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THE CLERKS' PAY

Government departments go merrily on furnishing Congress with excellent reasons why it should increase the pay of Government employes.

From the Department of Commerce comes a report which ought to be full of meat for the Congressmen who think that Uncle Sam is too poor this year to give his workers a living wage. Private employers, particularly the great corporations, often described as "soulless" in the oratory up on the hill, are shown to have granted increases as high as 40 per cent, during October and November alone. In many cases bonuses as high as 10 per cent of the annual wage were given employes in addition to the increases.

The report from the Department of Commerce contains copies of the actual notices of these increases. They are widespread, and not merely sporadic instances of generosity.

These corporations have found it good business to pay their employes more. The Government, representing the people whose prosperity makes these raises possible, long has refused to give Federal workers a living wage. All of which is just one more indication that Uncle Sam is a long way from any recognition of the principles of real efficiency in running the Government's business.

ECONOMIC ASPECT OF THE GUARD

Aside from all military considerations of the efficacy of the National Guard as an arm of the national defense, a committee headed by Mayor Mitchel, of New York, has gathered some striking figures to show the economic aspects of the guard system.

A questionnaire was addressed to all New York guardsmen and to 4,500 employers. Of the former, 2,401 answered, and replies were received from 1,274 of the latter. On the basis of these replies it is estimated that the average earnings of guardsmen is $900 a year. In one company this average ran up to $218.25 a month.

Computing upon the lower figure the withdrawal of 138,500 guardsmen from industrial pursuits means a loss in production, if the salaries be a criterion, of $124,650,000. Of course, the productive capacity of workers, especially of younger men, cannot be estimated alone in terms of salaries. The aggregate productive capacities of these men probably would be much higher than their total salaries indicate.

In its report the committee quotes census figures to show that there are in this country 5,756,674 unmarried men from eighteen to twenty-four years old. From twenty-five to forty years there are 4,271,011 unmarried men. For young men of nineteen years the average yearly earning is given as $275.

These facts are cited by the advocates of universal military training as a strong argument for such a system. Aside from that, they indicate that any system of training which would utilize the young men would be infinitely less costly than the present method of calling into service trained men from all walks of life whose productive capacity already is high.

The economic phase of the military service has been taken into consideration by other nations. Any effective military program in the United States should also take it into account.

SOUTHERN COTTON MADNESS

That the lure of 25-cent cotton may spell hardship for the South and ruin for many individual farmers wiser heads in that section are aware. The University of North Carolina News Letter, after speaking of the gratifying food production in 1915, adds:

> But the war prices of cotton have again dethroned our better reason. We have this year (1916) slipped back in food production, and despite the appearance of prosperity in 20-cent cotton and 30-cent tobacco, the reality is a further postponement of abiding prosperity in North Carolina and the South. And every farmer who exchanges 20-cent cotton and tobacco for corn at $1.50 a bushel, flour at $12 a barrel, and hay at $20 a ton will not have money enough left over by New Year Day to grease the house cat properly.

We have not been initiated into the mystery of why Tar Heel house cats are greased, but the situation seems to be as ominous as the figure suggests. The State of Georgia alone imported from the West in the last twelve months 36,000,000 pounds of pork side meat, for which it paid approximately $5,500,000. It is estimated the entire bill for Georgia's imported meat will amount to at least $15,000,000, a drain on the State's wealth which inspires the Atlanta Constitution to protest:

> This in the face of the fact that there is not another State in the Union wherein all conditions making live stock growing easy, and safe, and profitable are so happily blended as they are in Georgia.

It seems impossible to drive home to the Southern farmer that, as the News Letter says, "if only we were a self-feeding farm civilization, and cotton and tobacco were surplus money crops, the South would be rich beyond the dreams of avarice." When the slump in the price of cotton after the beginning of the war brought disaster to cotton growers the Federal and Southern State Departments of Agriculture seized upon the opportunity to preach the folly of the one-crop idea. They seemed at first to make some progress. Cotton was second on the South's crop production list for 1915, giving place to grain. There was a marked renewal of interest at the same time in the raising of live stock. But as soon as the price of cotton began to climb again all that had been learned was forgotten.

