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MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1916.

A RARE OPPORTUNITY

State societies, which abound in Washington, have an unprecedented opportunity for service to their States and to their National Capital, by uniting their efforts in the campaign to procure a permanent exhibit of the States in Washington.

Hotel and train records show that Washington yearly is becoming the mecca for larger numbers of tourists. This fact furnishes added reasons why the Capital should make every effort to become truly national; to express in some concrete way the fact that it represents the entire nation.

No device for doing this has been suggested that seems so effective as the proposed exhibits of the States, permanently located in Washington, to give tangible evidence of the ambitions, achievements, and resources of the Commonwealths they represent.

The States would gladly join such an enterprise and the State societies here afford a channel by which impetus could be given to the movement in at least half of the States of the Union. Not often will such an opportunity present itself to these organizations. They should take advantage of this one.

CRIMINAL, OR UNFORTUNATE?

Thomas Mott Osborne, of Sing Sing fame, and William H. Whittaker, superintendent of the District workhouse and reformatory, represent the most advanced ideas of prison reform. But Messrs. Osborne and Whittaker do not stand on the same platform. They explained their views in parallel interviews run in The Times a year or so ago.

Briefly, Mr. Osborne believes in the inherent goodness of human nature, and contends that there is no dividing line between the so-called criminal and other citizens. Therefore Mr. Osborne's self-government league.

Mr. Whittaker expressed his disbelief in the essential normality of the inmates of penal institutions, and pointed to records of mental and physical examinations as indicating that a large number of criminals are abnormal.

Both men agreed that this abnormality or variation from type, whichever one chooses to call it, is something to be cured, and that humane methods and hard work are the best curatives.

The significance of these opposing views now is exemplified in the results of their application. It may be that other factors caused Mr. Osborne's withdrawal from Sing Sing. But the Osborne system there has been supplanted.

Meanwhile at Occoquan Mr. Whittaker has quietly started the new District reformatory, with fifty-five prisoners, and so far his theories have proved highly practical. There has not yet been time to judge completely the effects of the District workhouse system upon long term prisoners. But students of penal reform cannot overlook the quiet and earnest work being done at Occoquan without any of the blare and trumpeting that accompanied the Sing Sing efforts.

HIGHER COST OF BASEBALL

Maybe the National League luminaries are going at the thing in the right way, when they take steps to restore baseball to a paying basis by cutting out the bleachers; but a good many people will have misgivings. The man who has made more money than anybody else out of automobile manufacturing has done it by making the cheapest car. The Standard Oil Company gave the world its first billionaire and a marvelous array of plain "multis" by making kerosene and related products cheap and popular. And so on.

In some towns the bleacher business has not been a very important factor for some years; but these are chiefly the very large cities, where there are huge numbers of people from whom to draw patronage at higher prices. Maintaining baseball as a paying institution is more of a problem in the smaller cities, where the low-priced seats make it possible to add a very much needed slice of revenue. The 25-cent seat stands for that educational process that makes fans of the boys. As soon as they get the thing thoroughly into their systems, and then advance in age and financial resource to the point where they can afford the more expensive seats, they commonly move along. It's a good guess that raising prices will not make the game more profitable. An empty seat represents a piece of potential revenue that has been sacrificed, without any corresponding economy. If the bleachers are emptied without adequately increasing the numbers of spectators in other sections, the game will drop a long way in popular interest.

Somehow the impression sticks in mind that a better way would be to reduce the expenses rather than the number of spectators. The high-priced stars of the game, especially when twenty to thirty of them are carried along in a single "nine" and expensive men are played most of the time on the bench, don't look like very good investments. How many baseball favorites would quit the game if their salaries were cut 25 per cent? Or how many people would remain away from the game if the number of players on each team were strictly limited to, say, eighteen, as one managing owner proposed they should be?

