

The Washington Times

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Our Regular Winter Performance.

Snow and ice, a new law, talk of an appropriation of \$100,000 unless a new law is passed, and the rest of the familiar subject-matter are upon us this winter as last, and the winter before that, and so on for a generation.

It ought not be impossible to frame a law which will compel owners of property in the District of Columbia to clear away the snow and ice from the foot pavements fronting on their property.

Another bill on this subject—possibly the third, maybe the thirteenth—has gone to Congress.

The proposed bill contains practically the same provisions which were embodied in the last snow and ice act passed by Congress and held invalid by the Court of Appeals on the ground that it held certain discriminations, except that the objectionable features are eliminated.

Hope springs eternal in the human breast. Our enthusiasms are as young as those of the Commissioners. And yet! And yet! From the synopsis of the bill which has been printed as news we learn that the punishment provided is a fine or imprisonment; and so we wonder how this new bill is to reach non-residents who own property here; and we do not forget that it has been the non-residents who have chiefly offended in the past.

Public Obligations.

Richard A. McCurdy, former president of the Mutual Life Insurance Company, is said to be going to Paris, there to pass the rest of his days in whatever peace his conscience will grant him.

John A. McCall, former president of the New York Life Insurance Company, has retired to Lakewood, N. J., whence come reports that he is a mental and physical wreck.

To the American public the names of McCall and McCurdy are, for the present, synonymous of all that is odious in business life. They will remain so until repelled by the names of the next millionaires who become the objects of the public indignation.

Laborers and Lords.

Whether or not John Burns is to appear at King Edward's reception in knee breeches and gold lace is not the most important problem presented by the sudden growth of the English Labor party.

ed by the defeated Conservatives, or will it merely establish a just balance of power between the social forces which are guiding the destinies of the British Empire? We incline to the latter opinion.

Transfer the question to this country. Would it be better for the American public and for American labor if there were more workmen members of Congress? Perhaps the most conservative answer is to wait and see what happens in England.

However, while our English cousins are solving the problem for us, here are a few questions we might consider: Would American labor receive more at the hands of the Government by having a party of its own than by appealing to or threatening the two great parties? Is it a healthy condition of affairs for the country to have American laborers uniting by the million and sending delegates to an annual convention, where labor problems are discussed from but one point of view? Is it well to have a vast representative system of government for labor grow up outside our representative system of government? As capital has its representatives in Congress, would it be well for labor to have the same? Would the public suffer less by having labor and capital settle their larger difficulties at the polls and in Congress instead of by strikes in the coal fields? Would it be better for labor to use the strike as a local weapon, and to transfer to their delegates in Congress, as a public issue, every labor dispute which involves the comfort of millions of American citizens? Could Senator Gompers or Senator Mitchell accomplish more for labor than Mr. Gompers or Mr. Mitchell?

These questions may receive their answer from events in the British parliament.

It looks as if the only hope for Bond was to marry again.

President Dolan is evidently not one of those labor leaders who is opposed to "government by injunction."

We are unable to suppress the feeling that making Senator Tillman chairman of the Committee on the Five Civilized Tribes was an act of Senatorial humor.

THE PERSONAL SIDE AT THE CAPITOL

Several Congressmen the other day fell out discussing the use of money in legislation. With the result that three rather good stories were told, the truthfulness of which was in each instance guaranteed.

The first Congressman related that before coming to Congress he had a number of companies were rivals for a franchise. A virtuous lawyer arrived from a rural district, determined to put his foot down hard on any graft which might creep within his reach, and he did not hesitate to make widely known his anticipated opposition to any legislation which would take great pleasure in voting on the other side.

"Sir, I had intended to vote that way, but since you are in this bribe I shall take great pleasure in voting on the other side. You have cost yourself one vote by your impudent proposal."

"I will take you, sir," promptly retorted the lobbyist. "The roll was called, your presiding officer gave his casting vote to the lobbyist who was standing over to the lobbyist the \$5,000 agreed upon."

