

The Washington Times

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SATURDAY EVENING, OCT. 23, 1909.

Comparative NET Daily Circulation of The Times and The Star for September: The Times 43,765 The Star 34,386

PRESIDENT TAFT'S RAILROAD LEGISLATION SPEECH.

There was that in the tone, as well as the matter, of President Taft's speech at Corpus Christi yesterday, which indicates that it was rather personal to his Texas auditors, than expressive of any general views about a national program in dealing with railroads.

The exact justification, however, for admonition to the people of Texas along this line, is not quite apparent, and it could be wished that the President might have been more specific.

If the President was talking, not specifically to the Texans, but to the whole country about the danger of going too far with railroad regulation, the record of the railroads since the Hepburn act passed is sufficient demonstration that the carriers have not thus far suffered by reason of unduly drastic laws.

COMPTROLLER MURRAY IS FORCING BANK REFORMS.

Comptroller of the Currency Lawrence O. Murray apparently has set out in the right direction to achieve a number of important reforms in the national banking system.

The law on the subject of overloaning is perfectly plain. The power of the office of the Comptroller to stop overloaning is perfectly clear and ample. But for decades the practice has been winked at. It is utterly unjustifiable on various grounds, and one reason why it is so, is that it is a gross discrimination against the banks that take pains to adhere carefully to the law.

loaning. It appears something over a thousand of the national banks are guilty of it. The law forbids a bank to loan over 10 per cent of its capital and 10 per cent of its unimpaired surplus to one individual or concern.

SECRETARY MEYER'S LARGE NAVAL PROGRAM.

Secretary of the Navy Meyer, back in Washington from Hamilton, Mass., where he has been pondering all summer on the problem of reforming the Navy Department, is said to have made up his mind what he will ask for. He has a large reform program. He has studied the situation with the aid of such findings as the Swift board has arrived at, and there is reason to believe he wants a number of the weak spots in the Navy Department organization made stronger.

For one thing, Mr. Meyer is reported to want to cut down the cost of running the navy yards; also, he wants to abolish some of the yards, to make the Navy Department and the navy the most effective fighting organization possible, and to build strictly American Dreadnaughts of the 30,000-ton type.

Broadly speaking, Mr. Meyer's program has a great deal to commend it. The closing down of a part of the navy yards will invite no end of opposition and it is hardly likely Congress will seriously take up with it.

CORPORATIONS HAVE IT IN THEIR OWN HANDS.

President McCrea of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company says: The present rapid return to prosperity will continue, and prosperity will be lasting if legislators and politicians do not interfere.

THE NECKS THAT CAN BE SPARED.

It is well that our friends, the Wright brothers, should maintain their attitude of calm determination not to sacrifice their own necks in the process of aviation experimentation.

the cause of the spectacular in early aviation. Thus we have a whole tribe of ambitious European demonstrators, who are willing to break the records for high and dangerous flights.

TO REVOKE CHARTER IF IT IS NECESSARY

Thousand National Institutions Are Said to Have Violated Law.

By JOHN SNURE. Comptroller of the Currency Lawrence O. Murray is contemplating a step to compel national banks to stop overloaning which, if taken, will cause a tremendous stir in the banking world.

May Revoke Charters. No surprise will be caused here if Mr. Murray in a short time makes a preliminary movement toward the revoking of the charters of certain banks which are flagrantly giving to overloaning.

To Ask Remedy. It is supposed the course which Mr. Murray will take will be to write certain banks which are known to be violating the law and invite their attention to the situation with a view to remedying it.

SOME OF THE WHO'S WHO

Attorney General Wickersham may be a famous trust buster, but our Indian nabobs never had a high opinion of a brave who didn't take any scalps.

THE DEATH OF ONE MAN

Francisco Ferrer is a greater power dead than he would have been living with an influence ten times expanded.

FAR APART.

"Huh!" sneers the plate of ice cream to the piece of lumburger cheese. "You needn't give yourself such airs. Don't you see in the papers where there is a 1,000,000 microbes to each drop of ice cream?"

ENGINEER BAND CONCERT AT POTOMAC PARK

THIS AFTERNOON AT 4:45 O'CLOCK. Julius Kamper, Chief Musician.

WATERBURY BANKS MAKING OVERLANS

Comptroller Murray Plans Vigorous Fight on Practice.

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FRENCH AMBASSY HERE WITH MME. JUSSERAND FROM VISIT ABROAD.

