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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1914.

A BRITISH CRISIS.

Hopes of reaching a compromise on the Ulster question having gone glimmering, parliament meets confronted by a situation of unusual gravity. The educational bill, the Welsh Church bill, the South African deportations, and other things which ordinarily would loom up big, are almost forgotten in the thought of the danger of civil war in Ireland.

If almost every conceivable means of adjusting the question short of armed conflict had not been resorted to it would seem that the wisdom of parliament might be equal to the crisis. But the commons faces the problem in a practically hopeless frame of mind. Almost anything that happens will be unexpected.

Thus it appears that Premier Asquith's skill in avoiding a general election is likely to prove useless, after all. If he goes before the country the whole Liberal program will be at stake, and the Irish question, which is the center of all his planning, must still drag along, even in the event of Liberal success. From any point of view it is clear that British statesmanship will be subjected to one of the greatest strains it has had to endure in recent years.

THE HORSE REFUSES TO GO.

The obstacle in the way of the theory that the domesticated horse will disappear because of the rivalry of the automobile is the horse himself. He persistently refuses to go, and even shows his contempt for gloomy forecasts of his fate by becoming more numerous.

In the earlier days of the automobile this was accounted for on the ground that the use of motor traction was not sufficiently widespread to impair the value of the horse. But year after year, as the number of motor cars in service has increased by the hundreds of thousands, he has shown the same obstinacy in regard to giving up the place in the world's economy which he has filled for ages.

Enumeration of farm animals for 1913, the results of which have been made public recently, discloses no sign of Old Dobbin's decline. Despite the cheapening of automobiles and the tremendous increase in their number, there were 395,000 more horses in the United States than in the previous year. There were also 60,000 more mules.

This only confirms the view that the motor car has added to the world's capacity without developing it to a point where any existing means of traction can be done away with. The fact that the horse is dearer than ever, as well as more numerous, indicates the present extent of the need for him.

THE BASEBALL SITUATION.

While the Federal League has not been killed, and even now may blossom forth as a formidable proposition, it would appear that organized baseball has benefited immeasurably through the conferences in which several leagues have been participating this week.

The threat of the Feds brought an awakening among those who have millions invested in baseball that their position is not unassailable, that it seems fair to predict that there will be a general strengthening all along the lines in order to be better prepared should some independent movement be started in the future.

The one jarring note in the whole proceedings was the treatment afforded Johnny Evers, one of the game's stars, when he was summarily dismissed from the management of the Chicago National League club by C. W. Murphy, the owner. It is not the first time that Murphy has made what appears to be a monumental blunder. That he will lose thousands of followers because of the indignation of Chicago fans, appears most probable. Evers worked long and hard for Murphy, gathering in players who were considering jumping to the "outlaws," and his reward was to lose his job without a moment's notice.

SOTHERN AND MARLOWE.

People who like to think of and to enjoy the stage at its best, and who wish that it might always pursue and realize the highest ideals, that can be set up for it, will be profoundly gratified to know that Mr. Sothern and his wife, Julia Marlowe, have not separated, and that such a course is farthest from their thoughts. Hardly second to the satisfaction of seeing these two exponents of the best in dramatic art, has been the contemplation that theirs was a model domestic life. Their example has been vastly beneficial, both within and without the profession.

When recently it was reported that they would act no more together and that in fact their artistic temperaments had come to the final clash, regrets were universal. Now comes Mr. Sothern's emphatic and convincing denial. There has been no clash, no disagreement: Miss Marlowe has withdrawn from her stage work because her health made it absolutely imperative, and he doubts if she will ever act again. For himself, he says he expects in two years also to retire.

There will be all regret that this duo of the real stars of the stage are to be lost to its patrons. There are none to take their places, and it will be earnestly hoped that with restored health and a long rest, Miss Marlowe will decide to resume her great work. But whether they shall continue before the public or retire, their millions of friends and admirers will wish for both that they may have all happiness in a long continuance of that domestic felicity that has been one of the most attractive aspects of their life.

OTTO PRAEGER, POSTMASTER.

It is difficult to see how a more fitting selection could have been made for the Washington Postoffice than that of Otto Praeger. If it were desired to have a Democrat, Mr. Praeger has always been one. If a Progressive Democrat were required, he is all that, and has been all that for all the years he has been a citizen. If, going yet further, it be required that the appointee shall have been a Wilson Progressive Democrat, Mr. Praeger peculiarly qualifies, for he was one of the group of active leaders in the fight that carried Texas for Wilson instructions. Nobody who remembers the Baltimore convention will fail to recall that without those "forty votes for Wilson" on every ballot from first to last, Wilson would never have got in sight of nomination.

