

# The Washington Times

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## FRANK A. MUNSEY

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1908.

### House Committee Takes Sides With the People.

It is with no little satisfaction that The Times announces today the decision of the House Committee on District of Columbia to line up for popular rights as against the Gas Monopoly.

The committee has agreed that a bill to repeal the gas inflation law shall be prepared and reported to the House forthwith.

Chairman Smith has seemed strangely unappreciative of the importance of this action. At first he didn't want to interfere with a litigation pending in the courts. Then when the highest court of the District had declared the law unconstitutional, he was for establishing a public service commission with power to fix prices of service. The chairman seemed unable to appreciate that his commission would have no chance to accomplish results if once monopoly were allowed to double the capital on which it must earn returns.

But the committee has seen the point. The committee has recognized that the inflation act, though held unconstitutional by the Court of Appeals, may yet be held constitutional by the Supreme Court. The danger is acute. Repeal is the one sure preventive of the grab.

And the committee is going to recommend repeal. This is in line strictly with the recommendation of the District Commissioners and Corporation Counsel Thomas. Mr. Thomas first favored suspending the inflation section. That was a mere matter of expediency, however. He believed a suspension resolution would be secured more easily than a repealing act. But when the Court of Appeals ruled against the law, Mr. Thomas promptly said to The Times:

"Now the fight should be for repeal of that act." And The Times has been urging repeal.

The inflation act is the crux of the whole business. Power to regulate prices is always held by the courts secondary to the need of earning returns on the capital. The way to regulate best is to prevent inflation.

Congratulations are due to the members of the District Committee who have insisted on action. Splendid progress has been made at this session toward throwing off the shackles of "interests" that have too long bound this city.

It is necessary that there be no relaxation of vigilance. The agents of monopoly and special privilege never tire. They will now redouble their exertions, as they see that defeat of their grab is imminent. The people must match this by equal effort.

### The Way to Better Waterways.

If, as has been reported to the President, unregulated railroad competition has prevented or destroyed the development of commerce on our inland waterways, it is not likely to be long before some reasonable scheme of regulation, alike acceptable to the railroads and the people, makes such obstructions impossible. Eventually the railroads and the waterways will flourish as complements one of the other, and the people will be thereby immeasurably benefited.

As for the principles upon which the general plan of waterway improvement is based, they are so familiar and impressive that it would seem to require no effort to gain the favorable attention of Congress. The report of the commission, which the President has transmitted to Congress, is therefore largely a call for plain and direct action. It recommends plainly and practically on behalf of the country at large such great and growing problems as are involved in the development of the Mississippi, the Atlantic coast canal, the connection between the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico and the improvement of the Pacific coast streams. Not a sectional but a national advantage is contemplated.

"Our people," reports the commission, "are united in support of the immediate adoption of a progressive policy of inland waterway development." But the development cannot all be attempted at once. The most urgent steps should be taken first. In that way only will the favor of the conservative members of Congress be secured. Still more important, only in that way can the work be done economically and effectively.

### Helping the Mountaineers.

It seems that some Virginia mountaineers are hard up. As the saying goes, they need the money. They have been living long on corn and bacon and eggs, flapjacks, corn fritters, hominy, sugar-cured ham, and broiled chicken. They want more of the great metropolitan luxuries, such as canned soup, canned beef, and canned salmon. And New York society has pitted them in their dire need, and has held some tableaux vivants for their benefit. It might have occurred to the members of the Four Hundred to send checks for a thousand or

two to the secretary of the Society for the Introduction of the Higher Life Amongst the Virginia Mountaineers; but that isn't the way they do things in society.

First they had a few dinner parties and afternoon teas so that they could talk the thing over. Then they engaged a director-in-chief to see that the tableaux would be strictly O. K. Then they engaged a business manager to hire the ball-rooms of a fashionable hotel. Then they gave orders for costumes and other accessories. There was no end of excitement. What a happy thought—to help the poor mountaineers give wretched rabbit suppers and wear neckties to church on Sunday.

