

THE WASHINGTON HERALD

PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING BY The Washington Herald Company. 425-427-429 Eleventh Street. Phone Main 3300.

FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES: THE BECKWITH SPECIAL AGENCY. New York, World Building; Chicago, Tribune Building; St. Louis, Post-Dispatch Building; Detroit, Ford Building; Kansas City, Mo., Bryant Building; Atlanta, Ga., 65-67 Walton St.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES BY MAIL: Daily and Sunday, 60 cents per month; \$6.50 per year. Daily only, 50 cents per month; \$5.00 per year.

Entered at the postoffice at Washington, D. C., as second-class mail matter.

SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 1920.

Out of the Shipping Business.

The administration has done the wise and sensible thing in making preparations for retirement altogether from the shipping business, by cancelling its schedule of shipping rates and turning over the entire rate-making power to the corporations now operating the ships.

Precisely as it was desirable for the government to get out of the railroad business, so it is wise for it to retire from the shipping business. In a way, however, the latter retirement must be more gradual than the former.

Even at that private owners of the railroads are going to receive a certain amount of aid and co-operation from the government, and the next two years are expected to serve as a test of their ability ultimately to dispense with this aid altogether.

In the same way the government, even though it be its present purpose to rid itself of responsibility for details of operating the merchant fleet, must still stand behind the private owners with assistance, and to some degree with regulations, lest the vessels pass into foreign ownership and the United States find itself again, in some new moment of dire need, without the ships necessary for its activities on the ocean.

It is to be remembered that a scant fifteen months has passed since the armistice opened the way for this fleet to be employed on other than strictly governmental business, and furthermore that the greater number of the ships have been in commission for even a briefer period.

Our present merchant fleet was built under conditions that necessarily made its price per ton much higher than that of ships built in foreign yards. If freight rates on American ships must be based on this higher overhead charge our shipowners will be beaten in competition for cargoes.

For the moment the government has probably done all that it can do by turning over the control of rates to the private shipping corporations. But the work thus begun should not be checked until a program for private ownership—and American ownership—of our merchant fleet shall have been formulated.

The Seepage of the Expert.

Secretary Meredith of the Department of Agriculture is not a devotee of abstraction. When he wants to make a point in an argument he makes it very concrete, up-to-date, personal if you please. Having been an editor and an advertising expert his job is to persuade with the goods, not with theories about them.

Addressing the Merchants and Manufacturers' Association of New York City recently, he told the diners present at his banquet that the labor turnover in the department during the past year has been 50 per cent. That nail sank in without hammering it into the heads of his audience. "But, why so large a percentage?" His reply in substance was that since business men acting as citizens would not vote adequate salaries for the department's trained workers and since at the same time, as ambitious business men, they would persist in "stealing" the workers away by offering them larger salaries, what could he do when men with salaries below the standard of living had offers of positions paying twice, three and quadruple what the government offered. Let he be thought a doctrinaire liar he cited specific cases.

Of course, the Secretary did not fail to pay tribute to the department employe who resists temptations of the kind, and prefers to work for the nation at a scrimping rate of living. No one can say too much for their peace-patriotism. But, the fact of that 50 per cent turnover in one year still remains. It faces Congress, and back of it the taxpayers. Refusal to settle the issue rightly is pennywise as well as mean.

It looked for a time as though Mr. Barnum's white elephant could never be matched as the superlative for unmarketable products, but consider the New Jersey man who left an estate of \$100,000 in wet goods.

Hurry up those census figures for Philadelphia. With the Brotherly Love city all swelled up because appendicitis operations are cheaper there than elsewhere, it appears she is hard put for something to boast about.

Under the law, says Lansing, Michigan, Mr. Bryan cannot quit the race and no mad rush is noted to test the constitutionality of the statute.

Unless the debate in the Senate ends soon the orators may find their audiences moved out to Georgia avenue for the American league fight.

Married men concede something to the Sultan for managing women, but at managing Turkey he has been a glorious failure.

Billy Sunday's idea of a first-class Presidential Cabinet is the best evidence that the evangelist cares nothing about politics.

As if the long suffering public was not trimmed enough, the larvae are now discussing the advisability of a \$1 haircut.

It looks very much as though Mr. Clark is willing to try the California climate on his houn' dog.

A 200 per cent landlord is as poor material for a 100 per cent American as the reddest of radicals.

New York City

By O. O. McIntyre

New York, March 13.—When the Big Gloom settled over Manhattan Island with the advent of Mr. Volstead's amendment, there were those who declared, that never would they smile again. Life had lost its tang. Glead had lost its balm and earth indeed was a terrible place.

