

NEWS and GOSSIP OF WASHINGTON



Uncle Sam's Marine Band Is Now 116 Years Old

WASHINGTON.—A recent writer, in discoursing about the Marine band, says that it came into being 116 years ago, when President John Adams approved an act establishing it as a permanent organization. The original law provided for a five and drum corps, consisting of 16 drummers and same number of fifers, one of whom was to act as fife-major. This aggregation of musicians constituted the Marine band until the arrival of the Neapolitans, some three years later.

An old tradition has it that the original Marine band was kidnaped from Sicily. According to this account one Captain McNeil of the frigate Boston was cruising in the Mediterranean when an irresistible longing for some real music came over him. While ashore he was delighted and pleased with the performance of a Sicilian regimental band and at once conceived a plan for insuring plenty of music during the remainder of the voyage. He at once blandly invited the musicians on board his vessel for the ostensible purpose of playing for a ball. Probably induced by the prospect of receiving a liberal compensation, the members of the band accepted the invitation with alacrity.

Soon after the musicians with their instruments had gone on board Captain McNeil suddenly found it necessary to hoist anchor and get under way for the United States. The Sicilians protested, but in vain; the music-loving captain carried them bodily off and was entertained by their playing all the way.

No authentic record showing what finally became of these Italian musicians is now in existence, as many of the Marine corps archives were destroyed in 1814. It is shown, however, in official records that shortly after the organization of the Marine corps Lieutenant Colonel Henderson brought from Naples a group of 13 Italian musicians, whose addition to the organization made of it an instrumental band.

One of the Greatest Libraries of the World

ALREADY one of the greatest of the libraries of the world and the largest and most important in the western hemisphere, it is apparent that the library of congress is to become national in the broadest and most inclusive sense. It is that already, but not to the degree that is true of it after awhile. The policy with regard to the library of congress is briefly yet fully stated by Mr. Herbert Putnam, Librarian since 1899, in these words:

"In each country there should be one library as nearly as possible comprehensive. This means indefinite accumulation and preservation. In the United States that library is the National Library at the national capital. Its possession of the unusual book, or the little-used book, may enable the local libraries to get along without them. A book here is available to the entire country, and this means a great saving to the country as a whole."

Mr. Putnam points out that the word "comprehensive," as used by him, does not mean the purchase of everything in print. If congress each year were to give the library all the funds for which it asks, there would still be exercised in the purchase of books that selection which has been the policy of the past. The work of selection is even carried into the copyright deposits, only a portion of which are placed in the library proper.

"Mere bookstacks cost little," adds Mr. Putnam. "As against the cost of the main establishment the cost of housing the accessories is a relatively small one. At the present rate of increase, which is about eighty to ninety thousand volumes a year, it would not exceed one per cent of the cost of the building."

"So far as the library building is for the reader, for exhibition purposes, and for the purposes of ordinary administration, it will be good for an indefinite length of time, in spite of our annual additions in the way of volumes and pamphlets."

Places of Historical Interest Near Washington

"WHAT a wonderful opportunity for the study of history is provided within a radius of a few miles around Washington," remarked G. W. Sommers of Parkersburg, W. Va., the other day. "I recently took a quick trip through a part of Virginia, and every moment of my time some point of historical interest was opened to me. Within ten miles of Fredericksburg seven of the important battles of the Civil war were fought, and in the walls of the old courthouse in Fredericksburg can still be seen cannon balls. Richmond, the capital of the Confederacy, is filled with historic spots. The present capitol building was where the ordinance of secession, which practically began the Civil war, was signed. The James river is lined with interesting places. It was on its banks that the first permanent white settlement on the western continent was established. I saw magnificent brick places that even today are regarded as luxurious dwellings which were built a century and more ago from bricks imported from England. At Cape Henry still stands the first lighthouse ever built on the western continent, constructed from brick brought from England."

"It is remarkable that so few persons in Washington realize the wealth of historic interest that surrounds them within a radius of 200 miles. I dare say that the people of Europe know more about their native countries than we in the United States know about our own country."