One of the charitable ladies posed as Salambo or Salome in a robe of "sapphire blue shimmering with silver and gold and glistening with gems" and with a python as a neck-lace or boa. Once the snake moved, "Salambo shuddered almost imperceptibly. For the space of a second society sat in horror-stricken silence and inhaled the sickly sweet perfume of countless gardenias. Then the golden velvet curtains dropped, there was a long, deep sigh from several hundred throats, and again the applause burst forth." It was almost as thrilling and dreadful as if one of the deserving mountaineers had walked up to Salambo and asked her to dance with him.

It is believed that when the bills are paid there will be enough left to furnish the worthy Virginians with a 25-cent pair of socks apiece.

### Help the Woman Laborer, Too.

Four jurisdictions of the United States are without special and comprehensive enactment for the protection of child and woman laborers. They are—

- Nevada.
  - New Mexico.
  - The Philippine Islands.
  - The District of Columbia.
- So much has been already pointed out in these columns. For the correction of that discredit, as far as the children of the National Capital are involved, Senator Gallinger has introduced and Senator Dilliver, as chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor, has approved, a broad, explicit, and generally satisfactory child-labor act. It ought to pass at this session. It ought not to be delayed for anything, save for the scrutiny and possible amend-

ment of the legislators from Massachusetts, Tennessee, and such other Commonwealths as have proven their local legislation on this same subject by years of successful enforcement.

But even it will not eradicate all the District's discredit. The position of woman laborers in the District is not bettered by it in the least. At present three restrictions, and only three, are imposed on the employment of girls and women in this territory—that the earnings of married women shall not be liable for the debts of their husbands, and shall belong exclusively to themselves; that all woman laborers shall be provided with seats; that there shall be suitable toilet arrangements. That is all. Yet the Supreme Court of the United States thought the need for protecting such operatives great enough to warrant this language in an opinion announced by Justice Brewer within the week:

Differentiated by these matters from the other sex, she is probably placed in a class by herself, and legislation designed for her protection may be sustained, even when like legislation is not necessary for men, and could not be sustained. It is impossible to close one's eyes to the fact that she still looks to her brother and depends upon him.

Even though all restrictions on political, personal, and contractual rights were taken away, and she stood, so far as statutes are concerned, upon an absolutely equal plane with him, it would still be true that she is so constituted that she will rest upon and look to him for protection; that her physical structure and a proper discharge of her maternal functions, having in view not merely her own health, but the well-being of the race, justify legislation to protect her from the greed as well as the passion of man.

By this decision the law of Oregon was upheld in so far as it forbids the employment of women more than ten hours a day or sixty hours a week. Unless new law is had for the District of Columbia, any employer who chooses may keep his female operatives over their machines as long as their eyes will stay open or their aching backs can hold their shoulders over a bench.

Senator Dilliver complains that nobody is interested in money legislation and that the finance orators talk to empty seats. It used to be supposed that nobody took any interest in Indian affairs, too; but when Senators Owen and Curtis got busy with a dry question of Indian law, they had no trouble getting an audience and keeping it.

A commission should be appointed at once to determine which is the best Indian, Curtis or Owen. Certainly neither of them is good on the ground of being a dead one.

The only reason why a surgical operation was needed by Mr. Edison doubtless was that, having been entirely occupied with other matters, he never had time to make himself a new and improved ear that couldn't get out of whack.

The Interstate Commerce Commission is indisposed to nullify the laws of Congress. Nobody but the high financiers and the Supreme Court seems disposed to do that.

The requirement that the Ways and Means members occupy an office in the House office building means that there's going to be a lot of underground work in connection with schedules hereafter. It'll be done in the subway.

Maybe the low esteem in which the Ways and Means Committee is held by the House is indicative of a rise in tariff revision sentiment.

Bishop Ingram is sorry his tennis contest with the President got into the papers. The good bishop plainly doesn't realize how much the stories contributed to the joy of the nation.