ANSWERING TO THE GERMAN PEOPLE

When the entente nations give their answer to the German peace suggestion, they will, if wisdom dictates their policy, deliver it over the heads of the German ruling class, to the German people. There is little doubt that the German people want peace. That is true of every people in the war; it is particularly true of the German people, because today they are puzzled to know why the are fighting. They know that their rulers insist that the war has been won. They know that by the map they are shown to have made great conquests of territory. They have been fed on wonderful stories of the great victories their arms have won, and have learned little of the other side of the story. They know that their soldiers occupy lines of trenches on alien soil; they have heard much of the story that munitions and supplies from the United States have alone made it possible for their enemies to avoid complete ruin. They do not understand the necessity to fight longer in a war that they are assured has been won for a year and more. They do not understand why their enemies persist in taking more and more punishment. They know that the German cause is a sacred one, because they have been assured of that fact by those from whom they have so long been accustomed to accept ready-made opinions. They know that the war was wickedly forced on Germany through the machinations of England. They know that England has the power of riches, but are perfectly certain that aside from capacity to corrupt other nations with her gold, she is well-nigh impotent. True, they are a bit dazed at this point by reason of some recent testimony that the British are making a good bit of trouble, despite their incapacity, along the line of the Somme; but they have no adequate conception of the power England has mustered. They cling to the belief that France is bled white, and the ambiguous bulletins their military authorities issue have given no real understanding of the failure at Verdun.

All this they believe to the point of absolute conviction. Yet the war goes on; and some millions of Germans know, too, that they are terribly distressed for want of enough food. They do not find sustenance in the reassuring tone of official bulletins that tell them the empire is well fed and sure to continue so. They know they have been getting rich, buying government securities under the pyramiding plan that has been absorbing the national wealth into the insatiable maw of war; but they cannot eat the aerated wealth that their leaders insist reposes in their holdings of government securities.

There is hardly a household in Germany that is not mourning. From highest to lowest, the story is everywhere the same. So, then, the war being won, why doesn't it stop?

It is to this wondering inquiry of the German people that the enemies of Germany have need to address answer. It has been said, it is generally believed, in Germany, that the central powers gained a fine strategical advantage in putting forth the first proposal of peace. But suppose the allies should make such a reply as the German government would not dare publish widespread to the German nation? Suppose a simple statement of the truth should be handed back; a statement that would either have to be suppressed, or else would be so convincing and effective as to make the great, docile, innocent body of the German nation realize the impossibility of winning the war?

Can such a statement be prepared, so calm, candid, confident, and determined as to affect the national mind of Germany? It would have to be a masterpiece; yet on the other hand it must be remembered that the German mind is in a frame to receive explanation of much that it has been unable to understand.

If the entente spokesmen can formulate a declaration of such character, it will either weaken the assurance of the German people, or else it will have to be suppressed by the German government and thereby irreparably harm the German cause with neutral opinion. To announce a peace move with flourish of trumpets, and then to suppress the enemy's answer save as that answer may be heard in the booming of great guns on the line of the Aisne and the Somme, would convict the German government of utter insincerity in the mind of the neutral world, and greatly prejudice its case in the mind of the German people themselves.

SOIL AND FACTORY PRODUCTS

The Department of Commerce gives first place to iron and steel among the country's exports for the current year, with cotton relegated to third, and explosives in second rank. Cotton, long the foremost article of export, is nearly $300,000,000 under steel, and almost $200,000,000 below steel and iron.

But in another analysis, the products of agriculture are found easily enough to sustain their place, despite the immense development of business done by the mine, the furnace, and the factory. Thus, of articles which are distinctly the product of the soil, there are listed:

Cotton	$548,000,000
Breadstuffs	500,000,000
Meat and dairy products	300,000,000
Animals	95,000,000
Leather and leather products	153,000,000
Tobacco and tobacco products	71,000,000
Wool and wool products	44,000,000
Total	2,711,000,000

The total exports for the year is set down at $5,500,000,000, so that substantially more than half the total is, after all, of the soil's production. It is true that fabrication has added to the value of many of these items; and in some cases, notably wool and leather, some of the material has been imported to manufacture. But on the other hand there are other soil products, such as lumber, that might be included in the list; so that a fair showing is made for the claim that, great as has been the advance in the export of manufactures, the soil has demonstrated full capacity to keep peace. It is an accomplishment that would hardly have been thought possible, two years ago. Today, the country realizes better than ever before the latent possibilities of its agricultural industries, not yet even nearing the zenith of capacity.

