

The Washington Times

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THE RESIGNATION OF COMMISSIONER WEST.

The announcement today that Henry Litchfield West has resigned as a member of the District Commission will come as a great surprise to Washington.

It will be learned with general regret by all those familiar with the activities of Commissioner West in behalf of good government in the District of Columbia.

Mr. West was appointed to the District Commission in October, 1902. For twenty years prior to that time he had served on the Washington Post, first as a reporter, and thence working upward to the position of managing editor.

Mr. West was recognized at the time of his appointment as one of the foremost newspaper men of Washington, not alone as a managing editor but as a correspondent for outside newspaper and a magazine contributor.

A newspaper man by instinct and long and hard training, Mr. West has never forgotten his liking for the newspaper business, and he will go out of the office of Commissioner of the District into the newspaper business.

Mr. West has shown ability as a member of the District Commission and a deep desire to work for the welfare of Washington. He has done much. His greatest work has been the reorganization of the business end of the District government and the introduction of new and up-to-date methods into the purchase of supplies, the auditing of accounts, the collection of taxes, and the disbursement of funds.

PRESIDENT APPROVES MR. MEYER'S PLANS.

President Taft has approved Secretary Meyer's plans for the reorganization of the navy. These plans are founded on the report made to Mr. Meyer by the Swift board.

In a general way they look to a more efficient organization of the Navy Department. They contemplate a more business-like administration of the Navy Department at all times, and a more effective administration of it particularly in time of war.

Economy and business methods are to be introduced into the navy yards, the number of yards is to be reduced, the system of independent bureaus will be done away with, the department will be centralized, and various other reforms effected, providing, of course, Congress sees fit to legislate Mr. Meyer's plans into law.

The naval building program provides for two great battleships a year, these to be of not less than 20,000 tons displacement. Aside from these giant battleships only submarines and torpedo boat destroyers are to be advocated by the Secretary of the Navy this session of Congress.

Secretary Meyer has accomplished a great deal in working out what appears to be an admirable and comprehensive plan for reform in the Navy Department, and in naval administration generally. The President having sanctioned it, it is now for Congress to take hold of it and act. It is needless to say in the light of past experience, that in Congress will come the real tug-of-war.

The naval committees persistently have refused to take an enlightened view of the needs of the Navy Department, and have lent themselves to continuation of the old, ineffective, and bureaucratic methods of handling the affairs

of that department. Individual members of these committees have been willing and anxious to effect reforms, but not so the majority on each of these committees.

The question is whether Mr. Meyer's program will be received any more kindly than other naval reform programs have been received.

That the time has arrived when Congress should take hold of the Navy Department problem is a certainty. In an economic and military way it is of the utmost importance. The country wants it and President Taft will make no mistake if he insists strongly on the adoption of the Meyer program, or something approximating closely to it.

TALK OF AN ANTI-ADMINISTRATION CONSPIRACY.

The talk about a conspiracy to discredit the Taft Administration, presumably in the interest of an effort to bring Theodore Roosevelt back to the leadership of the Republican party, does little credit to the people who are indulging it. Nobody is so far responsible for the present Administration as the former President, and it is fair to assume that nobody will be more chary of adopting an attitude of hostility than Colonel Roosevelt. Moreover, the assumption that anybody is endeavoring to force upon the country on the basis of the brief career of the new Administration a hostile view of its aims and methods, suggests rather a poor order of intelligence.

Disposition is apparent to concentrate attack on Forester Pinchot; to assume that he is somehow a chief malefactor. It may be doubted whether any responsible spokesmen of the Administration are giving out such an impression about the Administration's sentiments toward Mr. Pinchot. The question in which the country is interested just at this time, so far as concerns the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy—and it would be useless to attempt concealment of the fact that there is such a controversy—relates much more to the actions, attitudes, and policies of Secretary Ballinger than to those of Mr. Pinchot. There seems to be justification for the expectation that the Secretary of the Interior will have something to say in response to the statements that Glavis has put forth; and the country will give a very willing ear to the Secretary's reply. At a time when it seems to be the turn of Mr. Ballinger to present some sort of explanation, not much is likely to be gained for his cause by attacks on Mr. Pinchot and the allegation of a conspiracy which nobody believes to exist. If Mr. Pinchot is engaged in any conspiracy, it is a conspiracy to protect the public interests all along the line of conservation of natural resources and the Government domain. It is not apparent that Mr. Pinchot, in the furtherance of that movement, has placed himself thus far in a position where he needs make much defense. His conduct has been as nearly exemplary as could be expected of a man who frankly has a fight on his hands and is of the temper which inspires him to move forward rather than backward when fighting is the program.