Each Southern farmer whose land was adapted to cotton raising planted it in cotton. He was going to let the other fellow raise the bread and meat and himself "clean up big" on cotton. This is the fundamental cause of cotton madness.

TRUSTY SCOUT, GREAT EDUCATOR

The Wild West died the other day, when Buffalo Bill breathed his last. His flowing locks and his well-aimed bullets exerted what the pedagogues would call a formative influence on millions of the small boys of yore. He taught those boys, better than Bergson or Nietzsche could have done it, the virtue of living life as a continual and thrilling adventure. Those small boys are all grown up now and who is to teach their successors? That question makes it evident what a loss the youth, and through them the country, sustain in the obliteration of Buffalo Bill and that realm which he conserved as a national resource, the Wild and Woolly West.

Some slight reminiscence of the really-and-truly scout tinges the name and purpose of the Boy Scouts. A boy must have a world of his own—it is the way of the world—and the Boy Scout world takes the place of the Wild West world. There are fewer runaways and small-arm accidents; that the boys are better off may be doubted. The Boy Scout learns collective activity, ethics, discipline. How much he learns of self-reliance depends on the uncertain efforts of others.

Too bad that Buffalo Bill should never have placed himself at the head of the Boy Scout movement! Then might have resulted a transition, saving the vivid appeal of the old boy-world, to brighten the new one. The Boy Scouts need a Buffalo Bill, a compelling personality, a guide in some definite direction, away from fads and small issues. Buffalo Bill was never small. He was perhaps in his day America's greatest educator.

WASHINGTON'S MUSICAL ADVANCE

Washington has made great strides in the last few years in developing its own musical talent. Any movement like that planned for the week after Easter—a great musical festival in which all the schools and several community musical organizations are to join—deserves hearty support from the entire city.

This city now has an auditorium, in that of the new Central High School, eminently adapted for such events. It was handicapped heretofore by the lack of such an assembly hall. The Washington Choral Society is making an effort to increase its choral strength from its present number, 200, to 500. The District Symphony Orchestra is to give its first public concert next month. These two organizations are essentially community affairs, and both will join in the festival.

One of the most enjoyable phases of the coming festival will be the demonstration of the musical work now being done in the schools here, from first grade to eighth, and in the high schools as well. In the development of musical ability and appreciation, and the latter needs training for its development as much as the former, the schools are playing a part which will have a bearing on the future musical development of the National Capital.

A BIT OF CONSTRUCTIVE LEGISLATION

Occasionally some of the most constructive and far-reaching pieces of legislation enacted by Congress attract little attention. Such has been the history of the Smith-Hughes bill seeking to establish co-operation between the Federal and State governments for the extension of opportunities in vocational education.

States, and the nation as well, long have taken an interest in agricultural education. Some manufacturers have complained that this has been done at the expense of proper training in industrial lines. How little impression the agricultural educational facilities have made upon the great body of people engaged in farming, estimated at nearly 13,000,000, is shown by the statement that less than 1 per cent of these farmers have had adequate preparation for their work.

The work of agricultural colleges should go on, unimpaired, and should be greatly amplified. But that work should not hamper the progress of training young men in mechanical, industrial, and scientific fields. In lack of trained men in the applied science lies a weakness of this nation which was strongly emphasized with the beginning of a war which made us dependent upon our own manufactured products.

It is in this field that the legislation embodied in the Smith-Hughes bill can be made especially valuable, if both the States and the Federal Government build up a continuous and lasting program of technical education.

FOR THE GERMAN PEOPLE TO DECIDE

The statement of the purposes for which the entente powers are fighting in the present war is a good deal more than a presentation of the terms on which they would be willing to make peace. There is a conscious assumption of authority in behalf of humanity, which the German people may be unable to understand. The measure of their understanding will to a large degree determine the attitude they will assume, the effect that this document will have on the course of the struggle and the conditions of peace.

Before the war, Germany presented a curious sort of national double personality, which made students of its people and institutions marvel. Side by side, Germany built up a socialistic political movement, and a huge military machine. The same people seemed equally imbued with the humanitarian idealism of Marx and the militaristic purposes of the general staff. For many years the Socialists had rather academically protested against the burdens of the military establishment; but they always bent the neck for added weights on the yoke. Their socialism, it is true, was rather diluted; most of the things for which they were making their stand had been granted in Anglo-Saxon countries so long ago that they had become fundamentals. When the war started, nationalism submerged socialism. Germany united for the task of the moment, which was to win.