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MARYLAND SOLONS ARE BADLY MIXED

Both Parties Flounder for Lack of Leaders.

B. & O. HOLDING THE STAGE

Legislature at Annapolis Would Like to Push Investigation, But "Don't Know How."

BALTIMORE, Feb. 10.—Baltimore and Ohio railroad affairs continue to engross the attention of the legislators at Annapolis to the exclusion of all other matters. The proposed investigation of the Washington branch, consideration of which might have been disposed of long ago, had there been a directing head, seems to have divided both parties, and unless an understanding is reached by the Democrats in the near future the movement started so encouragingly may never come to a head.

Not in the recollection of the oldest politician has there been such a lack of leadership as at this session. In the senate, where the Democrats have a clear majority of eight, they are unable to control party legislation, the so-called Warfield or anti-organization Democrats, with the assistance of the Republicans, having up to this time blocked every move Senator Gorman inspired. In the house, where the Democrats have a scant majority of four, the organization crowd is in a hopeless minority. There are at least half a dozen independent members who will not be bound by caucus on matters of legislation.

The Republicans might profit from the discord in the ranks of the opposition if they were not themselves at odds. Chairman Hanna and other leaders have been endeavoring to obtain unanimity of action, but they have not been able to get their party together.

There are already three resolutions in committee in the senate and three in the house. The Brewington resolutions will be the seventh. But for Gorman's insistence upon making this investigation a party question, there would be no trouble for the Warfield people and Republicans want an investigation as much as he. But they won't permit him to make of it a political football.

The outlook for oyster legislation is not encouraging. Although B. Howard Haman, the champion of oyster planting, has made concessions, the opponents of his plan are as much opposed to it as ever, and at a hearing before the committee on Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, at which he and President Seth measured swords, much feeling was manifested. One great objection to the Haman bill is his definition of a natural bed. He insists that it comes in as a barren bottom which it falls to produce oysters at all times. The oyster men insist that some of the best lands in the bay are barren in some seasons and fruitful at others, and that only those beds which never yield are barren. This is General Seth's idea, and he is backed by all of the Representatives in tidewater counties in southern Maryland and the Eastern Shore. As Mr. Haman declines to yield his contention on this point it may prove an unsurmountable obstacle. Another objection to the Haman bill is a failure to provide adequate protection for the planter. It makes the minimum area of lease in the county waters one acre, and five acres in the open bay, while the maximum is thirty acres in the county waters, and one hundred in the bay. The planters are expected to protect their beds, for the small oyster navy cannot guard all the waters in the bay. How a planter owning five acres under cultivation can prevent depredations is not quite clear. It would cost more than the beds would produce to maintain a guard boat, which must be stationed on the ground at all times. About the only way proper protection can be afforded is by leasing ground from headland to headland, and only a corporation or combination of planters could afford such a luxury, yet the provisions of the Haman bill are very stringent against corporate ownership.

Still another objection is the proposition to mark the boundaries with buoys. It is claimed if this were done the bay would literally be covered with buoys and the incident of a law similar to that of these buoys must be held in position by chains, which could become wrapped about paddle wheels of passing steamers. Nevertheless, Mr. Haman insists his is the only feasible plan.

The Seth bill is far more liberal and meets with the approval of the oyster men. His idea is to reserve all natural beds and dispose of all outside bottoms following closely the Virginia plan. The bill provides for a survey in which the United States authorities are to be invited to aid, as they did in Virginia, and the latter is to be in charge of five commissioners who are to designate the natural beds to be excluded from the leasing system. General Seth is now preparing a planting bill which is designed to overcome the objections to that presented by Mr. Haman.

This week a legislative committee will go to Richmond to confer with the Virginia Legislature and if possible secure the enactment of a law similar to that in force in this State for the protection of oysters in the Potomac river. While this river is almost entirely in Maryland, Virginia enjoys equal fishery rights, Maryland oystermen are stopped by a State law from taking oysters of season, but Virginia boats unhindered frequently encroach on beds on the Maryland shore. It is understood that the Virginia authorities are ready to cooperate with those in Maryland to guard against depredations.

