

The Washington Times

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Reform in the Consular Service.

A Moderate Measure of Improvement Shut Out by the Senate on a Point of Order.

The important question of consular reform was treated with scant consideration in the Senate this week, when an amendment to the diplomatic and consular appropriation bill offered by Senator Lodge, with a view to improving the service, was shut out on a point of order.

It was not a great deal which the Lodge amendment attempted. Its purpose was only to get the Consular Service graded, to get the salaries fixed, to abolish all fees, to equalize salaries, and to open the door to promotion. This is only a part of the plan of consular reform, which is embodied in the bill favorably reported by the Foreign Relations Committee, and now pending in the Senate. But if it had been adopted, it would have laid the foundations for a greatly needed reform.

To prevent his proposition from being regarded as the scheme of some doctrinaire, Senator Lodge thought it wise to name the representatives of the leading chambers of commerce and other great business interests who have appeared before Congress committees to urge reform in the Consular Service. This should not have been necessary. It ought to be well understood by this time, in Congress and out of it, that the improvement of the Consular Service is something which very closely concerns all interests which are concerned in foreign trade.

Those who make this demand do not reflect upon the present personnel of the service. They recognize the fact that not a few American consuls are competent and energetic and are doing good service to the Government and to commerce. But the good results now secured by the service are in spite of the evil system which controls it, not because of it; and what is now good might be made vastly better by the adoption of improved methods.

There are few places in the whole range of the Government employ where it can make less difference whether a man is a Republican or a Democrat, or where it can be more important that he should be alert, intelligent and properly trained. There ought to be graded salaries. There ought to be a chance for promotion. There ought to be security of tenure. There ought to be inducements which would make the service a desirable career, rather than a refuge for decayed politicians. And all these changes and others are demanded not by idealistic reformers, but by the solid business interests of the country. Some day, and probably some day not far distant, Congress will recognize and respect this demand.

A Statue to Robert E. Lee.

If Not at Washington, Why Not on the Gettysburg Battlefield?

Pennsylvania's offer to join Virginia in erecting a statue at Gettysburg to Gen. Robert E. Lee has led to narrow and peevish protests in certain quarters. Some over-zealous critics have been impelled to denounce the Lee memorial project as an unwise surrender to thoughtless sentiment, an acknowledgment of the intrinsic merit of the cause of slavery and secession for which Lee fought. No man adjudged a traitor and a rebel, it is argued, should receive, with Federal sanction and in a Federal pantheon, honors indistinguishable from those which a grateful Government has showered on those who saved the Union.

Some valid objection might be lodged against an acceptance by Congress of the Lee statue, which Virginia stands ready to add to the fearful and wonderful array of national heroes gathered under the roof of the Capitol. It may be that the Commander-in-Chief of the Confederate armies has no legitimate place among the soldiers, the statesmen, the pioneers, who struggled to create, not to destroy and to dismember, a nation. Congress could scarcely justify itself, perhaps, in welcoming to equal rank in that company the great captain whose sword was drawn to compel the division and dissipation of the American birthright.

But, though Congress might hesitate about admitting a Lee statue to the Statuary Hall, there should be no obstacle to the War Department granting a permit for the erection of a suitable memorial to the Confederate commander on the Gettysburg battlefield. That battle was for Lee, for the army which he led, and for the government which he served, the decisive battle of the war.

At Gettysburg both Southern army and Southern leader were tested as they were tested in no other struggle; and if they failed, they failed for lack of no efforts and no sacrifices of which they were capable. General Lee belongs to that field as one of its great figures—a character and personality for which Northerners have always felt the sincerest liking and respect.

It is to be hoped that Pennsylvania's generous proposal to Virginia will be accepted, and that Lee may take his place with the other commanders—Meade, Hancock, Reynolds and Slocum—already thus honored on the Gettysburg field. Certainly such a liberal-spirited project should meet at this late day with nothing but friendliness and encouragement.

MARVELS OF THE GREAT.

The "Strenuousness, Heartiness, and Vigor" of Theodore Roosevelt and His Wonderful Memory.

It is proverbially easy to find astonishing mental qualities in those in high office. Marvels of memory, proofs of omniscience, are picked up as thick as blackberries by those who loaf around thrones or bask in executive favor. We read, for example, in the "Hindu" of Madras, for December 16, 1902, an account of the way in which a visitor from the East, James J. N. Tata, went to the White House to learn all about the wonders of his own city.