They went about with long faces, mournful eyes and lugubrious looks. For there is no denying the fact that prohibition hit New York an awful wallop. It came so suddenly that they couldn't believe it true until they saw the big cafes struggle awhile and give up the ghost.

They saw Broadway settle down to the 9 o'clock spirit of a 10 o'clock town. In the last two weeks the so-called wets have been smiling. They see the dawn of better days. They are beginning to moisten their lips and see visions of the old Rock Beach being built out along with the coming of the hand organ.

So many things have happened that it is fairly dazing the wets and they are frowning around in billions of joy. The reception given Governor Edwards, of New Jersey, at a recent public dinner here surpassed anything ever before seen in the way of public demonstrations.

There is great joy in certain circles over the investigation into the Anti-Saloon League. By the legislature and then, too, there is resentment over the head of the Anti-Saloon League attacking the church. A light wine and beer movement seems to be all that New Yorkers want.

The hotels and cafes are of course hoping for the best for their business has suffered enormously. As an innocent bystander in the movement to me that public sentiment is changing in New York. At first the interest in the dry regime was passive but there is being fostered a spirit of resentment not only among the rich and the middle class, but among the poor.

But misguided men, it is charged, are stirring up a church row. The laboring man is more and more resentful of the fact that he can't get a glass of beer when a man can afford to buy a bottle of liquor. He wants in New York from champagne on down to before-the-war bottled beer.

New York is, of course, different from the rest of the country on the subject of prohibition. It believes that it cannot get along as the theatrical, financial and shopping capital without a little stimulant. Of course, it can and will if it has to—but there is no doubt that the average citizen believes now they are going to put up a mighty hard old fight.

Spectators gathered opposite the Washington Building one day this week to enjoy the pranks the wind was playing on pedestrians turned their laughs to cheers when a boomerang hat performed a few antics.

The headpiece of a man walking south was carried straight up from his head until it was opposite the fourth story window. There it executed a gigantic circle and finally was blown squarely into his hair, where it remained for a few minutes.

Fifty shows are waiting to come into New York but they cannot get into theaters. The Shuberts have announced that they will build four theaters in a row in Forty-Eighth street. A large theater is announced for Columbus Circle and two more are being planned in the Thirties.

New York has just half enough theaters, according to the theatrical men, but they are banking on that to carry the wind in their sails. There is a tendency now to build larger theaters. The intimate or little theater was cozy, exclusive and all that sort of thing but they did not pay. The best paying theaters in town are the largest.

There is a theater on West Forty-second street that is one of the silverest in town, but every show there is a flop. The show is being known as a hoodoo. Psychologists say it is because all of the first floor seats are on the same level and people are tired of craning and twisting their necks that they get tired of the show. When they leave they knock it.

Spring is certainly here. John D. Rockefeller is having a new flock of iron dogs put out on his lawn at Pocantico Hills. Mr. Rockefeller is a great admirer of iron dogs. He will pay almost any price for one that pleases his fancy. But with the price of gasoline going up the way it is it will soon be easy for him to buy a new iron dog. Before he can long ago I can remember when gasoline was commonly used to clean clothes with. Now it is cheaper to buy new clothes.

No wonder a big crowd was following. I wedged in and when I got up front saw Miss Ethel Barrymore, Lionel Barrymore, John Drew and the rest of the Barrymore family walking down Broadway.

Woodmansten Inn, long a famous (sic) roadhouse, on the Boston Post road, just twenty minutes from New York, has closed its doors. In the good old days no evening was complete unless a trip was made out to Woodmansten for breakfast and dancing and apparently having a high old time. It is to be turned into a hot house. Perhaps it will raise forget-me-nots. The man who ran Woodmansten made a fortune in about five years. Before he closed he was not taking in \$5 a night.

Do you know that it is more blessed to give than to receive? Yes, many a girl forgives a man for a bad deed because of his present. Cartoons Magazine.

Notes by a Washington Observer

New British Ambassador Expected Soon

Chinese Mission Here Today—U. S. To Aid Polish Relief.

Mr. Auckland Geddes, the new British Ambassador, sends word that he expects to take up his duties in Washington about April 15. The somewhat dingy old embassy at Connecticut avenue and N streets is being made ready for tenacious by the extensive and vivacious Geddes family, which includes no fewer than five youngsters, four boys and a girl, all under twelve. A commensurate retinue of English governesses will accompany Lady Geddes to "the States."

The Chinese educational mission, which has been touring educational centers in the United States, arrives in Washington today. It will leave for Europe on April 3. The mission, a representative body of twelve modern Chinese, has just been in Boston. It is headed by Yuan, minister of education in two recent republican administrations in China. The members of the mission will be guests of the State Department while in Washington and will be shown all the sights of the Capital during the next two or three days.

