldiers under fire. We think the award should have gone elsewhere.

Some men who have been blind to what is happening and is likely to happen in the world before long only have their eyes opened when they can't get the sporting section first on Sunday morning.

"An Asylum for Futurists" is surely a taking headline, even though the average reader after perusing the article heaves a sigh of despair, when he discovers that it is not at all what he hoped for.

Most men will probably prefer to continue being called beasts and vipers to being mistaken for deer, ducks and wild turkeys with the serious results now being reported from the hunting regions.

Judge Lindsey, of the Dewey Juvenile Court, having threatened to fill his enemies full of lead, one of them retorts that he will give the judge "a good spanking." Very discouraging to an aspiring tragedian.

Two Brooklyn detectives applied a malarious substance to a roll of bills, placed them in a locker that had been frequently robbed, followed the scent of a suspect and caught a most exemplary young church worker with the goods on him. Evidently the motto "shun tainted money" adopted by churches several years ago was completely lost on this youth.

W. W. Spence, Baltimore's oldest financier, will celebrate his 100th birthday today by smoking an extra cigar. He completed a twelve-hour railway journey on Saturday, arriving hungry but not tired, and after breakfast proceeded to read the morning newspapers. Here is undoubtedly a real centenarian, but there will be some doubters until the newspapers describe him as dancing the turkey trot or taking a fifteen-mile walk.

The annual report of the District superintendent of weights, measures and markets contains much valuable advice to housewives. He declares that the public spends too much time denouncing the high cost of living and trying to fix the blame and not enough thought on how to meet the situation, by intelligent buying. He emphasizes the importance of what, when and where to buy and cites an instance in which fish, bought at 21-2 cents a pound wholesale was disposed of in one retail section at 6 cents and in another at 18 cents a pound. It is evident from his report that the majority of consumers have not yet begun to apply the remedy for high prices that is in their own hands.

At a recent meeting of the Civic Betterment Association charges of "near blackmail" were made against certain unnamed lawyers of this city. It is the duty of the association and its individual members to at once place any evidence they may have in support of these charges in the possession of the Bar Association. If practices such as have disgraced the bar and some of the courts of New York are springing up in this city they must be nipped in the bud. The very great majority of the District Bar Association is composed of honorable and upright practitioners who will never for a moment tolerate such practices as are hinted at. They may be confidently relied upon to adopt the most drastic measures if necessary to maintain their high reputation.

A False Note of Alarm.

Mr. Bryan has been traveling through the South and West and says that he found the people complaining of taxes and fearful that the administration would surrender to the jingoes, create a big army and navy and increase the tax burden. Mr. Bryan must have lapsed into the dreamy past in this interview, to a time when his favorite shriek of alarm was that the Republicans were taxing the people to death for the benefit of the tariff barons.

Brand Whitlock.

A year ago last July Brand Whitlock, American minister to Brussels, and his wife were living in a villa near Brussels. Nearby a country fair was going on. Among the evening attractions was the descent of a woman in a parachute from an aeroplane. Toward the end of the evening, when the chances of war grew serious, the Whitlocks and their guests, as they watched the aeroplane, used to say: "If she doesn't have an accident there won't be any war." One evening they saw the woman fall to her death. The next day war was declared.

This incident was the first of many tragedies that Whitlock was destined to witness in Belgium. And yet he had gone there in the belief that, after his strenuous years as mayor of Toledo, Ohio, he should have some leisure with opportunities to write. In the few months of his stay abroad he had made a good start on a novel. The war brought this endeavor to an abrupt end. At once the Whitlocks moved back to Brussels. Instead of representing one country, the American minister soon found himself representing many countries. The American Embassy became one of the most interesting international centers of Europe, humming with a great variety of languages. Whitlock himself became a great international figure. Travelers from Europe told of his devotion and his tact in handling a situation of tremendous difficulty, with new problems constantly coming up as a result of the domination of the Germans and the distress of a multitude of homeless people, who had to be fed. The story we get only in fragments. Some day, when it is comprehensively told, it will make a sensational chapter in history.

In Brussels Whitlock has become very popular; but he was popular before the war. One of his first decisions helped to win for him the respect of the people. Shortly after arriving at his post it was explained to him that as the American representatives to foreign courts had no official uniforms, some of his predecessors in office had devised impressive uniforms of their own which they used to wear on occasions of ceremony. Whitlock said that he thought civilian dress was good enough for him and he wouldn't bother about a uniform. Thereafter, on state occasions, with his tall, slim figure clad in a black evening suit, he was conspicuous among the other brilliantly attired and decorated diplomats. The people of Brussels both respected and liked him for his democratic simplicity and they were impressed by his modesty and his quiet force.