With every political augury in his favor, Mr. Praeger could add the assurance of capacity to give a first-class business administration of the office. He has been a resident of Washington for nine years, correspondent of the Galveston and Dallas News, a brace of papers which are among the most important and useful in the whole South. He is a student of affairs, an able writer, and a man of vigorous convictions.

Lest there may be some who, clinging to the notion that Washington offices ought to be reserved for Washingtonians who have no claim of citizenship or attachment elsewhere, it is worth while to say a word in Mr. Praeger's special behalf on this point. He will, as postmaster, be in a position to serve Washington interests in many ways. He is equipped to do that in most effective manner, for there is probably no citizen of this community who has a larger or more agreeable acquaintance among the men in Congress and in official positions, who are now running the Government. Washington needs to have just such men enlisted in its behalf, at this time and at all times. Mr. Praeger is in position to be of very great use to the city, and he has the most ample equipment for that purpose.

EXTENSION OF THE PARCEL POST.

"A parcel post station around the corner" is Postmaster Thornton's latest plan for the popularization of the Government's express service in Philadelphia. At present there are more than 100 places which receive parcel post packages; beginning February 16 there will be twice that number. The additional stations were decided upon as a matter of public convenience. With the weight limit of packages increased to fifty pounds, it is important that a sending station be within easy distance of every prospective customer's home.

The innovation will put the parcel post system in closer competition than at present with the privately owned express companies. The express companies, by reason of their recent cut in rates, have somewhat the better of the argument for public patronage. The same spirit of legitimate competition which led the postoffice authorities to extend the weight limit on parcels no doubt will bring about further extensions of the service. It is likely that in the not distant future parcel post wagons will call for packages just as express company wagons do at present; that a free insurance arrangement will be introduced, and that receipts will be given for every package.

This sort of competition hurts neither the express companies nor the Government organization. In both, it makes for better service at a lower cost, with correspondingly bigger business all around, smaller overhead expenses and consequently better profits on both the people's and the express companies' investments.

LINCOLN AND SUFFRAGE.

It is interesting to recall, on a Lincoln's Birthday in a year full of woman's cry for a vote, that Abraham Lincoln, seventy-eight years ago, wrote a suffrage platform which could not be improved upon today except by the elimination of one of the thirty-eight words.

It is the platform upon which Lincoln ran when he was a candidate for the legislature in 1836:

"I go for all sharing the privilege of the Government who assist in bearing its burdens. Consequently, I go for admitting all whites to the rights of suffrage who pay taxes or bear arms, by no means excluding females."

Lincoln was only twenty-five years old in that campaign, but he had already acquired his wonderful art of saying things that everybody could understand and remember. The word "whites" was necessary in such a platform in 1836. As for its elimination, it hardly need be said that Lincoln's own later acts eliminated it.

MRS. BARRETT'S ARTICLES

The Times is in receipt of a letter from the Woman's Municipal League of the city of New York, which indicates how widespread is the interest in the various aspects of the social problem that are being discussed by Mrs. Kate Waller Barrett in her articles in this paper. Not only here in Washington, but from many other places, come the testimonial that Mrs. Barrett's consideration of these problems is being widely followed.

The Woman's Municipal League sends to The Times a long list of addresses, with the request that The Times be mailed regularly to them, during the continuance of Mrs. Barrett's series of articles. It is explained that aside from their immediate interest, these articles have a special concern to the leaders of social reform activity in New York because a measure similar to the Kenyon "red light" act will come before the New York legislature on February 18 for a hearing.

Few subjects of social character are commanding more attention nowadays than these which have been forced upon the consideration of Washington by the passage of the Kenyon measure. Whatever other results may flow from the passage of that law, there can be no doubt that one very great good will come, in the forcing of serious, frank, open-eyed attention to these problems. Blinking the eyes at conditions that everybody knows to exist, but that nobody likes even to admit or to discuss, doesn't get far toward bettering conditions.

WOMEN AND THE FARM.

Most of the folks who don't think the women are fit to vote, will be able at least to give indorsement to the movement to enlist the women in the country life movement. Out West, the farm and town women are organizing to help solve the problem of farm production, by making the farm a better place to live. The things the women want on the farm, to make it most desirable, are being studied and catalogued, and some interesting conclusions are pointed by the testimony thus far taken.

For instance, it develops that the first thing wanted by the largest number of farm wives is running water in the house. Nowadays, of course, many farm houses are thus equipped; but vastly more are not. No single incident of household drudgery imposes so much toil on the women, or makes cleanliness and good sanitation so difficult, as the necessity for carrying water from well or spring for every possible domestic use. One incident to this condition is that houses are built where water may be as convenient to them as possible, and that too often means that they are not in the best location for sanitation, comfort, and appearances.