The French ambassador and Mme. Jusserand, who spent the summer in France, arrived in New York this morning. They left immediately for Washington, and are expected at the embassy between 3 and 4 o'clock this afternoon.

With the exception of the military attaches, Captain de Chambrun, the members of the embassy staff have all returned to Washington. Captain de Chambrun and the Countess de Chambrun will leave New York just as soon as the former is able to be moved.

Mrs. Knox, wife of the Secretary of State, who has spent the greater part of the summer at their country place, at Valley Forge, Pa., will come to Washington about the first of November.

Mrs. MacVeagh, wife of the Secretary of the Treasury, who is now in Chicago, will arrive in Washington Tuesday or Wednesday of next week and will be joined by the Secretary about November 1.

The Secretary of War and Mrs. Dickinson, who spent a portion of the summer at their old home, in Tennessee, are now in Chicago. They will arrive in Washington early in November, and will take an apartment in the Hotel Commodore, at their house on Connecticut avenue is ready for occupancy.

The Attorney General and Mrs. Wickes, who spent the summer at Stockbridge, Conn., will arrive in Washington from Cedarhurst, L. I., where they spent the summer.

The Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Meyer and their daughters will arrive in Washington next week from their summer place, in Cape Cod, Mass.

The Secretary of the Interior and Mrs. Hallinger will arrive in Washington the first of November from Seattle, Wash., where they spent the summer.

Mrs. Nagel, wife of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, who is now in Boston, will not come to Washington for several weeks.

Baron Ambrozy, of the Austro-Hungarian embassy, who has been acting as charge d'affaires of the embassy in the absence of the ambassador, sailed for Europe from New York today for an extended stay.

Mr. and Mrs. Mann Sail. Mr. and Mrs. I. T. Mann, who spent the summer touring in Europe, sailed for this country today.

Miss Caroline Hickey and Miss Elizabeth Hickey, who spent the summer abroad, sailed for this country today.

Rear Admiral Joseph N. Hemphill, U. S. N., retired, and Mrs. Hemphill have returned to their home on F street, from Canada, where they spent the summer.

Mrs. Powell, widow of Col. James W. Powell, U. S. A., who has been the guest of General and Mrs. Elliott at the Marine headquarters, has taken an apartment at 1748 M street northwest for the winter.

Brigadier General Townsend, widow of Brigadier General Townsend, will spend the winter at the Westminister. Miss Townsend will leave Washington shortly for Fort Lawton, Seattle, Wash., where she will join her daughter, Mrs. Charles W. Penrose, wife of Major Penrose.

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Capital Tales

THIS is a story about John Everman, right-hand man for Representative McKinley of Illinois, and playful as a pup with a bone; L. White Busby, secretary to Speaker Cannon and dignified as a blind owl; and Asher Hines, legislative clerk of the House, and neither playful nor dignified to an extreme.

They were riding uptown from the Capitol today on a street car when, with one accord, they all lifted up their voices and sang in goodly order the fare of his companions.

"No," said Everman, who is the playful guy of the group; "we'll match to see who pays."

They all flipped up coins and each coin fell heads up. By this time the conductor was getting red in the face.

"Your fare's been paid," he said gruffly. "Who paid it?" asked the three in chorus.

The gentleman over in the corner," said the conductor, turning away. The gentleman he had pointed out was a total stranger to the three, and he was laughing hysterically. For several moments, the three jokers sat in embarrassed silence. Everman, who likes to have jokes on other people, sat with his face looking like a thousand-dollar funeral.

Finally Busby, who is dignified and pays his debts, went over to the bank of the street and said: "May I ask you, a stranger, paid our fares?"

"Why?" replied the stranger; "it was evident that somebody had to pay, and I didn't want to see the conductor throw you off."

Auditor Chance Makes Bad Calculation. MERRITT O. CHANCE, auditor for the Postoffice Department, has a little problem in mathematics that has been bothering him.

A few days ago he got in a Pennsylvania avenue street car and as he was getting on the conductor, with whom he had a speaking acquaintance, asked him if he had change for a dollar. He replied, "No," but said he had 75 cents, and as he wanted some tickets he would give it to the conductor if he would give him the tickets and the change.