The real question, in short, and it is not likely to be obscured in a dust cloud, is not whether Mr. Pinchot is in sympathy with the critics of Secretary Ballinger, but what Mr. Ballinger has to say concerning the criticisms. A very full and frank exposition of the records in connection with the Cunningham land claims would seem much more to the point than any allegations that Pinchot is a conspirator and a malefactor.

SWIMMING AS AN ADJUNCT OF EDUCATION.

Good sense is the basis of the order issued by the Boston educational authorities requiring that the sedate little maids of the high schools shall learn to swim.

Of course, it is argued by the objectors that swimming has no part in the mental development of high school girls, but the educational authorities contend that proficiency and practice in swimming will eradicate weak backs and curved spines.

Swimming is not only a most enjoyable sport, but a knowledge of the art is extremely valuable. It is an exercise which could be adopted here and elsewhere with profit as part of the system of discipline in the public schools.

TWO CAPITALS DEEP IN THE POLAR MIXUP.

Rear Admiral Chester's red-hot criticism of Dr. Cook carries some weight owing to the circumstance that the retired officer was once superintendent of the United States Naval Observatory. Mr. Chester was also a member of the committee selected by the National Geographic Society to examine the Peary records, the committee making a favorable report.

But along with this comes the news from Copenhagen that the members of the university there have the impression that the National Geographic Society is prejudiced against Dr. Cook; and that is one reason, apparently, why the university authorities will not admit any representative of the society to the meetings at which Dr. Cook's records are to be looked into. The feeling in Copenhagen, as evidenced not only by this late report but by the attitude taken by the United States minister, Mr. Egan, is as friendly as ever toward the Brooklyn explorer. It is as friendly, we might say, as the feel-

ing among the scientists in Washington appears to be toward Commander Peary.

The public would like to see the question settled fairly and squarely. Attacks on one explorer or the other will continue to arouse more sympathy for the attacked. The Danish scientists will probably not decide to stultify themselves. If they are not satisfied with Cook's report, they will say so.

WHERE THE GROUCHY MAN IS MADE TO SUFFER.

Fletcherism is coming in for its share of hard knocks lately, some well-known scientists going so far as to talk masticating the food too much, instead of helping, hurts the digestion by impairing the vitality of the digestive organs; that they get out of practice by having so little to do. Others contend that bolting is the thing, especially when it comes to meat, arguing that there are certain properties in meat which make it unwholesome food when masticated too much.

The question is one the scientists must settle; but, as the average man is inclined to be a "bolter" anyhow, a dose of Fletcherism cannot possibly do any harm. As a rule, those who follow his advice do not stick to it long enough to do themselves injury; if there is possibility of it in the custom. But there are other edicts of Fletcherism with which there ought not to be disagreement. He says:

In order to insure perfect digestion and the best of health, we should never leave any controversy while eating. As long as we are optimistic and talk on pleasant subjects digestion will be all right. The minute we take up controversy at the table digestion will stop.

There are men who find it one of the hardest things in the world to look pleasant at the table. They seem to take pains not to be pleasant and agreeable. They partake of their food as if they are doing it because they feel it is a Christian duty to swallow something, feeding themselves as Mrs. Wilfer appeared to do—on high public ground. It is a consolation to learn that such people are being made to suffer by reason of being crossgrained, that each mouthful they swallow while looking sour will add its bit to intestinal disorder. It is good to know that there is such prompt punishment for the fellow who has a "grouch" at mealtime.

Miss Jerry Married To Julian Stuart Hall.

Miss Mary Estelle Berry, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. George W. Berry, was married to Julian Stuart Hall, of Prince George county, Md., at noon yesterday, at the residence of her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Dobyns, 1817 Belmont road.

Branches of autumn leaves, palms, and clusters of white chrysanthemums formed the decoration of the altar.

The ceremony, which was performed by the Rev. George Calvert Carter, pastor of St. Andrew's Church, was attended only by the relatives of the bride, owing to mourning in the family of the bride.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her youngest brother, George McPhail Minnetree, was unattended. She wore a handsome gown of white crepe de chine. Her tulle veil was arranged with a cluster of lilies of the valley, and she carried a silver-bound prayer book.

