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WE-PAY-FOR-A-SEAT-AS-WE-ENTER.

The Columbia Heights Citizens' Association is well within sound judgment when it objects to the type of "pay-as-you-enter" cars now in use on the Fourteenth street line.

A complete car service would provide every passenger with a seat and have no one in the aisles. The experience of the regular patron of the Fourteenth street line is that in the new cars only half the passengers have seats and the aisles are generally blocked.

One reason for this condition is that where the old style of car with cross-wise seats could accommodate forty passengers and no one standing, the new style can accommodate only thirty-one comfortably in its two length-wise seats.

In Chicago and Brooklyn pay-as-you-enter cars have cross-wise seats. They are built for the passengers to sit, not to stand. They work better than the Fourteenth street type because the passenger is impelled to get a seat as far up as a comparatively narrow passage-way as he can.

THE BEST TEST OF A NEWS-PAPER. That independent newspapers are steadily growing in influence and prestige while the partisan press is losing ground is the burden of a strong address delivered by Dr. Hamilton Holt, a member of The Hague Peace Tribunal last Tuesday evening in Kansas City.

Some Gains for the Consumer in the Tariff. The underlying sentiment of protest against the Payne bill's schedules concentrated itself into the remarkable revolt which made a Nebraska insurgent Republican master of the House for an hour, and defeated the Rules Committee, the Ways and Means Committee, Speaker Cannon, and the oil monopoly of the country, all at once, in the contest over the duty on oil.

RACIAL FEATURES OF THE MARATHON GAME. For one thing, these Marathon races are doing much to restore the athletic prestige of the Latin race. St. Yves, the Frenchman, and Dorando, the Italian, are apparently the best long distance runners of the times.

Then it offered a 40 per cent duty. This was refused, and it came down to 25. At this figure the opposition agreed to come in. Then it came to the floor, and Mr. Norris of Nebraska offered his amendment to reduce it to 1 per cent ad valorem. He placed it at that figure for parliamentary reasons which made it difficult, if not impossible, safely to propose free oil.

The same day's work included the definite placing of coffee and tea on the free list; hides had been left there the day before; so that in every contest, save only that on lumber, the consumer has won in the House. It is a good showing thus far, on which the people and the press which has been fighting the people's battle are entitled to congratulation.

It all goes to demonstrate, however, what a monumental mistake the consumers' invertebrate friends made when they did not demand three times as much from the Rules Committee. If they had held out longer, they would have got votes on linens, woollens, cottons, hosiery, gloves, the general supply schedule, dyes and dye chemicals, and many other things which are as truly necessities of life as oil and shoes.

But the consumer is having his inning. He is going to keep up this fight on Friday, when it is strongly hoped he will win for free lumber. Then he will carry his case to the other end of the Capitol and fight for more concessions in the Senate. Altogether, the developments thus far are calculated to give cheer and encouragement to the men who have made the fight to this point. Let them keep it up; let their allies in the Senate take it up next week and stand firm. The public is with them. It is not going to be satisfied till about half the schedules in the Payne bill are opened up and honestly revised downward.

It is understood that Senators Bourne and Chamberlain, after studying the map and discussing that China is about as far away as one can conveniently get and still remain on the earth, are reasonably satisfied with the tender of the Chinese mission to former Senator Fulton.

Justice Harlan broadens it out a little when he says that legislation for the country is becoming largely a local affair; but people who have been observing it will not take serious exception to the amendment.

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football. If there is any rhyme or reason in tradition, then the Carlisle School should have a corps of cross-country or long-distance runners that it would be hard, if not impossible, to match. But it hasn't; and we wonder why.

A BUSINESS MEN'S VIEW OF THE GAS SITUATION.

An unusual opportunity faces the subcommittee on public utilities of the Chamber of Commerce. It is about to investigate the existing gas situation in the District of Columbia. It undertakes that task after action by the whole chamber, which was at least sufficiently conservative.

Wherefore it is good to see that the committee's first step is to make sure the entire city will be represented among the witnesses. Atop of that, it should now make sure that the hearings will be long enough to develop all the facts, and as little longer as possible; that there are present members of the chamber competent in special information to cross-examine the witnesses; that the findings of the committee be expressed so that whoever reads may understand.

THE CONSUMER WANTS HIS MONEY'S WORTH.

