

DEPEW, 88, LIKES WAY OF THE OLD WORLD WAGS

Another Birthday Finds Famous Man With Vision Clear, Going Strong.

THINKS WORST IS OVER

Farm Bloc Foe of Prosperity—Beers and Wines to Return—Old Age Easy.

BONUS IS INSANE TALK

Lloyd George Ablest Man in World—New Conference to Remap Europe.

America's indomitable optimist, Chauncey M. Depew, sat yesterday at the desk of the chairman of the board of the New York Central Railroad, reviewing, in the intervals of an ordinary business day, the felicitation of the civilized world over the oncoming of his eighty-eighth birthday, which is today. Once again, as he greeted friends, it was his undimmed, unconquerable conviction of more good than had in human nature that flowed from his ready conversation.

He spoke, this extraordinary man, of many men and many things as his mind looked backward over the great sweep of years—of his youthful struggle "to get ahead"; of his association with the Vanderbilts and, with the old Commodore, especially; of Lincoln, whom he knew well; of how narrowly (and luckily too) he missed becoming one of the great plutocrats of the times; of personages of Europe with whom he had talked sense and nonsense; of rules of health and how long life can be had if we are willing to pay a price in self-denial. But, mainly, his mind turned to the future rather than the past—to what the world, and especially that part of the world he loves best—is coming to after all the welter of war and the bleak aftermath.

Not in years has Mr. Depew presented more vigorous aspect. He was as fresh as a daisy after speaking for half an hour, and staying up late at the Pilgrim's dinner. Within little more than a decade of the century he surely expects to round out, there is color in his cheeks and the brilliancy of mental vigor in his eye. His step is firm. There is no slumping of aged shoulders as he sits back in his chair or rises to survey from the window the railroad stronghold over which he still presides as president emeritus.

Improves as Years Pass.

Mr. Depew's voice is strong and constant of tone—no quavering there. His health seems, indeed, to improve as the years go by, and the speculator who would lay odds against the consummation of a singular dream that Mr. Depew had only a few nights ago could be a bold gambler. It was a curious dream. The old war horse of the Republican Party, who has been among the makers of every Republican nominee for President since 1856, and who, with a forty minute speech, saw himself once more upon a Republican national convention platform, holding 1,000 persons under the spell of graceful speech. The year seemed to be 1922, ten years from now, when Mr. Depew would be 88, and the old, familiar dream of the greatest of political performances sounded in his ears and flashed before his kindling eye. As surely as he looks forward to tomorrow's sun, he expects to make great speech.

"The good old world is on the up grade again," he said. "I believe that the worst has passed for Europe and for ourselves. So far as peace and better human understanding are concerned, the Washington conference was the turning point. It was the greatest single event I have ever known in all my life. I say that deliberately. Besides insuring peace for ten years, anyway, in the only quarter of the world where war really threatened us, besides overhauling the widely extraneous naval estimates put through by the pacific administration and stopping the ruinously costly naval competition, besides ending the unprofitable British-Japanese alliance, it accomplished, for the first time, a tremendous factor for human progress. It created a world opinion. Before the conference came about I felt more uneasy for civilization than I ever felt before. Now I am more cheerful about the outlook than I have been for several years.

Should Be at Genoa.

"I think great good will come out of the Genoa Conference, to which, in my judgment, this country should have been invited. We cannot evade our world responsibilities. We cannot escape the unescapable. Here is an instance: Because of the collapse in money prices nearly everywhere abroad except in England, our farmers have been hard hit. They could not sell their crops for decent prices, because the European market had shut up. Therefore, the farm bloc was formed in Congress and that farm bloc has done more, it seems to me, to interfere with the President's plans and with the restoration of prosperity than any other element. There is an instance of our national dependencies in foreign events. Having wanted to cut down the income tax on men who were making great incomes. These men have been the originators of industry and business. The farm bloc would not permit the cut. Therefore money that should have gone into business and into the development of a multitude of new enterprises is locked in land and in non-taxable securities. What is the result? Unemployment. We are coming out of it, but we need not have suffered it in anything like the severity.

"I believe Genoa will succeed because the ablest man in the world is at the helm. I refer to Lloyd George. I do not believe I have ever known a statesman as astute as this Welshman. He seems to have the faculty of diagnosing far ahead the plans of his opponents and to have the constructive ability to form plans of his own in ample time to meet the opposition. I believe he will steer the conference past the rocks of the Russian crisis, and that there will be a European understanding for the first years. I will not be enough. I am convinced there must be another conference to remap Europe and

Chauncey Depew and His Birthday Cake



TO-DAY is the eighty-eighth—count the candles—birthday anniversary of Mr. Depew. He is still active in business life and reviews the past and peers into the future with the rare optimism that has made him famous.

undo the frightful harm that was done by the spoliators who met at Versailles to divide the loot. Until that right is had war is sure to threaten in a dozen places and bitterness will dwell in the hearts of the despoiled. "The big thing for us here at home to realize and get down to is economy and production. We have been spending too much as a nation and as individuals and we haven't been producing enough. Taxes that are breaking the backs of business men and ordinary citizens must come down on the run and no project calculated to add to the burden rather than to decrease it should be tolerated for an hour.