This seemed all right to both the conductor and himself, as the latter was anxious to give the change to another passenger who had purchased tickets and had presented a \$1 bill. Mr. Chance after making the transaction took his seat and immediately forgot about it, but just before he got off the car it suddenly occurred to him that he had given the conductor a dollar and a quarter and started to give it to him. The ticket collector, who had been thinking the matter over, had come to the same conclusion as Mr. Chance that he had been the loser of a 25-cent piece by the exchange.

Mr. Chance at once saw where the mistake had been made and now in search of the conductor, whom he unintentionally "bucooned."

Greenroom Gossip. EMILY ANN WELLMAN, who comes to the Columbia Theater next week with Louis Mann in "The Man Who Stood Still," made her entrance upon the professional stage at the beginning of last season, after some slight experience in amateur theatricals of the "society" brand, and was soon thereafter the chief attraction of the company, playing Claudia with Cyril Scott in "The Prince Chap."

From that position Miss Wellman was called upon to create the ingenue role of Alice Spiegel in "The Man Who Stood Still," and scored a success both in New York and New York. Miss Edith Browning, who had been playing the emotional role of Marie Kraus, was compelled to retire from the New York city run, and Miss Wellman was thrust into the opening.

Bonita, the star of the Gay Masqueraders, who in real life is Mrs. Lew Hearn, received a surprise one evening this week from another star who is now playing in Washington. The token was a basket of American Beauty roses and came from Miss Lillian Russell.

Max Rogers and Maud Raymond are rehearsing in Klaw & Erlanger's new play by Max and Aaron Hoffman, entitled "The Young Turk," which opens in Atlantic City November 4. A brief engagement will be played in Boston and then the tour will start for New York. Among the other principals in the cast are Nanon Jacques, Ann Taster, Ben Hendricks, N. Lawrence, John W. Dunsmuir, William Edmonds, Joseph Carey, Walter Paschall and Harry Cowan.

Helen Weathersby, playing Mrs. Wiggs, in "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," comes of the famous theatrical Weathersby family. Elizabeth's sister, was Nat C. Goodwin's first wife, and Jennie, another sister, will be long remembered as one of the best character women of her time.

HARLAN MAY RESIGN COMMISSION BERTH

Event Likely As Chance Is Good for His Landing Appointment to Federal Bench—Successor Probably An Illinois Man.

A change in the personnel of the Interstate Commerce Commission will probably take place in the near future. Commissioner James S. Harlan, of Illinois, according to the best information, is the choice of President Taft for Federal district judge for the Chicago district, the place made vacant by the resignation of Judge Bethea. There has been considerable delay in filling the position. Commissioner Harlan has not been in any affirmative way a candidate for the position. But all his ambitions are for a judicial career, and he is understood to be more than willing to leave the commission for a place on the bench in his home State.

Commissioner Harlan is a son of Supreme Judge Harlan, and a brother of John Maynard Harlan, once a leader among the aggressive reformers of Chicago. He was placed in the Interstate commission by President Roosevelt in 1906, following the increase in the membership of that body by the Hepburn act. At that time he was practicing law in Chicago.

The possibility of a vacancy brings into the commission such speculation as to the possible selection to fill the place. It is assumed at the outset that the position would go to Illinois, though this is rather an assumption than assurance. From the foundation of the commission, it has been one of the traditions of the

BOSTON THAWS OUT FOR SUFFRAGETTE

Bay State Matrons Utter Faint Hurrahs for Mrs. Pankhurst.

BOSTON, Oct. 22.—Boston society, whose forefathers dumped King George's tea into the harbor, today gathered in big crowds to say "How dy'e do?" to Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst, the English suffragette, in a big public reception following a largely attended lecture in Trenton Hall.

SENATOR ALLISON WOULDN'T SAY YES

The late Senator Allison of Iowa has the reputation of being the most cautious man in public life. He takes no chances, but always qualifies his statements. This was never more clearly shown than when a citizen of Dubuque made a bet that he could force the Senator to say "Yes" to a direct proposition.

WILLIE'S WISDOM.

Willie—Say, mother, will it hurt to have this tooth out? Willie's mother—Naturally, but it will be so sudden that you won't have time to think just a quick turn, and it won't be all over.

SURE OF ONE AUDIENCE.

Having told his favorite joke four times over without eliciting even a polite smile from any of his listeners, the man turns angrily upon his heels and mutters:

"By George! I'll get a laugh on that story or know the reason why. I'll go tell it to Stupid. He borrowed some money from me the other day."—Chicago Post.