The Department of State is now ready on behalf of American citizens to make welfare inquiries regarding relatives and friends in Poland without cost or by cable at the inquirers' expense. The department also announces that funds for Poland may be sent through the Joint relief committee, 20 Exchange place, New York City, or through food and clothing, which the United States government is informed is the most welcome form of relief in Poland, will be accepted for shipment either by the distribution committee or by the American Relief Administration, 42 Broadway, New York City. The Relief Administration will accept "food drafts" against staple commodities warehoused in Warsaw in denominations of \$10 and \$50.

Mrs. Ruth Bryan Owen, William Jennings Bryan's vivacious daughter, is spending the winter at the home of her parents, Villa Serena, at Miami Beach, Fla. Her husband, Capt. Reynold Owen, is the engineer corps of the British army. Capt. Owen has a brilliant record in war service in Turkey and Egypt.

Canada's ardor for diplomatic recognition of its own in the United States is said to have cooled in conversation with the American State Department.

Admiral Sims was the recipient of a spontaneous ovation at the Metropolitan opera house Friday evening. He and his staff sat in the stage box during the performance of the new Dillingham musical comedy, "The New Dictator." Frank Craven, the author of the play, dedicated himself from the podium into which his dictatorial adventures plunged him, instructs a wireless operator to "send for the admiral." "Why, there's only one admiral—Sims," is the reply. Whereupon the house stood up and applauded the admiral with a blushing like a schoolboy, arose and smilingly bowed to the admiral. He was not unimpressed by the demonstration. F. W. W.

On motion of Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts, the Senate unanimously consented to limit debate on the bill for the ratification of the League of Nations to fifteen minutes and debate on any new amendments that may be offered to five minutes of immigration.

Senator Sherman, of Illinois, ridiculed the present intensive campaign for army recruiting. He said that the present intensive campaign for army recruiting, which would duplicate the work of the army in removing American dead from France, was inserted in the Senate record.

Commerce Committee heard testimony from several witnesses on methods used by Great Britain to buy up and maintain her merchant marine.

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Investigation of the Federal Board for Vocational Education was continued before the Education Committee.

Senator Idaho, introduced a bill to add lands to the Lemhi national forest in Idaho.

Stephens, Ohio, introduced a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to sanction further inscriptions on monuments, tablets and memorials erected to deceased sailors and Marines.

Senator Idaho, introduced a bill to permit the survival of certain Indian wars, disturbances and uprisings from January 1, 1859, to January 1, 1891.

Evans, Montana, introduced a bill for the relief of certain tribes of Indians.

Igoe, Missouri, introduced a bill to create a Federal Postal Commission to replace the Postmaster General and his assistants.

Letter was received from the Secretary of the Treasury submitting supplemental estimate of \$250,000 required for printing in the Treasury Department during the fiscal year of 1921.

Appropriations Committee again took up the sundry civil bill in executive session.

District subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee again took up District estimates in executive session.

What Congress Did Yesterday

Senate.

Senator Reed, of Missouri, in a three-hour speech, declared that to enter the league of nations compact in any form would be treason to the American people.

Bill introduced by Senator Henderson, of Nevada, to exempt from taxation the income of any corporation engaged in the mining of gold and silver.

Amendment by Senator McKellar, of Tennessee, to the Army bill, provides that any officer now on the active list, who by July 1 of this year is 45 years of age, has served in the Spanish-American War, Philippine insurrection or Boxer campaign, and has now attained a grade higher than major, be retired with the pay of the highest grade he attained during the war against Germany.

Bill introduced by Senator Moses, of Hampshire, to regulate the importation of coal-tar products and protect their manufacture in the United States by a system of protective tariffs.

Agricultural appropriation bill, with numerous amendments was reported favorably by the Agriculture Committee, and will be taken up in the Senate tomorrow.

Letter from Secretary of War Baker protesting against organizations which would duplicate the work of the army in removing American dead from France, was inserted in the Senate record.

Herbert Hoover, former Food Administrator, testified before the Naval Affairs Subcommittee.

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Flood Control Committee held a hearing on several bills.

A DAILY LINE OF CHEER

By John Kendrick Bangs

FRUITFUL DAYS. Time holds no barren days, And they who prate of such, Have studied not their ways, Nor put them to the touch.