My own acquaintance with Whitlock dates back a good many years. He was then a young lawyer who had begun writing in Toledo at a time when clients were scarce and he was doing newspaper work to look back on in the way of training. He had just published his first novel, "The Thirteenth District," a study of political conditions which he knew well through his newspaper experience and his association as secretary with Gov. John P. Altgeld, of Illinois, whose interest he revered. With his young wife he spent a couple of weeks in and near Boston, revealing a wide range of interest and a huge capacity for enjoyment. It was his first visit to the East, one of many visits he was to make during the next few years as he became better known as a writer and a lecturer and an active force in politics.

Danger to Defense Program.

Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo, in his speech at Indianapolis dispelled the mystery attached to the administration's desperate and protracted efforts to force the last Congress to enact the ship-purchase bill, efforts that were defeated only with the aid of members of the President's own party, after a disastrous filibuster. Or, rather, Mr. McAdoo proved that there never was any mystery at all connected with the proposed legislation, that what appeared mysterious was nothing more than the fixed determination of the administration to try upon the country the experiment of government ownership of merchant vessels. From the remarks of the Secretary of the Treasury it must be concluded that the administration was actuated by no other motive than, and that an uncontrollable desire to see government ownership in operation will inspire it to renewed efforts at the approaching session.

A different situation is now presented, however. No really plausible reason could be advanced for the insistence upon the passage of a government ownership measure at the last session, while in the new campaign it will be pretended, if Secretary McAdoo speaks for the White House as well as for himself, that it is necessary for the government to own merchant ships, so that they may be used as auxiliary warships should necessity arise. This is the bait to be placed on the government ownership hook that was thrown out bare in the last Congress. The proposal that the United States shall build the ships also tends to remove the suspicion, outspoken in some quarters, that a desire to purchase the interned German vessels was at the bottom of the whole business. Another difference in the situation is that the government may now embark in the mercantile marine enterprise, if not upon a monopolistic basis at least with competition greatly weakened, since the La Follette seaman's act, championed by the administration seems destined to drive American owned merchant ships from the sea.

On the surface, therefore, the indications are for smoother sailing for government owned craft, but if the indications that the administration is to make this radical policy a part of its national defense program may be relied upon, the final outcome cannot be predicted. There would be opposition in Congress to the large appropriations that will be asked for defense, even with no government ownership scarecrow attached, though the chances are there would be votes enough to put them through. And while it is reasonable to assume that government ownership would prove alluring to many apostles of peace-at-any-price and win votes that would otherwise be cast against the expenditures for defense, it is even more reasonable to assume that it would sacrifice the support of a much greater number of statesmen who, while firm believers in an adequate army and navy, are steadfastly opposed

OUR COUNTRY—OUR PRESIDENT

A History of the American People THE GROWTH OF THE NATION. Published by a special arrangement with the President through The McClure Newspaper Syndicate.

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HAMILTON believed, as his enemies supposed, in the maintenance of a strong army, even in time of peace. He wished to see the States absolutely subordinated to the general government. He thought the opinion of the masses an unimportant and negligible thing in the choice of policy.

"No man," he said, "has sacrificed or done more for the people's constitution than myself, and, contrary to all my anticipations of its fate, I am still laboring to prop the frail and worthless fabric. Assuredly he had labored for it. He had played no small part in establishing it also.

But he had wished to have it serve as a buttress against democracy, a safeguard against the fickle play of opinion and the caprice of men uneducated in affairs. Mr. Jefferson's was an opposite school of thought.

"I am persuaded," he said, "that the good sense of the people will always be found the best army. They may be led astray for the moment, but will soon correct themselves." His belief was wholly sincere, aristocratic though he was in life and breeding and in instinctive attitude for power; and it was wholesome for the country that he meant that the people should not be represented should thus early gain their inevitable ascendancy.

It was impossible that the ruling classes of the older days should continue to govern the young nation now springing into life. Mere growth and change of life had broken every bond of habit and restraint of form.

The nation of 1800 was not even the nation of 1790. Its population had grown in that decade from 3,929,214 to 5,228,631, and had spread itself northward and westward and northward, to Lake Ontario and round about to the St. Lawrence and Lake Champlain; and into Kentucky and Ohio country; and into Kentucky and Tennessee, until great communities mustered there more than three hundred thousand strong.

