The Times-Dispatch

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HOW TO MAKE TIMES-DISPATCH.

Persons wishing to communicate with The Times-Dispatch upon any subject can address the editor, business office, etc., as follows: Editor, for editorial matters; business office, etc., for business matters, etc., for mailing papers.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1906.

No man can ever escape his destiny, and often he finds it by the very endeavor to escape it. —Farrar.

To-Morrow's Election.

There is wild guessing in New York, and if the prophets are right some body will be badly disappointed when returns are in. The Republicans are claiming the State by 50,000 and the Democrats by 50,000. Party lines are largely ignored, and nobody can make a safe prediction. It is pleasing to know, however, that this disgusting and disgraceful campaign has closed. Principle was eliminated early in the action, and the campaign has been one continuous storm of personal abuse and billingsgate. It is a sorry exhibit for the Empire State, and enough to make every decent citizen hang his head in shame.

In Virginia the campaign has been as uneventful and apathetic as the campaign in New York has been sensational and strenuous. There was really no contest except in the 7th and Ninth Districts, and in both the Democrats will likely win. The election of Judge Saunders is practically assured and Mr. Bruce gives every promise of defeating Mr. Slemp.

But no matter if the Democrats have all things their own way, they should all go to the polls and show their fidelity. It is a duty to vote in every election, and no good citizen can afford even to neglect his duty.

Midnight Closing.

To-morrow the Council will be called upon to meet the early closing issue. This issue is not raised by fanatics or impractical reformers. It has been forced upon the people of this community by the outrageous conditions which have directly resulted from the continuance of all-night saloons. The saloons may claim that they give to the unfortunate and profligate an opportunity for the indulgence of their appetites, but the absence of a place to go at some proper hour is at most a matter of profit and chief cause of crime in the disreputable dives, and a nuisance and disgrace to the community. In dealing with this nuisance and in suppressing this danger, the Council should bear in mind that to close at midnight will work no hardship of consideration on the respectable here will close quite at once the locality of conditions under which the law respects thrives will remove the cause of the majority of the crimes and misdemeanors in this community, and will take dangerous and unnecessary temptations out of the path of young men.

Against midnight closing no valid, or, for that matter, no open argument has been made, except by those who wish to close earlier, plead trying an earlier hour, however, it would be hard to say midnight. If that hour will not work the desired reformation, further curtailment of hours can be made. There is at present no need to go more than to enforce midnight closing—yet that requirement should be made and at once.

The Liberty of the Press.

If a contrition dissent by a newspaper from the ruling of a judge constitutes contempt of court, there is need for the law to be changed. The courts should undoubtedly have means of protecting themselves against contempts of number, or fair adjudications which, if directed against a private citizen, would be libelous. But even then some method should be provided of arriving at the facts of the case. It is monstrous doctrine that an inferior court of limited jurisdiction should be privileged, as our judges have contended on the ex parte ruling, and punish, without reference of jury, those who should bring his conduct in question. But worse still is it that a mere expression of differing opinion should be held an abuse of the privilege of the press or an invasion of the sanctity of the bench.—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

There is another side to the decision of the Court of Appeals in outlawing the Roanoke Times, in holding the contempt of a judge upon a newspaper responsible for an editor or other person acting for it, for criticisms of the decisions. Judge Keith points, if we recall, that the newspaper concerned could, if it had chosen, have gone to jail, in order to secure a final test of the constitutional question involved. It is a pity that some proper case does not come up which will permit the Supreme Court of the United States to review the decision. Meanwhile, the Times-Dispatch, which has been a consistent and fearless champion of the rights of the press, and which has never been charged with being disrespectful to the courts, ventures the opinion that the court may profit by a rehearing of the case.

By the way, a correspondent writing The Times-Dispatch from Danville makes the point that the Virginia statute, which we have been taking for granted, prescribing the cases in which a judge may punish for contempt, has never been pronounced unconstitutional, and is still the law of the land. He further says that the opinion quoted in another correspondence, reaffirming the Carter case, referred to the constitutionality of the statute taking away from the court the right to punish for contempt, by providing trial by jury. The note in the Code on this decision, as already quoted by The Times-Dispatch, is that there is an inherent power of self-defense and self-preservation in the courts of Virginia created by the Constitution, and while this power may be regulated by the General Assembly, it cannot deprive such courts of the power to summarily punish for contempts by providing for trial by jury in such cases.

The present statute does not deprive the courts of this power; it merely regulates it, and, therefore, is not in conflict with the decisions in the Carter case.

Polar Exploration.

