

Gales of GOTHAM and other CITIES

New York Claims Honor of "First" Convention City

NEW YORK.—Little old New York is now the "first" convention city in the country, outstripping Chicago, which for the last ten years has been in first place. Before the end of the present year more than 500 conventions will be held in New York city. Last year Chicago had 470 to New York's 442, but through the activity of John R. Young, manager of the convention bureau of the Merchants' association of New York, Chicago has been pushed to second place.

And what conventions! We're going to have the Scottish Deerhound club, the Dachshund Club of America and the American Bison society here before the summer is over. And the American Association for the Advancement of Science will hold its annual convention here during the Christmas holidays.

The biggest convention of the year will be the National Education convention, which will be held here in June. Fully 40,000 people from beyond the metropolitan zone will be in attendance. Next in size will be the General Federation of Women's Clubs, which is scheduled for the latter part of May.

"What has made New York the greatest of all convention cities?" repeated John R. Young in the office of the convention bureau at the Merchants' association.

"Well, first of all, New York is the only city in the country which has never raised its hotel rates. This is a great point. When it comes to location, we're beaten by almost every other town; but once we get the people here we can take care of them better than any city in America.

"Of course, we lack a great convention hall, but Madison Square Garden has a seating capacity of 18,000, and when the National Education convention will be held here its seating capacity will be taxed to its utmost.

"And, of course, these conventions are a great thing for the city. They bring 'new' money to town. A large proportion of those who attend the conventions bring their womenfolk, and the shopping they do is of enormous proportions. A Buffalo man attending a convention in Pittsburgh isn't apt to buy much there, but the same man coming to New York is almost certain to make a few purchases.

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Efficient Sexton Is Now Looking for New Job

CHICAGO.—German efficiency has been tried out in Lake Forest, with the result that it is now looking for a new job. So is its chief exponent on the north shore, Henry Herman. And in the meantime the congregation of the First Presbyterian church in Chicago's wealthiest suburb sings its hymns and absorbs its sermons in peace, secure in the knowledge that it won't have to stumble over the pews amid the blackness of night when it gets ready to go home.

It was years ago, in the German army, that Henry learned the meaning and the practice of efficiency. Later he came to America, and eventually drifted into Lake Forest, leaving a trail of efficiency from New York to Chicago. In Lake Forest he got a job as janitor of the church in question. There he started in to perform his work so well that the church members fairly gasped in amazement. All would have gone well probably had it not been for the Wednesday night prayer meetings. The meetings were scheduled to close at nine o'clock, but often it was much later.

That, to the methodic Henry, was like giving efficiency a smack on the eyebrow.

So Henry resolved to introduce German army standards into his sextonage. The result was that at nine o'clock on Wednesday evening two weeks ago the congregation, which was just bursting forth into the opening strains of "Lead, Kindly Light," suddenly found itself in total darkness.

Skidding into the sharp corners of pews, the church members finally managed to get out of the edifice. Then they learned the cause of the interruption of the services. Henry, speaking rather un-Biblically, had "doused the gilm."

A committee opened diplomatic relations with Henry. His reply was that, as "taps" was scheduled for nine o'clock, that was the time the proceedings should close. In vain were arguments presented to him.

Henry's familiar countenance was missing from the church last night. Instead, there was a new Henry on the job, and the congregation sang and prayed amid a blaze of glory until it got good and ready to go home.

The full name of the new Henry is Henry Hansen. He was asked last night what course he would pursue if the congregation continued to violate his predecessor's nine o'clock closing law.

"Ay tank ay just bane go to sleep," replied Henry the second.

Rainmaker's Demand for \$10,000 May Be Granted

SAN DIEGO, CAL.—The supposition that rain comes down because it listeth is officially refuted in San Diego, where \$10,000 may have to be paid out of the city treasury by way of shattering the old belief that Mother Nature is responsible. The city attorney has ruled that the city must pay Charles Hatfield that sum for filling the Morena dam. Hatfield is a rainmaker. He went to San Diego some weeks ago and spoke somewhat as follows:

"I notice you don't have very much of an average rainfall here. I'd like to make rain for you."

"Fill Morena dam," said the councilmen, and they all laughed. Morena dam had never been more than a third filled.

"All right," said Hatfield, "for \$10,000." Still laughing, they agreed. Hatfield erected his tower near the dam, put his galvanized iron tanks on top of it, wrapped the tanks with tar paper and poured in his chemical fluid. He was off in the mountains and the city forgot him. The councilmen were measuring the treasury resources and thinking about appropriations—but never about the \$10,000—when it began to rain.

Someone brought down word that the water in Morena dam was higher than it ever had been.

"Hatfield isn't doing it," the councilmen said. "Everybody's getting rain these days."

But when the downpour continued, and the flood followed, some favored paying Hatfield \$5,000 and calling it quits. But Hatfield is sure he will get his \$10,000.