"Senator Hanna was his introducer, and that was enough. As in President McKinley's time, so now, the Senator is the 'power behind the throne,' if a monarchial simile may be permitted. Here is the conversation which ensued:

Senator Hanna—I have pleasure, Mr. President, in introducing to you Mr. Tata, of Bombay, who is in this country studying our industries, and who is much impressed by what he has seen. Mr. Tata is a Parsee merchant and millowner.

President Roosevelt—I am glad to see you, Mr. Tata. And how is your Parsee cricket getting on? Are you still beating British teams?

Mr. Tata (delighted)—Why, how can your excellency, with all the duties of state incumbent upon you, know anything about Parsee cricket in Bombay?

President Roosevelt—I do know something about it, Mr. Tata. How are the Parsees getting on? Are they still beating their opponents?

Mr. Tata—I am very pleased to tell you, sir, that they are still victorious. The last news I had about them was that they had beaten the Presidency team in very good fashion.

President Roosevelt—That's good. Tell them to stick to their sports and to do their best to beat all comers.

Mr. Tata—I certainly will tell them, Mr. President, what you have said. They will be highly gratified to be made aware of what you know of their efforts. And now, sir, I must

DEMOCRACY as it is today is a misnomer. The aristocratic and oligarchical tendencies among us are increasing at an alarming rate. Many reformers try to amend the government by tinkering with the machinery of the state; by tinkering with the ballot. This will not do. There must be an inner or spiritual change. A noted Frenchman has said that we are not a republic in the true sense; that we simply use the term liberty as a bait. We have a false conception of democracy.

Our country and institutions cannot last unless we become actively interested in an aim for social equality. In the political fields the power to choose our rulers and the power to make our laws has slipped from our hands. This is because of the oligarchy in politics. People do not have the chance to choose their own candidates, but must choose between the candidates of contending powers. Let us as Americans rise and sweep the oligarchical powers in politics and industrial monopolies from the face of the earth, even though they may still have power enough left in them to creep back. We have kept the way open to punish the offenders, and it is often the case that the public raises its voice in condemnation, so we may say that our Government has become an oligarchy tempered by the public uprising.

The list of marriages of wealthy American girls to titled foreigners is increasing alarmingly, and this more clearly betrays our democratic assumption. After the United States has been used as a ladder or means of getting rich

it is cast aside and the titles and aristocracy of Europe sought after.

Instead of aiming for individual riches and self-aggrandizement, we should make it our first aim to encourage our arts and our educational advantages. A man belongs to his country. He is like an eye, a hand, or a foot; he has no right to cut himself off from his country except for the gravest of reasons. We ensure the poor Chinaman who comes here, makes his money, and then takes it back to his own country, at the same time those who are the most indebted to this country turn their backs on it to affiliate with European nobility. We as a nation are bowed before our idols of commerce, expansion, and riches.

In regard to Professor Jenks' recommendation for the introduction of coolie labor in our Philippine possessions, my contention is that this proposition is to establish human slavery forty years after we went through war and human bloodshed to banish this evil from our nation forever. The coolie contract is no contract. The essence of a contract is the fact that it can be broken. The coolie contract is misnamed, because it makes the man labor whether he will or not. I call this qualified slavery.

I found my hope for a new and better country on the passing of the blinding storm of materialism and the recognition by humanity of the inequality of men and the cultivation of social tendencies for the strong to help the weak and the rich to help the poor along the way to a true democracy.

IN THE COURTS AND CAPITALS OF THE OLD WORLD

Some Family History of Speck von Sternburg, Germany's New Representative in Washington—European Sovereigns Who Will Contest for the King of Italy's Racing Prize. Kaiser and Eldest Sister Becoming Reconciled.

The New German Ambassador.

Baron Speck von Sternburg, the Kaiser's new representative at Washington, bears a nobiliary title which dates from the time of the Seven Years' War. The founder of his family was the commissary general of Frederick the Great, who did not hesitate to ascribe his phenomenal successes in the field during that historic struggle as being due in a large measure to the wonderfully clever way in which Commissary General Speck provided for the sustenance of his troops.

At the close of the war Frederick showed his recognition of the commissary general's services by conferring upon him the nobility with the title of baron and the additional name of "von Sternburg," present'ing him at the same time with a large sum of money as a reward for his integrity.

The newly created baron made such good use of this money that at his death he left a very large fortune, as well as the beautiful property and chateau of Lutzschena, near Leipzig, which is now the ancestral home of the family. Among the features of the castle is a large picture gallery with a magnificent collection of old Italian masters, which is famous throughout the length and breadth of Germany. Another feature of the estate is the Lutzschena brewery, the produce of which is in great demand at Leipzig. Today the family of Baron Speck von Sternburg, although their title originated with Frederick the Great, King of Prussia, are regarded as belonging to the nobility of the kingdom of Saxony.