So long as the farm family gets up at an unholy hour in the morning in a cold house, to build fires and carry in water before the breakfast can be prepared, just so long will the farm family continue to look yearningly toward the comforts enjoyed by their friends in town. The splendid independence of the farm is well enough to talk and write about, but the people who live that life of independence would like to see some of the backache and chilblains taken out of their experience.

That Was Enough.

A young Frenchman in the sophomore class of an American college was invited to a musical entertainment given by his classmates, where there were sung, in honor of the foreigner, a number of French songs, and they were given in the best American French.

"I say, old man," observed one of the sophomores, after the entertainment, "I suppose those French songs made you feel a little homesick, eh?"

"No," responded the Frenchman; "only sick."—Ex.

Often She Wouldn't.

Because a woman like another woman's hat doesn't necessarily mean that she would wear it.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Times Tiny Travelettes

VIENNA—IMPERIAL COURT MUSEUM.

PHOTO FROM E. M. NEWMAN—TRAVELER-LECTURER

THIS is the Imperial Court Museum of Natural History, a magnificent structure on the Burg Ring. The collections contained herein rank with the finest of their kind in the world. This building was begun in 1872, simultaneously with the Museum of Art History, which is identical in dimensions as well as in architectural execution, and is located directly opposite.

The News in Tabloid

FOR BUSY READERS.

A digest of the really big news of the day, compiled for those readers whose time is limited, but who feel that they must keep in touch with important world events.

GENERAL.

The naval tug Potomac, sent to the rescue of fishing schooners in the ice off Newfoundland, was reported so firmly gripped in an ice field that there was small chance of getting out before spring.

The district attorney filed complaints asking for the arrest of Fremont Oder, editor of the San Francisco Bulletin, who took a leading part in the prosecution of Abe Ruef, and R. A. Crothers, publisher of the Bulletin. The men are charged with conducting a lottery through the newspaper.

Frederick W. Mansfield, Massachusetts State treasurer, rejected every bid by dealers for State 4 per cent bonds amounting to $6,325,000, and said he would keep a pre-election pledge by selling the bonds directly to the people.

Bankers representing several Southern cities presented their claims for the location of a Federal reserve bank at a hearing before the organization committee in New Orleans.

W. H. Hatton, La Follette's candidate for governor of Wisconsin, issued a statement declaring that the State's need was organization along the lines of modern efficiency to meet the problem of the increase in State taxes.

The Aero Club of America withheld sanction for the 'round the world race until the Panama-Pacific Exposition officials furnished some guarantee that the prize money would be forthcoming.

FOREIGN.

Sir Edward Carson was accorded thunderous applause in the House of Commons when he spoke in favor of the unionists' demand to dissolve parliament and submit the home rule question to a vote of the people. The unionist amendment was defeated by a majority of 78.

The appointment of Sidney Charles Buxton, now president of the board of trade as governor general of the Union of South Africa, to succeed Viscount Gladstone, has been officially announced.

Seven militant suffragettes, arrested for disturbance created at the attempted arrest of Mrs. Pankhurst last Tuesday, have been sentenced to four days' imprisonment each.

The imperial throne of China has just been offered to Yuan Shi Kai, according to a Pekin dispatch. The president declined the offer, believing the time is not ripe for the founding of a new dynasty.

Vladimir N. Kokovsoff, the Russian premier, has resigned. M. Kokovsoff, who was finance minister in Stolypin's cabinet, succeeded to the premiership after the assassination of Stolypin, in September, 1911.

LOCAL.

The Rivers and Harbors Committee argued to appropriate $1,000,000 for the Delaware river channel, and authorize continuing contracts for a like amount the next fiscal year.

William Draper Lewis, dean of the law school of the University of Pennsylvania, argued before a House committee for the establishment of an administrative trade commission to enforce anti-monopoly legislation.

Representative Lee, in his argument before the Naval Committee, showed conclusively by a physical demonstration that Norfolk could not begin to compete with Philadelphia as the site for a huge drydock.

Members of the Senate Committee on Immigration asserted that the Burnett bill, as it passed the House, would be reported to the Senate and its passage urged.

Witnesses before the Senate Banking Committee attacked the provisions of the Owen bill to incorporate stock exchanges, maintaining that Federal control was undesirable.

Treasury officials issued a booklet explaining many misunderstandings regarding the income tax law.

General arbitration treaties with Great Britain, Japan, Italy, Spain, Norway, Sweden, Portugal, and Switzerland were reported favorably by the Foreign Relations Committee, and it was said would be taken up for consideration by the Senate February 19.

