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NORTH SEA BATTLE

BRITISH NEWSPAPERS, commenting on the great naval battle in the North Sea, divide into two classes, one of which frankly admits a German victory, while the other group minimize the British losses or claim that the Germans have sustained losses almost as great. The entire press, however, has agreed that the British admirals are handicapped by lack of air scouts.

Says the Daily News, "The world is perfectly aware that British admirals work under a tremendous handicap because they do not know the movements and disposition of the enemy, while he knows theirs. Our safety at sea may be well bound up with the solution of the air problem."

The optimistic portion of the British press gives Admiral Beatty credit for valorous action in seeking to cut off and delay the enemy fleet until the British battle line could arrive. But if the Germans knew the disposition of the British forces, and the British did not know where the Germans were, Admiral Beatty's valor was in vain. The Germans were operating on sure knowledge and had a sure thing. Their Zeppelins brought them notice of the location of Admiral Jellicoe's fleet, and news of the isolation of Admiral Beatty's squadron. The German commanders with the known margin of time before the British grand fleet could arrive, were able to dispose of Beatty's squadron almost at their leisure, and retire to the seclusion of their harbors behind the Kiel canal. The defect in the British intelligence service is most serious. It must be remedied, or British admirals will be as men groping in the dark to find an opponent who sees clearly. Zeppelins apparently had no part in the battle except as purveyors of intelligence. It is by no means certain that this will remain the sole function of the air navy. If Germany ever decides to make an attempt against the British grand fleet, her powerful airships may probably hover over the scene of battle in force, dropping explosives as occasion permits.

GIVE MR. HILL CREDIT

MR. HILL shows more adaptability to changing conditions than Senator McLean, though the latter is the younger man. Senator McLean has never come nearer to the present portion of the twentieth century than he did in his declaration that "foreign goods are more to be feared than foreign guns." Mr. Hill until very recently also had the notion that the tariff was the issue, but now he knows better. Twelve inch guns are the issue. Mr. Hill wants plenty of them. He is going to use them for letter carriers. He proposes to deliver European mail at the muzzles of them. Unfortunately Mr. Hill's new scheme for parcels post and general mail service has not been worked out in detail. Whether he will shoot in a letter at a time or a whole bagful is not determined.

Mr. Hill has had experience in aiding the postal service, and is fertile in expedient.

Being much in need of funds for election expenses in his last campaign, Mr. Hill wrote an appeal pathetic enough to extract cash from a Bessemer steel rail. Not desiring to trust so much hope to the mails, he delivered his appeal in person into the hands of James A. Farrell, President of the Steel Trust, who was stony hearted.

Mr. Hill will soon be running again, this time he can mail his appeal to Mr. Farrell at the muzzle of a twelve inch gun. If that doesn't bring results the case is hopeless.

There is one issue which is quite up-to-date in Mr. Hill's district and that is the ten thousand dollars in campaign funds that was collected and expended for his election last fall. A little later Mr. Hill may be willing to talk about that issue.

APATHY OF BUSINESS MEN

ARTHUR M. MARSH is right when he speaks of the "apathy of business men" as a primary reason for much of the extravagance and waste which characterizes the conduct of the municipal business.

Business men, as the most influential class in the community, cut a substantial figure in municipal affairs when they are interested, and their failure to be interested has negative results in an equal degree.

But the apathy of the entire community, except the tiny class who live by politics, is also a cause. The class of men who own their own homes, and the great class who pay rents are powerful enough to keep the city in the straight and narrow path if they but had the will, and would translate it into action.

Mr. Marsh directs attention to the fate of the Nolan planning program, for which the city has paid a considerable sum. The suggestions of Peter White, also which cost Bridgeport about \$20,000, have mostly gone into the waste basket.

The only suggestion which has prospered is the Warrenite suggestion, which, passing far beyond the state of mere suggestion, exerts hypnotic power on the city government, and apparently a soporific effect upon citizens of all kinds, adding to apathy something almost amounting to anesthesia of the sense of civic duty.