PARTITIONING ROUMANIA

A peculiar significance will attach to the report that Germany will insist on the partition of Roumania. After a fashion, Roumania may be regarded as the last national survival of the old Roman empire. "Romania," the old form of the name, carries the suggestion of that descent from early Roman colonists that is the pride of the Roumanians, and the tie between them and Italy. Transylvania was the first region in this Balkan area to be settled by the Romans; whence they spread over a territory much wider than the present geographic limits of Roumania. They have indeed been much changed by mixture with Slavic and other neighboring races; but it is doubtful whether the original stock has been diluted more than has that of the Italian peninsula itself, what with the polyglot immigration that marked the later generations of the republic, and that in the period of the empire brought everything from slaves to savants from every quarter of the known world.

At any rate, the tie of sympathy between Roma and Roumania is close. Roumania is the half-way station between Russia and Italy; the surest guarantee that they will always be able somehow to reconcile their differences in the Mediterranean basin. If, then, Germany shall insist on the distribution of Roumanian territory and the extinction of its nationality, it will be one more reason why Italy will insist on fighting to a military conclusion of the war. It seems, indeed, strangely inept statecraft that Germany, at a time when she is feeling for a separate peace with Italy, should aim such a threat at Roumania.

If Pancho Villa is too depraved to be allowed to establish any relations whatever with the United States, on just what theory does this country continue some of the diplomatic relations in which it has persisted for, say the last year and a half?

Certainly does seem rather tough to promulgate a "dry" regulation in France just at the time when General Nivelle is doing so many things that positively require to be adequately celebrated.

Sylvia Pankhurst, mobbed for conducting a peace meeting in London, will doubtless realize that she merely had her militancy on crooked. She was for war when the couhtry wanted peace and for peace when it wants war.

Now, if the complete exoneration of General Crozier, in connection with the Lewis gun incident, could be given as wide circulation as the baseless charges against him, something like justice would be accomplished.

The wicked money power is kidnaping 'em again. A bright young man who went to New York sixteen years ago without a dollar has become a member of the Morgan firm.

"The sentiment of the general type of Englishman seems to have found itself." Just in time to save Lloyd-George from the necessity of telling it where it is.

Germany, also, is ready to "fight to the last man." Looks as if they'd all be accommodated.

Don Marquis' Column

After a man has accumulated, or inherited, his first dozen of eggs, getting to be a millionaire is not such a difficult matter.

A Communication From Archy, the Vers Libre Cockroach.