### Oklahoma is slower about getting her star into the flag than she was about getting one into the Senate.

### THE PLACE I CALL MY OWN.

Knowing that in this hour thou think'st of me,  
 I feel thee knocking at my spirit-door.  
 Though never may'st thou walk across this floor—  
 And never these four bounding walls shall see.  
 The place I call my own is full of thee.  
 The place I call my own? Oh, more and more—  
 Not any walls, on any time-built shore,  
 Are mine, to dwell within—hold in thee.  
 But in the starry house that is my own.  
 Where I, this moment, open the door to thee,  
 There shall not enter one sad murmur,  
 Blow,  
 From down the Past—nor, from the dim To-be,  
 'Shall any fear creep in, with rising moon—  
 So shall this place of mine be full of thee.  
 —Edith M. Thomas in Success Magazine.

### WAITS 25 YEARS TO WED WOMAN HE ONCE SAVED

TRENTON, Feb. 23.—David Naar, a Trenton artist, has just married Mrs. E. R. Lenox, of Perth Amboy, whom he saved from drowning twenty-five years ago, when she fell through the ice while skating on a local pond.

Naar and the girl each married years ago, and each was only recently re-behaved. Several months ago they met in this city through a friend of both. Naar did not at first recognize the woman he had saved from death a quarter of a century before, but Mrs. Lenox had not forgotten him, and it was easy for both to fall in love.

### January Circulation Figures

Net Daily Average:

The Times.....	41,501
The Star.....	37,128

## PRESIDENTIAL WAGE REDUCTIONS

### Attitude Serves as Check to Railroads' Plans.

### Could Make Things Unpleasant for Those Who Oppose.

In view of much misunderstanding which has arisen concerning the intentions and significance of President Roosevelt's recent letter about railroad moves to reduce wages of employees, an authoritative statement has been made as to the Administration's purposes. Railroad men and public men alike have misinterpreted the letter to the Interstate Commission, in which the President indicated that he wanted to know the financial reasons necessitating reductions of wages, and whether previous financial mismanagement, rather than present slackness of business, might not be responsible.

Railroad men have been properly vexed since that letter was given to the public, not for the White House typewriter; but they have admitted that they didn't entirely understand it. It can be said that the President and his advisers have no mind to attempt the prevention of wage reductions in cases where there is good reason for them. There is, for that matter, no machinery which the Government could use to prevent reductions. Aside from normal action in the process of voluntary arbitration under the Erdmann act, the Administration has no power in such matters.

But there is plenty of opportunity to exercise suasion, and the President proposes to use all of it. In fine, it will be regarded as an unfriendly act toward the Government, in its capacity as a supervisor of certain phases of railroad business, to reduce wages unless there has been a showing of good reason therefor. Railroad managers are expected to understand that they will stand better with the Government if they proceed slowly about such things; especially if they make no reductions unless they have called in arbitrators provided by the Erdmann act, and convinced them of the need of the reduction.

### Railroads Might Suffer.

Incidentally, the arbitrators and the Interstate Commerce Commission are expected to accept the line of reasoning that the fullest employment of their powers will be approved, in effort to get at the bottom of the conditions of roads proposing to reduce their wage rates. It is anticipated that no road with a really financial past will yearn to escape to such inquiry unless its condition is urgent. Likewise, it is thought that roads whose financial managers have been especially hostile to the Government in regulation, and will make special effort to avoid conditions that would force them to submit such inquiry into their pasts as the Interstate Commission would presumably be disposed to make in view of the President's instructions.

The situation in this: If a given railroad finds its situation such that it is serious need to reduce expenses, and has done everything possible short of proposals to its employees looking to agreement on such reduction; and if, when these proposals are taken up, there is disagreement, and the matter is to occur in any case, in view of the President's active interest—the road might prefer to call in the arbitrators provided by the Erdmann act.

These arbitrators are the chairman of the Interstate Commission, Martin A. Knapp, and Commissioner of Labor, Nell. In case these two cannot agree, they are required to agree on a third arbitrator, and the favor of the arbitrator has no legal force; there is no court to appeal to, and the decision of these arbitrators has never yet failed of acceptance.