No action has as yet been taken by either of the elections committees on the various measures referred to them which seek to amend the law relating to the ballot. Several meetings were held last week at which contests were considered, but even these are dragging. The authorities here do not anticipate any serious trouble, but are making preparations to meet an uprising.

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DEMOCRATIC FLOOR LEADER IN MARYLAND SENATE, AND CLOSE FRIEND OF GORMAN



GEN. JOSEPH B. SETH. He is a Veteran Politician of the Terrapin State, and is Strongly Opposing the Haman Oyster Bill.

work; if, however, its task is unfinished, then the committee shall be continued after the recess. This proposition is now under consideration.

STATE MUST ADVERTISE PETITIONS FOR PARDON

New Jersey, by New Rules, Hopes to Obviate Unfavorable Criticism by Public.

TRENTON, N. J., Feb. 10.—The criticisms that have been directed to the work of the court of pardons in the past have influenced the actions of the new rules governing the actions of the court, and hereafter the public will know what is being done in the cases of men and women convicts who are in State prison and penitentiary wanting to be released on parole.

In the past men noted for crimes against society have been liberated, and society knew nothing about their coming out until the final action of the court. The publicity rule provides for the publication of applications once a week for two weeks successively, next preceding the term, in two newspapers printed in the city of Trenton, and by posting for a like space of two weeks at the courthouse of the county in which conviction was had.

AGREEMENT ON MOROCCO REPORTED IN LONDON

Times Says Germany Has Given in, France Granting Division of Power Over Finances.

LONDON, Feb. 11.—The London Sunday Times this morning prints a despatch from its correspondent at Algiers stating that the Moroccan conference has practically agreed on a method of settling all the points in dispute. According to the correspondent, Germany will agree to give France a free hand in Morocco, the latter nation agreeing to the nationalization of the state bank, which would make the Sultan equally dependent on all of the powers financially. This is declared to be the main object desired by Germany.

CANNON WILL ADDRESS PHILADELPHIA LEAGUE

Dinner Planned in Honor of Speaker. Expected to Discuss Railroad Rates and Panama Canal.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Feb. 10.—Joseph G. Cannon, Speaker of the House of Representatives, has accepted an invitation to address the Union League in this city on Saturday evening of next week. The Speaker will be entertained at dinner at the league. The event is expected to be the most notable since the banquet to President Roosevelt last year.

Although the subject of Mr. Cannon's address has not been announced it is understood that he will touch upon the vital questions before the House, and will include reference to the Hepburn railroad rate bill, the Santo Domingo treaty, and the building of the Panama Canal.

FACORY AND WAREHOUSES BURNED IN WILMINGTON

WILMINGTON, Del., Feb. 10.—The total loss from the extensive fire here today is \$100,000. The principal sufferer was the Willard Bag and Overall Manufactory, which was completely destroyed. The loss is \$50,000.

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIVES RISE AGAINST POLL TAX

CAPETOWN, Feb. 10.—Troops have been sent into the Richmond district to put an end to the incipient uprising of the blacks against the poll tax. The chiefs declare that the trouble has been caused by native Christians. The authorities here do not anticipate any serious trouble, but are making preparations to meet an uprising.

DELEGATES TO CONGRESS PLEASES COMPLETED

Delegates of Note to Meet in Washington.

ALL STATES REPRESENTED

Address of Welcome at New Willard Will Be Made by Commissioner Macfarland.

Arrangements for the divorce congress, which will meet in Washington a week from tomorrow, have been completed. Yesterday afternoon the chairman of the local committee secured the promise of Commissioner Macfarland to deliver the address of welcome. All other details for the meeting have been gotten into shape.

