

**THE BROAD AX**

Published Every Saturday

In this city since July 15th, 1899, without missing one day's issue. Republicans, Democrats, Catholics, Protestants, Single Taxers, Priests, infidels or anyone else can have their say so long as their language is proper and responsibility is fixed.

The Broad Ax is a newspaper whose platform is broad enough for all, ever claiming the editorial right to speak its own mind.

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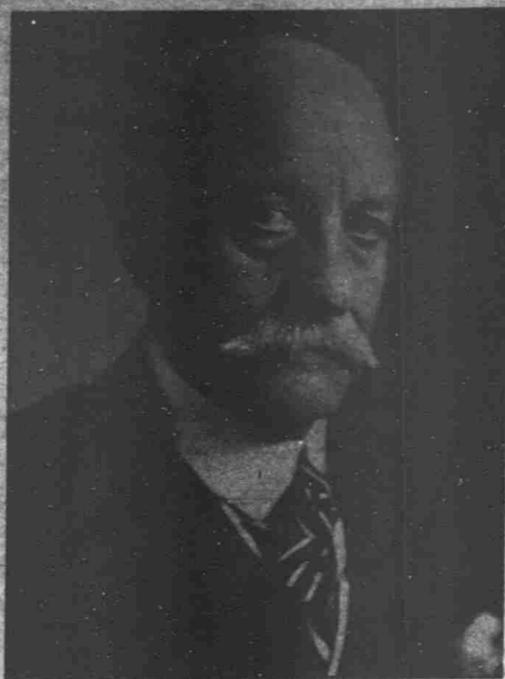
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**THE GILES CHARITY CLUB AND OTHER NOTES.**

The Giles Charity Club has again shown its charitable spirit by assisting the Advisory Board of Provident Hospital. The occasion was a splendid program given by the small children of the class of Prof. S. I. Lee of the Coleridge Taylor Music School in the blue triangle room of the Y. W. C. A., for the benefit of the Baby Ward of Provident Hospital, and saying it was a huge success, is putting it very mildly indeed. The house was filled to overflowing and the program was excellent. Those who appeared were Master Zinker Cohn, Oscar Gilliam, Casino Simpson, Lillian McClain, Gladys Smith and Carroll Chilton. Miss Carol McCoy, a pupil of Mrs. Fannie Hall Clint, gave a reading, showing splendid training. Miss Miller, the sweet singer of the Giles Charity Club, sang, accompanied by Miss Stella Bonds, also of the Coleridge Taylor faculty. Madam Carter, president of the Giles Charity Club, presided with her usual grace. Her women never fail to go beyond the mark she sets for them which proves their love and confidence in her ability to direct them. She hoped to raise not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for the babies but at this writing one hundred and sixty-four dollars (\$164.00) has been turned in to the superintendent, with all the tickets not in. We hope to get them all in by the next issue. We thank the loyal friends who helped in this grand work of charity and are quite sure that they feel they have done something worth while.

The Giles Charity Club is assisting Mrs. Lowe who is one of the Captains of the Y. W. C. A. drive to raise her quota. Their amount given last Tuesday evening was seventy-five (\$75.00) dollars, leaving just twenty-five (\$25.00) more to be raised, but as we always do nothing by halves. She will have the one hundred dollars (\$100.00) pledged and over. Giles Charity Club is what its name implies. We give because it is a pleasure to help others knowing that in helping others we help ourselves.

The salesmen and women of the south side branch of the Co-operative Society of America held their monthly banquet at the Y. M. C. A. last Wednesday night. It was indeed a pleasant affair and enjoyed by all present. Mr. Zimm, general manager of the entire organization, was present, also Mr. Fitzgerald of the South Park division. Both spoke of the pleasure it gave them to meet so many intelligent young men and women who were really doing work for the race and community by being members of this, the largest and best organization in America. It is helping to knock the high cost of living and making it quite interesting to the grafters; we are making up and learning to take a hold of the good things in life. Birds of a feather will flock together. Let us not forget that intelligent people look for the same as associates. We are tired of associating with the "boobies" so have joined the club of "Boobies." Come and go with us we will do you good.—N. L.



**HON. FERDINAND W. PECK.**

Chicago's oldest native born citizen, who is always in the front ranks in every movement for the benefit and the advancement of its citizens, was appointed Mayor of Chicago last Friday evening by Hon. William Hale Thompson, and he served in that distinguished capacity for twenty-four hours.