Miss Dorothy Dobyns, a niece of the bride, who acted as bridesmaid, wore a dainty white mill dress, elaborately trimmed with lace, and carried an armful of pink chrysanthemums.

Bride's Cousin As Best Man.

James Berry, a cousin of the bride, was best man for Mr. Hall. He was followed by a breakfast and later in the afternoon Mr. and Mrs. Hall left for Atlantic City, the latter wearing a smart tailored suit of black cloth with a black beaver turban. After December they will be at home at 1817 Belmont road.

Miss Shuttleworth Of England Is Here.

The Hon. Rachel Kay Shuttleworth, of England, was the guest of honor in the first official declaration that the fellows up there are full of "pep."

Washington has a fourteen-inch gun at its navy yard. This is a town of big guns.

The President apparently does not covet the honor of being the leader of a firing brigade.

With all this talk of conspiracy, it is well to remember that either persons or events may conspire.

With all the members of the Nicaraguan army officers, strategy must be at a premium down there.

Loeb hasn't forgotten the fine points of the boxing and jiu-jitsu bouts he used to see in the White House.

It appears that this Government must be run according to the Constitution and the temperament of the public.

Bwano Tumbo.

Colonel Roosevelt has shipped an impalla to the National Museum. In case the animal is unfamiliar to the reader it should be explained that the impalla is an aphyoceros melampus.—Chicago Post.

Mr. Roosevelt was recently compelled to get behind a tree for the purpose of escaping from an infuriated bull elephant. Some of the people who have been engaged in encounters with the gentlemen will regard it as a lucky thing for the elephant that the tree was there.—Chicago Record Herald.

King Menelik is ill, and the Abyssinians are thinking of electing him as a successor.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

A Chicago man, just back from where Africa's sunny fountains roll down their golden sand, says Colonel Roosevelt is no game butcher, but just kills such specimens as the Smithsonian Institution desires, but it seems to want an awful lot.—Ohio State Journal.

Presidential Views

Mr. Taft says he's for woman suffrage if the women want it. Pretty safe proposition that. He knows it's impossible to get the women together on any subject.—Tampa Tribune.

After surviving a hundred banquets it is believed President Taft will put his whole heart into his Thanksgiving proclamation.—Newark Star.

Did President Diaz ask President Taft for his views on the third-term question?—New York Tribune.

Mrs. Alexander Britton and Debutante Daughter Leave Today for New York to Attend Horse Show

Miss Catharine Britton to Make Bow on November 30.

AFTERNOON TEA AS "COMING OUT"

Is Looked Upon As One of the Most Interesting of Season's Buds.

Mrs. Alexander Britton and Miss Catharine Britton left Washington this morning for New York, where they will spend the remainder of the week attending the horse show. Miss Britton, who is one of the most interesting debutantes of the season's group of buds, will be presented at an afternoon tea at Raucher's, Tuesday, November 30.

Dr. and Mrs. J. MacBride Sterrett left Washington today for Fort Russell, Wyo., to visit their son, Lieut. Robert Sterrett, 10th U. S. Cavalry. They will have recently returned to the country from his second period of service in the Philippines. From Fort Russell they will visit their daughter, Mrs. Sterrett, who will sail on November 23 on the Manchuria for the Philippines, to visit another son, William D. Sterrett, and his family. Mr. Sterrett is chief forester in the province of Bataan.

Mrs. Annie Catherine Tuohy has cards out announcing the marriage of her daughter, Miss Frances O'Boyle Tuohy, to Edward Louis Hillyer, Wednesday, November 19, 1909, in the city of New York.

At home cards for Wednesdays after December 1 at 213 Elm Street, northwest, where Mr. and Mrs. Hillyer will reside, were enclosed.

Miss Tuohy landed in New York yesterday with her mother and sister, after a trip to Europe, the wedding taking place shortly after her arrival.

Mrs. L. Z. Lete and a party of friends visited the annual flower show of the Washington Florists' Club last evening at the home of Mrs. Lete, who play her unique collection of Oriental plants.

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MISS CATHARINE BRITTON.