The congress will assemble in the hall on the tenth floor of the New Willard at 10 o'clock this morning. After organization has been effected the address of welcome will be delivered by Mr. Macfarland, which will be followed by an address by Governor Pennypacker, of Pennsylvania.

During the afternoon of the opening day the delegates and those accompanying them will be taken to the congress will be received by the President at the White House.

Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock the congress will listen to representatives of the interchurch congress, who will report to it the action which the interchurch conference on marriage and divorce has taken on the subjects entrusted to it by the churches.

Probable Representatives.

The representatives expected to appear before the congress are: Bishop William C. Doan, Albany, N. Y., chairman; the Rev. Dr. William H. Roberts, Philadelphia, secretary; John E. Parsons and Francis Lynde Stetson, New York city, and Judge William M. Launing, Trenton, N. J. Forty-two States and the District of Columbia have appointed delegates to the congress. They are as follows: Alabama—Henry D. Clayton, A. A. Wiley, Oscar W. Underwood, Gov. William D. Hooper, Jr.; Arkansas—Senator James P. Clarke, Joe M. Robinson, Charles Floyd, C. A. Reid, Gov. Jeff Davis; California—Charles Monroe, J. N. Gillett, Albert B. Dabney, Gov. George C. Pardee; Colorado—Robert W. Bonye, John A. Dewesse, Mrs. Mary C. C. Bradford, Gov. James H. McInnis; Connecticut—Talbot H. Russell, Walter E. Coe, Erilis P. Arvine, Gov. Henry Rogers; Delaware—Benjamin Nelis, Attorney General Robert H. Richards, Henry Ridgely, Gov. Preston Lee; District of Columbia—V. Ross Perry, F. L. Siddons, Aidis B. Browne; Florida—Robert W. Williams, John C. Avery, Louis C. Massey, Gov. Napoleon B. Broward; Georgia—Henry R. Goetchius, Richard A. Denny, George W. Williams, Gov. John S. Burdham, J. J. Landritt, Idaho—J. F. Ailsie, Mrs. Martin Wagner, Gov. Frank R. Gooding; Illinois—Charles F. McGowan, John C. Richberg, Thomas Taylor, Jr., Gov. Charles S. Deneen; Indiana—Leut. Gov. Hugh T. Miller, Attorney General Charles E. Fisher, Judge James E. Piety, circuit court; Iowa—E. H. Hubbard, Walter I. Smith, Benjamin F. Bissell, Gov. Albert S. Cummins; Kansas—Ex-Governor W. E. Stanley, J. C. Coatsworth, W. E. Glasco, Gov. Edward W. Hoch; Kentucky—John D. Carroll, J. Wheeler Campbell, R. W. Miller, Gov. John C. W. Beckham; Louisiana—Thomas J. Kernan, W. O. Hart, J. B. Thornton, Gov. Newton C. Blanchard; Maine and Maryland.

