The Times-Dispatch

DAILY—WEEKLY—SUNDAY

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1909.

IS THE WARD LAW CONSTITUTIONAL?

Upon the question of the constitutionality of the Ward law hangs the validity of many special elections already held in this State, and soon to be held. The issue is directly under test in the Fredericksburg liquor case, and it is earnestly to be desired, in the interests of public convenience, that a decision in this case should be secured with the greatest possible promptness.

Laymen will have no serious difficulty in grasping at least the main considerations here involved. The Ward law, governing special elections, qualifies a somewhat different electorate from that prescribed by the constitutional qualifications. It did so designedly. For the constitutional requirements as to the payment of poll taxes are of such a nature that, under them, in effect, special elections can be held only in four or five months of the year, and elections held at other times are null and void. The desirability of a release from this whimsical and certainly not intended restriction is evident enough. The competency of the Legislature to make any departure from the constitutional suffrage qualifications is less plain. These qualifications were explicitly prescribed for "all elections held after this Constitution goes into effect." It is affirmed, however, with some support from the context, that "elections," as used here, means general elections, and cannot be held applicable to any special elections.

But these are questions for the lawyers to grapple with and the courts to decide. The importance of this decision is soon apparent. Let us imagine a local election to be held in Richmond to-day, January 7th. The Ward law says that persons who have paid in their three years' poll taxes six months before the second Tuesday in June are qualified to vote in special elections held at any time in that year up to the date indicated. Under this law, therefore, all voters properly paid up on December 8th last could vote in the Richmond election. There certainly appears nothing unduly lax in such permission. But the Constitution prescribes that for "all" elections, voters must be paid up six months before the date of the election in which they wish to take part. Under these prescriptions, therefore, only such voters as had paid their poll taxes for 1906, 1907 and 1908 on July 7, 1908, could vote in the Richmond election. As a matter of simple fact, we venture to say that there was hardly a man in Richmond who had paid his 1908 poll tax on July 21st last. We are confident that there were not enough of them to make a legal election possible.

Similarly, Henrico county is to vote on the question of a bond issue for roads on January 21st next. This election is not, it is true, ordered under the Ward law, but under a special act based on the same questionable principal of constitutionality. This act gives the vote in elections having to do with permanent road and bridge improvements to "those qualified to vote in the last preceding elections." This class included those who had, in due time, paid their poll taxes for 1905, 1906 and 1907. But the Constitution gives the vote expressly to those who have paid their head taxes for the three "preceding" years, which, in the case of an election held in 1909, would require payment for the years 1906, 1907, 1908. It appears, therefore, that men would be qualified to vote under this special act who are not so qualified under the constitutional provisions.

If a seeming discrepancy of this sort is not constitutional, Henrico might as well save itself the trouble of holding its bonds election a fortnight from to-day. By the same token, all local option elections held in the last year are void, as are all laws providing for elections for bond issues and all acts proceeding therefrom. It is decidedly important to determine at once whether or not this situation exists. If the Ward law is unconstitutional the confusion and embarrassment resulting from past illegal elections under it should be straightened out as soon as possible, and the voters of the State put in position for the future to avoid the trouble and expense of worse than nugatory proceedings.

THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL LOSS.

The President's controversy with Congress has brought out sharply the extent to which he has of late lost ground in the popular esteem. There has hardly been a time in his seven years' administration when he was more in need of "support," and there has certainly been no time when he has had less of it. The chilling of the press as a whole towards him is visible. Impassioned defenders in his hour of need he has had few or none. Even the thick-and-thin "organs" have been somewhat perfunctory in their defenses.

The very attempt to saddle the President with an indiscriminate assault upon the honesty of Congress indicates a none too friendly attitude on the part of the country. This is something that could not have happened with a very popular President. Such a one could have used Mr. Roosevelt's exact language and got nothing worse than a mild rebuke for an unfortunate choice of words. To this newspaper it has seemed the height of stupid absurdity to tax Mr. Roosevelt with saying or suggesting that "the majority of Congressmen" were rogues. If he had thought such a thing a thousand times, it is obvious enough that he would not have said it. Only a consecrated and besotted fool, bent upon winning the execration of his contemporaries and the obloquy of posterity, would have ventured such an insolent asininity. Mr. Roosevelt is no fool. Rather more than most men, he wants to be thought well of by his countrymen. Yet because certain language of his, used, as it now seems evident, with characteristic haste and lack of consideration, could be twisted to suggest a monstrous and shameful denunciation of the national law-making body, his present lack of popularity asserted itself, and he has been castigated from one end of the country to the other.

Mr. Roosevelt has only himself to blame for this. He is reaping the harvest of many grave errors in the past. But his present estate is none the less regrettable on that account. No President was ever more idolized during his term of office, and none has had further to fall to unpopularity.

LEGISLATIVE REGULATION SUSTAINED.

Almost coincident with the newest Standard Oil decision, the general effect of which was toward enhancing the popular opinion as to the difficulty of punishing law-breaking corporations, comes the decision in the New York gas case, which should have a decidedly counteractive and reassuring effect. In this decision the United States Supreme Court holds that the legislative enactment forbidding the Consolidated Gas Company of New York City from charging more than 80 cents per 1,000 feet was not, on the evidence submitted, confiscatory. The gas company, in brief, failed to persuade the court that it could not earn, at the 80-cent rate, a fair return upon the value of its investment. If experience shows that it cannot earn such a return, here fixed at 6 per centum, the complainant expressly "ought to have the opportunity of again presenting its case to the court."