The Senate passed a bill to provide a temporary method for the nomination and election of United States Senators in States which have not legislated to carry out the Seventeenth Constitutional Amendment, for direct election of Senators.

Democrats and Republicans united in denouncing the Administration's bill for a Government-owned railroad in Alaska as socialistic, and Congressman Underwood, Democratic floor leader, was forced to rise in its defense.

Slight Mistake.

"I believe Fanny is making me an afghan," said the youth. "I was calling there last night, and she was working on it; but she wouldn't tell me who or what it was for."

"She told me. It is for you, but it is not an afghan. It's one of a pair of ear tabs."—New York Sun.

The Silver Lining

Edited By ARTHUR BAER.

Buffalo man confesses that he set fire to a stone quarry. That's strange. Anybody who is clever enough to set a stone quarry on fire cannot confess. All he can do is boast.

Castillo's band is scheduled to be publicly executed by the order of General Villa. When the general finishes that band, he might direct his attention to some of our summer ones which will blossom forth on straw hats in a few months.

Some fear is expressed that the earth's tremors may cause the Eastern States to slide into the sea. If enough slides off, some day we may have to elect a President from the West.

The President's smile will be photographed and placed underneath the Pyramid of Cheops. Might be more appropriate to put it under the Sphinx. No one seems to be able to fathom it.

Structural iron worker pulled a plume from a girl's hat. The plume got in his features and annoyed him. Now you can understand why they erect buildings in New York seventy stories high.

THE OLDEST INHAB SEZ—

"Fellers makin' $6 a week are divided between payin' th' income tax on $3,000 a year, or admitting that they don't have to."

Taxicab accidents are decreasing in Berlin. Only one out of 600 people get hit every year. Can't figure what the other 599 can do to amuse themselves.

The Lokalanzeiger, a German newspaper, says the Panama Canal is one of the seven wonders of the world. The Lokalanzeiger sounds as if it might be the other six.

Now everybody up for penny postage. Every time somebody borrows a stamp, you save a cent. Of course, if you happen to be the borrower—well, we will have to make a "rider" out of that one.

Over 500,000 idle people in New York. Why not give them all a job trying to collect that income tax from John D.?

Mayor of California town does the family washing. His wife is a suffragette. He keeps out of hot water mentally, by getting into it physically.

The bandit leader who will be executed for wrecking a railroad, deserves his fate. He should first have made his crime legal by electing himself a director of the road. Then all the rough stuff wouldn't be noticed.

John D. will shake the dust of Cleveland off his feet. At $12,000,000 a shake that should be gold dust.

Thomas Edison lives on ten ounces of food a day. At that poundage a 5-cent slab of pumpkin pie will last Thomas until the next Halley's comet heaves to in the offing.

Impersonating a United States Congressman is now a crime. The voters of each Congressional district will have to show more care in electing their representatives, unless they want to see them thrown into jail.

The "Wolf of Wall Street" is responsible for this bill. As the old proverb failed to say, "Keep the wolf from the door, and he will use the telephone."

W. B. Pettus Heads Royal Arch Masons

Walter B. Pettus, grand high priest of the grand chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the District, today begins his new duties, having been installed last night at the forty-second convocation.

Spirited contests marked the elections. Many of the new officers were promoted while others were re-elected. The installation was made by George E. Corson, deputy grand high priest of the general grand chapter of the United States of America.

Officers elected are: Grand high priest, Walter B. Pettus; deputy grand high priest, Lem Towers, jr.; grand king, William C. Fowler; grand scribe, William H. Wunder; grand secretary, Arvine W. Johnston; grand treasurer, John A. Colburn; grand visitor and lecturer, Orville Brown; grand chaplain, the Rev. Paul R. Hickok; grand sentinel of the host, William W. Jermaine; grand principal sojourner, Arthur C. Shaw; grand royal arch captain, Emmett M. Carter; grand master third veil, Frank F. Major; grand master second veil, Joseph H. Milans; grand master, first veil, Guy W. A. Camp; grand sentinel, Cummins C. Helmick, and trustee for three years, Harrison Dingman.

Gossip of Society

By JEAN ELIOT

MRS. WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN was the honor guest of Mrs. William Bailey Lamar, wife of former Congressman Lamar, of Georgia, at a beautiful luncheon party today at Rauscher's.

The luncheon was served at a large square table which was adorned with a centepiece of shaded pink carnations and snap-dragons, and the place cards bore a tiny engraved head of Abraham Lincoln.