well boss here i am back on the
job again and glad of it i have been
sailing
up and down the coast for weeks on
board a british
cruiser an inch or two outside
the three mile line i will tell all one
evening i dropped into a goulash down
near the
water front for a bite to
eat and a warm bath while i was there
a florid
man with side whiskers entered the
restaurant dressed in
the uniform of a butler in the english
navy hist said the naval butler to a
german waiter hist said the german
waiter in reply
is the pork pie built already said
the man in butlers uniform ja ja said
the german waiter and set a huge
pork pie on the
table some words passed in german
when i crawled into
the pork pie through one of the air-
holes and settled down on what I
though was a large
hard cylindrical chunk of pork for a
nap something
told me parlous times were imminent
and if i were to play a
heros part i would need sleep but i
always sleep warily when i waked
we were in a gasolene launch cleaving
the waters of the
ocean the florid man in the butlers
uniform sat in the stern
and hugged the pork pie to his bosom
i peered from one of the
portholes of the pie and saw a search-
light
sweeping sky and sea the butler or-
dered the crew of his
launch to send up some rockets in re-
ply and in
a few minutes we were picked up by
an english cruiser it
is cuthbert with the pork pie the
captain has been longing for said a
voice and on every side
rang shouts of the pie the pie the
captains pie has come at last and a
salute of nineteen
guns was fired the pie was carried at
once to the
captains mess room where the captain
a grizzled veteran sat with
knife and fork in hand and serviette
tucked
under his chin I knew cried the cap-
tain that if there was a
pork pie in America my faithful cuth-
bert would
find it for me the butler bowed and
all the
ships officers pulled up their chairs
to the
table with a rasping sound you may
serve it honest
cuthbert said the captain impatiently
and the butler broke a
hole in the top crust he touched a
hidden mechanism for
immediately something right under
me began to
go tick tock tick tock tick tock what
is that noise captain said the lar-
board mate only the patient log
clicking off the knots said the butler
it needs oiling again but
cuthbert said the captain why are
you so
nervous and what means that flush
upon
your face
that flush your honor is chicken pox
said cuthbert i am
subject to sudden attacks of it
unhand that pie cried the ships sur-
geon
leaping to his feet
arrest that butler he is a teuton spy
that is not chicken pox at all it is
german measles
ha ha cried the false butler the ship
is doomed there is a clock work bomb
in this pie my name
is not cuthbert it is friedrich and he
leaped
through a port into the sea his
blonde side whiskers
which were false falling off as he
did so ha ha rang his
mocking laughter from the ocean as
he pulled shoreward with
long strokes your ship is doomed my
god said the
senior boatswain what shall we do
stop the
clock ordered the captain but i had
already done so i
braced my head against the hour
hand and my feet
against the minute hand and stopped
the mechanism the captain
drew his sword and pried off all the
top crust gentlemen
he said yonder cockroach has saved
the ship
let us throw the pie overboard and
steam rapidly away from
it advised the starboard ensign
not so not so cried the captain yon
gallant cockroach
must not perish so gratitude is a
tradition of the
british navy i would sooner perish
with him than
desert him all the time the strain
was getting
worse on me if my foot slipped the
clock would start again
and all would be lost beads of sweat
rolled
down my forehead and almost blinded
me something
must be done quick said the first as-
sistant captain the
insect is losing his rigidity wait said
the surgeon
and gave me a hypodermic of some
powerful east
indian drug which stiffened me like a
cataleptic but i
could still see and hear for days and
days a council
of war was held about me every after-
noon and wireless
reports sent to london save the cock-
roach even if
you lose the ship wirelessed the ad-
miralty england must
stand by the smaller nations and
every hour the
surgeon gave me another hypodermic
at the end
of four weeks the cabin boy who had
been
thinking deeply all the time suggested
that a plug of
wood be inserted in my place which
was done
and i fell to the deck well nigh ex-
hausted the next
day i was set on shore in the captains
gig and
here i am

archy

Says Stephen Leacock, in the New Republic, of O. Henry:

These, by the freak of circumstances that wills it so, are O. Henry days.

Our neglected author is dead in his grave, with scarcely a publisher to walk behind his hearse, and lo! six years after his death he is bursting upon us afresh, as it were, with all the splendor of a rising genius.

This seems to us to be something less than just to the editors and publishers of New York. If there ever was a man appreciated by editors and publishers, as well as by the public, during his lifetime, that man was O. Henry. Publishers did not neglect him; they courted him, and during the last years of his life magazines were bidding against each other for his output. And the phrase "with scarcely a publisher to walk behind his hearse" is not exact either in a figurative or a literal sense, as one may see if one takes the trouble to look over the newspapers of six years ago. Publishers have enough to answer for without charging them with sins of which they are innocent.

DON MARQUIS.

U. S. SCIENTIST IS CLAIMED BY DEATH

Roberdeau Buchanan, Noted as Mathematician and Author, Expires.

Roberdeau Buchanan, noted government scientist and mathematician, and author of many technical works, died at his home, 2015 Q street northwest, early this morning. Mr. Buchanan had been ill for some time. He was seventy-eight years old and had been retired since 1910.

Mr. Buchanan came of a famous naval family of the old days. He was a native of Philadelphia, and after graduating from the Harvard Scientific school with a B. S. degree in 1861, he took up civil engineering. He became associated with the Nautical Almanac at the U. S. Naval Observatory in 1879, and served there until retirement. Many of his works are standards in astronomy and mathematics.

Mrs. Buchanan, who was Miss Elizabeth M. Peter, of Georgetown, daughter of Thomas Peter, of Maryland, survives him.

LETTERS FROM READERS

Comment on Current Topics in Communications to the Editor.