"It seems to me that the main thing is to have a law that will enable the consumer to see that he is getting his money's worth." This is the common-sense view of the bread law situation expressed by Commissioner Macfarland. The old law was obscure, was being enforced only as to particular sections, and bore unnecessarily on the bakers. The consumer wants all he can get for his money. A pound loaf has no merit for him if it means getting less for his money than he can get in a loaf of another weight.

The judgment of this newspaper is that there ought to be a new law to take the place of that now pronounced invalid by the courts. If such a law is had, it should further the spirit of the pure food and drug act as to quality of ingredients and enable the consumer to see that he is getting his money's worth as to quantity.

The advocates of free petroleum are charged with the ground that they have arranged on the ground that China is about as far away as one can conveniently get and still remain on the earth, are reasonably satisfied with the tender of the Chinese mission to former Senator Fulton.

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STRANGE STORY.

A tramp came to the garden gate. With pity in her eye, she handed the poor man a plate of huckleberry pie.

THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. TAFT ENTERTAIN EASTER WEEK HOUSE PARTY AT WHITE HOUSE.

White House Callers

The President and Mrs. Taft are entertaining a house party of young people at the White House for Easter week. Their guests are Miss Harriet Anderson, Miss Edith Morgan, Edna Roelker, Jack Ewon, Harry Blingnam, and Howard Taft.

Charlie Taft, who has been spending the last week or ten days in Washington with his parents, returned to his scheduled Watertown, Conn., yesterday morning.

The First Secretary of the Spanish Legation and Mme. Pastor were lunching here today, having as their guests the Belgian Minister and Baroness Moncheur, the Argentine Minister and Mme. Portela, the Spanish minister, Senor Pina, the Cuban minister, Senor Garcia, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Ellis, Mrs. John Lindsay Morehead, and Miss Shepard.

To Give Dinner Dance.

Mrs. Downey, wife of Major George Downey, is spending several days in New York. Major and Mrs. Downey have issued invitations for a dinner-dance at the Chevy Chase Club on April 20.

Dr. and Mrs. Frederick Frailey, of Philadelphia, will be guests to Mr. and Mrs. Edridge Jordan.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert N. Harper will leave Washington Saturday for Atlantic City to spend the Easter week.

Miss Dorothy Duncan Gatewood and Miss Helen H. Mason will leave Washington Saturday morning for Charlottesville, Va., where they will spend the Easter festivities at the University of Virginia. They will be the guests of Mrs. Ellen F. Page for a week.

Mrs. Thomas Oxnard has issued invitations for a dinner-dance at the Chevy Chase Club, Thursday, April 15, at 8 o'clock.

The Belgian minister and Baroness Moncheur entertained a small dinner party, informally, at the legation last evening.

Box Parties.

Mrs. Taft, wife of the President, was among those entertaining box parties at the Belasco Theater last evening. In her party were the Hon. Maude Malone, Mrs. E. H. G. Slater, and several others.

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SPEAKER CANNON DOES BARN DANCE.

Enlivens Reception Given to Representative McKinley by Jamestown Survivors.

With the exception of the beautiful barn dance which Speaker Joseph G. Cannon and Allen D. Albert dragged out, tried, convicted, and executed at the New Willard last night, the reception given by the Jamestown Survivors to His Grace the Duke of Lincoln, was a delight and a joy for three hours or more.

It was just an informal reception, that to His Grace the Duke, and other members of the McKinley family, and others were there. The evening's entertainment, for the excellence of which, it is noted, a Washington journalist, is to be thanked, comprised many good vaudeville stunts, some singing, some sight-of-land and highbally, try or scotch. Food was to be found also, but it interrupted conversation and is not good mixed with the entertainment.

Mr. Cannon made a fine old speech, in which he admitted that he, an old man turned philosopher, could not see that there would be any difference in effects if tomorrow the Congressman became the journalist, the journalist became the Congressman.

President Taft And the South

(By Commissioner Henry L. West in the April Forum.) President McKinley died happily in the conviction that under his administration the last vestige of sectionalism had disappeared. President Taft can go still further. He can help the South in her effort toward that material development which her fertile soil, her forests, her mines, her splendid seacoast harbors, and her internal waterways so abundantly promise. He can treat her people with genuine consideration; he can respect their traditions, even though he may not adopt them; and he can dispassionately and wisely influence both the negro race and its white environment mutually to advance each other's interests. All this can be accomplished without raising the specter of social equality—a phrase that has done more toward preventing harmonious relations between the races in the South than any other two words in the English language. President Taft, in all his utterances, has carefully avoided referring to this disturbing element. Evidently he does not regard it as a possibility, much less as a serious menace, of the future. He believes that these desiderata are linked together. It is happily within his power—as it seems to be within his ambition—to achieve both desirable results.