Will the North Pole ever be reached? Peary, one of the most gallant, and possibly the most persevering of all who have ever attempted the feat, has encountered another failure. Nothing but failure has attended the efforts of every Arctic explorer from the days when Stephen Bonaventure in the Gheskeepend, bent northward till the frozen seas, over 300 years ago. And with the "farthest north" from year to year steadily pushed advanced, it can hardly be said that progress has been so incredible and the improvement in methods so remarkable that ultimate success has been in any sense foreshadowed.

Lieutenant Peary has, however, succeeded in setting nearer to the Pole than any other man, so far as known, has ever been. His reckoning from Lakendorf suggests that he pushed his way to a distance of 3 minutes north latitude. He was, in all probability, within 200 miles of the Pole. The three highest records mentioned were: Abruzzi, in 1900, 230 miles from the Pole; Nansen, 1895, 261 miles; the Fiala, 1905, during her drift after Nansen left her, 256 miles. The best north to which ever reached on land was a distance of 3 minutes, or 216 miles from the Pole, which was attained in 1895 by Lockwood, of the Greely expedition.

Polar exploration has attracted many intrepid spirits—Parry, Hall, Greely, Andree, Nansen, Baldwin, Sverdrup, Abruzzi, Baron Toll, Peary and many others, who have not hesitated to risk their lives in the interests of geographical knowledge and brave adventure. Many also are the sleds upon which they have stained their lodges, from freezing through the loss in a specially constructed lookout vessel, to flying after them in an airship. The latter method, in the one trial so far given it, proved signally disastrous. Andree, who sailed with two companions in a balloon from Spitzbergen in 1897, has never been heard of since, with the exception of two unimportant messages picked up on the coast of Norway in 1899. Yet Walter Wellman, who was in the Arctic seas in 1898-99, has perfected plans for making a try for the Pole in an airship, and announces that he will make the start next spring. Nansen's method of a slow progress lasting many months, with the expectation of drifting across the Pole, has now been abandoned as impracticable. Future efforts will undoubtedly be based upon a beaten path on the farthest attainable land, supported by a line of caches stretching northward to the limit of navigation, a large supporting party with ample supplies, and a dash with a light sled over the ice.

Polar exploration has never appealed very vividly to the popular fancy, for the reason, perhaps, that it has appeared that there is very little to be gained from it. If the Pole is ever reached, it is doubtful if mankind will be much the wiser for it. Still it is well that such expeditions should be. As Emerson recently, himself among the most fearless of explorers, observed, the result is after all, of secondary importance. The vital thing is that man should preserve his spirit of inquiry, of daunting adventure, of cheerful willingness to give his life to an idea, or for it. When that spirit ceases to animate the bravest the whole race will unquestionably suffer for it.

The Taxing Power.

Elsewhere will be found an article from the Houston, Texas, Post, commenting on an article in The Times-Dispatch relative to the income tax law of Virginia. The Texas contemporary agrees with The Times-Dispatch that the income tax is a just tax, and sure that while the law may not be as strictly enforced as it might be, it cannot be said that the ordinary property tax is subject to less evasion than the income tax would be. It is the universal practice to list all forms of tangible property at far less than its actual worth, notwithstanding constitutional and statutory requirements that all property be assessed at its true value.

It is yet to be determined whether the enforcement of an income tax law in Texas is necessary or desirable, but from the experience in Virginia and South Carolina, it is reasonable to assume that there would not be less evasion of such a tax than there is of the various taxes which are already levied.

Virginia has also an inheritance tax which the people of that State regard as just and valuable source of revenue.

But the income tax of South Carolina and the income and inheritance taxes of Virginia, it should be remembered, are levied for revenue only, and not for purposes for which President Roosevelt would levy such taxes in the nation. President Roosevelt claims utterly the consideration of revenue, the only justification of any tax whatever in a republic. He would impose the inheritance tax, and it is said by those who claim to be in his confidence, an income tax for the sole purpose of controlling and restricting the accumulation of wealth—a new function for taxation, indeed.

The President, if he would study the principles of taxation, might find reasons for the income tax and an inheritance tax that might well appeal to the counter a sense of justice. To correct the abuses which swollen and artificially accumulated fortunes inflict upon the nation, there are better ways than taxation, and these the President might easily discover if he would diligently search for them.—Houston (Tex.) Post.

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The West Virginia Suit.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—Will you kindly state to what extent Virginia will be benefited financially or otherwise in the event the suit now pending in the United States Supreme Court is decided against West Virginia? If Virginia will not be benefited why is it she persists a suit to be brought in her name? SUBSCRIBER.