"When they talk of a bonus for perfectly able bodied young men, a bonus which would add perhaps five billions to our debt and keep us mortgaged to the taxgatherer for year and years, they are talking insanely. But I feel certain that the President will never consent. He will find a way either to sidetrack or to kill that project—one that would have made the young men who fought on either side in the civil war blush with shame, and God knows many of them need money, especially the Southern boys.

"Speaking of the President, I hope and feel the time has come for him to exert his leadership. He has seemed temperamentally averse to cracking the whip and to prefer to guide by gentle suggestion rather than by dictation. But the fact is the country has little or no confidence in Congress, and the people look more and more to the President to force, if necessary, the reforms and alleviations they want."

Mr. Depew does not believe that the present prohibition law can be made to work as it now stands, and he predicts that an amelioration of it will be brought about. "Looking at the law as I have studied many other repressive acts and the consequent public reaction, it is apparent to me that a change is forming in public opinion. The corruption and hypocrisy, the enrichment of criminals, the annoyances and actual deprivation caused to decent, temperate and law abiding citizens are all working for a change in the act which will make it reasonably just and workable. The saloon is gone for good and distilled liquor will never come back in quantity, but I should not be surprised to see, some little time ahead, wines and beers. Nor do I see any reason why this should not be so."

Kindly Eye for Flapper.

Upon the flapper, as upon a thousand topics of large or small importance, Mr. Depew looks with kindly eye. She is no menace—far from it. He thinks her amusing and deserving of commendation inasmuch as most of her are working girls out earning their own bread and butter and not existing as parasites. "Lord bless me," he said, "they've had the younger generation headed straight for home a dozen times in my recollection, but the younger generation comes out all right every time. There are flappers in every age, however they may be called—restless youth, turning to the fashions of dress and the fashions of amusement that happen to fit the times."

Thousands of people write to Mr. Depew every year to ask him how he manages to keep so well and so active at his time of life. He is too wise to lay down specifications for individuals, but he has a few general rules which have worked beautifully in application to his own particular physical machinery. He says the best thing is to keep a wary eye out for defects, then go to a first rate doctor and honestly follow his advice.

Another thing is to cut out absolutely any food or activity that is harmful. He used to like red meat. It gave him rheumatism. He stopped eating red meat twenty-five years ago and he hasn't had a twinge of rheumatism since. He liked to smoke years back as well as the next man, but smoking made him nervous and often sleepless. He quit it thirty years ago and sleeps like a baby.

If Antique He Is Not Fragile.

"Some people call me an antique, a real genuine antique," he laughed. "Maybe I am, but contrary to even Mr. Depew's opinion, all antiques are not fragile, and I belong in that class." Too much money is apt to shorten the life of the possessor, he believes, because great wealth brings with it an accumulation of worries and responsibilities that few men are able to evade, and these worries and responsibilities are the way to the grave. "I am alive to-day," he said, "because fate balked me out of a vast fortune. In 1878 Gardner Hubbard came to me and said that a son-in-law of his, Prof. Bell, had invented a 'talking telegraph' and needed \$10,000 to get it started. I was impressed and ready to go into the matter, but I went to William Orton, head of the Western Union Telegraph Company, and Orton pooh-poohed the whole business. He said,

CLUB SCRAP LEADS TWO ELKS TO COURT

Lantry Says Colgan Knocked Him Down on Brooklyn Old Timers' Night.

That an "Old Timers' Night," celebrated on Wednesday evening in the clubhouse of the Brooklyn Lodge of Elks, 150 South Oxford street, wound up in a battle was learned yesterday, when George A. Colgan, Sr., was arraigned in the Flatbush police court, charged with assault in the third degree. Mr. Colgan lives at 324 Jay street, he is 52 years of age, and is superintendent of Public Markets in Brooklyn. He is a trustee of Lodge 25, where the row took place. According to the complaint of John F. Lantry, a past exalted ruler, about the same age, who lives at 396 Third street, Colgan struck him on the jaw with such force that he was thrown to the floor, striking on his shoulder. Colgan was represented in court by Abraham Kesselman, who asked that the case be adjourned until May 3. Magistrate James V. Short granted the request and paroled Mr. Colgan in Mr. Kesselman's custody until that time. Neither principal would make a statement.

Although every effort was made by members of the organization to keep the affair quiet and to prevail upon Mr. Lantry to keep it out of the police court, he was determined to take action and he threatens to bring suit for damages in the Supreme Court. It was learned yesterday that the alleged assault took place about 2 o'clock in the morning and that many members prominent in the political and business life of the borough witnessed the affair. It occurred in the main dining room of the club, according to several members, and the blow was preceded by an oral passage at arms. It has been known that there has been considerable feeling between the two since the last election of the club, when Colgan was successful in a campaign for trustee against Representative John J. Delaney, who was supported by Lantry.

HULBERT WILL NOT RESIGN.