A Difficult Task.

The baron has a difficult task before him, in view of the bitter feeling created throughout this country in connection with the stupid Venezuelan affair. But it is certain that if there is one German diplomat more than another who is likely to accomplish it, and to allay all feelings of bitterness against Germany and the Kaiser, it is Baron Herman Speck von Sternburg, whose qualifications for the post of German representative at Washington are so exceptional that they may be described as altogether unique.

The Sport of Kings.

King Edward's action in entering his bay colt, a son of St. Simon, for the new race which King Victor Emmanuel established with the Lombardy Horse Racing Association, to be run at Milan in June, for a royal prize of \$20,000—a race for which Emperor William has likewise entered a horse—marks an altogether new departure in international sport. Several years ago I predicted in these letters that the time would come when Old World monarchs would com-

pete with one another in friendly rivalry on the turf, and that Emperor William would strive to win the Grand Prix, at Paris, and now this prophecy is coming true. For since the English and German monarchs enter horses for the race which is destined to be the principal sporting event of the Italian turf, and to have their horses compete at Milan with those of King Victor Emmanuel, there is no reason why these three rulers should not likewise register their racing colors with the French Jockey Club, and enter horses for the Grand Prix at Longchamp, at Auteuil, and for the Derby at Chantilly.

We may yet witness the Kaiser carrying off the ribbon of the English turf by winning the Derby at Epsom, and among other monarchs whose colors are certain to be seen on foreign courses are those of the young King of Spain, who is busily engaged in forming a racing stable, and who does not make any concealment of his hopes of eventually inducing his people to adopt horse racing as their national sport in lieu of bullfighting.

Turin Now a General.

King Victor Emmanuel's cousin, the Count of Turin, who spent a considerable time in this country in 1898, and was extensively entertained, has just been promoted to the rank of general and appointed to the cavalry division quartered at Florence. He makes his home in a suite of apartments in the grand old Pitti palace, at Florence.

The Kaiser's Eldest Sister.

Princess Charlotte of Saxe-Meiningen, the eldest sister of the Kaiser, looks still so young that it is difficult to realize that she is a grandmother, and that within the next fortnight or so she will celebrate her silver wedding. The princess is far and away the best looking member of the royal house of Prussia, and has all along possessed a brilliancy, an elegance and a chic of which none of her sisters could boast. She was while at Berlin the most popular figure in society, and its leader in many respects, all fashion's edicts and projects for entertainment originating from the charming Palazzino, near the Tiergarten, where she made her headquarters.

The Emperor did not altogether relish this impertinence of his sister in his imperio, and moreover, the princess, who is exceedingly high-spirited and who possesses a keen sense of the ridiculous and a tendency toward sarcasm, resented the attempts of her imperial brother to dictate to her in her home life and social relations. The result of it all was that Princess Charlotte and her husband, to the profound regret of Berlin society, moved away from the capital, shutting

In the Public Eye.

Sir Ernest Cassel, who gave \$1,000,000 for tubercular research, has offered to give \$200,000 for the study and investigation of ophthalmia in Egypt.

Kaid Sir Harry Maclean, commander-in-chief of the Moorish army, is a Scotchman, and is the only Christian who has openly crossed the Gambia Pass and visited the sacred tomb of Mujlat Ali Sherief, in the Tafilet district.

Col. Samuel Sims, who died a few days ago at Rich Hill, Mo., had been a citizen successively of the republic of Texas, the Confederate States, and the United States, without changing his residence.

John P. Branch, of Richmond, Va., has offered to give Randolph-Macon College \$1 for every \$2 contributed by others until his contributions shall reach \$100,000. The time limit to the offer is April 30.

Verestchagin, the famous Russian painter, is now at his home in Moscow.

Prof. Otis T. Mason, of the Smithsonian Institution, says the greatest need of 1903 is the discovery of a satisfactory method of economizing electricity.

The editor of an illustrated weekly wrote to Dr. Henry Van Dyke, professor of English literature in Princeton University, asking him to write a prayer for

Unconsidered Trifles.

Retort.

Fuselus—And what would you say, sir, if I were to tell you you were not a gentleman?

Prosticus—I would immediately reach the conclusion that you and I really had more in common than I had thought we had.—Baltimore American.

An Office Boy's Threat.

First Office Boy—I guess de boss will raise my pay.

Second Office Boy—What makes you 'tink so?