To the Editor of THE TIMES:

Kentucky items seemed to be much in evidence in your issue of The Times of yesterday, and I desire to thank you on behalf of Kentuckians for the favor. First, we had notice of the meeting Speaker Clark is expected to address. Then the sparrow story, which suggests that the writer once worked on the Wattersonian circuit. Again we had the hotel arrivals of Kentuckians, and also in the ads., where a Kentucky saddle horse was for sale. Aside from all this, there was an article about expenditure of public money for needless purposes in Kentucky, cited in Congress by a member from some place new to me. As Kentucky furnishes nearly two-fifths of all the internal revenue collected by the United States, she cannot be blamed for having a say as to how it is to be expended, and to see that she gets her share for public purposes. Her public men are very much in evidence at the Capitol, and her fame is well known to all in song and story, and no writer for newspapers can be said to possess a good recommendation unless he has at one time or another served under our beloved Henri Watterson. I hope when you publish items about the State and its people you will always give it a prominent place as it deserves.

JOSEPH E. GOODKEY,
Ex-President Kentucky State Association.
Washington, Dec. 15, 1916.

Teachers' Retirement System in Greece Is Described With Argument for a Law in This Country.

To the Editor of THE TIMES:

While in Greece I read and heard much good of the elementary education in the United States, and on coming here found it avowedly much better than I had heard or even hoped; but I also found that the personnel of the schools has less government backing and support than in Europe.

It was a surprise as well as a shock to discover such a great, rich, and civilized country as the United States paying such small salaries to her teachers, and having no provision whatever for the retirement of those who have given the best of their life to the building of the foundation of American nationalism, namely, the training of the young mind.

Any other country might be guilty of such an injustice, but never the United States.

What do the wonderful buildings and fine equipment mean when the teachers, the soul of school life, are no longer able to perform their tasks without hardships?

The teachers' pension bill is worthy of every support possible. The retirement of the teachers stands for social and pedagogical expediency for pupils as well as teachers.

In my old home, Greece, although a small and very poor country, there has been a pension for school teachers for twenty years.

They get 1,800 drachmas annually, increased 120 for every five years. The teachers pay 9 per cent of their salaries to the government pension fund, as do all public officers.

The age limit for active service is sixty years; but at the age of fifty the teacher may be retired receiving 66 2-3 per cent of his basic salary. After twenty years' active service, if he is judged incompetent, he is retired upon 60 per cent of his basic salary. In case of resignation or death a proportionate amount is paid to heirs.

Most all the European countries, and I may say all, pension their teachers.

Why does the United States remain behind when she contests with all others for the greatest efficiency in elementary education?

My best and heartiest wishes for the success of your retirement bill, my fellow teachers.

THEOTOKES THEOS.
Washington, Dec. 13, 1916.

Plea Is Made for Pension for Veterans of the Indian Wars.

To the Editor of THE TIMES:

I desire to plead in behalf of the Indian wars soldiers who so bravely defended our Western frontier from 1865 to 1891, and made it possible for its millions of people to live there in peace, and to develop its unlimited resources for the benefit of this nation.

There never was any soldiers who served this country and endured more hardships than they did.

Take the Custer massacre, the Fetterman massacre, the Stratton massacre, the Thorndike massacre, and many other battles where but few escaped.

In those days the savages were always on the warpath, either in one territory or another; and as the army was not sufficient to protect the entire frontier, it became necessary to rush the troops under forced march from one territory to another, and many times they were compelled to travel night and day, through storm and snow, through those desolate and uninhabited countries, called the Great American Desert.

Many of these soldiers spent the best part of their lives, serving five, ten, and twenty years in protecting our frontier, under such noted leaders as Generals Miles, Forsythe, Crook, Sturgis, Merritt, Custer, McKenzie, Terry, Carr, Governor Crawford of Kansas, and many others.

These soldiers served for the pay of thirteen dollars per month, and therefore were not able to save anything for their old age, and are now too old to earn a living by manual labor, and many of them are in actual need and destitute circumstances.

As I will not be benefited by this act, I am asking this out of sympathy for my comrades who served with me, knowing their conditions and the hard service rendered by them; and I believe it a matter of justice that this Government should take care of them for the valuable service they rendered.

I, therefore, ask that they may be placed upon the pension roll on equal terms with the soldiers of other wars, who are so justly receiving a pension at the hand of this Government.

HENRY HEGWER,
Commander in Chief, United Indian War Veterans.
Washington, Dec. 12.

