

The Washington Times

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THE NOISES OF THE CITY

Recent discussions of the baneful effects of noise seem to indicate that persons who were writing to The Times Mail Bag not so long ago about the racket of the early morning milk wagons were not mere cranks.

Artists state that diseases of the ear are increasing because of the needless bombardment of sounds the tympanum must undergo in every city.

It is rather interesting to note that municipal regulation protects the other senses. The olfactory nerves are protected from unsavory assault.

CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS

Having met with no marked success by pleading for civil pensions on the ground of humanity, the United States Civil Service Retirement Association has adopted another tack.

Officers of this body point to the Postal Service, in which there has been most strenuous efforts toward a more businesslike management.

In the strict application of any efficiency plan probably all these employees would have been eliminated from the service long ago.

The attitude of the Government toward old age pensions in contrast to the provisions already made by many private corporations should furnish food for thought to Socialists.

RAISING MEN AND MONEY

Henry Carter Adams wrote a book about the fiscal organizations of nations, which nobody worried much about, except a group of elderly gentlemen in Japan.

This book was seized upon by the Japanese elders, and by their direction was made almost a Japanese classic of economics.

them, so that they will be ready and measurably educated in the duties of military life.

This may be done without making professional soldiers of the whole male population. It is done in Switzerland. Ten years ago Great Britain studied the Swiss system, and with some modifications made it the basis of the organization of territorial reserves.

Britain is at the point of beginning conscription. But conscription was not necessary till two million men had been brought under arms, nor till the economic obstacles to enlistment had begun to urge powerfully.

It is time to think of laying foundations for a military system adapted to this nation's requirements, and capable of such quick expansion, in numbers, as will meet the needs of whatever emergency may come.

DREAMS CRYSTALLIZING

While statesmen "plan and play their game," it would be to little purpose did not the strength of their nation uphold them. Especially in the twentieth century would it be the most impossible of impossibilities for a government to engage in an emprise carrying at its heart the prospect of war unless such were the will of the people.

While Italy was supposed to be wrapped up with Germany and Austria in an offensive and defensive alliance, statesmen were influenced by the illusion, but not so the people of Italy.

Mr. Wilson himself made it plain that he believed the "hopes and energies of the country" are now turned in quite another direction from that of 1900, when he says, "The Democratic party made as if it would stake its fortunes on opposition to the 'imperial' policy of the Administration."

But we cannot give them self-government. Self-government is not a thing that we can give to any people, because it is a form of character and not a form of constitution.

It is certain that there will be no hasty compliance by Congress with the wish of the President on this subject, and it will desire reasons for such action as strong as those against it that have been furnished by Mr. Wilson himself.

MR. WALSH'S INQUIRY

Entirely aside from its general purpose, there is reason for some at-tention to the manner of the Industrial Relations Commission's investigation of labor conditions.

OUR COAST DEFENSES

Colonel Goethals expressed his disgust with people who imagine the seacoast of this country is comparatively undefended. On the contrary, he declares that no naval fleet would be able to force New York or San Francisco, and points to the fact that despite all the improvements in armor and armament of fighting craft, the Japanese could not drive their fleet into and reduce Port Arthur with it; and Americans could not take Santiago from the water side; and the allies are today pounding at the Dardanelles in an effort whose success must be set down as at least dubious.

From a man who knows what he is talking about, these observations should bring some comfort to over-wrought people who suspect that our seaports would promptly fall into the enemy's hands in case of war. It would be necessary for an enemy to re-enforce the efforts of his naval force with a strong landing party, which might outflank the coast towns, as the Japanese operated at Port Arthur, the Americans at Santiago, the allies now at the Dardanelles. This program assumes that

our own naval power would be bottled up or destroyed, which at least presumes a good deal. The enemy that landed on American soil would face a problem not unlike that of the ambitious invaders of Russia in the past, or that on which Napoleon concentrated much thought when he contemplated invading England.

WILL CONGRESS VOLTE FACE?

It is announced that President Wilson has decided to include the Philippine independence bill in his legislative program for the next session of Congress. The President, it is stated, has assured the Filipinos through Governor General Harrison of his support of the measure, and has indicated that he does not doubt it will pass.