Miss Minnetree Weds Harry F. Lowman

Miss Elizabeth Epps Minnetree, daughter of Mrs. Minnetree and the late Col. Joseph P. Minnetree, was married to Harry Franklin Lowman last evening at 9 o'clock in St. Thomas' Protestant Episcopal Church, the pastor, the Rev. C. W. Ernest Smith, officiating. The ceremony was attended only by relatives and friends of the bride's family.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her youngest brother, George McPhail Minnetree, was unattended. She wore a handsome gown of white crepe de chine with an embroidered panel of the valley, and she carried a silver-bound prayer book.

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Miss Wheat Is Bride Of Charles D. Sager

The marriage of Miss Rebecca N. Wheat and Charles D. Sager took place this morning at 7:30 o'clock in the parsonage of the Epworth Methodist Episcopal Church, the pastor, the Rev. J. W. Smith, officiating.

Miss Wheat wore her traveling suit of blue broadcloth, with a hat of the same shade, and was unattended. Mr. Phillips acted as best man for Mr. Sager. Immediately after the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Sager left for their bridal trip, which will include a visit to the bridegroom's home, near Frederick, Md. After December 1 they will be at home at the Nantuxet, on W street.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Bell opened their Connecticut avenue residence today. They will not participate in any of the social activities of the season, however, owing to mourning for the recent death of Mrs. Bell's mother, Mrs. Gardner Hubbard.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Parsons will arrive in Washington Saturday, and open their residence on Nineteenth street for the winter.

Mrs. Beckman Withrop, wife of the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, will return to Washington the latter part of the week from a visit to her mother, Mrs. Charles Wood, of New York.

Pierre Whelan Returns From New York.

Pierre Whelan of the French embassy, staff, who has been in New York for a few days, returned to Washington today.

Mrs. MacVeagh, wife of the Secretary of the Treasury, left Washington today for a fortnight's visit to her home, in Chicago. The Secretary and Mrs. MacVeagh are now established for the winter at a residence on upper Sixteenth street, which they have leased from Mrs. Henderson. The house was formerly occupied by the Secretary of Commerce and Labor and Mrs. Straus during their residence in the Capital.

A large and enthusiastic audience greeted Mme. Blanche Marchesi at the Columbia Theater yesterday afternoon. The French Ambassador and Mme. Jusserand entertained a box party, having among their guests the Swiss Minister and Mme. Ritter.

Mrs. H. de Billier also occupied a box. She sat with her Mrs. Stanley Matthews, Miss Hunt, Miss Lawrence, Dr. Scott, and Franzer Head.

In the absence of Lieutenant and Mrs. Ward, Mrs. William F. Dennis, Mrs. Randolph, Miss Harlan, Miss Madeline Anderson, Mrs. C. C. Caylor, Mrs. Wingrove Bathon, and Mrs. Ashton-Smyth.

Sidelights By Times Men On Wise and Otherwise Statesmen

ing haunted by the fear each day will be their last. Roosevelt, among the lions of Africa, has been in no such danger as the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Senator Aldrich Is Learning Much.

While Senator Aldrich is in "the enemy's country" letting the West get the West but little. Of course, he is acquainted with the financial ideas, and with him, he is also getting acquainted with the West. For a public man of his prominence, Senator Aldrich does not know much of the West from experience and observation. He has not seen much of it. Aldrich, Hale, and other old-timers used to have a habit of going to national conventions and whooping it up for Aldrich for President, and he knows the sentiments of every section, as filtered through Senators, thoughtfully. On this trip, however, he will meet the Western people as he has never before met them.

"This meeting up of Aldrich and the Western folks," said a member of Congress the other day, "may be mutually helpful."

Representative "Jim" Tawney of Minnesota, when here the other day, talked with great confidence on the subject in his district. This was for publication. It is learned, however, that Mr. Tawney is not as confident as he seems. He knows he has a hard struggle ahead and he is bitter at the insurgents.

"Tawney has a real fight ahead,"

said a friend of his who has lately been in his district. "If the election were held today he would be beaten. He will have a fight for the nomination and the election. What is likely to save him from defeat is that there is no strong candidate for the nomination against him. Moreover, he is a hard fighter and knows how to fight and the chances are that when it is over he will be returned to Congress."

Senator Bacon's Avenue Improves.

Georgia avenue is becoming one of the most attractive avenues of the Capital. It was Senator Bacon who got it named. He was homesick one day and thought he'd look up Georgia street, to see what it looked like and find something that reminded him of his native State. He found a little dingy street in the southeast section, and immediately got mad. He caught the first car for the offices of the District Commissioners.