WHAT'S ON PROGRAM

Many Interesting Events of Importance Are Scheduled.

Today.

Lecture, "Work of the Woodcraft League," by Ernest Thompson Seton, Congress Hall, 8 p. m.
Meeting to organize Washington suffragists, Cairo apartments, 8 p. m.
First indoor match for indoor rifle championship of the District, Eastern Market range.
Luncheon, supper and bazaar, Old Masonic Temple, Washington Emergency Home for Children, 11:45 to 2 p. m.
Supper and celebration, Harlan Bible Class, New York Avenue Presbyterian Church.
Concert, Marine Band, Marine Barracks, 2:30 p. m.
Christmas party to children, Spalding Council K. C., Council Hall, 3 p. m.
Meeting, Monday Evening Club, Assembly Hall, Y. M. C. A., 8 p. m.
Meeting, West End Citizens' Association, Kidder Hall, 8 p. m.
Meeting, Georgetown Citizens' Association, Potomac Savings Bank Hall, 8 p. m.
Debate, G. W. U. team vs. North Carolina University team, Public Library, 8 p. m.
Entertainment, Cosmopolitan Baptist Church, at the church, 8 p. m.
Bazaar, for St. Martin's Church, 48 Rhode Island avenue northwest, 2 to 5 p. m.
Mass meeting, Federal workers, to discuss proposed increased wages, Convention Hall, 8 p. m.
Lecture, Robert Pyle, Takoma Park Citizens' Association, Public Library, Takoma Park, 8 p. m.
Meeting, for business, Southern Society, New Willard, 8 p. m.
Meeting, California Society, New Willard, 7:30 p. m.
Meeting, Central Citizens' Association, North Capitol Savings Bank, 7:30 p. m.
Masonic—Potomac, No. 5; Pentalpha, No. 23; Mount Pleasant, No. 32; Mount Vernon, No. 3, Royal Arch Masons; Washington Council, No. 1, Royal and Select Masons; Ruth Chapter, No. 1, Eastern Star.
Odd Fellows—Union, No. 11; Beacon, No. 15; Langdon, No. 26; Naomi, No. 1; Ruth, No. 2, School of Instruction, Rebekahs.
Knights of Pythias—Amaranth, No. 23; Century, No. 30; Ascalon Temple, No. 81, Dramatic Order of Knights Khorassan.
Knights of Columbus—Spalding Council, Christmas entertainment for children.

Amusements.

National—George Arliss, "The Professor's Love Story," 8:15 p. m.
Belasco—Annette Kellermann, "A Daughter of the Gods," 8:15 p. m.
Keith's—Vaudeville, 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.
Poli's—"Step Lively," 8:15 p. m.
Lyceum—Burlesque, 2 and 8 p. m.
Gayety—Burlesque, 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.
Loew's Columbia—Motion pictures, 10:30 a. m. to 11 p. m.
Strand—Photoplays, 10 a. m. to 10:30 p. m.
Garden—Photoplays, 10 a. m. to 10:30 p. m.

Tomorrow.