Invited to meet Mrs. Bryan were Mrs. Burleson, Mrs. Joseph R. Lamar, Mrs. Osborne, Mrs. John Bassett Moore, Mrs. Joseph W. Folk, Mrs. John Skelton Williams, Mrs. Charles B. Howry, Mrs. David Jayne Hill, Mrs. Stephen B. Elkins, Mrs. Burton Harrison, Mrs. Samuel Spencer, Mrs. George Howland Chase, Mrs. Walsh, Mrs. Marye, Mrs. T. deWitt Talmage, Mrs. J. William Henry, Mrs. George W. Fairchild, Mrs. Adolph C. Miller, Mrs. Thurston Ballard, Mrs. Charles C. McChord, Mrs. I. T. Mann, Mrs. William Corcoran Hill, Mrs. H. T. B. Harris, Mrs. John Miller Horton, of Buffalo, N. Y.; Mrs. Delos Blodgett, Mrs. Charles G. Matthews, Mrs. Robert Lansing, Mrs. Sheldon Evans, Mrs. Thropp, Mrs. Elmer Black, of New York; Mrs. Cole, and Mrs. Warner, of Nashville, Tenn.; Miss Claire de Graffenreid, Miss Kibbey, Miss Hagner, Miss Flora Wilson, Mrs. Coy, and Miss Codman.

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Mrs. Lane, wife of the Secretary of the Interior, entertained at a luncheon party today at her home in Wyoming avenue. Her guests were Mrs. Houston, Mrs. Newlands, Mrs. Ira C. Copley, Mrs. Sharpe, Mrs. A. F. Fechteler, Mrs. Hugh Wallace, Mrs. Marshall Field, Mrs. Boyden, and Miss Hegeman.

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Miss Margaret Wilson left Washington this morning for Philadelphia.

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The Congressional Club entertained a large and interesting party last evening at the reception in honor of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and Mrs. Champ Clark. From 9 o'clock until midnight the guests, who included the Vice President and Mrs. Marshall, members of the Cabinet and many from Congressional and resident circles, thronged the clubhouse in K street. Owing to Mrs. Clark's absence from the city her place was taken last night by her daughter, Miss Genevieve Clark, who stood with her father, Mrs. Duncan U. Fletcher, president of the club, and Mrs. Henry Allen Cooper, wife of Representative Cooper, of Wisconsin, to receive the guests. Wearing a gown of rose-colored satin, draped with chiffon of the same shade, and carrying an armful of spring flowers, sent to her by the club, Miss Clark made a charming picture. The reception was one of the largest ever given by the club, and added force to the argument in favor of more commodious quarters. The rooms were tastefully decorated with jonquils and white lilacs, combined with vines, and the supper table had a pyramidal basket of spring flowers as a centerpiece. An orchestra played throughout the evening, and a rumor that dancing would conclude the reception caused many of the guests to linger. Both houses of Congress were represented among the guests, the men putting in an appearance, as well as the women, in compliment to the guest of honor.

Assisting in entertaining were a number of prominent members of the club, including Mrs. La Follette, Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. Bartlett, Mrs. Henry, Mrs. Mann, Mrs. Stephens, Mrs. Finley, Mrs. Mondell, Mrs. Shackleford, Mrs. Chandler, Mrs. Padgett, Mrs. Hardwick, Mrs. Howell, Mrs. Knowland, Mrs. Murdock, Mrs. Rainey, Mrs. Voistead, Mrs. Barchfield, Mrs. Kahn, Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. Russell, Mrs. French, Mrs. Laylin and Miss Wilcox.

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The reception which John Barrett and Mr. and Mrs. Francisco Yanes will give this evening at the Pan American building, will be from 9:30 o'clock, instead of 10, as announced in the invitations.

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Miss Nellie Claire Howard and Miss Mary Howell will join a party of friends in Annapolis Saturday for the officers' hop at the Naval Academy.

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Mrs. John F. Carter, of Iowa, is the house guest of Senator and Mrs. Kenyon at their home in Park road.

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Miss Annie Wright Huske, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clement Wright Huske, has sent out cards for a tea dance February 17, from 5 to 7, at Studio Hall, in compliment to Miss Madge Pickett Stokes, Miss Mildred Truitt, and Miss Dorothy Campbell.

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Miss Mildred Truitt, of Delaware, is the house guest of Miss Annie Wright Huske.

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The French Ambassador and Mme. Jusserand were hosts last night at a dinner at the embassy, in the Avenue of the Presidents, in honor of the Japanese Ambassador and Viscountess Chinda.

The guests invited to meet them included the Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Daniels, the Assistant Secretary of War and Mrs. Henry Breckenridge, Capt. and Mrs. Jayne, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Russell, the Naval Attache of the British Embassy and Mrs. Heathcoat Grant, Miss Eleanor Wilson, Captain Boy-Ed, of the German embassy; the Military Attache of the Russian Embassy and Mme. Golejevski, Commander Maximilian Burstyn, of the Austro-Hungarian embassy; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Willert, Miss Elizabeth Adams, and the Military Attache of the French embassy and Countess de Bertier de Sauvigny.

