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SUNDAY EVENING, MAY 9, 1909.

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THE DANGER OF A BACKWARD STEP.

If the government of the District of Columbia is to be reorganized it is worth while that careful consideration should be given to the matter. Perhaps there is good reason for some changes; but to abandon the present scheme which centers the executive authority and responsibility in a commission, would be to reject the one scheme of municipal government which has in the last few years, in many cities, given justification to the hope that the problem of municipal government in the United States is still not hopeless.

Go to Los Angeles, to Galveston, and Houston and other Texas cities; to Des Moines, to Boston, to Kansas City, to a score of other cities where the commission plan either has been adopted with excellent results, or else is being seriously considered as an avenue of escape from long-established evils and it will be found that the very stone which the Washington boulders would reject is there become the head of the corner. It is true that Washington does not have an elective commission, and it is probably true that under the peculiar local conditions Washington does not want one. But the commission system has made good wherever it has been tried. It has improved conditions, concentrated responsibility, and given better business methods, in other cities, at least cost.

To reject the commission plan in Washington would be not only an uncertain experiment for the Capital City, but a serious reflection on the only plan of municipal reform which has achieved beneficial results in numerous American cities. It would be a very real and serious blow at a time when this city has already done much to improve city government. It would give heart to the opponents of reform everywhere, by placing in their hands the argument that this system has failed in Washington.

"The cure for the evils of democracy is more democracy." And we venture to suggest that the remedy for the shortcomings of the commission plan in Washington is to be found in giving larger powers and greater jurisdiction to the Commissioners.

A CHANCE FOR REAL REVISION. NO XVI.

A news dispatch announces that the hunt for the man "higher up" in the tariff frauds of the Sugar trust has begun. This is gratifying. It shows that we may expect additions to the present all too brief list of names of persons indicted for tampering with the weights of sugar at the custom house on account of which the trust recently paid into the Treasury of the United States some two and a quarter millions. The men indicted were thirteen-dollar-a-week stipendiaries of the trust. It is said that they received envelopes each week marked \$13.00, but really containing more. The suggestion that some one "higher up" put in the additional honorarium for graft is more or less reasonable. As the stockholders of the trust are the only ones who could possibly benefit by the frauds, it may be well to look a good deal higher up.

The American Sugar Refining Company—the trust—through the law partner of John E. Parsons announces that the officers of the company are as anxious as anyone to have the guilty persons brought to justice.

Mr. Parsons is chief counsel of the trust. He has been its innermost counselor during most of its existence. He is and for many years has been one of its directors. His doings as such director, as well as the doings of the trust generally, are worth while as evidence of the moral standards of this over-protected monopoly.

A few years ago there lived at Philadelphia a man named Adolph Segal, whose operations in building refineries of sugar had made him troublesome to the trust. He had a great refinery about ready to begin business. The Real Estate Trust Company of Philadelphia had furnished Segal a lot of money for his various operations, and his president, Hipple, had committed some irregularities with the funds—or so it was charged—in helping Segal out. Segal wanted to borrow money on a hotel property, and a man named Kissel, from whom he had previously borrowed, and who, so far as was known, never had any relations with the

Sugar trust, not only offered him all he asked, but urged on him a loan of \$1,250,000 when he had thought of only half a million at first. The unsuspecting Segal took the money, and it was only after he was in so far as to be unable to retreat, that Mr. Kissel demanded and received as security not only the bonds of the Segal sugar refinery, but the naming of a majority of its directors.

The Sugar trust's new competitor never turned a wheel. The directorate named by the maker of this self-inflated loan seemed anxious to impair their security, for they refused to allow the refinery to make money by beginning competition with the trust, though the market was very favorable for profits.

As in the latest Sugar trust frauds, there was a man higher up. As in the present case, if asked about it, the trust would have denied having anything to do with the undoing of Mr. Segal, or—for it turned out to be a tragedy—of the ruin of Hipple and his trust company, and Hipple's eventual suicide. But there was a Sugar trust magnate higher up than Kissel.

The man who drew the contracts between Kissel and Segal which kept the Segal sugar plant idle and smothered competition in the sugar business was John E. Parsons.