For every day holds fruit, And harvests rich in spoil, And profits fall to boot. For all who'll till the soil. (Copyright, 1920, The McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

In the Limelight

By George Ferry Morris

Dr. A. A. Stromberg, of the University of Minnesota, dean of its Scandinavian department, has his hands full now in helping students from Sweden, Denmark and Norway to holders of some of the twenty student fellowships established by the American-Scandinavian Foundation.

Harvard University has done the adequate thing by making Lieut. Arthur E. Barker, of the Chemical Warfare Service, and Grant's Meteorologist-Capt. Kimball Young in the "Forbidden Woman."

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Events of Today

Friends of Irish Freedom meeting, 601 E street northwest, 8 p. m.

American Central Committee for Russian Relief mass meeting, address by Princess Catherine, 1010 "Bolshoi" as I have known it, New Willard ballroom, 2:30 p. m.

Zimro Ensemble concert, Belasco Theater, 2:30 p. m.

Federal Employees' Union, Bureau of Engraving and Printing branch meeting, 1423 New York avenue, 3 p. m.

Y. M. C. A. address by Fred E. Smith, on "Have We Won the War?" at Liberty Hut, 4 p. m.

Sunshine Evangelists, revival services, Ninth Street Christian Church, 7:30 p. m.

"Navy night" at Roosevelt Church services, address by Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin D. Roosevelt, Wardman Park Hotel, 7:30 p. m.

Wanderlusters' hike to Rosslyn, Va., 2:15 p. m.

Mass meeting, Epiphany Parish House, 8 p. m.

Young Comrade Club, Y. M. H. A. building, Eleventh street and Pennsylvania ave. northwest, 2 p. m.

At the Theaters. Polco-Miml. Polco-Marie Dressler in "Tillie's Nightmare."

National-Chaucery O'leary in "Macusha." Loew's Palace—Charles Ray in "Alarm Clock."

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MEN AND BUSINESS

By RICHARD SPILLANE

There are between 6,000 and 7,000 foreigners in our universities. They are the pick of the young men of their countries, the sons of statesmen, financiers, manufacturers, persons of wealth, prominence and enterprise. These young men are the light and interest of America. They are the head of the nation.

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Folks and Things Around Washington

By LA BERT ST. CLAIR

Copy books, memory training school advertisements and house painters unite in telling the world that you cannot keep a god man down. The life story of Representative John Stanley Webster, of Spokane, Wash., fighter and foe of certain kinds of union labor, bears out the same contention.

Webster is a man who, before he was 25 years old, saw himself lauded in huge type across the front pages of the greatest newspapers of the country, and then, weary of prominence and exhausted, went half-way across the United States and into the deep woods to hide himself, only to be snatched up by the hand of fate and again placed in the national limelight.

At 22 Webster was elected prosecuting attorney of Harrison County, Ky. Shortly thereafter the Harjags feud broke out in Jackson, an adjoining county—Tom White, a young man, and James B. Markham—and because nobody in Jackson County cared to prosecute the Harjags tribe, the case went by a change of venue to Webster. Fearing not a second, Webster successfully prosecuted the case, and in a summing-up that was printed from one end of the country to the other scorched the Harjags as it were with the words of the law.

But on day, out in the great dark woods, little girl was assaulted. Then Webster was no longer able to curb his desire to see violators of the law brought to justice. In hickory shirt, coarse trousers and heavy shoes, he hurried into town and laid the case before the authorities. With a vigor it and, furthermore, when he let slip the fact that he was an attorney, he was made a special counsel in the case. Thenceforth it was a matter of steady advancement for Webster. In turn he became assistant prosecutor, Supreme Court judge and Congressman. During a period of time that it would require most men to

become candidates for aldermen in strange communities Webster not only won the respect of the supreme bench but was elected to the United States Senate. He was elected to the United States Senate. He was elected to the United States Senate.

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Naval Orders

By LA BERT ST. CLAIR

Lieut. Comdr. Paulus P. Powell—Det. command U. S. S. McKean; to com. f. o. U. S. S. McKean; to com. f. o. U. S. S. McKean.

Lieut. Frederick D. Powers—Det. U. S. S. McKean; to com. f. o. U. S. S. McKean; to com. f. o. U. S. S. McKean.

Lieut. Powell M. Rhea—Det. U. S. S. McKean; to com. f. o. U. S. S. McKean; to com. f. o. U. S. S. McKean.

Lieut. Karl Rungquist—Det. command U. S. S. McKean; to com. f. o. U. S. S. McKean; to com. f. o. U. S. S. McKean.

Lieut. Comdr. Chapman C. Todd—Det. U. S. S. McKean; to com. f. o. U. S. S. McKean; to com. f. o. U. S. S. McKean.

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TRACTION WORKERS NEAR AGREEMENT

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