

NATIONAL CAPITAL AFFAIRS

He Did Not Care for Dessert After Free Lunch

WASHINGTON.—In the days when the free lunch in this city was in its prime, when tavernkeepers prided themselves on having an array of thirst-provoking delicacies which rivaled the menus of the finest hotels, a government clerk who had an eye on the very first nickel he ever earned used to subsist almost entirely on the provender provided by a certain free lunch counter. Said clerk would prong about a dollar's worth of cheese and wienerwurst, salad, brown bread and all the other stuff that goes to make up the food attractions at tavern bars. He would do this twice a day, once at noon and again at night, and therefore, having spent two nickels for the very good beer offered by the proprietor, he could very well figure that he had lived sumptuously that day for almost nothing.

He did this for several months. Finally the long-suffering proprietor recognized the fact that the government clerk was about the only man in the place who was getting something for nothing and keeping it up for an indefinite period. So he bethought himself of a scheme to put a stop to this practice and shame the man. He sent word out to his own best friends that if they would gather there at noon on a certain day they could see him put this unsatisfied eater of lunches in the class with a whipped child.

At the appointed hour the friends were there, and so was the clerk, pronging away with both hands, stuffing his system with highly spiced and vinegary German cooking. He seemed to get more satisfaction than ever on this day.

As he left the lunch counter and headed for the door the long-suffering strategist of a proprietor tapped him on the shoulder:

"My friend," he said, while the crowd wanted to see him display his coup de grace, as we would say in France, "I have noticed that you take the record as long distance free lunch borrower? Therefore I would suggest that you wait. You have overlooked something today. If you will stay here a moment the chef will present you with a fine strawberry shortcake."

The proprietor had the sarcasm heavily veiled, but it did not fool that shrewd free lunch operator. He looked Mr. Proprietor squarely in the eye, a cold, glittering penetrating look which meant that the weapons had clashed and that the fight was on. His face betrayed not one quiver of excitement or of embarrassment as he spoke in a loud tone:

"Give it to that gang of loafers behind you. I never eat dessert."

Congressman Avis' Short but Effective Speech

RESIDENTS of Huntington and Charleston, W. Va., are, and always have been, jealous of one another. It is fighting jealousy, too, and not the kind that exists between Toledo and Columbus, in Ohio; St. Louis and Kansas City, in Missouri, which runs mainly to building taller buildings and that sort of thing. The brand of jealousy in West Virginia causes the residents of one town to vow that no good can come out of the other.

They do say that the second most popular man in Charleston is the one who spent his vacation this year kicking the rails of the railroad because they run into Huntington. The most popular man is the one who directed to the "Citizens of Huntington" this telegram: "You are no good." Thus did he insult the whole city at one stroke.

The two cities are constantly fighting over conventions and other big gatherings. All any organization need do to create a deep desire to entertain it is to tip off the leading citizens of one of the two cities that the other wants the organization's convention. Once a political party was trying to decide which of the two cities should have the honor of entertaining its delegates to a state convention. Charleston and Huntington sent representatives to plead their causes.

The Huntington man spoke first. He told of the great wealth his city possessed, of its charming people, its fine railroad and hotel accommodations, and, finally, wound up his flight of oratory thus:

"Gentlemen, no city in the United States is laid out as well as Huntington!"

Then up rose Capt. S. B. Avis, now representative from the Third district of West Virginia, to speak for Charleston.

"When Charleston is as dead as Huntington," he said, it too, will be well laid out."

And with those few words he sat down.

Representative Kinkead Set the Ball Rolling

REPRESENTATIVE EUGENE KINKEAD of New Jersey bids fair to be the leading practical joker of the Sixty-third congress. When not engaged in trying to find some new method of throttling the beef trust, which is his special nightmare, Kinkead is thinking up some new method of getting a "rise" out of his colleagues.

He nearly caused a serious split between Representative Carter Glass, author of the currency bill, and Representative Bartlett of Georgia. Glass was sensitive about his currency bill, and Bartlett is a self-appointed defender of the constitution. One day Gene Kinkead whispered to Glass:

"What's this that Judge Bartlett is saying about you?"

"Haven't heard," replied the succinct chairman of the banking and currency committee.