"Here," quoth he, "I can't stand it to have the State of Georgia misrepresented by a street like this. I want one of the best avenues in town named after Georgia."

Senator Bacon intimated he didn't care if the Commissioners had to yank the handle off Pennsylvania avenue to oblige him and he was as stern about it as when he discusses a point of parliamentary law with Senator Lodge.

The Commission qualified and recommended that Brightwood avenue be changed to Georgia avenue. The inhabitants along the street kicked but what was the use. It wouldn't do to have Senator Bacon homesick.

Miss Marian V. Williamson Becomes Bride of Dr. Wiggin, U. S. A.

BRIDE UNATTENDED AT CEREMONY

The Rev. Allison Officiates—Invitation Cards Were Not Issued.

Miss Marion V. Williamson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James V. Williamson, was married to Dr. Dayton C. Wiggin, U. S. A., at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon in the Gunton Memorial Church, the pastor, the Rev. John Lee Allison, officiating in the presence of a party of relatives and intimate friends, who had been invited verbally, no cards having been issued.

The bride, who was unattended, wore her traveling suit of navy blue cloth, with a large blue hat, and carried a shower bouquet of lilies of the valley and orchids.

Dr. and Mrs. Wiggin left Washington later in the afternoon for Virginia, where they will visit relatives of the former, and from there they will go to Chicago for a short time and thence to San Francisco, from where they will sail early in December for Manila, where Dr. Wiggin has been ordered to duty.

Among those from out of town who officiated at the ceremony were Mrs. Wiggin and Miss Wiggin, New Hampshire, mother and sister of the bridegroom, and William S. Eames, of St. Louis.

Brown-Chappell Marriage Announced.

Dr. and Mrs. J. W. Chappell announce the marriage of their daughter, Clara G., to William J. Brown. The wedding took place last evening at 7:30 o'clock in the Episcopal M. E. Church, the Rev. E. H. Smith, officiating. A reception in the home of the bride's parents, on Grant road, followed the ceremony.

Major John H. Peshine, U. S. A., retired, and Mrs. Peshine, have returned from their country place at Santa Barbara, Cal., and have taken, for the season, the residence at 2025 Hillyer place.

Mrs. John Goldsborough, formerly of Washington, but now of Cambridge, Md., is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Hemphill, of Bancroft place.

Mrs. Willard Warner, of the Concord, has as her guest for a short time, Mrs. Updegraff, of Newark, Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Von Schroeder, of St. Louis, Mo., have taken a house on Florida avenue for the winter season.

Miss Ida Offutt Weds E. E. Trenis.

Miss Ida Lillian Offutt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Offutt, was married to E. E. Trenis last evening in the home of her parents on Tenleytown road, the Rev. Dr. C. L. Pate, pastor of the Dumbarton Avenue Church, officiating in the presence of a large party of relatives and friends.

The bride, who was escorted to the improvised altar of palms and flowers by her father, who gave her in marriage, wore a beautiful gown of white embroidered poplin with trimmings of pearl passementerie. A pearl and diamond necklace, the bridegroom's gift, was her only ornament.

Miss Lee Offutt, who was her sister's maid of honor, wore a white messaline gown and carried a cluster of large pink chrysanthemums.

Miss Julia Trenis, sister of the bridegroom, and Miss Effie Brooks were the bridesmaids. They wore white messaline satin gowns and carried armfuls of yellow chrysanthemums.

George Warren Offutt, jr., was best man for Mr. Trenis, and Fred Pluget was Dr. George Stanford Barnes and Fred Pluget.

A reception followed the ceremony and later in the evening Mr. and Mrs. Trenis left for New York, the latter wearing a traveling suit of London smoke broadcloth and carrying a bouquet of the same shade. Upon their return to Washington, they will reside at the Naples.

Mr. and Mrs. John Crayke Simpson were hosts at a dinner last evening in compliment to the Misses Taggart, of Indianapolis, who are the house guests of Mrs. William A. Mearns. A box party at the National Theater followed the dinner.

The Crescents have issued cards for their second dance of the season on Saturday evening, November 13, at Mrs. Dyer's, 1517 R street.

Miss Maude Ashford left Washington today for a short visit to Princeton.

Army and Navy Service Orders

Army Orders. Captain WILLIAM M. CRUIKSHANK, Signal Corps, from his present duties to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Dental Surgeon EMMETT J. CRAIG, from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to