### Could Inaugurate Probe.

Any road which desired consideration of a proposal for wage reductions is thus liable to be called upon by the Interstate Commission for details concerning its finances and financial past, and the commission undertakes to do the utmost employment of its powers to investigate and inquire will be viewed with satisfaction by the Administration.

The Louisville and Nashville and Atlantic Coast Line roads were understood to be the ones agreed upon to initiate a wage reduction in the South. Competing lines would follow, with the explanation that as competitors they could not pay more than these roads.

As a result of the President's action it is expected that the issue will be brought to a head in the near future. The Railway, which is to be made up soon, will be a strong one in favor of wage reductions, and the Interstate Commission likely that arbitration will result in agreement that reduction is necessary in order to avoid a financial crisis in the road's affairs. If the reduction is allowed, others will follow. There is no proposal to enforce payment of these conditions, but the reduction is simply to make certain that reductions are not ordered recklessly, or except as a last resort.

### SAY SHIP SUBSIDY BILL WILL GET BY CONGRESS

Ship subsidy legislation seems likely to pass Congress this session. The Gallinger measure is regarded as certain to reach a vote in the Senate, indeed, the Democratic leader, Mr. Culberson, has given his assurance on the floor that no effort will be made to filibuster to prevent a vote.

The legislation passed both houses last session, but so late that, the House having made numerous amendments in it, there was no time to rush it through the Senate in the face of the filibuster that the Democrats made in the last days of the session.

## Baltimore Editors Welcome Frank A. Munsey to Field

Editorial comment on the purchase of the Baltimore News by Frank A. Munsey is made as follows:

(From the Baltimore News.)  
 Negotiations that have been in progress for some days have reached a point where it is proper to announce that the present owners of the News have agreed to sell it to Frank A. Munsey, and that within a few days the control and management of the paper will pass to Mr. Munsey.

The present stockholders bought the News on January 1, 1902—sixteen years ago. It has grown from a small paper to a big one. It ranks among the leading journals of this country. It belongs to and is not the least among a group of independent, right-thinking and right-wing newspapers, which in the past twenty-five years have put life and hope into the municipal and State politics of America. Nowhere has the response to this inspiring influence been more marked than in Baltimore and Maryland. The success of the News has attracted the attention of shrewd publishers, and from time to time there have been overtures for its purchase. Never until this time was it seemed advisable to its owners that it should pass from their hands. Every business thing must have a business basis on which to rest, and a newspaper is not different in this respect from other ventures. It happens, however, that at least a part of the motive that led to the purchase of the News was independent of business; to engage in the extra-hazardous enterprise of publishing a newspaper would not of itself have appealed to the men who in 1882 became the owners of this property.

I can say of those who went in with him and have made possible by their liberal and loyal support the success that we have achieved, that the opportunity to render public service was with them a predominant motive. Mr. Wallis had made his long fight for intellectual freedom, and Mr. Cowen had followed with his powerful effort to free the State from the political conditions that had fastened upon it. The noble efforts of these men and their followers have had a vital and enduring effect; but, as a matter of fact, on the first of January, 1902, Maryland and Baltimore were more helpless against the domination of the political machine and were more completely resigned to the servitude that was upon them than had been the case at any previous time. It was at such an hour and in a spirit of heroic protest that the Baltimore News venture was launched. The change in the conditions between 1892 and 1902 was perhaps the best evidence of the progress that had been made. The possibilities of a newspaper in local politics. Nor is that all. It has been demonstrated here in Baltimore that public and business service and successful newspaper management are one and the same thing. The lessons of the development and success of the News have been spread to other large cities.

The re-entrance of the conduct of a paper solely by persons with and without outside interests is accompanied by inherent difficulty. An independent newspaper has never been known to do no favors. It must proceed without regard to private interests of any kind, and ownership in such a newspaper imposes a sacrifice that private business men must find burdensome. The men who are interested in this paper have been ready to make such a sacrifice, and their private interests by reason of the paramount duty devolved upon them as stockholders in a newspaper. At the same time, the favor of the public has been in great measure got under, when good citizens of city and State government, and the public mind that the professional politicians themselves seem to be trying to keep out of the conduct of the News have felt free to take a purely business view of their interests in it, and the favor of the public in the purchase of this newspaper has been accepted.