Yet it is very certain, if the German people shall be privileged to read and frankly to discuss the peace proposals of the entente, that those proposals will cause many a German mind to revert to the discussions of before-the-war. There will be a familiar sound in the ringing insistence on the rights of humanity, the guarantee of future peace, the privilege of peoples to live their own lives in security. The German nation, as a whole, was never a follower of Pan-German megalomaniac leadership. Pan-Germanism is what set Germany crazy; but it affected only a comparatively small proportion of the people; unfortunately, that proportion which was postured to give direction to the national development. It looked like a rather harmless mania; its utter lack of logic or of specific program made it appear a bit silly, like the patriotism of the American who was wont to proclaim—he is not so much in the proclaiming business, nowadays—that we could lick creation.

The German people will at length decide Germany's attitude toward peace, which must be largely determined by their underlying sentiment for the humanitarian program that inspired their socialistic movement. It may well enough be believed that the war has not dislodged from their national mind all thought of the things that engrossed them prior to July, 1914. The German people will be the most effective allies of the entente, in forcing conditions of a permanent peace and a stable European system, if at the crisis they shall cast their weight in the scale for a just and possible settlement. The war may last yet a very long time, if the German people remain docile and complaisant. It will end whenever the German people decide that it ought to end. The rulers of Germany will insist on nothing less than a crushing defeat or a conclusive victory. If the people stand with them to either finish, peace is yet far away. There are signs that the people begin to understand the viewpoint of the wider humanity.

This is a sort of old home week in Washington for the former residents of Northern States, when they can get out their skates and have some regular winter sport.

Sometimes a President's silence is mightier than a speech—as in his declination of the invitation to talk at the St. John's Church celebration.

Washington school teachers, notoriously underpaid, have shown their sincerity about wanting a retirement law by voting to give up a part of the meager salaries to get one for the District.

Under a new Oklahoma law cigarette smokers now face arrest. If the Oklahoma police do their duty that State probably will have the most commodious prison system in the world in a short time.

Don Marquis' Column

Said Louis Quince to Kansas Lou:
"Girlie, I like the looks of you!"
Said Kansas Lou to Louis Quince:
"My troth sir, is another man's!"

Italy Demands Adriatic Coast.—Headline.

Does she want it brought to her? Or has she decided to go and get it

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Critics still tell us fiercely that America has produced no truly national art. But how about strap-hanging?

Who They Are.

Sir: I am the Globe-Trotter who, having a four-hour railway journey to make, gets down to the depot a full hour befose the train is scheduled to leave. Comfortably seated in the train, I then proceed to consult the time table and my watch simultaneously about every ten minutes until my destination is reached.

—L. K.

Irishmen can never resist criticising the Irish, nor women the female sex.

The Germans seem less jarred by the stories of serious food shortage than one might expect. Perhaps canned Roumanians are coming onto the market.

Said Louis Quince to Kansas Lou:
"A palace could be yours, kiddoo!"
Said Kansas Lou to Louis Quince:
"All legal, sir, with marriage banns!"

The U. S. A. will, of course, disregard the lessons taught by the success of the big German submarines that can cruise thousands of miles from their bases, and will manufacture a whole flock of little submersibles. The youngest country in the world has a passion for the obsolete.

Lawson seems always able to triumphantly victimize himself into believing Lawson.

Our respect for Solomon grows and grows. How did he manage to write all those beautiful paragraphs and proverbs with a thousand infants teething around the house all the time?

The wages of idealism is death. For Jesus, Calvary. For Socrates, the hemlock.

A Congressional committee is fussing around Monticello, with a view to buying it for the nation. It would be a fine thing if the committee could meet up with the ghost of Jefferson there and get some ideas to carry back and disseminate in official circles around Washington.

Said Louis Quince to Kansas Lou:
"Be mine, and I will love you true!"
Said Kansas Lou to Louis Quince
"I spurn all morganatic plans!"

Young fellows who start little would-be high-brow magazines full of punk poetry these days always think they have to sneer at Tennyson just to show they're really hep to modern thought.