Mr. Parsons may have acted as a lawyer merely. That he acted for Mr. Havemeyer of the trust, he has admitted—or so George H. Earle, receiver of Hipple's company, has asserted in a correspondence which has become a public document. Mr. Parsons' behavior in this matter of the secret contract by which Segal dealt with his enemies while believing himself dealing with his friend, may have been strictly correct. We do not know. The whole matter, we believe, is still to be investigated in the courts, and we have no desire to prejudice the issue.

The point, however, is this: Judging the future by the past, the man "higher up" in any matter in which the Sugar trust makes money by sinister or criminal practices is likely to be a Sugar trust magnate if the real truth comes out. And the point of more importance is the fact that this morally-discredited sugar business is asking of the Government an ad valorem protection of nearly 80 per cent on one of the prime necessities of life. And it asks the people to believe it when it makes statements as to its interest in the beet sugar business, or the cost of making beet sugar, or the cost of refining cane. Rare nerve!

San Francisco woman is suing for possession of her husband. Claims another woman has him hypnotized and is forcibly restraining him from going home. We suspect that a man with a wife of that militant type is rather hypnotized into the notion that he doesn't want to go home.

Washington may not have much chance at the excitement of municipal political contest, but in the matter of frenzied finance it manages to arrive now and then.

Geel! Ab Ham had \$16,000 in the United States. That beats old Cap Kidd's plant.

Senator Lodge agrees with Senator Aldrich that there was no pledge for downward revision. Seems as if they ought to have called off the national committee's speakers during the late campaign, including the candidate for President.

East African natives are reported to want our big noise to bring them rain. Must have heard of the Kansas rain-makers' plan of producing showers by shooting cannons.

The financial opportunities of the stage ought not to be overlooked by persons ambitious for moneyed careers. Here is an actor who reports that, with only \$300 in sight, he has been able to accumulate debts of \$125,000.

There is talk of hastening Roosevelt home from the jungle to run for mayor of New York. That ought to appeal to him, the change from the African to the Manhattan struggle wouldn't be so awfully abrupt.

The Michigan forest warden reports that the forest fires in that State last fall did \$2,700,000 damage. The Federal authorities had reported the damage at \$4,000,000. Plainly enough, the Michigan official isn't lending his influence to the Federal conservation scheme.

New York Evening Post wonders whether the recent big Jerome dinner was intended to be a balm or a bomb for him. Neither; it was intended as a bomb for his enemies.

It didn't take the Pennsylvania coal operators long after that Supreme Court decision was handed down, to decide that they would have a coal merger.

ORIGINATOR OF MOTHERS' DAY



MISS ANNA JARVIS, of Philadelphia.

WHOLE NATION PAYS MOTHERS A TRIBUTE

White Flowers Are Worn in Honor of the "Passion Sublime."

"If Mothers' Day does nothing else it ought to create sentiment for an industrial insurance that will lift a crushing load from the women and children of America."

This sentiment from the sermon of the Rev. John Van Schaick at the morning service of the Church of Our Father today in its observance of Mothers' Day. Pulpit, platform, and home throughout the nation are giving forth their tributes to the motherhood of the land; the white carnation, or the white rose as a symbol of purity, may be seen everywhere as fitting evidence that the wearer loves to honor his mother living, or her memory, if dead.

The significance of Mothers' Day, the observance of which originated with Miss Anna Jarvis, of Philadelphia, has spread into the minds and groped the hearts of men everywhere. In several of the States the governors have proclaimed the second Sunday in May as the day, and in a number of the larger cities the mayors are leaders in its observance.

No Creed In Observance.

In Washington the observance is widespread. It is an observance that knows no creed, no distinction of wealth or position; its spirit, as expressed in churches, Sunday schools, lodge rooms, and societies, is universal.

At the Young Men's Christian Association the day was especially observed. Most of the members wore the emblematic flower. Late this afternoon a meeting for men will be held in the Masonic Temple, 17th St. street, and at 4 o'clock, the Rev. George Galt, pastor of the Western Presbyterian Church, will deliver an address on "The Passion Sublime."

It was fitting that from one of the leading pulpits of the Capital should issue an appeal to men to acknowledge their obligation to motherhood and to honor it with all the strength and devotion of manhood. The Rev. John Van Schaick not only asked that Mothers' Day be given general observance, but fervently advocated the adoption of a governmental measure and safeguard, of some form of insurance that would free dependent mothers from the sting of poverty that follows the death of the breadwinner. Dedicating his sermon to "The Day of the White Flower," Dr. Van Schaick said:

Burden Upon Mothers.