In taking leave of this public I want to make an acknowledgment of the splendid response that has been made to our efforts to develop here a great newspaper, and to the friends who had the most substantial evidence of the appreciation of the News. It is safe to say that there is no other community in this country in which the reader gives so sure a return in esteem and confidence to the newspaper that he reads.

The News has assembled a staff of extraordinary quality. A more loyal and more capable body of men and women are to be found anywhere.

The News of which I have been

speaking was founded by Messrs. Julian LeRoy White, Douglas H. Gordon, Thomas H. Worthington, Lawson Riggs, and myself. Messrs. White and Gordon have continued to be stockholders, and are now, with myself, transferring the property, naturally, as a newspaper man, I have had the craftsman's point of view. To my associates have fallen the very burdensome work of sustaining, through a long period, one of the most difficult of human undertakings. Baltimore ought to remember for many a year the splendid public service they have rendered it.

(From the Baltimore American.)  
 Mr. Frank A. Munsey's purchase of the Baltimore News was the local sensation yesterday, and it is a matter of large importance to the city and State. It means the coming into our public affairs of a man of conspicuous capacity, of strong individuality and of a fine quality of political independence.

We speak of Mr. Munsey with more than ordinary enthusiasm because of previous acquaintance. The American was printed by the plant of the Times, Mr. Munsey's Washington paper, for several weeks following the great fire in 1904, and Mr. Munsey's unremitting kindness and consideration, as shown by his personal interest and courtesy of his co-operation, and his reflection in the co-operation, was an expression of selfishness that belongs only to the best of men. It follows that we have special pleasure in welcoming him to Baltimore. We know that he will bring to the city a new and more generous measure when a Baltimore institution needed his hospitality. Mr. Munsey is one of the best men of the country. He has achieved the most substantial success ever attained in the magazine and newspaper business of the country. He has achieved the most substantial success ever attained in the magazine and newspaper business of the country. He has achieved the most substantial success ever attained in the magazine and newspaper business of the country.

Further, Mr. Munsey shows that he appreciates the advantages of the Baltimore News. He has only begun to realize its destiny, and in its larger development a newspaper property has been largely neglected. A special dispatch to the American last night from its Washington bureau states the wisdom of his investment.

Special interest is felt in Washington at the announcement that Mr. Munsey has entered the field of journalism, because it was in Washington that Mr. Munsey made his debut as a journalist, and it is here that he has made a signal success. He purchased the Washington Times, then a paper in a condition that would have discouraged many an energetic man. Mr. Munsey's first experience. Had he been a trained veteran in the daily newspaper field he would probably have found it almost a hopeless enterprise of building up the Times. But he took it, and he brought to his work in the newspaper the same indefatigable energy that has made him a successful magazine publisher.

His success has become a success. It is a bright, snappy little sheet, splendidly edited and well printed. Its news is gotten up in an attractive style and its editorials are incisive, witty and yet in good humor. The paper now occupies a splendid ten-story steel building, formerly the home of the Baltimore News. Mr. Munsey, with splendid courtesy, placed all the resources of the Times' mechanical plant at the disposal of the American, and for nearly a month the American was printed from the presses of the Times. The entire establishment was turned over to the American and evening after The Times had gone to press to the American's force, and every member of the Times staff went to work for the American, with his colleagues in helpfulness and kindness to the American's force.

### WORKS CLEVER SWINDLE; BANKS EASY VICTIMS

PARIS, Feb. 23.—The police here are investigating an ingenious swindle involving \$100,000. Six months ago a man deposited a large sum of money in a bank in New York, asking for a letter of credit, which was given to him. He returned the letter in a few days, saying he had no further use for it, and withdrew the money from the bank.

In the meantime, however, the letter of credit was photographed and several reproductions were mailed to accomplices, who cashed them simultaneously in London, Hamburg, Paris, Marseilles, Rome, Genoa, Munich, and Vienna.

As yet no clue has been discovered that would lead to the identification of the swindlers.

