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Wednesday Morning, August 23, 1916.

A MILLENNIAL DREAM.

Alas that such stuff as dreams are made of is not a sturdier fabric! For Charles E. Hughes has a dream worthy of the millennium.

"My dream of America," says Mr. Hughes, "is America represented in public office by its best men."

Not so optimistic is Meredith Nicholson, from whose pen has just been published a significant article on "The Second Rate Man in Politics." Much as Mr. Nicholson might desire the best men in office, he would doubtless hardly dare even to dream that we might enjoy this boon. He himself says that he states his grievance in "the harshest terms possible" when he charges that "we, a self-governing people, permit our affairs to be administered very largely by second-rate men."

When a railroad company wants a man for a certain job, it picks an expert in that particular field. But when the city or state needs a man for a job, it lacks the proper inducement to tempt experts, or else it lacks the inclination to ask them.

A private firm would not think of asking a sign-painter to serve as treasurer, or an elevator man to do a piece of engineering. But an American city thinks nothing of asking an ex-plainer to audit its accounts or a journeyman printer to serve it in some capacity where a knowledge of engineering would be invaluable.

Yet in spite of Mr. Nicholson's lament, and notwithstanding Mr. Hughes' dream, we must remember that as a people we are governed about as well as we really want to be. When more people want to be well governed, then public office will hold the rewards of liberal pay and intelligent appreciation which will tempt the best men. And that this time will surely come is not too much to hope for. And surely the dream of Mr. Hughes is no wild fantasy after all. For the idea of good government is too firmly grounded in our hearts and minds, careless as we are, bound to be lost.

It is indeed true as Mr. Nicholson points out that "this nation was founded on ideas; and clearly in the ideas of the earnest, the serious, lies its hope for the future. To eliminate the second-rate man, to encourage the first-rate man to undertake offices of responsibility and power—such must be the immediate concern and the urgent business of all who love America."

THE CHECKER BOARD OF WAR.

Military experts estimate that at present the Allies have about 23,000,000 effective soldiers and the Teutons 19,500,000. If these figures are anywhere near correct—and their substantial accuracy doesn't seem to be questioned—they represent clearly the hopeless situation that confronts the Teutons.

Man-power alone could not win the war. But man-power has now become the decisive factor in a complex problem, in no other factor of which the Central Powers any longer show manifest superiority.

The Allies' troops are now fighting with a skill and spirit not inferior to those of the Germans. The Allies are at last working in complete co-operation, with a strategic plan which gives the unity of action hitherto possessed only by their foes. The Allies have also perfected an economic organization for war that is characterized by genuine German efficiency. The Allies are applying to war purposes material and financial resources far greater than those controlled by the Teutons. The Allies have the freedom of the munition markets of the world to supplement their own vast output, and they command unlimited credit in the world's money markets. The various nations of the Entente are as zealous in the prosecution of the war as are the Germans, and much more so than are the Austro-Hungarians, Bulgarians and Turks.

The Allies' problem, then, becomes that of the checker player who has twice as many men left on the board as his opponent has. His aim is to "take men." His fundamental policy is the now familiar one of "attrition." If he can exchange man for man, or even three men for two, in the end he is bound to win.

The Allies are obviously trying, just so, to sweep the Central Powers off the European checker board.

A good many American citizens seem to think that the Mexican problem would be satisfactorily settled if every Mexican were working for some American.

SERVING HIS COUNTRY

"Deporter" is perhaps too harsh a word for the eighteen-year-old Ohio boy who ran away from Camp Willis at Columbus, Ohio, because he didn't want to do the work of a day laborer. If we are to judge by his explanation, he would not have been the coward to run away from the battle line or faltered in the fight.

"We had to dig ditches and trenches all day long!" he cried. "When we got them dug they made us fill them up again."

"That's a fine way to serve your country! I didn't wish to be a day laborer. I wanted to fight." But the explanation didn't go with his old father, who had fought in the Franco-Prussian war and knew the meaning of discipline, and who had also read enough about the present European war to know how large a figure ditch-digging cuts in the career of a modern soldier.

Poor fellow! He wasn't so very old, and so the years hadn't dealt with him long enough and gravely enough to teach him the big lesson that life's biggest battles are not always fought out where the flags are flying. He didn't know that just learning to dig trenches, even the unrelenting discipline of slogging each shoveful only to throw it back again, was what must go into the making of a soldier.

And when he came home, having failed to stand up under this sort of grind, his poor old father, who had learned in an older country what it means to be a soldier, blushed for shame.