"Why, he's telling the fellows that you don't know anything about currency."

Then he left Mr. Glass and whispered to Judge

Bartlett:

"Say, Charlie, are you on the outs with Carter Glass?"

"No, indeed," said Bartlett in surprise. "Why?"

"Well, I just wondered. He's going around saying that you know absolutely nothing about constitutional law."

The seeds of discord were sown, and Kinkead went to his office chuckling.

That afternoon Representative Glass and Representative Bartlett were seen in violent and heated controversy in the doorway of the restaurant under the house of representatives, each talking at once, and each denying that he had said the things accredited to him. Also each was violently enraged at the other.

It took three days to straighten out the matter and, meanwhile, Kinkead had denied flatly saying anything to either congressman. However, it was the unwilling twinkle in the Kinkead eye which finally brought the war to a close.

Put Surrounding Atmosphere to a Great Test

HARRY "OREGON" BROWN, who represents about all the newspapers there are in the northwest cowboy district, was sitting in his office one night last week, when Col. What's His Name dropped in. The colonel, loud of voice and manner, had something to tell Mr. Brown which would be of interest to the readers of one of the Idaho papers which Mr. Brown represents here in Washington.

When he started to talk the walls bulged outward a bit, then gripped themselves and sat tight. Never had the surrounding atmosphere been put to so great a test. The vibrations of the colonel's voice were equal to the splash of a mountain dropping into a placid sea. Doors began to close all over the building, for the men in the various offices wanted to work.

Across the hall from Mr. Brown is "Liz" Jones. He got up and slammed his door with a great show of anger when the colonel started to shout. After it was all over "Liz" went into Mr. Brown's office:

"Say, was that man telling you a news story?"

"Yes," confessed Mr. Brown, as he unwrapped the cotton from his ears.

"For what?"

"For my Idaho paper."

"Well, if the editor had his ears open he could save telegraph tolls, for he certainly could have heard it out there."

Surgical Operation.
The customer raised his hand, and the barber, pausing in the operation of shaving him, inclined his head. "Sir?" "Give me gas," said the customer.

Fuel Hint.
Take a newspaper of any wrapping paper, soak it in water, roll very hard, then dry in the sun. You will find it will last almost as long as a stick of wood.



P. J. O'KEEFE.
Distinguished Lawyer and Hard Worker for the Upbuilding of Chicago

Electrification of railroads is a menace to the safety of the employees and of the public as well. The U. S. Interstate Commerce Commission, December 19, 1913, issued a report which showed the tremendous number of accidents which occurred last year, where electrification is in operation. The report shows that electric rules are easily misunderstood.

All of the mistakes noted above are violations of simple rules, which should have been easily understood by men of sufficient intelligence to be entrusted with the operation of trains. The evidence is that in the main the rules are understood, but they are habitually violated by employees who are charged with responsibility for the safe movement of trains. The evidence is that in many cases operating officers are cognizant of this habitual disregard of rules and no proper steps are taken to correct the evil.

In rendering this opinion the Interstate Commerce Commission has thrown upon railroad employees the stigma of being derelict in the performance of their duties, and severely criticized managers because of their apparent lack of discipline; but not a word is said about the law-making bodies—municipal, state and national—forcing railroad discipline into a slough of despond through vying with each other in endeavor to operate railroads through politics instead of by management acquired in the hard school of practical experience. To make this clear, attention is called to some events in the order herein recorded.

New York state legislated the abandonment of coal-burning locomotives in the Park Avenue tunnel—By Law.

This was a subterfuge on the part of state officials to force railroads to electrify—By Law.

When the highly dangerous character of electrical operation was discovered, New York lawmakers (the Public Service Commission) compelled the railroad companies to place rules in their timetables which employees could not obey—By Law.

Railroad employees were prohibited from performing certain duties necessary to the safety of travelers in electric zones—By Law.

To preserve human life, railroad companies, in defiance of the law, promulgated rules for employees, compelling them to violate the law in electric zones, and in so doing, save the

lives of travelers by violating—the Law.

Employees on railroads partly operated by electric power are sacrificing life and limb to protect travelers by violating the rules—and Law.

This preservation of human life, in defiance of law and rules, deprive employees, in case of injury, and their families, in case of death, of the right to recover damages, because they violate—the Law.