First Office Boy—I give him ter understand I'd stay till he did.—Judge.

Forbearance on Both Sides.

Harry—You and Tom appear to be the best of friends.

Dick—Why shouldn't we be? We never say what we think of each other.—Boston Transcript.

Drawbacks of the Tin Roof.

La Mont—Children are so much worse than they used to be. What do you attribute it to?

La Moyné—Improved ideas in building.

La Mont—What has that to do with it?

La Moyné—Much. Shingles are scarce, and you can't spank a boy with a tin roof.—Philadelphia Record.

In the Field of National Politics.

None But Democrats Now.

The Democrats of the North Carolina Legislature have broken their deadlock and selected the Hon. Lee S. Overman to represent the Tar Heel State in the United States Senate vice the Hon. Jeter C. Pritchard. When Senator Pritchard goes out of office at the expiration of his term on March 4, the Republican party of the Old North State will go with him into involuntary retirement.

For the first time in nearly ten years the Democrats of the State will be in absolute control, a control which they have gained largely by the elimination of colored voters through constitutional amendments disfranchising a large majority of them. When the Hon. Matt Ransom went to Mexico as the first ambassador from the United States to that republic, and the Hon. Zeb Vance, after many years of faithful service to his State, died, North Carolina became inculcated with the Populist virus. The effect was different from that produced from the infection in the States of the West, for it operated against the Democratic party instead of with it, as in Kansas, Nebraska, and elsewhere.

A Short-Lived Success.

The Populist movement, led by ex-Senator Marion Butler, co-operated with the Republicans under Senator Pritchard, and the result was that both came to the Senate, Pritchard winning the short term and Butler, the man chiefly responsible for the overthrow of the Democracy, the long term. When Pritchard's term expired the combination of Republicans and Populists in the State was still in working order and control, and he was returned for six years. After one full term Butler retired two years ago, the Democrats having regained the Legislature, and he is now fast becoming a plutocrat in New York. Senator Pritchard sought to establish a white man's Republican party in the State and failed.

The Populists and Republicans who formerly managed to get to Congress from North Carolina have, with Pritchard and Butler, likewise been retired; Pritchard is the last of these. The Pops disappeared two years ago, and the remaining Republicans, Blackburn and Moody, went down to defeat last November, so that after the 4th of March North Carolina will have a solid Democratic delegation in Congress, two Democratic Senators and ten members of that party in the House, as against seven in the present House.

The Senator-elect from North Carolina may be said to have Senatorial

blood, if not in his veins then in his family. He is the son-in-law of ex-Senator Merrimon, of North Carolina, who was afterward chief justice of the State, and was for a number of years private secretary to the late Senator Vance. He has served five terms in the State Legislature, and hence is a man of experience in legislative work, and is accredited with marked ability.

So Near and Yet—

The election of Overman among other things goes to show how unfortunate is the Hon. Cyrus Watson, who seems to have been born under an unlucky star, if there is such a condition of nativity to produce ill-fortune. Time and again the Hon. Cyrus Watson has seen the succulent plum of lucrative office dangling temptingly almost within his grasp, but each time he has leaped to pluck the limb upon which hung the fruit swayed away from him and he lost it.

For a long time he was an aspirant for gubernatorial honors. At last he was accorded the nomination of his party, but it was just at that period when Populism overran the State, and a coalition had been effected between the "Pops" and the Republicans with Governor Russell at the head of the ticket. The Hon. Cyrus Watson could not have selected a more inopportune time in which to be a candidate for governor. Notwithstanding his popularity and his service to his State he went down to defeat and Russell was elected.

Again in the recent campaign he was a candidate for the Senate to succeed Pritchard. At the outset, the Hon. Locke Craig stepped in and announced himself as the favorite in the race, by accepting a challenge to a series of joint debates with Pritchard. It was said that Pritchard chose the least formidable candidate when he issued his challenge, and when the Legislature came to vote it developed that Craig instead of being the favorite was third in the race, both Overman and Watson leading him from the outset.

Craig, however, held the balance of power, and when after three weeks of fruitless voting he became convinced that he could not himself be elected, he threw sufficient of his strength to Overman to enable him to win, and again the Hon. Cyrus Watson saw the bubble of his ambition pierce.

Several times while the contest was on Watson was within five votes of enough to elect him to the Senate, but these five votes he could not obtain, and in the end he lost.

PRINCE NICHOLAS OF MONTENEGRO.

The Picturesque and Paternal Autocrat of One of the Smallest Countries in Europe.