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Mrs. William F. Draper entertained at a beautiful dinner last night at her residence in Farragut square in honor of his eminence Cardinal Gibbons.

The guests invited to meet him were the Spanish Ambassador and Mme. de Riano, the Brazilian Ambassador and Mme. de Gama, the former American Ambassador to Italy and Mrs. O'Brien, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin MacVeagh, Bishop O'Connor, Judge and Mrs. Charles Howry, Mr. and Mrs. Ballard, Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds Hitt, Mrs. Samuel Spencer, Mrs. Alfred Bates, the Naval Attache of the French Embassy and Viscountess Dondot d'Arx, Vice Admiral and Mrs. Charles O'Neil, U. S. N., retired, and Miss Margaret Draper.

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Mrs. Thomas F. Walsh was hostess at a dinner last night in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Walter McLallen, of Indiana, who are the guests of the Vice President and Mrs. Marshall.

The company included the Vice President and Mrs. Marshall, Mr. Justice and Mrs. Charles E. Hughes, the Secretary of War and Mrs. Garrison, the Postmaster General and Mrs. Burleson, and Charles Richardson. After the dinner Mrs. Walsh took her guests to the Belasco Theater.

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Mrs. Henry L. Myers, wife of Senator Myers of Montana, and Mrs. James A. Reed, wife of Senator Reed of Missouri, are entertaining at a large tea this afternoon at the home of Mrs. Reed, in Biltmore street, from 3 until 6 o'clock.

Assisting in receiving the guests and dispensing the hospitalities of the afternoon are Mrs. Duncan U. Fletcher and her daughter, Mrs. Kemp; Mrs. Thomas J. Walsh, Mrs. Atlee Pomerene, Mrs. Brant, Mrs. Joseph W. Folk, Mrs. J. J. Dickinson, Mrs. Eugene Kinkead, Mrs. Fred A. Britten, Mrs. James H. Patten, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. John E. Raker, and Miss Genevieve Walsh.

In the reception hall, red tulips and ferns will form the decorations, and in the music and drawing rooms yellow tulips, jonquils, spring buds, and palms will be used, while in the dining room ferns and smilax, with a huge basket of violets, pink sweet peas and mignonette will form the decorations.

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A gathering of representative Washington society folk will be attracted to the Playhouse at the tea hour this afternoon for the second of the series of eight tea dances given by a committee including the Viscountess d'Arx, Mrs. Preston Gibson and Mrs. George Howard. Last season roller skate parties were given by the same committee.

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An engagement of much interest in Washington, announced in New York today, is that of Miss Mary Cutting Cumnock, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. Cumnock, to George B. Wagstaff, son of Col. and Mrs. Alfred Wagstaff, of Madison avenue, New York.

Miss Cumnock, who is a member of one of New York's oldest families, made her debut at Sherry's December 19, at one of the largest and most brilliant dances of the season. She has visited in Washington and has a large circle of friends among the New York contingent of Washington society.

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Miss Mae Little will leave Washington soon for a visit with friends in New York and Flatbush, L. I.

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A beautiful dance was given in Chevy Chase last evening by Mr. and Mrs. Pereau, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Falk and Miss Ella Welborn at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Pereau, in Ingomar street.

Palms, ferns and spring flowers adorned the house, and a string orchestra played for the dancing. A buffet supper was served at midnight.

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Mrs. James W. Orme entertained at a luncheon, followed by bridge, in honor of Mrs. George Robinson Hackley, house guest of Congressman and Mrs. William Schley Howard of Georgia. The guests were Mrs. Robert Henry Gittins, of New York; Miss Slemp, of Virginia; Mrs. Sam J. Tribble, of Georgia; Mrs. Theodore H. Tiller, Mrs. Etha Patterson Griffith, Mrs. John N. Popham, jr., Mrs. Robert Bruce Emerson, Mrs. George M. Sharp, Mrs. William Schley Howard, of Georgia, and Mrs. Henry H. Hazen.

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Rear Admiral and Mrs. Mason entertained at dinner last night at the Chevy Chase Club.

Others who gave dinners preceding the club dance were Rear Admiral and Mrs. Hamphill, Dr. and Mrs. Frank Pleadwell, Dr. and Mrs. Walter Wells, Mrs. Yerkes, Mr. Hansbuck, Mr. and Mrs. Meen, Mr. and Mrs. Glassie, Mr. and Mrs. James Green, Mr. Ditson, Mrs. A. T. Britton, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel H. Vandergrift, Walter Penfield, Mr. Sweeney, and Judge Moss.