Maine—Charles F. Libby, Hannibal E. Hamlin, F. M. Higgins, Gov. William T. Cobb; Maryland—Stevenson Archer Williams, Milton G. Urner, George R. Gaither, Gov. Edwin M. Stansbury; Massachusetts—George E. Gardner, Gov. Curtis Guild, Jr.; Michigan—Robert E. Frazer, Alfred Wolcott, John H. Steere, George W. Etes, Adam E. Bloom, Rev. Caroline Bartlett Crane, Gov. Fred M. Warner; Minnesota—John F. McQuinn, Judge S. J. Kirkpatrick, Judge C. J. St. John, William R. Rule, Gov. John I. Cox; Missouri—Rev. Dr. R. A. Holland, Archbishop John J. Glennon, Seneca N. Taylor, T. J. Murray, John S. Harris, J. R. Proctor, J. B. Suddath, W. A. Chandler, Gov. Joseph W. Folk; Montana—W. T. Pigott, Mrs. Ella Knowles Haskell, Gov. Joseph K. Toole; Nebraska—Ralph W. Brockenridge, John L. Webster, Roscoe Pound, Gov. John H. Mickey; New Hampshire—Joseph W. Fellows, Henry Burdham, Ira A. Chase, and Gov. John McLane; New Jersey—William M. Lanning, Harry Lombard, John R. Emery, and Gov. Edward C. Stokes; New York—Walter S. Logan, E. W. Huffcutt, Charles W. Higgins, Terry, and Gov. Frank W. Higgins; North Carolina—J. C. Buxton, George Roundtree, B. B. Winburn, and Gov. Robert B. Glenn; North Dakota—J. M. Austin, J. G. Hamilton, John Hurley, James Sibley, W. E. Purcell, Henry Brennan, C. X. Lounsbury, and Gov. E. Y. Sarles; Ohio—Judge Thomas M. Bigler, Rev. Dr. Washington Gladwin, Frank W. Kerr, Samuel Wheeler, and Gov. John M. Pattison; Oregon—G. M. Munly, Earl C. Brounigh, W. M. Calk, Otto J. Kraemer, and Gov. George E. Chamberlain; Pennsylvania—L. M. Munson, Walter George Smith, William H. Staake, and Samuel W. Pennypacker; Rhode Island—John H. Silinnes, Amasa M. Eaton, and Gov. George H. Uter; South Dakota—G. W. Case, A. W. Britt, H. K. Warren, Thomas Sterling, Bishop W. H. Hare, and Gov. Samuel H. Elrod; Tennessee—Bishop Thomas F. Gailor, Rev. W. E. Thompson, H. L. Bullock, W. W. Parabomb, Seld Wadsworth, W. F. E. Bag, and Gov. Frank B. Rowles; Texas—Samuel E. Young, Samuel G. Shields, J. Arnold, J. F. McQuinn, Judge S. J. Kirkpatrick, Judge C. J. St. John, William R. Rule, Gov. John I. Cox; Utah—James M. Kilwin, Z. T. Morris, Rev. Samuel W. Latham; Vermont—Senator Reed Smoot, Senator George Sutherland, Mrs. George Sutherland, Joseph Howell, Mrs. Minnie Loveland Snow, Mrs. Rachel Siegel, Gov. John C. Culver; Virginia—O. M. Barber, Joseph P. Lamson, A. A. Hall, Gov. Charles J. Bell; Virginia—R. T. Barton, Arthur A. Phegler, John Garland Pollard, Gov. Claude A. Swanson, Rev. Ira Landritt; Washington—Charles E. Shepard, Judge Alfred Battle, Ira P. Englehart, Miss Fanny Leake Cummings, Gov. Albert E. Mead; West Virginia—B. F. Meighen, E. D. Leach, C. Wood, Bailey Charles McCamie, Rev. John Wier, Gov. William M. O. Dawson; Wisconsin—Edward W. Frost, E. Ray Stevens, and Gov. J. C. Davidson; Wyoming—Judge J. A. Van Orsdal and Gov. Bryant B. Brooks.

WILL CELEBRATE LINCOLN'S BIRTH

Patriotic Societies Plan Observances.

The ninety-seventh anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, sixteenth President of the United States, will be celebrated in Washington tomorrow in many ways. There will be meetings of various patriotic societies, at which prominent men will address the gatherings, and in nearly every instance Lincoln's favorite poem, "Why Should the Spirit of Mortal Be Proud," will be either recited or read.

Today ministers of the gospel in many of the local churches will pay homage to this great American in their sermons.

The house in which Lincoln died, on Tenth street, between E and F streets northwest, opposite old Ford's theater, will be open free to the public from 9 a. m. to 4 p. m. This house are relics closely associated with the life and death of the martyred President. They are of special interest from a historical standpoint, and there is no more appropriate time for seeing them than on February 12.

Plans for Centennial.

Washington is peculiarly the city where the celebration of the anniversary of his birth should be commemorated, for it was here that he first came, unknown and unappreciated, and here it was that he died, honored and known throughout the nation.