THE WURST IS YET TO COME.

Sir: I saw this sign

FOR TODAY ONLY
PUPS CUT IN HALF

posted in one of the leading bird and animal stores in Philadelphia yesterday.

C. S.

Without a Struggle.

Sir: The longer I study French the stronger becomes my conviction that the secret of correct pronunciation is all in the way you hold your mouth. For example:

There was a Canuck from Vancouver
Was sunning himself at the Louvre,
When a lady saids "My!
You've a squint in your eye!"
He said "I got that on the Woevre."

—Tommy Atkins.

President Wilson's attitude toward the suffragists seems to be that if they don't quit annoying him he'll never allow women to vote for him again.

This is an age when people work themselves to death getting money to buy things they shouldn't want.

Said Louis Quince to Kansas Lou:
"The queen won't let me marry you."
Said Kansas Lou to Louis Quince
"I scorn you old im-Puritans!"

One of the rottenest things about getting out a bunch of paragraphs is that every time you reach for an idea something happens to your typewriting machine. We suppose something of the sort used to happen to Nero, the well-known song writer of antiquity—every time a good line came into his head he'd find his stylus all gummed up with blood from some one he'd stabbed that morning and forgotten about.

OUR MODESTY COMPETITION.

Sir: I suppose you think that an Englishman is modest who prefaces 5,000 words on the English with, "We English are a very reticent and undemonstrative people."

Have you ever considered in your modesty competition that shrinking violet the late Dr. Heinrich von Treitschke of the University of Berlin, whose principal work, "Politics," says, Vol. I, page 42:

"Does the superior learning of the savant place him on a higher plane than the laborer? Personally I am not imbued with this arrogance of learning and truly great natures have never been tainted with it."

Von Treitschke also tells us that the Germans are too modest for their own good and are liable to pass into a degenerate state for the lack of that "rugged national pride" which he considers so essential.

Here is modesty raised to the nth power.

X. X. X.

The Russians and Japs, it seems, are going to split China between them, quite amicably. Blood, and they spilt a lot of it in Manchuria, is thicker than water.

Said Louis Quince to Kansas Lou:
"My little sprightly one, adieu!"
Said Kansas Lou to Louis Quince:
"Bye-bye, old Daddy Quatre-vingts Ans!"

DON MARQUIS.

Here and There In the News

Mosby and Buffalo Bill.

One day about two years ago Col. John S. Mosby, late C. S. A., said to one of his friends at the New Willard Hotel: "Isn't that 'Buffalo Bill' sitting on that lounge over there? I think it is. I know a good deal about him, but I've never met him. Can't you introduce me?" The introduction followed: "Colonel Cody, Colonel Mosby; Colonel Mosby, Colonel Cody," and the two colonels shook hands and sat down together, and talked together as only two brave men who have seen hard service in the field can talk about hairbreadth escapes and accidents by flood and field.

"Colonel Cody," said Colonel Mosby, "I asked for an introduction to you for the purpose of suggesting that we go over to the White House and say to the President that if he will give us commissions we will go down into Mexico and settle the disturbances in that country; what do you think of it?"

"Colonel Mosby," replied Colonel Cody, "blest if I don't think you are right; let's go."

At the time Colonel Mosby was eighty years old and Colonel Cody about sixty-nine. If they had gone and the President had sent them to Mexico with a free hand Mexico would have been pacified. They have both passed away since their first and last meeting, and there are no more like them left in this country.

A Substitute for Liquor.

Almost anything that will take the place of intoxicating beverages is a matter of interest to a large part of the population. Coloring substances, such as grape juice which looks red in the cup, and has the appearance if not the potency of the real thing, have been tried but without great success as a proper substitute. Chemistry has produced a pellet which is said to be effective if properly dissolved in water; the silo has been projected as the life-saving station best equipped for service in arid regions; but nothing has been said about the drink of the fathers—the dear old sassafras beer under the influence of which men have been known to do many foolish things, but nothing more foolish than the drinking of the same. Down in Alabama the sassafras bush or tree has always been highly prized for its healing qualities.

Heflin Peeved.