**HON. FERDINAND W. PECK, MAYOR FOR DAY, TELLS CITY'S LID.**

Who to himself is law, no law doth need,  
Offends no law, and is a King indeed.

Commodore Ferdinand Peck, Chicago's oldest native citizen, was mayor for twenty-four hours ending at 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon.

When Mr. Peck locked the mayor's office Saturday afternoon he had satisfied a life-long ambition. His reign, though short, was very, very sweet. When Mayor Thompson left town he told Chief of Police Garrity:

"Chief, you're taking orders from Mayor Peck today and tomorrow. Get me!"

Instructions to Garrity.  
At 4:01 Friday afternoon Chief Garrity was summoned to the mayor's office, and Mayor Peck said:

"Now, chief, this vice reform stuff may be all right. But not while I'm mayor, savvy?"

"I'm pretty broad in my views, chief, I don't believe in prohibition at all."

"Of course, we've got laws. But all of us have to be a little liberal, sometimes. Depends on how you define the word 'vice.' I think it's overdone a little."

"The constitution is being defied. Personal liberty is being buried in a mass of severe laws. You get what I'm driving at? Ease up, looser up, go slow, see? Got any opinions?"

"Nope, I'm taking orders," smiled

Chief Garrity.  
"Well, now you've got 'em," replied the "mayor."

Regulations for Clubs.  
When the chief had departed, Mayor Peck telephoned two of Chicago's leading clubs and asked:

"Anybody drinking highballs there? Why not? This is the mayor's office. I've got 5,000 coppers and a lot of patrol wagons that aren't doing a thing."

"Maybe you can't use the coppers, but if I thought there was a highball there, I'd be glad to loan you a couple of patrols to ride around in."

"Only two vehicles a mortal car ride in free. One is a hearse, the other is a patrol, and I'd like to fix up any of my friends that might want to take the air in the official blue wagon."

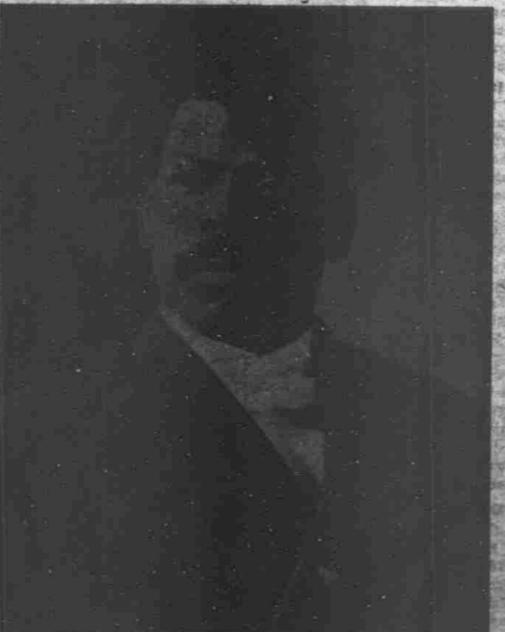
The driver is not allowed to accept tips.  
The clubmen declined the use of the blue chariot with liveried drivers. Mayor Peck made a tour of the City Hall departments and found that everything was in order.

Quits "Tough Job."  
As he was leaving the building after a strenuous day, he sighed:

"Though job. I wouldn't want it permanently for anything. Alongside of this mess of responsibilities the Governor of New York and the Secretary of State are reposing in a bed of roses."

"But I had a lot of fun with Chief Garrity and his 5,000 coppers."

Commodore Peck left Tuesday for New York, where he will campaign in the interests of General Wood.



**BISHOP W. SAMPSON BROOKS.**

The most eloquent and hard working preacher in the great A. M. E. Church, who will wear his new Bishop's robes with great honor to him and to his church.

**THE MUSIC CABINET.**

By Martha Broadus Anderson.

Articles pertaining to music and musicians will be found in this column each week. Matter intended for publication must be in not later than Tuesday. Address all communications to the Music Cabinet, 6456 Champlain Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

**THE PIANOFORTE.**

It is impossible in a limited space to trace all the steps through which the piano has passed to reach its present state of perfection. Suffice it to say, however, that it is the direct descendant of the Spinnetto, in Italy called the Espinetto, in Germany, the Clavier, a small instrument shaped like a square piano, and with about three octaves. The wires were of brass and very small. The instrument was placed upon a table or stand and was small enough to be carried under one's arm, (a fact which I imagine would be a boon to householders in these May days of high cost of moving).