Cannon to Make Address

Great American Will Be Subject of Many Sermons and Essays.

Soon after the passage of the code an effort was made to have the law amended so as to permit of divorce on other than the Biblical grounds. Sentiment was strongly opposed to a reversion to the old law, however, and the opposition to the single ground law died a natural death.

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Appreciating this fact, the Abraham Lincoln centennial committee of the Washington Board of Trade met in the board rooms Friday afternoon to give impetus to the movement to make Lincoln's centennial a notable event and a celebration of national character. To bring this about it was decided that a member of the Board of Trade wait upon the President with a request that the governor of each State and Territory of the United States be asked to issue an Abraham Lincoln proclamation.

Cannon to Speak.

The United States Historical Society will celebrate the birth of Lincoln tomorrow night with a meeting at McKendree Church, Massachusetts avenue near Ninth street northwest. Speaker Cannon, of the House of Representatives, has been invited to speak, and Representative Blackburn B. Doverser of West Virginia, Benjamin B. Birdsall of Iowa, J. J. Jenkins of Wisconsin, James Kennedy of Ohio, Elias S. Holliday of Indiana, Gen. John S. McCallmont, Gen. E. W. Whitaker, Gen. William Bimrey, Gen. H. O. Howard, Gen. Samuel H. Croft, Gen. L. G. Grant, of Minneapolis, and Gen. George B. Raim have promised to speak. Mrs. J. Walter Mitchell, Mrs. McConnell, and Mrs. L. A. Zuss will take part in the program. There will be no general celebration in the local public schools, but essays on the life of Lincoln will be read in many of the class rooms.

Burnside Post's Plans.

An interesting program has been arranged for the celebration of the birth of Lincoln by Burnside Post, Department of the First Congregational Church, Tenth and G streets northwest, at 8 o'clock tomorrow night. Past Department Commander Tasker will preside, and the following program will be given: Organ prelude, Mrs. J. M. McMichael, organist; call to order and presenting president of evening, Lucius D. Alden, commander Burnside Post, No. 8; Department of the Potomac, G. A. R.; Invocation, Rev. J. H. Bradford, past chaplain-in-chief, G. A. R.; remarks, Past Commander A. P. Tasker, Department of the Potomac, G. A. R., president of evening; song, "The Recessional," (Kipling); J. Walter Humphrey; address, Hon. Joseph G. Cannon, Speaker of the House of Representatives; address, Hon. Joseph V. Graf, member of Congress from Illinois; address, Admiral Winfield Scott Schley, U. S. N., retired; address, Rev. H. N. Couden, D. D., chaplain of the House of Representatives; song, "The Flag Without a Stain," Prof. J. D. McFall; address, Rev. J. G. Butler, D. D., pastor Luther Memorial Church; address, Hon. W. E. Andrews, auditor United States Treasury; President Lincoln's favorite poem, "Oh, Why Should the Spirit of Mortal Be Proud"; Rev. C. W. Gallagher, D. D., chaplain of evening; J. Walter Humphrey; address, Hon. George H. Feltus, Alfred Wood, and Jerome F. Johnson.

It is not very long since the divorce laws in operation in the District were radically changed, making absolute divorce possible only on the Biblical ground. Before the enactment of the District Code, in 1891, divorce could be procured on any one of several grounds, such as desertion, non-support, incompatibility of temperaments or cruel treatment.

Before the law limiting the ground for absolute divorce to single ground was enacted the dockets of the local courts were crowded with such litigation. It was seldom that a person suing for divorce would allege the Biblical plea as a ground for legal separation. While it is true that the law has since been amended, new code went into effect, there was a great falling off in the number of applications for divorce, and needless in the past two years the number has increased while the number of suits for maintenance and separate support has decreased.

Effort to Change Laws.

Soon after the passage of the code an effort was made to have the law amended so as to permit of divorce on other than the Biblical grounds. Sentiment was strongly opposed to a reversion to the old law, however, and the opposition to the single ground law died a natural death.