Congressman Tom Heflin of Alabama is really peeved by the picketing of the President by the suffrage women, and if they don't stop he will make a speech about them and their plan of campaign. Congressman Tom is one of the best storytellers in the House, and has a very fine tenor voice. He has probably "raised the tune" many times in the country churches of his district, and could preach a good sermon if he had the chance. He runs largely to sentiment and good fellowship, and with his upstanding collar and Prince Albert coat he looks as much like a presiding elder as like a man who is wasting his time making laws instead of using his talents to reform the world.

Senator Works' Plan.

Senator Works, who took up nearly two days in making his farewell address to the Senate, wants to have every qualified voter in the United States who fails to vote in a Federal election fined $25 for the neglect of his duty. Thousands of voters would rather pay the fine than vote for some of the candidates. Why not make it imprisonment or fine? In that way probably it would be practicable to dispose of many undesirable citizens. Why not go a step further, and make it a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for certain men to run for Federal offices of any sort? In that way it might be possible for the country to get rid of many incompetent officeholders.

Seventy-eight Years Ago.

One of the oldest passenger tickets in existence is that issued by the Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac and Louisa Railroads. It has been photographed by the United States Office of Good Roads and reads in this way:

Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac and Louisa Rail Roads.
Mr. Loving.
1 Seat,
From Rich'd to Cha'ville
$5.00 Jan. 15th, 1839.
W W. Sd.

Seats will be pointed out by the Conductor.

That was seventy-eight years ago. The trains did not run as fast then as they do now and there were no sleeping, parlor or club cars and the traffic was light and the expense heavy; but the conductors were polite, just as they are now, even if they did not wear as attractive uniforms, and the railroads were not punished for their service. The people who invested their money in such enterprises were regarded as public spirited men, desirous of serving the State and not as criminals intent upon wrong-doing.

Colored Office Holders.

Much-a-do has been made from time to time about the treatment of the colored people by the present Administration. It has been stated that they have not been given recognition, they have been segregated in the departments, they have not been appointed to the places which were supposed to be theirs by custom if not by right, and at times it has looked as if their self-constituted and widely advertised patrons were on the point of breaking up the union, in protest against the policy of the Government. The fact is that there are more colored men and women now holding positions under the Government at Washington than in any previous Administration for many years. The positions are generally of a minor sort, but the recognition is clear and the total of their wages is greater than they have ever had.

The Real Author.

Special Attorney General Hagerman ought to have known that the Rev. "Billy" Sunday is not the author of the sentiment attributed to him about the light and the sinner. The correct reading of the lines is:

"And while the lamp holds out to burn,
The vilest sinner may return."

The lines were written by one Dr. Isaac Watts, who was born in England in 1674; but what possible relation they have to the Adamson extra wages law the Supreme Court will probably not be able to tell.

THE COMMENTATOR.

ART SHOW VOTING TO END TOMORROW

Early Crowds at Corcoran Gallery Indicate Great Number of Visitors Today.

Today and tomorrow mark the finals in the popularity contest of the pictures hanging in the sixth annual exhibition at the Corcoran Gallery of Art.

Saturday is a free day and also a big day at the gallery upon ordinary occasions, and the early crowds at the gallery today indicated that the attendance will pass the thousand mark.

Ballot For Each.

Each of the visitors took a ballot as he or she went in, and the fact that most of them remained longer than visitors do when not entrusted with the task of passing judgment on the pictures promised to make the gallery somewhat congested by the afternoon.

Sunday, also a free day, when the gallery opens at 1:30 o'clock to remain open until 5, marks the close of the art referendum. A big crowd is expected tomorrow afternoon.

Only 300 Attendance.

Yesterday and Wednesday were pay days, and the atteendance on either day did not exceed 300. But those who visit the gallery on pay days come to enjoy the pictures in the comparative quiet and many of them are artists.

On these pay days groups of students also attend the gallery, and they are admitted free. One group of girls from a widely known seminary visited the gallery yesterday, in company with their art teacher.

Much Discussion of Points.

There was much discussion of "high lights" and "color harmonies," "treatmen" and balance." Groups from the various high schools, both white and colored, also visited the galleries on these days, and cast their ballots.

The judges will be appointed in a day or two to count the votes in the popular referendum. They will be men and women not connected with the gallery. The ballots remain in the boxes, one at the main entrance, another at the head of the big stairway, and they have not been opened since the voting began.