Ambassadors, senators, representatives and hopeful office-seekers may cool their heels in the ante-room. But not so with Scrap. He enjoys the prestige of being an old and intimate friend of the president and his family, when they lived in New Jersey, so when he arrives at the White House he simply walks unannounced into the room where the president is, knowing that he will receive a warm welcome. Scrap is fifteen years old and thinks a good deal of the comforts of life. His special delight is to lie in a big rocking chair, of which the senator is also very fond, and sometimes gets it before him; this worries Scrap a good deal.

It has always been his habit when he wished to take the air to walk to the door and wait for his master to open it for him. Now, when Senator Martine gets the chair first, Scrap demurely walks to the door, and when his master gets up to open it, he flies back and jumps up in the chair and nestles down with a series of little grunts.

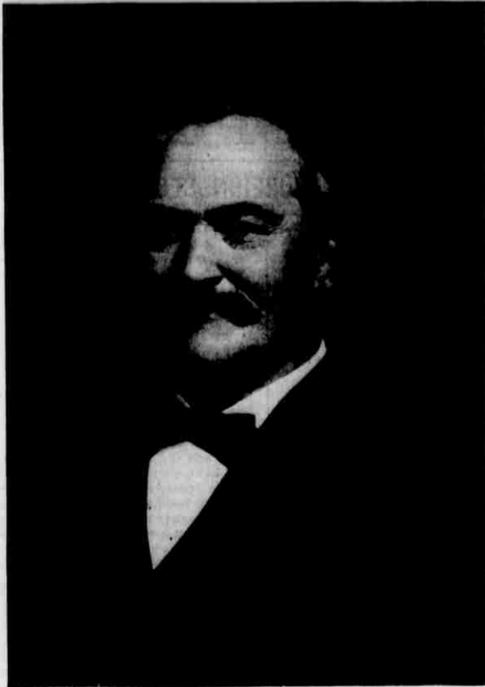
Spaniel Enjoys Distinction in Official Society

SENATOR JAMES E. MARTINE'S King Charles spaniel enjoys great distinction in official society of which he is a member, for he is not only the oldest member of official petdom, but he always has the entree at the White House, where he is a prime favorite.

Not Altogether Unselfish. Husband (newly married)—"Don't you think, love, if I smoke it would spoil the curtains?" Wife—"Ah! you are really the most unselfish and thoughtful husband in the world; certainly it would." Husband—"Well, then, take the curtains down."

Whom to Send For. "A couple of men are going up to try the new aeroplane," said the officer of the guard. "Shall we send for the colonel?" "No," replied the orderly. "Send for the surgeon."

True Enjoyments. If we listen to the bee guides, we shall turn with equal decision from the subtler allurements that beset success. We shall enjoy excellence, but not the vulgarity of excelling; find delight in our work rather than in the applause it may bring; a satisfaction in the quiet things—in the beauty of a spring morning, in the humble service of our neighbor, in our communion with the spiritual in us and beyond us—far surpassing that of any external and noisily-extolled performances.—J. Briery.



THOMAS A. SMYTH, Able, Honest and Popular President of the Sanitary District of Chicago.

William Hale Thompson was the father of the children's playgrounds of Chicago. As alderman, he introduced and had passed through the City Council, by his own efforts, the ordinance that gave Chicago its first Children's Playground.

Taxing the many for the benefit of the few is an outrage. The "connecting link" between the North and South sides is to be paid for by those

them derive no benefit from whatsoever. It adds an unnecessary burden to the already overburdened taxpayer.

Fred D. Alonzo was promised Sullivan organization support. He was traded off at the primaries.

Philip P. Bregstone, whose record entitled him to one of the Municipal



JOHN McJILLEN, Painstaking and Efficient Clerk of the Sanitary District.