"As society is organized today, it places too heavy a burden on the mothers. If a wageworker is killed at his post in Germany, the financial burden is divided between wife and mother, the employe and state. Here the mother bears it all. If Mothers' Day does nothing else it ought to create sentiment for an industrial insurance that will lift a crushing load from the women and children of America."

"I doubt if ever a Mothers' Day could be established by law, but I have no doubt but what with little effort the custom could be firmly established in churches and homes of having one day especially set apart and dedicated to our mothers. No instinct is so strong in humanity as the instinct of motherhood. No love that we ever have near us is as much to us, or some of us at least, as the love of our mothers. No service rendered to the community or the nation or the race is as great as that of the mothers."

Think first of the typical mother, that ideal mother, the Blessed Mary, mother of Christ. Mary ought to occupy a higher place in our affection than she does. What is called mariolatry, or the adoration of the Virgin Mary, accounts for some false and beautiful character. Mariolatry is an obnoxious term applied by some Protestants to the veneration of the Virgin by Roman Catholics. I do not sympathize with these Protestants. I do appreciate the love and reverence of Catholics for Mary.

Tribute To Mary.

In conclusion, Dr. Van Schaick paid tribute to Mary as the ideal of womanhood, the standard from which all other women should draw inspiration and higher life.

"In some way," he added, "Mary has become the friend of the friendless, the helper of the helpless, the hope of the hopeless. When we think of the sacrifice on Calvary, let us remember that there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother. Her sacrifice is a symbol of that made by mothers in all ages. Their sacrifice for us calls us to the support of laws that will make the lives of all women sweeter, freer, and brighter."

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Ringling's, "The Biggest and Best" Comes in All Its Glory.

USUAL RECEPTION COMMITTEE THERE

Showmen Have Trouble With Big Python and Are Forced to Borrow Capitol Subway.

It was a pretty puzzling problem that confronted Alf Ringling and his corps of condescending press agents, when the marvelous menage of the Wide World's Wonders rolled into Washington along about daylight this morning.

Willie, the writhing python from Pawtucket, whose wiggles strike a responsive chord in every childish heart, strained his eyes on the way down to the Capital and for a while it looked as if Willie might be left at the switch until some one thought of the Capitol subway. According to reports, Willie heard some one connected with the circus reading the story of Adam and Eve and the serpent in the Bible room. He immediately fell ill thinking his ancestors might have been involved, and refused to be comforted until one of the press agents thought him of the Almahack de Gotha. Willie stayed up all night poring over its pages, which he had studied French since he went to the Pawtucket public schools. Consequently when the circus reached Washington he was suffering from a attack of tismen De Gotha and he couldn't bear light of any kind on his eyes.

Came In Early.

The show got into the yards at South Capitol and G streets southeast early in the morning, and when Willie's keeper found him he could only utter unintelligible French words and could hardly see to eat his morning meal of peach melba and possum. It's a long way from South Capitol and G streets to Fourteenth and H northeast, where the big show is to do business, so the press agents had to get busy at once and figure out how Willie could make the trip.

Some one suggested that they take him through the subway under the Capitol, and it sounded so good that it wasn't more than a few minutes until a procession of circus men started out toward Willie's cage. They took him into the House office building, down the stairs and into the subway. The procession, wound its way through the tunnel underneath the Capitol and then into the tube that leads over to the Senate wing. Willie seemed to appreciate the advantage of this underground passage, for he wigged his approval frequently.

Willie Is Sent On.

When the parade came out in the Senate office building the press agents were waiting. They had the tires from twelve four-horsepower automobiles all lined up together. They stuck Willie into this tube head foremost and then put the whole arrangement on roller skates. Willie started the west of the way to Fourteenth and H streets without a hitch. His keeper rode on his head most long the whole trip, and his eyes were closed. With the help of a pair of reins, Willie didn't come in too early for the small persons who are at the intensely interested in such things. By the time the first train of long, low, yellow, flaming Ringling Expresses on their sides, were backed up close to South Capitol street, that thoroughfare was filled for a block with men and boys and women. Although there wasn't much interesting until the circus came in this morning, the crowd stuck just the same and watched the huskies jerk the cages off the cars.