In Chicago, buildings on the Illinois Central right of way are restricted to a certain height dangerous to employees—By Law.

Citizens clubs of Chicago and other interests are now endeavoring to force railroads to cover their tracks, and as in New York state, designate the power to be used—By Law.

It was positively proven that a woman sitting in her room was blinded for several days by electric flash from a high-tension wire. A flash of this kind would result in great danger to travelers if trainmen were blinded at a critical time. Will the federal authorities claiming the right to pass on the "physical construction and operation of railroads engaged in interstate traffic" permit a city or town to be beautified by forcing railroads to cover their tracks, thereby compelling them to use electric power, and in the covered area create a charnel house for travelers and employees—By Law?

Roger C. Sullivan was among the first to declare for direct primaries. Under his leadership more genuine reforms have been inaugurated by Illinois Democrats than under all the preceding leaders the party ever had. He is modest and unassuming himself, but the people have noted his good work and will remember him for it when the time comes.

The income tax is clearly unconstitutional because it is the rankest kind enough to declare himself on the job. Every officeholder in the United States from paying a tax on his salary whether it is \$3,000 or \$50,000 a year. The nerve of a lot of politicians saddling the industrious portion of the community with a tax and exempting themselves shows plainer than a telephone monopoly that the American people would stand for a king if some fellow had money enough and nerve

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MUNICIPAL NEWS

Some Items of Interest From the Public Offices About Occurrences of the Week.

At its meeting Monday night, the City Council's first action in regard to the school situation was taken on a communication from Peter Reinberg, President of the Board, who named a committee pursuant to the authorization of the School Board at a special meeting Monday. Five members of the Board and three outsiders were chosen.

They follow: Trustees Otis, Metz, Holpuch, Eckhart and Strom, the five newly appointed members of the School Board; Charles W. Gindele, President of the Building Construction Employers' Association; C. S. Ennis, President of the Chicago Retail Estate Board, and Richard W. Wolfe, President of the Cook County Real Estate Board.

The committee recommended for passage Alderman Long's ordinance requiring tenants to remove rubbish from their premises before moving. Alderman Burns' ordinance prohibiting smoking theaters was deferred till next Tuesday.

The Bureau of Public Efficiency has issued a very interesting report on the 19 separate local governments in Chicago.

Louis Biegler, the well-known cornice maker, is being urged to run for County Commissioner.

Spencer Ward, able lawyer and honorable man, is being urged to run for alderman of the 27th ward.

County Judge Owens overruled the motion of the Chicago Reduction Company to dismiss the city's condemnation suit. The city is seeking to acquire control of the company's garbage plant. The court's decision followed a ten days' argument on the motion to dismiss, and gives the city the right to proceed with the case, the trial of which is expected to consume the larger part of three weeks.

Ald. Stanley Walkowiak of the 17th Ward has been endorsed for renomination by the regular Democratic organization of his ward. Ald. Frank J. Wilson of the 28th Ward has also been endorsed by the Democratic or-

ganization in his home section for renomination and re-election. Ald. Joseph A. Swift of the 30th Ward was endorsed yesterday at a Democratic organization meeting.

William Legner has proved faithful to every public trust reposed in him. He would make a good County Treasurer.

James S. Hopkins would make an ideal Judge.

John R. Durso will probably be nominated for the legislature by 29th district Democrats.

John C. Paul will probably be the Democratic nominee for member of the Board of Review. He is very popular and is highly esteemed by his neighbors on the North Side.

Blue Sundays and blue week days will follow local option in Chicago.

Senator Albert C. Clark, whose record in the legislature is full of useful work done for Chicago and Cook County, is being boomed by a large number of Republicans for County Treasurer.

Otto Reese is looming up as a Republican candidate for alderman in the 23d ward.

Local Option, the drys announce, will be up to the voters in 1915. Get ready to defeat it.

Boys and girls should be taught the studies necessary to help them through life. There are too many school fads.

Stand by personal liberty. It is in danger.

The people of the State of Illinois have decided to control their public utilities themselves. This takes away the stock in trade of the able utility tradesmen connected with Municipal, Legislative and other "voters leagues."



J. OGDEN ARMOUR.
Head of the Great Packing Industry.

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