The only serious opposition to military preparedness comes from Representative William North Bailey, of Pennsylvania, and from the Texas delegation, according to the report of the National Security Council. Mr. Bailey is a member of Congress. The member from Pennsylvania has assumed the leadership of the small arms and navy center, while Representative North Bailey, of Texas, declares he is against all preparedness. Representative Henry, of Texas, declines to express himself on the question, which he looked upon by the National Security League as a good one.

Despite the general indifference or opposition in the Texas delegation, real encouragement is given to a campaign for preparedness by Senator Morris Sheppard. "I am heartily in favor of such military and naval appropriations," writes Sheppard, "as may be necessary for adequate defense of the country."

At that time Whitlock was full of talk about the Golden Rule Mayor of Toledo, Sam Jones. When Sam Jones died a few years later, Whitlock, at the next election, was overwhelmingly called to carry on the big humanitarian work that Jones had started. He was so often re-elected that it seemed, if he chose, he might be mayor of Toledo as long as he lived. But he was always grieving that he did not have more time to carry on his literary schemes that fairly seethed in his mind. He did manage to do a good deal of writing, however, many articles and the biggest of his novels, "The Turn of the Balance," a severe and dramatic arraignment of our established methods of dealing with crime, a book far in advance of this period.

So long as Whitlock remains in the diplomatic service, he cannot, of course, write about the war except in his official communications. The chances are, however, that he is storing in his mind material that will be very useful in a literary way in the future. It has been predicted that he will write the great book on the war. He may also write the great novel or the great play or the great poem. Readers of the magazines must be familiar with the bits of verse that he used occasionally to print in the pages, very unusual in thought and feeling and very simply done. A play Whitlock has never written, though he had long been interested in the stage as a medium of expression. He is now about 45 years of age, with his best achievement yet before him, both in the way of writing and of public service. When he comes back to us to a good deal of writing, distinguished often. Already he has been mentioned as a possible candidate one of these days for the Presidency. He is a Democrat with a social view that gives to the word democracy its biggest and finest meaning.

Entertainment for Illinois.

It had been supposed that Illinois had reached the stage of civilization at which hangings are regarded as public entertainments, but as dread punishments, the spectacle of which is limited to the smallest possible number of persons. But in Murphysboro in that State a hanging occurred, not in a prison, but in the middle of a stockade erected to carry the enclosure of 2000 persons who were to see a man put to death. The stockade was much too small; 3000 persons who desired to see an execution were unable to get inside. Perhaps it would be better not to be so exclusive and to have no stockade at all.—Philadelphia Record.

Results.

Since the collapse of the old Populist party and the decadence of the Progressive movement, Kansas companies have reduced rates on tornado insurance 20 per cent.—Kansas City Journal.

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OPHELIA'S SLATE.

Illustration of a woman writing at a desk with a sign that says 'OPHELIA'S SLATE'.

Doings of Society

President Wilson took a walk yesterday morning and for the first time in many weeks failed to attend church at the Central Presbyterian.

The President stole out of the White House for his walk so quietly that he eluded the Secret Service men. One of them went to the church to wait for the President, but he did not appear.

Miss Helen Taft, daughter of the former President, so Miss Helen Taft will have the Taft family to become connected with Yale University.

According to the rule established there several years ago no student is granted the degree of Ph. D. from the Yale graduate school until he or she has completed three years of graduate work.

The Taft family is noted for its allegiance to Yale. Miss Taft's grandfather was one of the founders of the leading Yale senior society, to which other members of the family have since belonged.

The British summer embassy at Beverly Hills has been closed and Lady Spring-Peterson and her two children have joined the Ambassador at the embassy in Connecticut.

The Italian Ambassador and Countess Celleri and their family, who passed the summer at Pitea Pine Hill, the Lake cottage at Beverly Farms, will return to Washington tomorrow.

Mrs. Lindley M. Garrison, who is passing several weeks at the Springs, will return to town the end of this week for the season.

Mrs. Franklin K. Lane, wife of the Secretary of the Interior, accompanied by Mrs. Adolph Caspar Miller, went to New York yesterday afternoon to remain for several days.

Capt. Charles G. Mortimer, Third Field Artillery, who had been at Plattburgh, N. Y., returned to town the end of this week for the season.

The resignation of Capt. Walter M. Wilhelm, ordnance department of the army, has been accepted by the Secretary of War to be effective on November 1.

Bids for sixteen coast defense submarines and six destroyers will be opened at the Navy Department today.

Bids for sixteen coast defense submarines and six destroyers, the largest submarines ever designed, will be opened next month.

will probably have horsepower ranging from 150,000 to 200,000, as compared with 20,000 to 30,000 horsepower for the latest type of United States battleships.

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