Conference, American Forestry Association, Maryland building, 10 a. m.
Mass meeting, teachers in Washington public schools, new Central High School auditorium, 8 p. m.
Entertainment, "open-house day," Drama League Study Club, 1332 V street northwest, 8 p. m.
Benefit dance and bazaar, board of lady managers, Casualty Hospital, Raleigh Hotel, 8 p. m.
Meeting, Washington Board of Trade, Willard, 8 p. m.
Meeting, Sunday School Institute, Trinity Parish Hall, 7:30 p. m.
Meeting, President's Own Garrison, G. A. R. Hall, 8 p. m.
Meeting, representatives of patriotic societies, Willard Hotel, 8 p. m.
Meeting, Gaelic Society of Washington, Hickman Studio, 1340 New York avenue northwest, 8 p. m.
Concert for the blind, Library of Congress, 8:15 p. m.
Bazaar, benefit of St. Martin's Church, residence of Mrs. G. D. Davis, 48 Rhode Island avenue northwest, 2 o'clock to 5 p. m.
Lecture, Home Club, 8:15 p. m.
Lecture, "Education, Methods and Aims of All True Education," Miss Eva Flytt, Theosophy Society of Washington, in headquarters, 8 p. m.
Meeting, Federal Watchmen's Union, Moose Hall, Seventh and G streets northwest, 9 a. m.
Luncheon, supper and bazaar, for benefit of Washington Emergency Home, Masonic Temple, Ninth and F streets.
Meeting, home economics branch of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teachers' Association, Raleigh Hotel, 2 p. m.
Meeting, Women's Missionary Society of the Mt. Vernon Place M. E. Church, 2:30 p. m.
Meeting, Petworth Citizens' Association, church building, Eighth and Shepherd streets, 7:30 p. m.
Masonic—National, No. 12; Arminius, No. 15; Myron M. Parker, No. 27; La Fayette, No. 5; Washington-Naval, No. 6, Royal Arch Masons; Mithras Lodge of Perfection, Scottish Rite; Almas Temple of the Mystic Shrine; Fidelity Chapter, No. 19, Eastern Star.
Odd Fellows—Amity, No. 27; Mt. Pleasant, No. 29; Washington, No. 6; Golden Rule, No. 21; Fidelity, No. 1, Rebekahs.
Knights of Pythias—Webster, No. 7; Excelsior, No. 14; Capital, No. 24; Myrtle, No. 25.
Knights of Columbus—Caroll Council, Christmas party.

CARRANZA SENDS ANSWER

Mexican Conferees Reconvene on Airrival of Envoy Pani.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 18.—Any early solution of border problems hinges on the action of the Mexican-American commissioners who reconvened here today. The commissioners met at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel at 10 o'clock. Alberto J. Pani, who carried the protocol to Carranza, arrived here last night from New York with the other Mexican commissioners and secretaries.

The American commissioners, headed by Franklin K. Lane, came in earlier in the evening.

Upon the answer of Carranza, which Pani bears, rests the future of border negotiations. Absolutely nothing as to the first chief's attitude or the probable outcome of the meeting here could be had, however, from the representatives of either government.

J. J. Hawes, of San Antonio, who says he represents Francisco Villa, arrived here today, and will present himself to Secretary Lane at the earliest opportunity. Hawes came here from New York and declared he will make every effort to have Villa's interests safeguarded in the conference.

STABS WITH HATPIN

Woman Held Up By Negro Thug Wards Off Assailant.

The police are on the lookout today for a negro with a hatpin wound in the chest, inflicted by Mrs. Bessie Ziegler, of 3314 Warder street northwest, when he snatched her handbag in front of her home about 9:30 o'clock last night.

Mrs. Ziegler told the police she was only a few yards from her home when the negro stopped hed. The negro grappled with her, and she plunged the pin into his breadst. He wrenched the bag from her, however, and ran.

The bag contained a small amount of money and some car tickets. Mrs. Ziegler described her assailant as being about thirty or thirty-five years old, weighing from 160 to 175 pounds, and wearing a dark slouch hat and short gray coat.

BLAMES LOVE OF FLATTERY

Pastor Says It Causes Girls to Go in Debt to Buy Clothes.

Girls who are lured by the bright lights and who never give a thought to the serious side of life cannot make good wives, the Rev. John E. Briggs declared in a sermon at the Fifth Baptist Church last night, because they have not had the proper training.

Love of flattery, which induces young women to go into debt to buy clothes and ornaments far beyond their income, was held by the speakers to be one of the worst evils of the present generation.

FALLS ALIGHTING FROM CAR.

While alighting from a street car at Fifteenth and H streets northeast, last night, Mrs. Elizabeth Mahan, thirty-five years old, of Cottage City, Md., fell and injured both knees. She refused hospital treatment.

ALEXANDRIA READY FOR ITS XMAS TREE

Practically All Plans Are Completed for Second Community Festival.

ALEXANDRIA, Dec. 18.—Arrangement for Alexandria's second community Christmas tree practically are completed. It will be on the ground formerly occupied by the Gypsy Smith evangelistic tent and will be illuminated a little before 6 o'clock Sunday evening.

The choir of 400 voices which sang at the evangelistic meetings will lead the singing, in charge of George B. Kennedy, choirmaster, and Sherman B. Fowler, organist.

A rehearsal was held last evening at the First Baptist Church. The choir will meet at the Second Baptist Church Sunday and proceed to the tree in a body.