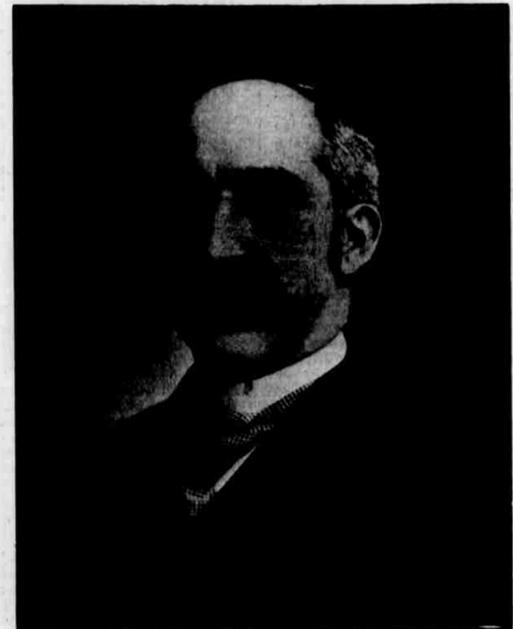
sands of poor North side taxpayers who will never receive any benefit from it. The principal beneficiaries of this link arrangement are an army of dead beats who own automobiles on monthly payment plan and who pay for nothing else.

Whether this tax on the people of the North Side from the river to the city limits, is constitutional or not, is a question for the courts to decide. The fact is that the people will have to pay for something the majority of

Court nominations, was turned down by the so-called Democratic organization.

All Democrats and many Republicans and Progressives will vote for Henry Stuckart for county treasurer

William J. Lindsay, good lawyer and sterling Democrat, was beaten by the "organization" for Municipal judge.



LYMAN E. COOLEY, Chief Engineer of the Sanitary District Who Says the Dams Must Go.

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MUNICIPAL NEWS

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

Meeting hours for City Council committees are as follows: Monday—Streets and alleys, 7 o'clock; buildings, 8:30 o'clock. Tuesday—Schools and police, 1 o'clock; harbors, wharves and bridges, 2 o'clock; local industries, 2 o'clock. Wednesday—Special park commission, 10:30 o'clock; health, 2 o'clock; local transportation, 2 o'clock; track elevation, 3:30 o'clock. Thursday—Gas, oil and electricity, 2 o'clock; license, 3:30 o'clock; water, 3:30 o'clock. Friday—Compensation, 11 o'clock; judiciary, 2 o'clock; finance, 2 o'clock; bathing beaches, 3:30 o'clock.

The question of the ownership of big fees was decided when Cook county won a victory in its claim to approximately \$200,000 in fees and fines collected during the administration of the late John E. W. Wayman as State's Attorney, and held, pending a court decision, by Homer K. Galpin, former clerk of the Municipal court. The victory came in a decision by Judge Baldwin. One of the principal effects of the court decision is the upholding of the law of 1907, which makes the office of State's Attorney a salaried office and precludes the retention of any fees or fines by the State Prosecutor.

The total amount involved in the litigation is \$202,426.90. Under the decision of Judge Baldwin the county is to receive \$197,054.60 and the remaining \$5,372.30 is to be paid to the city of Chicago. The smaller amount is held to be interest due the city on money not involved in the litigation.

A committee of nine was selected by delegates from each battalion of the fire department to devise plans to keep the firemen's pension fund from

becoming bankrupt. The following were elected to the committee: Battalion Chief Jeremiah McAuliffe, chairman; Battalion Chief George H. McAllister, Capt. Patrick Lyons, Lieut. Edward Riley, Firemen Dennis J. Ryan, James Porter, John Dooley, John McGarvey and Herman Potenhauer. It has been estimated that \$313,000 will be paid to beneficiaries of the pension fund this year and the income will be \$80,000 less than that amount.

John E. Waters, popular Democrat and good lawyer, would have been nominated for Municipal judge but for the activities of the organization.

James F. Bambas, the well-known Bohemian-American real estate dealer, was placed on the Sullivan organization slate for county commissioner and was traded off and beaten to get votes for Sullivan for senator.

Max Levy would have been nominated for county commissioner if the Sullivan crowd had kept its word.

Judge John R. Lavery is one of the most popular men on the bench.

Judge Edward Osgood Brown's appointment to the Federal bench would please everybody.

Isaac N. Powell would make an ideal member of the Board of Review.

Judge Kickham Scanlan has made a grand record on the bench. He is a fairminded, able and fearless judge.

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