Then came the harpsichord which was the forerunner of the grand piano of today. The pianoforte proper was invented in 1711 by one Cristofori, a Florentine mechanic, and was called a Fortepiano from its capacity of being played loud or soft.

The essential feature of the pianoforte mechanism is in the use of the hammer to produce the tone, and the necessary provision for doing this successfully is to secure an instantaneous escapement of the hammer from contact with the wire, as soon as the blow has been delivered, while at the same time the key remains pressed in order to hold the damper away from the strings and allow the tone to go on. These features were all contained in Cristofori's invention.

Cristofori's invention was taken up almost immediately in Germany and a Dresden piano maker, Silbermann became very celebrated. Frederick, the Great, made Bach try his piano in the palace at Potsdam.

The square-formed piano began to be made about 1750, but the instrument involved no new principles, being merely a Clavier with pianoforte mechanism. The new form so compact and inexpensive began to be popular and was soon the standard form for private families, as that of the Clavier had been before, and as the square piano remained until about 1875, when the inherent mechanical difficulties of the upright were for the first time satisfactorily overcome. Peppys, in his diary tells of having purchased a virginal which pleased him very much at the cost of five guineas—about \$25.00. Imagine the price!

Although the instruments were still small and strung with small wires, there was a tendency toward increased compass, which by the beginning of the 19th Century led the Boardwoods of London to attempt a grand piano with six octave compass. But they found the worst plank (in which the tuning strings are placed), was so weakened by the extension that the trouble would not stand in tune. In order to strengthen the instrument they introduced the iron extension bar. This was in the direction of greater solidity, and better resting power to the pull of the strings.

In 1806, Sebastian Erard patented his grand action, which, with slight improvements, still remains the model of what a piano action should be. Between 1808 and 1832, the instrument was the subject of a great number of improvements in every direction. The damper mechanism was perfected, the stringing had been made heavier, the hammers proportionately stronger, and the power of tone had become greater so that the instrument had become ready for the great pianists, such as Liszt and others.

Meanwhile improvements were carried on for the purpose of rendering the instrument impervious to the attacks made upon its stability by these great virtuosi. In the early appearance of Liszt, it is said that it was necessary to have several pianos in reserve upon the stage, so that when a hammer or string broke (and that was frequently), another piano could be moved forward for the next number on the program.

The most important in the solidity of the piano came from the invention of the iron frame, which was invented and tried out by several Americans, but it remained for Jonas Chickering, of Boston, to perfect the iron frame by including in the single casting the pin bridge and damper socket rail, which improvement still remains at the foundation of piano making.

The first overstrung scale was exhibited by Steinway & Sons in which the bass strings were spread out and carried over a part of the treble strings thus affording them more latitude for vibration, without interfering, and bringing the bridges nearer to the center of the sounding board.

The idea was not new at this time but the Steinway system of overstrung, was more extended, and added another dimension of what are known as cross vibrations were successfully by spreading the long strings, and this is the system now generally acknowledged followed by most piano makers of the world.

The solidity of construction is such that with a compass of seven and a third octave the tension of the strings amounts to about 50,000 pounds avoirdupois. The hammers are larger and heavier, the action more responsive and the singing quality and sustaining power has reached remarkable perfection.

Another important improvement made by the Steinway Sons was what is called "the duplex scale" in which a fraction of the string is made to vibrate sympathetically, thereby strengthening the super-octave harmonics, and imparting to the tone a brightness and sweetness not so well secured in any other known way.

These improvements have been worked out in the upright piano with a view to as much of solidity of the instrument, then prompt action together with as much of the tone quality of the grand as possible. Attempts have been made to increase the stability of the tuning of the pianoforte by a different system of stringing, the tension of the strings being regulated by means of a tuning pin of set screw pattern working through a collar of steel, instead of being thrust into a wooden wrest-plank, where it holds fast by friction alone, as has been the universal way previous to these inventions.

The American pianoforte today is the strongest, the fullest-toned and the most expensively constructed of any in the world.

The pupils of Miss Estella C. Bonds will give their annual recital at St. Mark M. E. Church on May 27.