Law Practice Just Adjunct to His Aldermanic Presidency. Murray Hulbert, President of the Board of Aldermen, said yesterday on his return from Watkins Glen that the fact he was about to resume the practice of law did not mean, as interpreted in some quarters, that he would resign his public office. Since the beginning of the war, when he was in Congress, he has done little law business. He now feels that it is necessary to supplement his salary of \$7,500 as President of the Board of Aldermen.

GOMPERS ADMITS UNION LABOR EVILS

Continued from First Page. The necessity for a fixed labor scale as a factor in the relief of the housing situation and a stimulant to building. He did not regard it as a necessary basis upon which contractors should figure their estimates. "There should be approximate stability, but not fixed wages," he explained, and clung to his contention that labor at all times should be free to accept anything that employers offered. Mr. Gompers admitted, however, that generally speaking, unions should use their influence to have their members stand by and live up to agreements, but he was emphatic in his protest against any suggestion of legislative action that would give the courts authority to compel such adherence. "Then you admit there is a wrong, but you are not ready to concede the remedy?" Mr. Untermeyer asked. "Not by the State," was the reply. Mr. Gompers approved State regulation of associations of employers, but was brought up abruptly when he suggested association of contractors. Mr. Untermeyer asked: "Don't you know that there is none?" Mr. Gompers was of the opinion that the contractors were organized presumably to exploit labor. Mr. Untermeyer replied: "Let me inform you that this committee has searched for eighteen months for an association of contractors and has been unable to find one. There is none."

Mr. Gompers was not willing to admit that the bricklayers' union in New York was guilty of unlawful practices even when he was confronted with the consent decree to abandon such practices. He was asked: "You think if a man pleads guilty that does not establish his guilt?" "No sir, there are many men who have been forced into pleading guilty when they were innocent." Mr. Untermeyer then recited the practices to which the bricklayers pleaded guilty and asked Mr. Gompers if he approved of them. "The labor man condemned practically all. He said he did not believe testimony that traveltine marble work at the Ambassador Hotel had been torn out and done over at the expense of the owner because the color and blend did not suit the delegate of the union, although satisfactory to the owner and architect. The abuses to which Mr. Gompers's attention was called included the firing of employees by unions, union regulations regarding helpers, the destruction of molds and models for plaster work, although paid for by the owner; regulations forbidding subcontracts, punishing a union member for making an affidavit in a suit against a contractor and punishing Italians for working on St. Patrick's Day."

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"You can't put the American workman into a legal straitjacket," Mr. Gompers began, but was interrupted. "That is a figure of speech," said Mr. Untermeyer. "I am not more anxious to put them into a straitjacket than you are. I am anxious to see that these palpable abuses are abated, so that organized labor will be stronger."

"What sort of regulations would you suggest we make?" "I would recommend patience. All these abuses have their origin in the corruption, tyranny and bribery of the builders and contractors."

ANOTHER CAMP DRIVE WEEK. William F. Deegan, State Commander of the American Legion, yesterday said that the drive for funds with which to purchase a mountain camp for disabled veterans of the world war would be continued for another week. The camp will be used to care for tubercular and other sick former service men who cannot prove that their illness resulted from army or navy service.

Lord & Taylor FIFTH AVENUE. 3 Days Gone—4 Days Left in The 7-Day Furniture Sale. JUST 4 days remain in which to take advantage of these wonderful prices on suites and separate pieces. This being such a brief Sale, we were able to reduce prices considerably below regular prices. They go back up next Friday. The Suite Illustrated Was Made in Our Workroom—\$550. 3-piece blue figured suite \$510. 3-piece combination of tapestry and taupe mohair 800. 3-piece combination of tapestry and taupe mohair 550. 10-piece Jacobean walnut dining room suite 575. 10-piece oak Jacobean dining room suite 425. 6-piece Hepplewhite dining suite in mahogany or two tone ivory 350. 6-piece early American, walnut decorated bedroom suite \$475.00. Solid Mahogany Martha Washington sewing table 22.50. Mahogany drop leaf tea wagon 28.00. Solid mahogany Priscilla sewing table 9.00. Windsor bow back braced side chair mahogany wood seat 15.00. Mahogany gateleg table, 34 x 42 35.00. SIXTH FLOOR.

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Furniture of Cane, Willow and Rattan. Easy chairs—that are not merely bulky but really easy. Lounge chairs, Settees, Tables, Stools, Plant Stands—and a dozen other kinds of furniture smartly designed; stained or enamelled or decorated in colors appropriate to their surroundings. Convenient little bridge chairs—light and easy to handle, yet strong and comfortable. While all of the Summer and out-of-door furniture is extremely reasonable in price, it is made to last. It doesn't squeak, or split and catch in frocks or coats; it doesn't "sway." Fine sturdy upstanding out-door furniture all of it; and yet again light. Settees from \$48.75 to \$128.25. Chaise Lounges from \$33.25 to \$92. Tables from \$14.75 to \$78. Chairs from \$10 to \$84. Floor and Desk Lamps from \$15.75 to \$50.75. Desks from \$42 to \$78. W. & J. SLOANE FIFTH AVENUE AND 47th STREET, NEW YORK CITY. Free delivery to all shipping points in the U. S. STORE HOURS: 9:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M.