HOLDING UP TRAFFIC

APRIL HAS gone and pleasant May, and June is well begun. The Warrenite pavement on the Boston Post Road has been torn up for months, and is still a terrible mess. Detour after detour over abominable country roads is foisted upon traffic, while repairs are made on an expensive pavement which has been down only three winters. Bridgeport is going to continue this scandalous waste of money for pavements not adapted to the service imposed upon them. The owners of Warrenite advertise it and sell it as a country road surface. They are human and can scarcely be blamed because there are urban rubes and come-ons who insist upon laying it in busy city streets.

JUDGE ROGERS FOR GOVERNOR

AMONG THOSE mentioned as possible choice in the Democratic State convention is Judge Wade Rogers, formerly Dean of Yale Law school. Judge Rogers would be an acceptable

and a popular candidate. He enjoys the confidence and the friendship of all classes of citizens. He is a speaker of force and ability, and a man of progress and ideals.

A KINSMAN OF WASHINGTON

One of the proudest boasts of the Shirley family of England, which is headed by the eleventh Earl Ferrers, is the relationship between their clan and the Washingtons of Sulgrave Manor, the family which gave to America the father and first President of the United States. The Shirleys trace their descent to the time of Edward the Confessor, and Sir Thomas Shirley was a distinguished soldier in the fourteenth century, while his son was killed at Shrewsbury and his grandson was a commander at Agincourt. The grandfather of the first Earl Ferrers married the daughter of the celebrated Earl of Essex, and the first Earl married Elizabeth Washington, the daughter of Lawrence Washington and the niece of Robert Washington, the Lord of Sulgrave Manor and the ancestor of George Washington in the direct male line. The present Earl Ferrers was born 62 years ago today, June 5, 1844, the son of a clergyman, and inherited the title and estates from his cousin a few years ago. He was prominent as an architect long before he gained his title. While the Earl has many ancestors of which he may well feel proud, there was also one who distinguished himself chiefly by being hanged on a gallows fitted with a drop, being the person in England so executed. This unfortunate individual was the fourth Earl Ferrers, who was tried and convicted by his peers of the murder of one of his servants. The Earl admitted his guilt, declaring that he had committed the crime while in a fit of ungovernable rage, and the House of Lords decreed that he be expelled from that body by hanging. Being a peer he had the privilege of being hanged with a silken rope—a privilege which Sir Roger Casement recently demanded. He was also permitted to drive to Tyburn, the place of execution in West London, in his own coach. The first use of the drop was not highly successful, for the toes of the Earl touched the ground, and he slowly strangled to death. A remarkable circumstance connected with the case was that the Earl testified against him at his trial, and for this he cursed her long and loud, and called upon God to roast her to death, in order that her passing might be more painful than his. The woman married again and lived to a ripe old age, but in due time the curse was fulfilled, for she was burned to death in her bed.

ALBANIA

Albania, a bone of contention between the warring states, has been reduced to a condition of abject misery since the beginning of the war. After centuries of almost continuous insurrection against their hated Turkish masters, the Albanians have now become embroiled in the quarrels of other nations, and a large proportion of the million and a half people have been brought to the verge of starvation through a mountainous country without any great natural resources. Albania has tremendous importance because of its situation at the eastern end of the Adriatic. When the war broke out, the Allies of the Allies it was with the condition that she should have Albania as her own, thus giving her the control of the Adriatic. Serbia has long cherished the design of gaining "a window on the sea" in Albania, and Montenegro and Greece also covet the land. Albania is vital to the Austrian plans for aggrandizement, and for a time the Dual Monarchy seemed to have the vision in the long struggle. At the end of the Balkan wars Serbia and Montenegro were driven out of the Albanian territory they had conquered by force of arms, and Albania was made a kingdom with a German prince on the throne, and although nominally independent, was in reality a vassal of the Vienna government. Since then the dominant figure in Albania has been Essad Pasha, a former officer of the Turkish army, who was elected to the leadership in the Albanian provisional government as the ally of Italy, and declared war on Austria and Bulgaria. The inhabitants of Albania, although illiterate, are highly intelligent and are the oldest people in the Balkans.