Miss Howell a Bride.

Miss Louise F. Howell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Howell, of this city, and Dr. J. H. Burkhalper, in charge of the marine hospital at Mobile, Ala., were married this morning in Mobile.

The chamber of commerce will meet this evening.

Mrs. Martha Davis, died at her home, in Franconia, yesterday, aged seventy. She will be buried today in Beulah Cemetery.

To Elect Officers.

Virginia Consistory No. 2 will elect officers in Masonic Temple Friday evening.

Douglass Lindsey gave a dance at the home of his mother, Mrs. Noble Lindsey, Braddock Heights, Saturday evening in honor of Miss Clifton Fox, of Lynchburg. Among the other guests from out-of-town were Mrs. Frank I. Chambers, of Featherstone, Va.; Mrs. C. Hubert Fox, of Lynchburg; Miss Dorothy Robins, of Houston, Tex., and Miss Madeline Merkin, Miss McCauley, and Miss Florence Coumbe, and Robert Carter, of Washington.

Mrs. Nugent Dead.

Mrs. Agnes Nugent, aged sixty-two, widow of John Nugent, died yesterday at her home. Seven daughters and three sons survive her. Miss Katherine and Miss Annie Nugent, of this city; Sister Melita, Sister Clemonza, Mrs. Clarence Leake, Mrs. Gray Hicks, Mrs. Cecil Leake, and John A., William L., and Francis R. Nugent, of Alexandria.

The funeral will take place Wednesday morning from St. Mary's Catholic Church.

The fifty-five pieces of city property sold by Tax Collector P. F. Gorman at 10 o'clock today for non-payment of taxes were bid in by the city.

PRESIDENT LEADS WAY

Wilson's Contribution Expected to Result in Wiping Out Debt.

President Wilson's contribution of $2,500 toward paying off the deficit in the Democratic campaign fund, announced today, is expected to stimulate contributions sufficiently to wipe out the Democratic debt before New Year.

This contribution brought the President's total up to $5,000, as during the campaign he had sent the committee a check for $2,500.

W. W. Marsh, treasurer of the Democratic committee, announces that the deficit has ben prorated among the States. Second contributions from men who gave before the election are expected to reduce the sum needed.

The Democratic fund is being aided by unique means. A committee man in Eureka, Utah says "the boys are going to give a dance" to help the fund. A western octogenarian, who won several hundred dollars on an election bet, sent the committee $100 of his winnings.

In addition to the deficit to be made good, the Democratic committee will raise funds to maintain permanent national headquarters in Washington during the next four years.

VOTE ON R. R. LAWS

U. S. Chamber of Commerce to Take a Referendum.

A new referendum vote on railway legislation by commercial organizations of the country has been announced by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

The proposals to be voted on are designed to back up the President's recently expressed view that the operation of railroads shall not be interrupted by roads or their employes until after investigation.

The referendum suggests that existing law be supplemented as follows:

To require investigation before strikes.

To provide that upon any investigating or arbitral board the public shall have majority representation.

To establish a separate division in the Interstate Commerce Commission which will make a continuous study of questions relating to railroad employes' wages and service conditions.

SIGNAL CORPS BOUND NORTH

Leave New Orleans After Brief Stop-Over.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 27.—The District Signal Corps is homeward bound today after a stop-off in New Orleans, where the men were given five hours yesterday afternoon for sight seeing.

The signal corps arrived at New Orleans at 10 o'clock yesterday morning. The horse cars were switched at the stock yards, four miles from the city, and a detail of men was assigned to see that they were watered, fed and exercised.

The train bearing the District men homeward left at 6 p. m.

MORE COAL ARRIVES

Three Additional Carloads Here for District Government.

Three carloads of coal consigned to the District government arrived today. With the seven loads which arrived Saturday the purchasing office has enough on hand to last until the last of the week, by which time more is expected.

One hundred and forty-two tons were distributed among ten schools yesterday.

FIRE DAMAGES GARAGE.

Fire early today did considerable damage to the garage in the rear of the Dumbarton Club, Thirty-fourth and Reservoir streets northwest. The automobile of George Robinson, steward at the club, was damaged $400. The damage to the building was placed at $100.