But that father should have blushed a little at his own failure as well as his son's. For was it not in great measure his own fault that his son hadn't learned to obey orders, and had never been taught that whatever comes, a good man sticks to his job? Those were the two lessons that somebody should have taught that boy before he was eight, not eighteen.

As it was, this would-be soldier, who was all on fire to save his country, imagined that it could all be done with the blare of trumpet and the unfurled flag, little dreaming that every man who masters himself, who knows the value of the humble task well done, who digs ditches only to fill them up again if by so doing some greater ditch may some day be dug—that every man who has learned these lessons of steadfastness and discipline helps to save his country every day.

THE PROHIBITION POW-WOW.

South Dakota has a prohibition campaign on. The most remarkable thing about it is the part played by the Indians. They are red-hot prohibitionists. At least there are enough prohibitionists among them to give the impression. And the vote of the Sioux admitted to citizenship is expected to be cast unanimously against rum.

The "dry" redskins held a unique demonstration recently on the Crow Creek reservation. They called for the annual convention of the Indian Temperance League of South and North Dakota. This is a genuine Indian organization, with certain regulations that the paleface brother might profitably imitate. For example, it cost only \$1 to get into the temperance outfit, but \$10 to get out. The result is that members stick. And the abstinence regulations are strictly enforced by a fine of \$5 for each offense and compulsory renewal of the pledge.

The anti-firewater braves gathered, several hundred strong, in a camp of 300 teepees, some of them travelling five days to reach the pow-wow. They came from all parts of North and South Dakota and from Nebraska. Nearly all the speeches were made in the Sioux language. They were said to be speeches of eloquence and power for among the delegates were the foremost orators of the tribe. Only two white men were present.

It was a simon-pure Indian function, significant of the new attitude of the red brethren who are slowly overcoming their handicap of savagery and rising to the level of worthy citizenship.

LENGTHENING 'EM.

And now, just as the women have succeeded in justifying their short skirts on the grounds that they're artistic, convenient, comfortable, healthful and moral, we learn from trustworthy sources that skirts are going to be long again. Most of them, it appears, are to be brought down within six inches of the ground. The extreme styles for house and evening wear will actually drag, in the good old way, brushing up any floors or walks that haven't been otherwise properly swept.

Why this about-face? Goodness knows. Certainly men can't get a glimmering of a solution for the mystery. Some vague, unknown power called "Fashion" has issued its omnipotent and inscrutable decree, and that settles it. Skirts will be longer. And then the women will be defending them, just as they have defended short skirts, on the grounds that they're artistic, convenient, comfortable, healthful and moral.

Men, of course, are always sensible and condense about their clothes.

"When a dispute goes to arbitration," complains the head of the locomotive engineers, "the men never get as much as they start out after." Naturally. Who expects as much as he starts out after, in an arbitration, is a lawsuit or a business deal? And what reasonable man expects to?

A three-year-old child of a South Denver man turned the home on an old lady next door. The lady slipped and fell, and is suing the father of the child for \$10,500 damages. The complaint states that the father is responsible because he allowed his youngster to get hold of the hose. Moral: Keep your eyes on little Albert!

We've heard much about that submarine liner Breitenstein. But is there a Bremen?

MANDAMUS AGAINST RECORDER IS DENIED

(Continued on Page Three)

The party shown to be his by the precinct register. In order properly to understand and interpret a law which may be ambiguous in its face, it is necessary to know the reasons which led up to its enactment. The reasons for the requirements of the registration law in every follower of our recent political history. It is an unfortunate fact that many voters, otherwise honest, do not appreciate the meaning of a party primary. Such primary, both a law and common honesty, is purely a familiar affair, and a Democrat should no more enter a Republican primary than a Jew should labor in the family differences of Richard Roe. It is unfortunate, however, that before the passage of the last registration law, there was a reckless disregard of this principle, and that thousands of voters participated in primaries of a party whose principles they did not believe in, and whose candidates they did not intend to support.

It is undoubted that the reason which led to the failure of the registration law in question in this case was the violation of the principles of party primaries above set forth, and that the present law was meant to correct, as far as possible, that evil. With these facts before us, let us consider the laws governing registration.

The county recorders of the various counties are, of course, the registration officers thereof, and they alone can cancel an entry made.

It is admitted that the only cause for cancellation expressly stated by our law are found in Paragraph 2897, Civil Code, 1913. It is also admitted by plaintiff that the only cause in that paragraph which could be considered to apply in this action is as follows: (5) upon the production of a certified copy of a judgment directing the cancellation to be made.

The only way in which a judgment directing the cancellation of an entry can be obtained, is found in Paragraph 2899 Civil Code, 1913. "Upon demand not being made in writing therefor, and his refusal to do so, then any person may proceed by action in the superior court to compel the recorder to cancel any entry on the register legally, or that ought to be cancelled by reason of facts that have occurred subsequently to the time of such entry."