Intelligent Comment.

Never before has there been such close study, and so much intelligent comment made upon the pictures, the attendants at the gallery say. The officials consider the contest a success, from every standpoint, and especially from that of encouraging careful study of the pictures by visitors.

The painter of the picture getting the most votes will be awarded a prize of $200.

MANTELL GIVES MACBETH

Large and Enthusiastic Audiences Attend Production.

A large and genuinely enthusiastic audience attended Robert Mantell's production of "Macbeth" at the Belasco last night.

Mr. Mantell gave an interesting interpretation of the title role, and was ably supported by Genevieve Hamper, as Lady Macbeth; Frank Peters, as Duncan, John Burke, as Banquo, and Fritz Leiber, as Macduff. The remainder of the supporting cast was good.

"Richelieu" is being given at today's matinee, and the Cibber version of Richard III will be presented this evening.

WHAT'S ON PROGRAM

Many Interesting Events of Importance Are Scheduled.

Today.

Private showing "Washington Prepared," a motion picture of the Lincoln Highway, to members of Chamber of Commerce, Board of Trade and Retail Merchants' Association, New Willard, 8 p. m.
Meeting, with address by Congressman Tom Stout, Missouri Society, Rauscher's, 8 p. m.
Meeting, with program by Dr. L. O. Howard, H. C. Oberholser and W. Palmer, Biological Society, Cosmos Club, 8 p. m.
Meeting, Washington Classical Club, Fairmont Seminary, 2701 Fourteenth street northwest, 4 p. m.
Address, "The West Coast of South America," Dr. John Nelson Mills, before evening branch of the Society of the Covenant, in chapel of church, 8 p. m.
Meeting, Howard University Alumni Association, Andrew Rankin chapel, 8 p. m.
Masonic—Lafayette, No. 19; grand chapter, Eastern Star.
Odd Fellows—Canton Washington, No. 1, Patriarchs Militant.
Knights of Pythias—Ways and Means Committee, relief bureau.
Meeting, Home and School Council, Franklin School, 8 p. m.

Amusements.

National—"Fair and Warmer," 2:15 and 8:20 p. m.
Belasco—Robert B. Mantell, in "Richelieu," 2:10 p. m. and "Richard III," 8:10 p. m.
Keith's—Vaudeville, 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.
Poli's—Boston National Grand Opera Co., in "Iris," 2:15, and "Faust," 8:10 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.

Concert, United States Soldiers' Home Band Orchestra, Stanley Hall, 6:30 p. m.
Missionary rally, Church of the Epiphany, G street near Fourteenth street northwest, 4 p. m.
Lecture, "Human Merchandise," Quilfrid Gribble, Perpetual Building Hall, 8 p. m.
Lecture, "What the Bible Says About the European War," R. O. Alexander, Poli's Theater, 3 p. m.
Address, "The Trial of Jesus from a Lawyer's Standpoint," Congressman Walter M. Chandler, Petworth M. E. Church, Grant Circle, 8 p. m.
Address, Senator H. F. Hollis, before Junior Temple Society, Eighth Street Temple, 7:30 p. m.
Public meeting, Afro-American wage-earning women, under auspices of the American Federation of Labor, Columbian Academy, 704 T street northwest, 8 p. m.

SUES TO RECOVER $25,410.

Attorney Robert H. McNeill has filed suit in the District Supreme Court to recover $25,410 from Oliver J. Sands and Harry D. Eichelberger. The plaintiff claims that the amount is due him for professional services in connection with the purchase of the property at the northwest corner of Vermont avenue and H streets. Former Judge Daniels Thew Wright and T. Morris Wampler appear for McNeill.

MISS TEYTE SHINES IN PUCCINI'S OPERA

Is an Ideal Mimi in Excellent Performance of "La Boheme" at Poli's.

As the ideal Mimi, Maggie Teyte crowned the second opera presented last evening at Poli's Theater by the Boston National Grand Opera Company. Puccini's "La Boheme" was given an excellent performance, but it was in the exquisite art and the beautiful voice of Maggie Teyte that the opera received its individual stamp.