When the State settled with the bondholders, a part of the original debt was declared to West Virginia and was represented to the creditors in certificates known as "West Virginia certificates." But West Virginia has declined to acknowledge them and it cannot be said that the debt is finally and completely settled so long as these certificates are outstanding. The holders agreed, however, that if Virginia would bring suit against West Virginia and get the Supreme Court to decide and declare what part of the debt West Virginia should assume, no matter what the amount might be, they would release Virginia forever from any further obligation. The Attorney-General believes, therefore, that Virginia has everything to gain and nothing to lose by bringing the suit.

A man was jailed the other day for saying, "To hell with the President." If the whole truth were known, it is possible that there might be wholesale arrests for the same cause among New York State Democrats.

If New York judges should fine men for cursing the President, they would have their hands full.

To-morrow is a legal holiday, but the State does not mean to excuse her citizens from voting.

The latest naval conflict in Hampton Roads seems to have been a drawn battle.

It's a wise turkey that knows its own President.

Peary hopes yet to vote at the North Pole.

Do you feel like holding?

Virginia's Income Tax.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch takes occasion to mention the income tax which has long been effective in Virginia. "We impose," it says, "a straight one per cent. tax on all net incomes over and above $600, and every taxpayer is required under law to list his income each year, and to swear to the return. The law is not enforced as strictly as it should be in some sections of the State, but there has been gradual improvement, and Virginia is receiving a considerable sum in taxes from that source. The income tax is an eminently just, in fact, the most equitable tax of all. A man may own property which yields him no revenue whatsoever, yet he must pay taxes on the assessed value, in which event the State takes that which the taxpayer as not. But the income tax collected is simply a part of the actual revenue which every man derives from his labors and his investments. If he receives an income above $600, he pays the State a portion of it; if he has no income above $600, he pays nothing on that account."

It will be noted that The Times-Dispatch says the law is not enforced as strictly as it might be in some sections of the State, a complaint that has ever been urged against the income tax by those who oppose it. Nevertheless, it cannot be said that the ordinary property tax is subject to less evasion than the income tax would be. It is the universal practice to list all forms of tangible property at far less than its actual worth, notwithstanding constitutional and statutory requirements that all property be assessed at its true value.

It is yet to be determined whether the enforcement of an income tax law in Texas is necessary or desirable, but from the experience in Virginia and South Carolina, it is reasonable to assume that there would not be less evasion of such a tax than there is of the various taxes which are already levied.

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Borrowed Jingle.

Ballade of Strange Oaths.

I've thought of many an ancient oath,
And tried their sense I declare; I wean;
"Godsake" is one, and "Ye gods and troth!"—
Could to a scare, but strong and clean.
Yet to their meanings, ay keen
Most may without much work arrive;
But what does Aunt Rebecca mean
By "Gracious Goodness makes Alive!"?

"By Hecks!" and "Slap-jacks!" both
Found natural where yields are green,
In Indiana and their kin;
Some sturdy philologist can glean
"Oh, fudge!" "Oh, sugar!" "Oh, bosh!" and even
"Oh shucks!"—their roots I might contrive
To find; but what does auntie mean
By "Goodness Gracious makes Alive!"?

"Holy Mother!" Thus daughty Queen
King Richard's to his stolen queen,
Anne Boleyn's expostulate Lady Jane
To queen they escape in the scene,
Once, the I heard a coloured man
Say, "Bejinkies!" when I met a drive
All right. But what may "Goodness" mean
By "Goodness Gracious makes Alive!"?

L'ENVOI.

Prince, you're a scholar; but between
You and the present writer, I've
A bench you're stuck. What does she mean
By "Goodness Gracious makes Alive!"?

—Cleveland Leader.

MERELY JOKING.

Pessimism.

Hostetter: "Do you think the automobile will eventually cause the horse to become extinct?" Finger: "Yes, and every other living being."—Chicago Daily.

A Bore.

Gladys (at the seashore): "Are you having as many proposals as you had last season?" Marie (wearily): "Oh, no; for they are all from the same men I was engaged to last summer."—Detroit Free Press.

And the Most Practical.

"What" asked the small girl graduate, "was the happiest thing in all your life?" The Sapolio manager hesitated a long time and finally answered that the happiest thing was the January pay check. And the management then sent a new lot of posters to the Sapolio factories.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Enforced Liability.

"Are Newlywed's debts binding?" "Why, dearie, I'm a married man myself." "Yes, but Newly's big." "Well, he wouldn't be big if he hadn't married the girl he married." "Yes, but Newly's big." "Why, Newly's big." "Yes, but Newly's big." "Why, Newly's big." "Yes, but Newly's big." "Why, Newly's big