LIBERIA

The first president of the American Colonization Society, which founded the Republic of Liberia on the west coast of Africa, was Bushrod Washington, who was born in Virginia 154 years ago today, June 5, 1762, and who was a nephew of George Washington. He served as a private soldier in the revolution and afterwards was elevated to the United States Supreme Court. While himself an owner of many slaves, he was deeply interested in the movement for restoring the Africans in America to their native continent. He was one of the pioneers in the organization of the American Colonization Society, which was launched just a century ago, in the latter part of 1816. Henry Clay, John Randolph and other men of prominence were also prominent in the movement. In 1820 the society sent 89 negroes back to Africa in a government vessel, and in that year a constitution for the colony, which was named Liberia, was adopted. The colony continued to be in charge of agents and governors appointed by the society until 1847, when its rights were voluntarily surrendered, and the independence of Liberia was proclaimed and was recognized by the United States, Great Britain and France.

Danish National Holiday

Denmark will celebrate its national holiday today, the fifth of June commemorating the adoption of the constitution by King Frederik VII. and the Diet in 1849. By this charter it was decreed that the executive power is in the king alone, the legislative in the king and parliament jointly. The person of the king was declared to be inviolable, but he was to rule through a responsible ministry. The Diet was to consist of an upper house, called the Landsthing, and a lower house, known as the Folkething. The upper chamber of the Rigsdag was appointed partly by the sovereign and partly by restricted ballot, while the members of the lower chamber were elected by general suffrage.

Denmark—as it is spelled by the Danes—has made rapid progress toward complete democracy since the adoption of the constitution of 1849, and the monarch's powers have been gradually restricted until now King Christian X. is only a figurehead. A year ago the Danish parliament celebrated the nation's great patriotic festival by unanimously passing a new constitution which conferred full suffrage upon the fair sex. In that respect Denmark is now more democratic than any other important nation of Europe, with the exception of her neighbor, Norway.

King Christian X., who has sat upon the Danish throne a little more than four years, probably has less real power than any other living monarch. The Danish Parliament now rules the country without bothering to consult the monarch, and makes and unmakes at will the ministries which are supposed to represent the King. The socialists and democratic radicals control the assembly and men who were formerly day laborers here in the past few years wielded far greater power than the monarch. By order of the Diet the cabinet members have been deprived of their uniforms, and they are no longer addressed as "Your Excellency," the form now being simply "Mr. Minister". The aristocracy has had to go away back and sit down, and the highest offices in the government are open to the humblest commoners if they have the ability to fill them.

The first great blow to royal pretensions in Denmark was struck in 1901, when Christian IX., father-in-law of the Czar of Russia and the King of England, occupied the throne. Although personally very popular, his attempt in that year to become the real executive of Denmark was promptly answered by his subjects, who elected 132 liberals, socialists and radicals to the parliament, leaving only eight royalists to support the monarch. In parades and demonstrations following this victory of the people at the polls, the King was openly warned that any further attempt to play the historic role would result in the complete overthrow of the monarchy. Realizing that his subjects meant business, and having been given a striking illustration of their power and spirit, the King subsided, and his successors have since done nothing without humbly saying, "By your leave."

The Danes, royalists, socialists and liberals alike, are almost unanimously sympathetic with the cause of the Allies. They have never forgotten Prussia and Austria for the loss of Schleswig and Holstein, which were torn from Denmark in 1864 and incorporated with the German dominions. Hatreds of the Prussians is almost a religion with the Danes, and if the Central Powers are thoroughly defeated there will be great rejoicing in Copenhagen. Many Danes favor participation in any further attempt that Denmark may be in a position to demand the return of her lost provinces.

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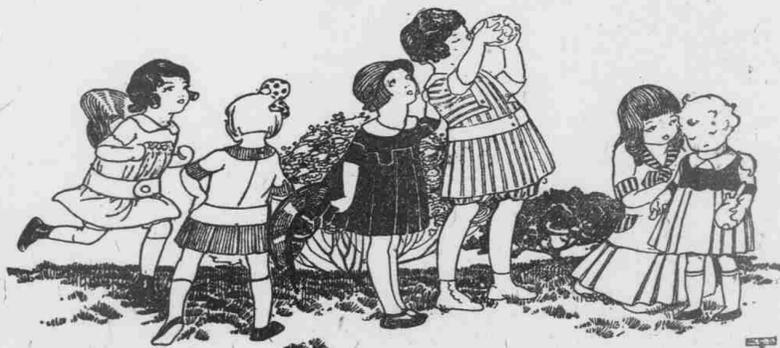
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