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The commandant and officers at the navy yard will entertain at a hop in the officers' club this evening, and several dinner parties will precede.

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Mr. and Mrs. Hennen Jennings will entertain at dinner this evening.

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Mrs. Richard Townsend will be hostess at a dinner dance this evening.

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Mrs. James H. Patten has sent out cards for a buffet luncheon March 7, in compliment to Mrs. Asbury C. Latimer.

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The Charge d'Affaires of Persia and Mme. Ali Kuli Khan will entertain at a dinner party Tuesday evening in compliment to the Secretary of State and Mrs. Bryan.

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Mr. and Mrs. Charles Henry Stone will entertain at a reception this afternoon at their residence in M street.

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It has been decided to hold the hunt ball at the Chevy Chase Club, as in former years. The date chosen is Friday, April 17, and as the weather should be warm enough by that time to make use of the large piazzas, the committee in charge hopes to make the ball even more attractive than heretofore. A cotillion probably will be one of the features.

The members of the hunt ball committee are Jerome N. Bonaparte, Murray A. Cobb, J. William Henry, George Howard, Hugh S. Legare, William C. Marrow, J. Henri de Sibour, Lawrence Townsend, and Walter Tuckerman.

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The members of the graduation class of the Immaculate Conception Academy will be hostesses at a benefit dansant to be given in the Immaculate Conception Hall tomorrow evening. The music will be furnished by the Lyric orchestra. The proceeds of the "hat box" will be used to defray a recent expense incurred by the school.

The members of the class are Miss Henrietta Berens, Miss Mary Blake, Miss Teresa Chave, Miss Irene Cole, Miss Mary Dalton, Miss Pauline Hoffman, Miss Helen Loveless, Miss Frances McCann, Miss Bernadette Meehan, Miss Mamie Morrissey, Miss Sarah Polley, Miss Margaret Preston, Miss Virginia Rueth, and Miss Florence Schweitzer.

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Mrs. L. B. Thomson and Mrs. W. L. Saul entertained at a large tea Tuesday afternoon, at 3423 Avenue of the Presidents. Assisting in receiving the guests were Mrs. Alfred Ray and Mrs. J. F. Wilson, of Kensington, Md., and Mrs. Charles P. Hartley, who presided at the punch bowl.

Red carnations and Southern smilax adorned the house. An orchestra played throughout the afternoon.

—✣—

A. A. Jones, First Assistant Secretary of the Interior, and Mrs. Jones entertained at dinner Tuesday evening, at the Wyoming in honor to Gov. W. C. McDonald, of New Mexico. Their guests were Vice President and Mrs. Marshall, Secretary and Mrs. Lane, Mr. and Mrs. McLallan, of Indiana; Mrs. Anderson, and Judge G. A. Richardson, of New Mexico.

—✣—

Mr. and Mrs. H. Schlosberg will be at home February 15 from 7 to 10 p. m., at 1207 E street northwest, in honor of the bar mitzvah of their son, Leo.

—✣—

AT HOMES

Mrs. H. C. Ansley, of Connecticut avenue, will not receive today, but will be at home next Thursday, February 19.

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Mrs. Burleson, wife of the Postmaster General, will not receive again until after Lent.

—✣—

Mme. Peynado, wife of the minister of the Dominican republic, will not receive tomorrow.

—✣—

Mrs. John Lewis Edwards will be at home Fridays in February.

—✣—

Mrs. S. T. Howard and Miss Nellie Claire Howard will be at home Tuesday, February 17, for the last time this season.

—✣—

Mrs. Kenyon and Mrs. Ashurst will be at home at 1752 Park road informally this afternoon.

—✣—

Mrs. Lowry L. Morrill will be at home to Sunshine and D. A. R. associates and other friends in Kilbourne place, Wednesday, February 18.

—✣—

Mrs. Cummins, wife of Senator Cummins, will be at home this afternoon, and will have with her Mrs. Robert Downey, of Waynesburg, Pa., and the Misses Cummins, of Des Moines, Iowa.

—✣—

Mrs. Charles W. Russell and Miss Russell will be at home this afternoon from 4 to 6. They expect to leave Saturday for Richmond, to be present at Governor Stuart's reception, February 20.

IS LUNCHEON GUEST

MRS. GEORGE ROBINSON HACKLEY Of Mexico City, honor guest of Mrs. James W. Orme at a luncheon today.

MAIL BAG

(From The Times Readers.)

Why So Much Noise.

To the Editor of The Times:

I desire to call your attention, and through you, the attention of the populace of this model town of ours to what seems to be an abuse of privilege.