The four choirs of Englewood will give a Sunday afternoon program, "Echoes of Easter," Sunday, June 6. Each choir will sing numbers from their Easter programs, and the united choirs will sing Præce the Lord, O Jerusalem, Maunder, and the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah, directed by George E. Duncan. Mr. W. D. Williams is the president.

Miss Naomi Williamson will be the reader on the program to be given by the pupils of Mrs. Martha B. Anderson, on June 1 at Bethesda Baptist Church.

Grace Presbyterian choir is to sing the Inflammatus at the Lyceum Sunday afternoon, June 6. The obligato will be sung by Mrs. Martha B. Anderson.

Tallahoo at the Royal Gardens.

Every night commencing May 10, Tallahoo, a drama in five acts has been running at the Royal Gardens. We were fortunate enough to attend a Friday night performance. By some strange misfortune, the play was not well advertised so that few Chicagoans knew that this production had been revived and was in our midst, we are informed by the management for an unlimited stay.

The play possesses some very interesting and highly dramatic moments and is deserving of larger audience. It is well staged and costumed. The cast of characters is made up of local talent including several who have appeared in it on former presentations.

Space will not permit us to make comment concerning each individual, but among those who are especially good in their respective roles we mention Mrs. Ollie Robinson, pupil of Fannie Hall Clint who assumed the title role, Mr. George Hutchinson, as the Banker Smithford, Mrs. Jennie Mille Lacey, his wife, Solomon Bruce, son, Carol McCoy, daughter, Fannie Hall Clint, the housekeeper, and she is always good in whatever character she assumes, Carrie Smith, the cook and Floyd Caldwell, who was a scream as the Chanfer who "suttin'ly lubs his white folks." The play is under the management of J. I. Harper and others.

**APPOMATTO CVLVE NATES.**

By Othello W. Collins.

Our beautiful costly draperies are in position and the new lights and furniture will be installed this week.

A grand banquet was held in the dining room Monday evening by the Amateur Minstrel Club. Pres. Wm. H. Jackson announced a donation of \$1,500 to be given to the Old Folk's Home. This money was the proceeds from the grand Easter which was held at 8th Regiment Armory Easter Monday.

This popular Club is composed of prominent men of Chicago and their popularity is attested by the fact that 3,000 persons were in attendance at their ball.

Great credit is due the officers and members for their liberal gifts to such a worthy cause.

The grand opening of Appomattox Club will be announced next issue.

**ATTENDED STATE CONVENTION.**

Rev. John F. Thomas, pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, with Mrs. Thomas and other delegates, has gone to Murphysboro, Ill., to attend the Baptist state convention.

**IN CITY.**

Mr. Newton B. Gaines of Bloomington, Ill., the owner of one of the largest farms on the outskirts of Bloomington, was in the city during the past week on business.



**BISHOP WILLIAM TECUMSEH VERNON.**

One of the most powerful preachers in the A. M. E. Church Connection, who will from henceforth shine forth in all his splendor as one of the new Bishops of his church.

**DR. R. C. RANSOM TO SPEAK AT BETHEL CHURCH.**

On next Monday evening, May 24, at 8 o'clock, under the auspices of Bethel Literary Society, Dr. R. C. Ransom will deliver an address. The Society will have as an added attraction an address by Hon. Patrick H. O'Donnell. A special musical program has been arranged by Prof. Jas. A. Mundy. Admission 25 cents. Bethel Church, 30th and Dearborn streets.—Adv.

**GROWING DAILY.**

Efficiency in the handling of collections and adjusting claims is making a growing business for the Milton Mercantile Agency, 3638 State St., where bulks of matter are coming into the office daily from all parts of the United States.

**LEAVES FOR SOUTH.**

Mrs. Cora Franks of Lake Forest, Ill., left recently for the South where she will attend the graduating and commencement exercises of her three daughters at Lincoln Ky., Raleigh, N. C., and Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn. Mrs. Franks will spend some time at Asheville, N. C., her old home town.



**THE LATE JUDGE CHARLES M. WALKER.**

For seventeen years he was one of the most eminent and most honorable judges of the Circuit Court of Cook County. He always endeavored to weigh out even-handed justice to all litigants who appeared before him. He was never swayed by color nor race prejudice. He was always held in the highest esteem by all classes of his fellow citizens. He always conducted himself like a high class or polished gentleman. From October 1, 1899, down to the day of his death he was a constant subscriber to this paper, and in his passing, its editor has lost one of his tried and true friends of twenty years' standing.