What his chemicals are, he has never revealed. The tar paper, collecting heat, causes the liquid to evaporate in the daytime, and at night he applies enough heat to produce the same result. Ascending columns of vapor from the tanks have the power, he says, to attract moisture even to the driest spot.

Hungry Seagulls Catch Peanuts "on the Fly"

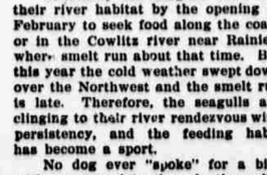
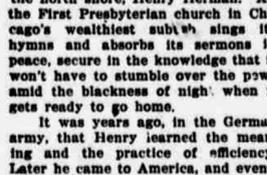
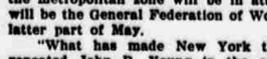
PORTLAND, ORE.—Portlanders tarried along the river bridges the other day to feed the large flocks of seagulls and enjoyed a diverting sport—one that is as interesting as tossing peanuts to the elephants at the circus.

Ordinarily the seagulls have left their river habitat by the opening of February to seek food along the coast or in the Cowlitz river near Rainier, where smelt run about that time. But this year the cold weather swept down over the Northwest and the smelt run is late. Therefore, the seagulls are clinging to their river rendezvous with persistency, and the feeding habit has become a sport.

No dog ever "spoke" for a bite with more anxiety than do the gulls, and the way the graceful fowls have learned the ways of their food benefactors has been most diverting. The gulls are responsible, as a result, for the large throngs of pedestrians who tarry along the bridges to throw out peanuts, popcorn and other choice bits to them.

The seagull is a queer bird. It prefers not to pass its nights in Portland; even in the seasons that it lives here. So when the sun sinks low at night and passers-by are few, only a few gulls are left winging over the river. The rest have gone to the beaches, where they pass the night rocking on some rotting driftwood or sitting on a sandbar.

But they never fail to come home early. They greet the sun in Portland and are waiting on the bridges for a "handout" every morning as soon as folk are astir.



EAGLETS.

H. Schmidt of 907 Center street has a host of friends who would back him for public office.

Stillman B. Jameson is one of the coming men in the Republican party. He is honest and able.

Dr. George Sultan always made a good record in public life.

Frank J. Hogan, the popular and well-known lawyer, would make a fine Municipal Judge.

Nelson N. Lampert is the strongest Republican candidate named for State Treasurer.

Frank Weeger, the well known brewer and business man, is talked of for State Auditor and State Treasurer. He would fill either position well.

Judge Edward T. Glennon, the well known railroad lawyer, is respected by bench, bar and public.

W. L. Bodine, the efficient chief of the bureau of compulsory education, has made a nation wide name for his department.

Judge William E. Dever is making a good record in the Superior Court.

William F. Quinan, "the father of Edgewater," has a host of friends all over Chicago.

Judge Charles A. McDonald is making a splendid record on the Superior Court bench. He is a conscientious and fair-minded judge.

Tony Schroeder of North Halsted and Roscoe streets is not only one of the solid men of Lake View but he is a political leader who numbers his friends by the thousands.

John E. Vogelsang has done much to make the restaurant the attractive feature of Chicago life that it is today.

C. A. Smith, the veteran pianomaker, is respected by all who know him.

Joseph A. O'Donnell, former legislator and park commissioner, is one of the most popular members of the Chicago bar.

Harry W. Cooper reports a big demand for Batavia tires. They are more popular than ever.

Harry E. Kellogg, the popular proprietor of the Blue Ribbon Laundry at 513 North Clark street, is building up a fine business.

Judge John R. Cawery is daily adding to his popularity in Chicago by his splendid record on the Municipal Court bench.

Samuel W. Jackson, the well known lawyer, who was one of the best Presidents the Law Institute ever had, is frequently mentioned for judge.

George W. Paulin, the great furrier, has made a business record for honesty and integrity that wins for him hosts of friends.

Popular Jack Henderson would make a good member of the State Board of Equalization.

Dow B. Lewis would make a good County Commissioner.

Hiram Coombs, the well known real estate expert, is highly respected by all who know him. He is a splendid judge of values and property entrusted to his care always shows good results.

Patrick F. Haynes has always served the public well. He deserves a good office.

Adam Wolf is one of the most popular men in Chicago. You can't beat him.

Business men who phone Heco, Superior 7100, for envelopes, always get what they want.

Isaac N. Powell, in the opinion of everybody, will be elected Republican Committeeman in the Seventh Ward.

Hempstead Washburne, the popular former mayor, is active in many branches of public life.

G. A. Schilling, the popular head of the Elks' building committee, is doing great work in paving the way for a grand new Elks' building on Washington street.

Jeremiah B. O'Connell, the able lawyer, has thousands of admirers who want to see him on the judicial bench.

J. J. Sheehan, of 1239 North State street, would make a good alderman for the 21st ward in the opinion of his many friends.

Oscar F. Mayer, the great packer, is very popular in politics and could have almost any office if he would take it.

Q. J. Chott, the well known lawyer, who made a good record on the justice bench, would make a good Municipal Judge.

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