### SEVEN DOOMED TO DIE FOR PLOT TO SLAY DUKE

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 23.—A military court has condemned to death seven men in the attempt upon the lives of Grand Duke Nicholas, and his cousin, the Emperor, and N. Chelostoff, the minister of justice, and sentenced three others to fifteen years' imprisonment at hard labor.

### CROPLEY FUNERAL TODAY.

Funeral services for Samuel Cropley, who died last Wednesday morning in his home, 143 Twenty-third street, will be held at 4 o'clock this afternoon in the John's Church, Georgetown. The Rev. Frederick B. Howden, rector of the church, will officiate.

## GENERAL GIBSON GIVES ORATORIO

### Under the New Director Gounod's "Redemption" Is Ably Rendered.

With a new director in Heinrich Hammer, well known in European musical circles, and an orchestra trained especially for the occasion, the Washington Choral Society gave Gounod's "Redemption" last night in Carroll Hall before an audience of enthusiastic music lovers. The occasion was notable in many ways and served to bring back to Washington John Humbird Duffey, baritone, and Nicholas Douty, tenor, both of whom are strong favorites among music lovers of the Capital.

The society's reading of the well known oratorio was exceedingly well done and the able assistance by the orchestra gave an added interest to the performance. The orchestra was formed several weeks ago and is composed mainly of local amateurs. The good results which Mr. Hammer has been able to obtain were a surprise and pleasure to the concert audience.

Carroll Hall, in which the recital was given, is not well adapted to entertainments of this kind. The acoustics are not good and some of the finest efforts of the society were lost through this cause. The singers responded readily to Mr. Hammer's direction and his interpretation of the work was highly interesting. As a tribute to the late Dr. Stafford, pastor of St. Patrick's, of which Carroll Hall is one of the buildings, "Blessed Are They," from St. Paul," was sung before "The Redemption."

### High School Orchestra To Give Concert Tonight

The orchestra of the Technical High School will give a concert at 8 o'clock tonight in the Business High School building, Ninth street and Rhode Island avenue northwest, under the direction of George W. Sunderland. The orchestra has frequently played at various high school affairs and its individual concert tonight is of more than ordinary interest in school circles.

### OPPOSES ALDRICH BILL BEFORE BANK CLERKS

The Aldrich currency bill was vigorously opposed by Alton K. Parris in a speech before the Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Banking, at a social meeting of the chapter last night. Mr. Parris opposed the measure on the ground of its probable bad influence on the stock exchanges of the country.

William A. Mearns also addressed the members of the "New York Stock Exchange and Its Influence," an addressing that institution, although admitting that abuses obtained at times, and probably would continue.

Owen T. Reeves endorsed Mr. Mearns' remarks and advised the bank clerks to develop their interests outside of their profession, in order to obtain broader views.

### CLASSICAL TEACHERS TO FORM ASSOCIATION

The Classical Association of the Middle States and Maryland has accepted the invitation of the George Washington University to hold its next meeting here April 24 and 25. This is an organization in which all the classical teachers of the District are interested, consequently it has seemed best to have a number of them to organize a classical club to prepare for the meeting to be held here and to promote the interests in classical studies in Washington and vicinity. The membership is to be composed of all local teachers of Greek, Latin and classical art, and all who are actively interested in classical pursuits.

### VOTE ON ALDRICH BILL MAY BE TAKEN MARCH 5

Voting on the Aldrich financial bill in the Senate will begin next Thursday, unless present plans miscarry. Senator Aldrich has been especially busy during the last day or two chatting with members on both the Democratic and Republican sides of the chamber, with the view of ascertaining the number of speeches that are yet to be made.

### SECRETARY ROOT DECLINES INVITATION FROM WEST

Mayor Taylor and former Mayor Phelan, of San Francisco, have, in behalf of the citizens' committee, extended to the Secretary of State an invitation to be present and participate in a battleship fleet on its arrival at San Francisco, after completing target practice at Magdalena Bay.

The Secretary said that while he would be pleased to accept the invitation, he did not feel that he could do so, as official duties would be pressing at that time.