CHARLEY HORTON WILL SING AND MISS AMIES PLAY AT A RECITAL.

Miss Roberta Hope Amies, whose piano work last season at several of the important recitals attracted wide attention, and Charley Horton, the well-known boy soprano, of St. John's Church, will appear in a joint recital in the ball room of Raucher's April 14 at 4:30 o'clock, under the direction of H. H. Freeman.

JOSEPH W. BABCOCK IS LOSING GROUND

Wisconsin Representative's Condition Very Grave, Doctors Say. Former Representative Joseph W. Babcock of Wisconsin, was reported to be weaker this afternoon, although there has been slight general change in his condition. The physicians in attendance consider the present condition very grave.

TARIFF INCREASES RENTS.

HOLYOKE, Mass., April 8.—The Payne tariff bill is the specific reason advanced by Maurice F. Sullivan, a large real estate owner, for predicting the rent of his tenements, beginning May 1.

Remarkable Story to Appear Serially in The Times.

One of the most remarkable pieces of fiction of the year, "The Journal of a Neglected Wife," by Mabel Herbert Urner, will appear in The Times beginning Saturday, April 10. The attention which this story has received in the press of the country assures the readers of The Times that they will get something unusual and something unusually worth reading and digesting and thinking over.

Incidents and Gossip

REPRESENTATIVE Walter Brownlow, of Tennessee, stood on the steps of the White House offices the other morning and looked straight ahead of him. Fire was glinting in his eye, and the twittering of birds and the bursting of the buds of spring did not interest him.

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The big wind wasn't confined by any means to the House chamber on yesterday.

A tramp came to the garden gate. With pity in her eye, she handed the poor man a plate of huckleberry pie.

When such a story I relate There is no need to sigh. It's not a mournful fact I state— She handed him some pie.

It was her first pie, too. I hate To pater or to lie. She gave that sorry reprobate Her first completed pie.

By The Washington Times Men

What Congress Did

IN THE SENATE. A report of the Geological Survey was submitted in response to a resolution by Senator Cummins calling for information about iron production.

Senator La Follette reported the census bill and gave notice he would call it Friday.

Senators Smith of Michigan, Carter and Guggenheim introduced resolutions calling for information from various departments about sugar production and other phases of the sugar business.

IN THE HOUSE. House met at 12 o'clock. Consideration of the tariff bill was resumed. A number of paragraphs in the bill were amended.

But Don't Say It! There is sepulchral silence at the Department of Justice these days. Magazines are not allowed in the building, and conversation goes on, but nothing is said about it.

The trouble is that the Attorney General has written and sent to all his subordinates an order which, translated into the vernacular, says: "If you have anything to say, do not say it."

He has directed all the subordinates that if they have any statement or explanation which they deem useful to the newspapers for publication, they shall put it into typewriting and submit it to him. If he indorses it, it will be given to the press. Of course, the subordinates do not take the trouble to write out newspapers, books, and the result is that there is little opportunity to get news from the department.

Occasionally, one of the champion long-distance divers takes a header into the pool under the building and comes out in Chicago or Cleveland or New York with a prosecution or indictment story. But for these exploits, the divers would not know much about what the department is doing.

The new rule has been put into effect because it has been found that too much publicity injures the department's business and gives prospective victims too much opportunity to prepare for prosecutions.

Charles W. Taylor, private secretary to the Secretary of the Navy, was a newspaper man. He was educated in Europe and is an accomplished linguist.

Representative Frank Clarke, the Florida Democrat, who declared in a speech in the House the other day that he would vote for the Republican doctrine of protection as long as it protected the industries of his constituents, is an authority on insane asylums. He is a prime mover of the Congressional investigation two years ago of the Government Hospital for the Insane in the District of Columbia.

Representative Needham of California was born in a moving wagon, in an old-fashioned prairie schooner, out near Cerson City, Nev., when his parents were moving across the plains in the rush to California.