Two reasons are given for the desire to divorce the islands from the United States. The first is that they are a source of weakness, rather than of strength, to America, and the second that a revolution is brewing among the natives. The decision of the President reverses an opinion he formerly held that the possession of the Philippines was necessary to the growth of American commerce.

In one of his writings he declares that a turning point in the progress of the nation had been reached when the Philippines were annexed, and that "America had turned from developing its own resources to make conquest of the markets of the world." The great east, he continued, "was the market all the world coveted now, the market for which statesmen as well as merchants must plan and play their game of competition, the market to which diplomacy, and if need be, power, must make an open way. The United States could not easily have dispensed with that foothold in the east which the possession of the Philippines so unexpectedly afforded them."

Mr. Wilson seems also to have revised his opinion concerning the fitness of the Filipino people for self-government. Before he became President, he said of the Filipinos:

But we cannot give them self-government. Self-government is not a thing that we can give to any people, because it is a form of character and not a form of constitution. No people can be "given" the self-control of maturity, a quality which is the result of a long apprenticeship of obedience and acquiescence in the rule of a superior power.

It is certain that there will be no hasty compliance by Congress with the wish of the President on this subject, and it will desire reasons for such action as strong as those against it that have been furnished by Mr. Wilson himself.

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But the hope that some worth-while results might be produced has been deferred, then frustrated, as the hearings of the commission have proceeded and it has become increasingly apparent that something more like an inquisition than an inquiry was going on. It is nowadays pretty well understood that the witness who is questioned with a stuffed club does not become the most responsible, or produce the testimony most ardently needed by counsel.

It is impossible to figure whether Senator Henry Cabot Lodge's remark about politics stopping at the water's edge is a boost for prohibition or agin' it. Now, if the Senator only came from Kentucky.

If Dr. Alexander Graham Bell insists on enabling us to see over the telephone, what are we going to do with our plugged nickels?

With Italy's advent into the war, it will be necessary to decide whether Venice's forces belong to the navy or army.

FOR DIRECT CHANGE WITH LATIN AMERICA

That, With Improvement of Transportation, to Be Chief Topic at Conference Here.

Direct, or dollar exchange between the republics of South and Central America and the United States, and through improvement of transportation facilities, between all these countries, will be the principal topics for discussion at the Pan-American Financial Conference called by Secretary McAdoo to meet in Washington Monday, according to expressions from arriving delegates.

Solution of these problems would do more to foster and build trade among the sister republics of the Western Hemisphere than any other considerations, it is declared.

The American delegates, prominent business men and bankers, are not expected to leave Washington until the end of the week.

The present system of exchange, which requires settling of all balances through London, has been a severe handicap to American trade for many years, and has been especially hurtful since the war began.

To Aid American Industries. The European war threatens seriously to handicap the development of railroad and street railway construction throughout Central and South America, as well as local public service industries, such as gas and electric light companies and telephone companies.

Every country of Central and South America has displayed remarkable enthusiasm over the meeting and pledged its support to realize the hopes of Secretary McAdoo to achieve results for mutual advantage.

For the convenience of the delegates accommodations have been procured at the National Hotel, where their party, at the Shoreham, Dr. F. S. Rowland, the secretary general of the conference, will have an office at the hotel.

Law Graduates to Hear Louis F. Post

Louis F. Post, assistant secretary of Labor, will be the principal speaker at the commencement exercises of the Washington College of Law next Thursday evening in the Memorial Continental Hall.

The invocation will be pronounced by the Rev. James Shera Montgomery, Miss Emma Gillett, the dean will preside and the honorary dean, Mrs. Ellen Spencer Mussey, will confer degrees.

Transportation Day Exposition Feature

SAN FRANCISCO, May 21.—Evolution in transportation will be demonstrated at the Panama-Pacific Exposition today when "Transportation Day" is celebrated.

Three Given Diplomas At Paul Institute Here

Diplomas were presented to three graduates of Paul Institute, formerly Washington Seminary, yesterday by John Barrett, director general of the Pan-American Union.

War Demands Sure to Force Food Prices Up

Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Vrooman Declares Market Is Sure to Take Upward Turn—Europe Living on Livestock Capital.

By JUDSON C. WELLIVER.

That the demands of the war for both meats and cereals are certain to be reflected in a persistent advance through prices of meats and livestock, is the declaration of Carl Vrooman, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, today.