It is contended by plaintiff that his cause of party affiliation is one of the facts set forth in the undefined portion of the statute just quoted, and for that reason he is entitled to a judgment. It may be conceded that there are, if any, direct precedents on the point in question. I know of no state having previously our statute, either on registration or primaries, and the case must therefore be decided on reason and analogy.

Paragraph 2897, supra, gives seven reasons why the recorder shall cancel an entry. The first four reasons are removal, death, insanity or conviction of a felony of the elector. The fifth and seventh reasons are different terms of the others. The remaining one is the production of a certified copy of the judgment above referred to.

Paragraph 2899, supra, requires an affidavit precedent to an action such as this, a written demand to the county recorder for cancellation, and refusal on his part.

It is apparent that the recorder has a right under the statute to cancel, or the reason given in this case, in the absence of a judgment of the court. Why then require of the voter a written demand which he knows under the law, must be refused? It is not to be presumed the law would require an absurdity.

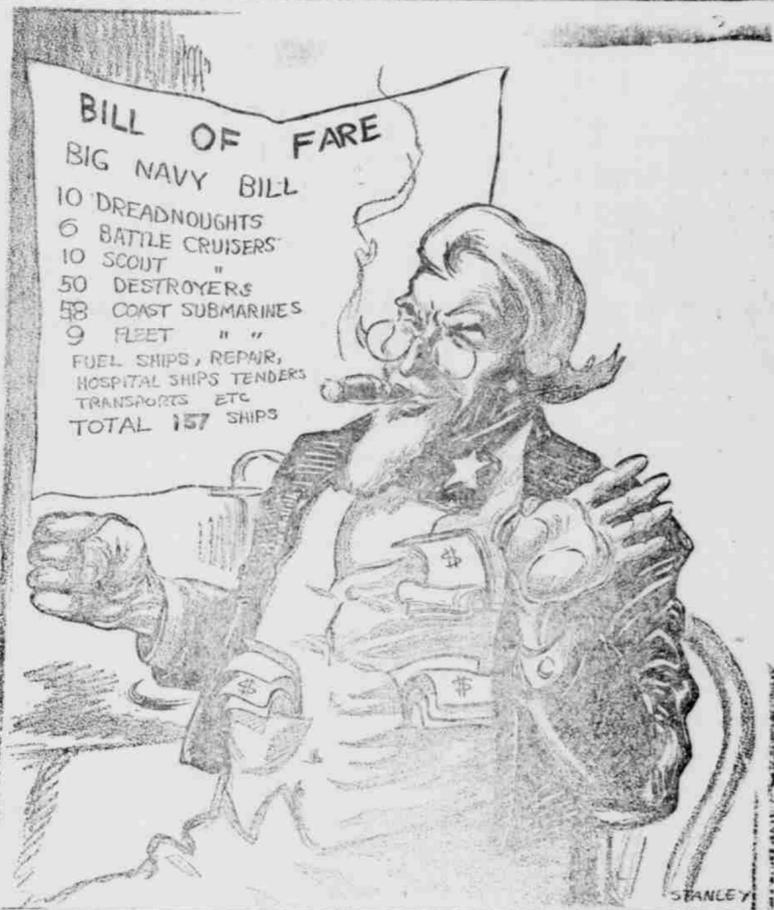
Further, the consideration asked by the plaintiff would leave the reason for cancellation discretionary with the court, and not governed by law. Suppose the court was satisfied that the plaintiff had become of bad moral character. Morally speaking, no person of that character should have the franchise, but no one would contend that such character would be a legal ground of cancellation.

Again, the law requires the elector to state his name and occupation. Can courts arbitrarily cancel registration, because of a change of occupation, or an unmarried woman shall change her name by marriage after registration?

If, on the other hand, we construe the statute to mean that "facts not have occurred subsequent to the time of entry" refers to the facts set forth in the first four reasons given or the recorder to cancel the entry, we have a reasonable, logical and consistent statute. These reasons all involve questions of "facts" that have occurred subsequent to the time of entry. They are questions of fact as to the truth of what the recorder may well be in doubt, and desire to protect himself in his action by the judgment of a court authorized to render such judgment. On the other hand, he may be satisfied of the facts and so willing to cancel without a judgment.

Therefore the statutes provide the elector shall first apply to the recorder for a cancellation, and if the latter does not wish to take the responsibility of passing on the facts and refusing to act, an appeal can be taken to the court. The court then takes a definite substantive law, and tries the facts to see how the law

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