The visit of the Czar Nicholas to his brother autocrat, Prince Nicholas of Montenegro, is announced, and draws attention to the comic opera ruler of the Black Mountain principality, for Prince Nicholas, the paternal autocrat of a country with a population less than that of the State of Rhode Island, seems more like a stage hero than a modern reigning sovereign. The principality's romantic scenery, which brings to mind the semi-civilized Switzerland of the days of William Tell, the picturesque address of the people of all classes from the prince down, and the patriarchal system of government, all seem to stagnate to be realities in this matter of fact age. The prince's subjects no more discuss his orders than an army discusses the commands of a general. There is nothing in Montenegro which even remotely resembles a parliament. The prince not only makes the laws, but, being the supreme judge in the principality, has the power of applying these laws as he chooses.

The everyday life of Prince Nicholas is somewhat different from the usual routine of reigning princes. While the life of the Czar is necessarily spent in a continual succession of receptions and court functions, the existence of the none less autocratic ruler of Montenegro is that of a hardy mountaineer, despising luxury and indolence. Every morning at a fixed hour the prince takes his seat under the famous old mulberry tree in the principal public square of Cetinje, where he holds his high court of justice and renders sentence in all cases appealed to him. For minor offenses, such as assault, the accused is deprived of the pistols which every self-

respecting Montenegrin carries with him, and is sentenced to imprisonment in the open air jail adjoining the public square.

The prince, his duties as chief justice accomplished, takes a walk through the streets of his capital, accompanied by a bodyguard, always making himself easy of access to the numerous supplicants who take this opportunity of presenting their petitions and grievances.

The pleasant hours of the day for Prince Nicholas are in the evening, after dinner. He then repairs to the audience chamber, and, seated at a corner of the huge fireplace (large enough to roast an ox), and making himself the central figure of a semicircle formed by his chiefs, who respectfully wait for the prince to question them, he seeks information and asks advice, discusses the events of the day in Cetinje, and listens to the news from the districts of the principality. In this manner he learns more in an hour's conversation than from volumes of officials reports. These evening gatherings end with music and singing, in which the prince takes part, Prince Nicholas was a great athlete in his younger days, and is still a good horseman, a capital shot, and a splendid swordsman. To his other attainments the prince adds that of being a poet and prose writer of no small talent, his best known work being a tragedy, "The Empress of the Balkans." But, notwithstanding his literary achievements, Prince Nicholas has never been a student. Hunting, fishing and traveling are his favorite pastimes. His civil list, only \$14,000 a year, is ample for his simple tastes, which never call for great expenditure.

THE PAPERS OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

Delicate Work of Preserving Valuable Documents.

The American Philosophical Society has an invaluable collection of the papers of Benjamin Franklin. These papers it is now reviewing and repairing. The repairs are being made with quite unique delicacy and skill, and the person who is making them desires romantically to remain unknown. She had no equal in the work; nevertheless, she will not reveal her name. The Franklin papers comprise eighty-five volumes. After their renovation they will comprise 170 volumes. The following incident will give some idea of their value:

When Franklin died he bequeathed all his papers—every important note and letter that had come to him—to his grandson. The grandson took about one-tenth of them to England and left them in a lodging house. They disappeared. For fifty years nothing was heard of them. It was as though the earth had swallowed them up. Then, suddenly, Stevens—Stevens, the professional collector—loomed up on the horizon, the bundles of Franklin papers, dusty and faded, outlined in his hand against the sky. The Department of State at Washington bought these documents from Stevens for \$35,000. Hence it follows that if one-tenth of the collection be worth \$35,000 the other nine-tenths in the Philosophical Society's room, at Fifth and Chestnut Streets, must be worth \$315,000.

In the past the papers did not seem so valuable, and therefore, in the past they were not so well preserved. It sufficed then for them to be bound up in volumes, but such treatment no longer suffices.

Each letter now has its ragged old margin replaced by a new margin—work of much delicacy, that requires the filing down of the new paper with emery to the proper thickness, so that it may be pasted with perfect neatness to the old.

Each letter is covered with the thinnest silk tissue—a tissue perfectly transparent and almost perfectly invisible, which strengthens the paper of the original, prevents it from being torn and keeps it from wearing down.

Finally each letter is mounted on the blank page of a strong book, sumptuously bound. The books have an appearance of elegance. Their contents also have an elegant appearance, and will last, under treatment so careful and so scientific, a practically indefinite time.

The preservation of historical documents such as these is an interesting question. The things that these documents suffer from mainly as the years go by are handling, rotting of paper, and fading of the ink.

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