The time is come for an upward turn," he said. "In fact, the turn is already to be noted in the market quotations. The wonder to me has been that it should have been delayed so long. I have done considerable quiet work in the effort to determine what causes have been responsible for the comparative depression in meat prices, and have found no satisfactory explanation. Nor do I find anybody else who can answer the question that livestock producers have been asking."

Germany, moreover, in order to conserve her supplies of primary foodstuffs, has rigorously limited the numbers of meat animals that might be marketed, making it necessary for growers to dispose of many of these.

Great Increase. "This advance is going to mean a great increase in the revenues of the agricultural population of the last year has been a very fortunate one for the country in regard to hog cholera."

The persistent campaign against that scourge is producing real results. People are caring for their hogs better than formerly, and they know the use of the cholera serum that has proved such a boon to swine growers.

Three Explanations. The supply of hogs has, therefore, been improving, as has that of other kinds of meat stock. With prices now on the up-grade, there is every reason for confidence that the next season will see large profits accruing to the credit of people who have stuck by their livestock investments.

Under these circumstances, the outlook for the live stock industry in the United States is considered especially gratifying, and the Department of Agriculture is organizing a campaign to encourage investment in this branch. It is desired that this country shall not curtail home supplies or permit too sharp an advance in the costs of meat to the consumer, and yet that it shall be able to contribute a generous share to the needs of the outside world.

FRANCE TO IMPORT REFRIGERATED MEAT

PARIS, May 21.—A bill authorizing the purchase of imported refrigerated beef for the army was passed by the chamber of deputies.

BRITISH BOARD OF TRADE ASKS CANAL BUILDER PUTS TRUST IN CIVILIANS TO ECONOMIZE FOR THE SOLDIERS.

LONDON, May 21.—The Board of Trade calls the attention of the public to the great importance of restricting the consumption of meat, with a view to economizing national supplies and avoiding an excessive increase in prices.

Y. W. C. A. Friendship Clubs to Hold Meeting

An important council meeting of the Friendship Clubs of the Young Women's Christian Association will be held at Vacation Lodge, Chesapeake, Va., tomorrow.

Rattler's Bite Kills.

HEBER SPRINGS, Ark., May 21.—While out in the woods with a crowd of young folks gathering flowers, Miss Ida Woods of Pangburn was bitten by an Arkansas rattlesnake, from the effects of which she died after walking about 50 yards.

MAIL BAG

(From The Times' Readers.) Communications to the Mail Bag must be written on one side of the paper only; must not exceed 200 words in length, and must be signed with name and address of sender.

Asks Suspension of Judgment in Case of Dr. Hudson.

To the Editor of THE TIMES: In the matter of the investigation of the official affairs of Dr. William B. Hudson, Superintendent of the Bathing Beach and director of physical culture in the public schools of the District of Columbia, I ask a suspension of public opinion until after we have been advised of the result of the investigation by the District authorities.

If any error of this character is discovered it will probably be the nature of using funds appropriated for a specific purpose to help in meeting a deficiency in some other public work.

President, West End Citizens' Association, Washington, May 21.

MANY EVENTS LISTED FOR CAPITAL TODAY

Meeting, Women's National Press Club, 7:30 p. m. Rose exhibition, Masonic Temple, Twelfth and Monroe streets, Brookland, all day and evening.

Modern Woodmen of America—Lincoln Camp, No. 1044, 10:30 a. m. Camp, No. 1044, 10:30 a. m. Open house, Home Club, 14 Jackson place northeast, 10:30 a. m. Annual chess contest on the third floor.

Amusements.

National—"The Man Who Owns Broadway," 8:15 p. m. "The Play," 8:15 p. m. "The Play," 8:15 p. m. "The Play," 8:15 p. m.

Quits Railroad Job To "Conduct" Church

BADGER, Minn., May 21.—The Rev. Callie E. Sawyer, "conductor" of the Methodist Episcopal Church here—and said by his district superintendent to be one of the most promising ministers of the district—was a former railroad conductor.

King Thanks Widow.

LONDON, May 21.—King George V. dispatched a personal letter of appreciation to Mrs. Jane Nelson, an Exmouth widow, who has seven sons in the army.