The time between 12 o'clock midnight and 6 a. m. is, by common consent, set apart for sleep. It is then that the town becomes a huge dormitory, and should be as silent as a hospital, but at this very time the milk, baker, and butcher wagons seem to enter a contest to see which can murder the most sleep by their thunderous clatter through the streets.

We are urged by some, perhaps all, health authorities to sleep with our windows open, and when these thoughtless drivers prevent us from doing so they become a public nuisance and should be suppressed.

Is there not, among the thousand and more police and traffic regulations, a rule that permits only noiseless vehicles to navigate the streets during sleeping hours? Certainly it would not be a hardship to compel these sleep-destroyers, if they must use horse-drawn vehicles in this that we so proudly call the horseless age, to muffle their horses' hoofs, put rubber tires on their wagon wheels, and see that the hubs do not rattle. They should be required to do this or stay off the city streets, within the paved district, during sleeping time.

Is it possible that we thousands of open-window sleepers are to be made the victims of "the irony of fate" by the few hundred wagon drivers who persist in being the very last to adopt the silent vehicle in their business. When, as a matter of simple justice and common sense, they should have been the very first?

Yours, very respectfully,

T. R. F.

Waving the Flask.

To the Editor of The Times:

Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan, replying to criticism for having gone into the State of Maryland to advocate from the stump the election of Blair Lee for the United States Senate, who, when a member of the Maryland State legislature, was instrumental in the defeat of the local option bill, which the temperance people of the State had worked so hard to have enacted, said in an interview with a press reporter:

"I regard the national issues as paramount, and I think it will be a great mistake for any Democrat to assist in sending a Republican to the United States Senate to tie the hands of the President and obstruct his policies."

According to this interview, Mr. Bryan has put himself on record as being first of all a politician, subordinating even morality to the success of the Democratic Administration, and, according to his own declaration as quoted above, "paramount" to the temperance issue.

I am reminded in this connection of a speech made on one occasion by the late Hon. Alexander H. Stephens, of Georgia, to his constituents. It is related that, waving a small flask of whisky, he exclaimed: "This, fellow-citizens, is the true spirit of the Democratic party."

A. J. C.

What's on the Program in Washington Today

Meetings, evening:

Masonic—New Jerusalem, No. 9; George C. Whiting, No. 22. Royal Arch—Washington, No. 2. Eastern Star—William F. Hunt, No. 16.

Odd Fellows—Columbia, No. 18; Excelsior, No. 17; Salem, No. 22.

National Union—Washington and Census Councils.

Red Men—Sioux No. 18; Logan, No. 3.

Knights of Pythias—Harmony, No. 21. Knights of Khorassan—Ascalon, No. 31.

Maccabees—Georgetown, No. 6; District, No. 8.

Socialist Party—Lecture, Emil Seidel, Arion Hall; lecture, Rev. J. L. Smiley, Ingram Church.

Sons of Jonadab—Capitol, No. 5.

Chamber of Commerce of United States—New Willard.

Society of Colonial Wars—New Willard.

Meeting, Boy Scouts of America, Raleigh Hotel, 8 p. m.

Hearing, Interstate Commerce Commission, Willard Hotel, fh mezzanine.

Banquet, Chamber of Commerce of U. S. A., Willard Hotel, 8 p. m.

The Dansant, Willard Hotel, Red Room, 4 to 7 p. m.

Meeting and supper, Society of Colonial Wars, Willard Hotel, Blue Room, 8 p. m.

Meeting, Chemical Society of Washington, Assembly Hall of Cosmos Club, 8 p. m.

Lecture by Hamlin Taylor, Holy Name Society, St. Matthew's Church hall.

Lecture by Emil Seidel, German branch of Socialist Party of D. C., Arion Hall, 8 p. m.

Addresses by Congressman Kahn and Congressman Neeley, Cosmopolitan Baptist Church, celebration Lincoln's Birthday, 3 p. m.

Lecture, Catholic University of America, Assembly Room, McMahon Hall, 4:30 p. m.

Lecture to Masons by Chauncey Graham, Whiting Lodge, Georgetown.

Banquet, Sons of Veterans' Club, Rauscher's.

Address by President Wilson to members national council of Boy Scouts of America, White House.

Chamber of Commerce of United States convention.

Amusements.

National—"Stop Thief," 8:15 p. m.
Columbia—"The Madcap Duchess," 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.
Belasco—"The Wedding Night," 8:30 p. m.
Poli's—"The Little Minister," 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.
Keith's—Vaudeville, 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.
Cosmos—Vaudeville, continuous.
Casino—Vaudeville, afternoon and evening.
Gayety—Burlesque, 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.
Arcade—Dancing, evening.