The Lion Roars.

Along about 8:30 cage number 42, which, according to the markings, contained Mr. Rex Leo, the well known roarer, was jerked out to the end of the cars ready to descend the last stage into the street. The rope which the circus men used to hold back the heavy cages was attached to the rear end of the moving domicile, and it started down the wooden causeway from the car to the street. About half-way down the rope at the rear broke with a snap, and the cage fell into another animal retreat lying parked over against the building. The animal treat ought to have held a bear, but it didn't worry Leo Rex any. Leo didn't mind the fall, and he was right to the point. The crowd understood.

The Cook Tent Up.

Out at Fourteenth and H streets, where the big circus will show tomorrow and on Tuesday twice, the work of this morning was that of putting up the cook and dining tents and cooking and dining. There was quite a crowd about this end of the circus, too, and it watched with eager interest the way the canvas men and other fellows "let" the tent. The tent for the army to put the comparatively small dining tent up, and arrange the tables for the hundreds of men that had to be fed. The spectators sat around and chewed tobacco and ate peanuts all morning waiting for the dinner bell which didn't ring until late.

The usual string of fakery and ice cream and wa-man peddlers and other familiar accompaniments of a real circus were on the job early. The street car conductor running out H street was busy all morning answering questions as to the whereabouts of the circus and by afternoon the crowd around the grounds was large and still growing.

WANT D. A. R. HALL FOR THE FOURTH

The Fourth of July celebration of the District Daughters of the American Revolution will be held in the Congressional Memorial Hall if that place is to be had for the day. Decision was made to this effect at a meeting held last evening at the Arlington Hotel, when the remaining vacancies among the members of the organization were filled. Mrs. G. M. Strumback was chosen recording secretary; Miss Cornelia Heart Hill, corresponding secretary; Mrs. A. DeReimer, chaplain, and Miss Anna Hableton, treasurer.

BULLET STRIKES WOMAN.

POCAHONTAS, Va., May 9.—Mrs. Floyd Bunch, wife of a prominent resident, was the victim of a bullet fired by Thomas Sanders, colored, at another negro, Robbie Williams. The bullet struck her in Mrs. Bunch's shoulder, and her condition is serious.

AGED LOVER KILLS HIMSELF.

NEWBURYPORT, Mass., May 9.—Eighty years old and yet violently in love with a woman twenty years his junior, Alexander L. Jackson, an inmate of the Home for Aged Men here, committed suicide by firing a bullet through his chest. A doctor, who said he could not cure him, told him that he could not go courting any more in the evening.

Col. and Mrs. Frank L. Denny were hosts at a dinner party last evening in New York, where she spent some time.

Mrs. A. E. Balfour, wife of General Balfour, has returned to Washington from New York, where she spent some time.

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Miss Esther Townsend and her fiancé, Capt. Frank Evans, the additional guests were Miss Shipp, Mrs. Miss Esther Denny, William Merriam, and James Phillips.

The Misses Southernland, daughters of Commander and Mrs. Southernland, were hostesses at a dinner party of thirty-four covers, at the Chevy Chase Club, last evening in compliment to Col. and Mrs. Marion P. The dinner was followed by dancing.

The Misses Vinton entertained a party of young people at a luncheon party, having among their guests Representative and Mrs. Nicholas Longworth and Miss Ethel Hood.

Mrs. John Phillips and her son, the Third Assistant Secretary of State, William Phillips, entertained informally a small party at dinner last evening in honor of their house guests, former Ambassador to Greece, Anna Lee Bay, Joseph Choate. The guests were Mrs. Joseph and Mrs. Holmes, the counsel of the British embassy, Miss Innes, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Henry Butler, and Mr. and Mrs. James Brown Scott.

Miss Margaret C. C. Brooks, daughter of Mrs. E. C. Brooks, will return to Washington this evening from Annapolis, where she attended the athletic games yesterday and the hop last evening.

The First Secretary of the Siamese Legation and Mrs. Edward Loftus entertained at a dinner of thirty-four covers last evening at the Chevy Chase Club. The dinner was followed by dancing.

Mr. and Mrs. George T. Marve entertained a party at dinner last evening at the Chevy Chase Club in compliment to Mr. and Mrs. Anna Lee Bay.