Nor is it the first time Washington has heard Maggie Teyte as Mimi, yet never before has she seemed more perfect as the little flower-maker of the Latin Quarter of Paris. Her voice is a beautiful thing, as fair and fine in its expression of every slightest meaning as is the face and form of the artist, whose personal quality is that of delicacy.

Given Admirable Rendition.

The spirit of the opera, from its rollicking bon cammaraderie of the four artists in their attic house, to the genuine feeling in the final scene, when Mimi returns to them to die, was given admirably. The cafe scene of act two was truly a happy care-free holiday that lent strong dramatic contrast to the opera's heart gripping close.

Miss Teyte expressed both her joy and her sadness with equal appeal. Her "My Name is Mimi" in act one, the duet with Rodolfo, in act three, and the "Farewell" were gems of purest song. Her low-toned recitals were rich and poignant, while her voice was ever lovely throughout its range.

As Rodolfo, Giuseppe Gaudensi was most sympathetic. He put true feeling into his part, and his mezza voce was most musical, but in his full voice there was a discordant quality that robbed the role of some of its loveliest passages. Thomas Chalmers is ever an artist both dramatically and in his singing. As Marcello, he found a sympathetic role that he made individually his own.

An Artistic Musetta.

Seldom, almost never has one seen a Musetta, who combined, as does Mabel Riegelman, the spriteliness of the part with the sympthy that she expressed in the closing scene. More brilliant voices usually sing this part, but Miss Riegelman was perhaps more in harmony with it by a gentler and more artistic method. Lazzari, Ruliti, Ananian, a edlightful and irascible landlord, and Alliatto completed the cast.

The score was read with charm and understanding by Fulgenzio Guerrieri.

J. MacB.

PRESENT FRENCH PLAYS

Theatre Francaise Company in Double Bill at Belasco.

The company of French players from the Theatre Francaise, in New York, produced two French dramas in their native tongue at the Belasco yesterday afternoon.

"Blanchette," a play in three acts by Eugene Brieux, was the first offering. It was followed by a short one-act theme dealing with French patriotism in the European war.

Both plays were so artistically wrought in their characterizations and the dramatic vigor of the players that they were thoroughly appreciated and enjoyed by the audience, most of the members of which understood French.

Miss Dagairy Leads.

The character of Blanchette was exquisitely portrayed by Miss Adrienne Dagairy, with all the subtlety intended for the type. The javelin of this particular play was directed by Brienx against the French system of education, whereby girls are taken out of their sphere of usefulness and natural environment to be ostensibly fitted for teachers—teachers without schools to teach—as their number is disproportionate to the number of girls graduated each year to fill them.

Blanchette is merely one of a thousand others, middle class, bourgeois and mediocre, whose discontent with her humble station, combined with lack of ability to earn her own living constitute a sordid psychological tragedy. The playwright, however, makes it end in a readjustment that is human, sane, and logical.

Returns To Her Home.

In the third act Blanchette returns to the humble home she has forsaken, begging forgiveness, and deeply conscious of the failure of her faulty education, and gladly adopts the life of the bourgeoois, which she has detested.

In the role of the father, Claude Benedict gave a dynamic portrayal of the ignorant but forceful peasant innkeeper. All the other characters were admirably sustained.

It is to be desired that the war zone player folk will be able to return to Washington, to give the public further examples of their faultless mimetic art. Announcement was made at yesterday's performances that if subscriptions were such as to warrant it the company would make annual visits to Washington.

PLAN HOWARD CELEBRATION

Alumni to Meet to Discuss Fiftieth Anniversary.

Plans for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of Howard University, March 2, will be discussed at the meeting of the Washington alumni of the school at Rankin Chapel January 24 at 7:30.

A canvass of the 800 Howard alumni in Washington will be started Monday to urge their co-operation in the exercises.

A program of addresses, songs and school yells will be given during the exercises. Richard T. Greener, the first graduate of Howard University, will speak of the development of the school and its effects on the colored race.

The committee in charge of the program is composed of Robert A. Pelham, Dr. George D. Sewall, Lucy Slowe, Dr. E. G. Mitchell, W. H. Foster, F. Morris Maury, the Rev. Emory Smith, Dr. W. L. Smith, G. W. Hinds, T. W. Turner, the Rev. D. E. Wiseman, president of the local alumni, and Shelby J. Davidson, ex-officio president of the general alumni.