Mr. and Mrs. William Kearney Carr entertained a party at dinner last evening in their home at K street.

The Misses Southernland, daughters of Captain and Mrs. William H. H. Southernland, entertained a party informally at luncheon today at the Chevy Chase Club.

Miss Emily Griffith Reed, who will be married to Dr. Dwight Gordon Smith Tuesday evening in the ballroom of the Savoy, will be attended by her sister, Mrs. William J. Conner, of Winston, N. C., as matron of honor, and by Miss Isabel T. Smith, a sister of the bridegroom, and Miss Anna Lee Bay, of Richmond, Va., a niece of the bride.

Granville Smith will be best man and the ushers will be Stuart McNamara and William Smith. Rev. John Lee Allison, pastor of the Gunton-Temple Presbyterian Church, will perform the ceremony, which will be followed by a large reception.

A receipt will be given by the Washington Readers' Club for the benefit of the Housekeepers' Alliance, at the Washington Club Friday evening, May 8, at 8 o'clock.

The list of pass-aways includes Mrs. Albert Clifford Barney, Mrs. Emilie Bernier, Mrs. David H. Brown, Mrs. John Murray Crane, Mrs. Robert Shaw Oliver, Mrs. Henry T. Rainey.

Mrs. Sol Minard entertained the Bridge Club Friday afternoon. Two tables were devoted to the game. The prizes were won by Mrs. Robert Kane and Mrs. Simon Kane. After the game a buffet luncheon was served.

The centerpiece of the table was a bowl filled with wild flowers.

The guests were Mrs. Gordon Nordlinger, Mrs. Samuel J. Steinberger, Mrs. Sydney Kaufman, Mrs. Simon Kane, Mrs. Maurice Rosenberg, Miss E. Hahn, and Miss G. H. Auerbach.

Miss Blanche Hirsch, of Atlanta, Ga., is the guest of her aunt, Mrs. S. Rosenthal, for several weeks.

Miss Kafka, who has been spending the past week in New York, returned home today.

Mrs. I. L. Blout has returned from a visit to New York.

The Thursday night Whist Club was entertained by Mrs. Z. Strausberg. The guests were Mrs. S. Bensing, Mrs. J. Kroninger, Mrs. Addie Sigmund and Mrs. Julia Luchs.

Mrs. Elliot Strause, of Baltimore, is the guest of relatives in town.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Franc, of Fifth street, are registered at the Hotel Belmont, Atlantic City, for a two weeks' stay.

Mark Strauss, of Cincinnati, Ohio, was in town with friends for a few days the early part of the week.

Mrs. Henry Morris left the city the week for Atlanta, Ga., for several weeks' stay.

Mr. and Mrs. Wiesenfeld and daughter, who have been spending a few days at town, have returned to their home in Baltimore.

WILL ASK FOR MONEY TO BUY PARK LANDS

In line with a policy advocated by President Taft, the Commissioners are preparing to make at the next session a large appropriation for the extension of the park system in the District.

As indicated by his position in relation to the Speedway, the President has been in the beautification of Washington and especially of its parks. It is his desire and the plans now under consideration are viewed with favor by Congress, much toward that end will be accomplished.

A forceful argument to be used by the Commissioners is the matter of economy. The value of real estate in the District is increasing rapidly each year, and it will be argued that land which may be bought now for a reasonable consideration in two or three years, beyond consideration for park purposes.

Commissioner Macfarland is in favor of an appropriation of not less than \$2,000,000 for the acquisition of all the park lands needed as preferable to dealing with the matter in piecemeal fashion. "It is an advocate," said the Commissioner, "is for Congress to authorize the purchase of such lands, providing that the acquisition of not less than \$2,000,000 to be expended gradually as the lands are acquired. These lands ought to be bought entirely at the expense of the National Government, and if necessary the National Government should issue bonds for that purpose. The value of all the parks as well as the streets and avenues of the city of Washington is being increased by the acquisition of park lands should be treated as a part of the national improvement of the National Capital."

Under the present arrangement Congress appropriates money for the maintenance of the parks, one-half of which is charged against the citizens of the District, and the Commissioners have no opportunity to make any recommendations as to such expenditures, although, in preparing their own estimates they must take into consideration the amount of the revenues and provide for expenditures justified by such revenues.

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