It is obvious that this decision transcends the merits of the particular case involved and is of wide moment wherever public service corporations exist. It fully establishes the right of the Legislature to regulate such corporations, subject only to leaving them reasonable profits upon their capital. The question of what constitutes capital is manifestly vital. Justice Peckham here lays down the important general principles that a monopoly has no good will to capitalize, but that it is entitled to receive a return upon the existent, and not merely the original, value of its property. An increment in land values, for instance, is a proper subject for capitalization. The unsatisfactory feature of the decision is that it does not settle the intricate question of the propriety of capitalizing franchises. For this case, indeed, it does allow franchise values (reduced through successive stages of the trial from $24,000,000 to $7,781,000) to figure as capital, but the general issue is avoided as embodying "questions not now before the court, and are left undecided."

In demonstrating the power of the people to effectively control their great public service creatures, this victory of the State of New York is highly welcome. It should have a wholesome effect in increasing popular confidence in the essential justice and efficacy of the courts. But the whole question of the proper valuation of franchises should be fully and finally settled at the earliest moment. Without authoritative ruling on this point, the way is left open for easy evasions and elusions. New York State has already determined, by legislative enactment, that franchises hereafter granted may not be capitalized. But elsewhere, in the absence of a definite ruling, heavily padded franchise valuations may easily thwart the intent of regulating acts and undo the meaning of this decision.

CONSUMPTION.

Dr. Woods Hutchinson has done a service in presenting the possibilities of the war against tuberculosis so graphically that any intelligence can comprehend it. With $16,000,000 and unlimited powers, he says, with at least theoretical truth, he could practically stamp out consumption in New York City. This would mean a saving of 10,000 lives every year, and the resulting economic gain would be very great.

Those who are fighting the white plague have pointed out that the enormous loss of life in the earthquake zone of Italy is less than that annually entailed by consumption in the United States. The New York State Board of Health reports that consumption costs that State alone $63,000,000 a year. What it costs the country has been too variously estimated to admit of specific statement. The economic loss from these terrible inroads upon our young manhood and womanhood is, in fact, well-nigh incalculable.

It is now well understood that science can virtually blot out consumption, as it has blotted out smallpox. We have only ourselves to blame if we allow this disease to go on taking its heavy toll of human lives.

The large sale of various brands of holeproof socks is said to be due principally to the spread of the suffragette movement.

Several people in Richmond, we are informed, are reading the accounts of the Hains trial.

"Welcome, Congress," says the Washington Herald, a paper which is going to be polite if it dies of it.

Borrowed Jingles

WALKING AWAY FROM WORRY.

Walking away from worry,
Running away from care,
Not to the note of the bugle's throat,
Not to the trumpet's blare;
Only a child-hand folding,
Only his lips to sing,
But there on the hills beholding
The spiritual sweet of spring!

Walking away from worry,
Little one, lead me on,
Lifter of dreadful darkness,
Plinger of beauteous dawn;
Sorrow, and all old burdens,
Thus, with thy hand in mine,
Fall, and there no guerdons;
Fall, and the blossoms shine!

Walking away from worry,
Here on the road we flee,
Truants from toil and torture,
Drinkers of dew, set free!
Little and lightheart leader,
Trouble was yesterday's—
And we have forgotten, comrade,
And we are the runaways!

—Baltimore American.

MERELY JOKING.

In Need of a Curb.

"Papa is going to marry again."

"Aren't you sorry, girl?"

"Not altogether. He was getting beyond my control."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Method In It.

"How can you, a cultured man, incessantly talk prize fights with your barber?"

"Because it gets him interested and keeps him from trying to sell me things that I don't want."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

All Depends.

"Senator, I know a man who pastes all your speeches in a scrap book."

"Umph."

"Don't you feel flattered?"

"Not without further data. He may be doing it out of admiration, and he may be doing it for the purpose of keeping tabs."—Washington Herald.

An Even Break.

"A girl will marry without knowing how to cook."

"And a man will marry without the least idea of how to operate a furnace."—Kansas City Journal.

A Familiar View.

"How do you want your bedroom ceiling decorated?"

"Like the bottom of a touring car," said the motorist. "Then it will seem natural when I awake in the morning."—Kansas City Journal.

Heap Big Talk.

"I'll take it to the Mayor. If he refuses me justice, I'll take it to the Governor; and if he don't do anything, I'll take it to the President of the United States."

"What's the matter with that man?"

"He's been fined $2 for not having his dog tagged."—Pittsburg Post.

REMARKS FROM THE GALLERY.

NATURALLY the Standard would have preferred a large fine to the ouster from Missouri. It has such excellent facilities for not paying a large fine!—Indianapolis News.

* * *

And when they finally get the new tariff framed, will anybody want to hang it in his parlor—Detroit Free Press.

* * *

After carefully reading what John D. Rockefeller has to say about himself and his innocent enterprise, let us call him the president of Slandered Oil.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

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Minnesota's University has fixed the age of sixty-five for the retirement of the members of its faculty. At that age they will step into a Carnegie pension, which they will find much superior to a dose of chloroform.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

* * *

And Mayor McClellan has just handed in a message to the New York Council consisting of some 50,000 words. Evidently, he has great respect for high example.—Washington Herald.

* * *

Atlantans are making as much fuss over the proposed one-day visit of Mr. Taft as they would over a belayed jug from Jacksonville.—Florida Times-Union.

* * *

Hobson still wails for war with Japan. We wot of times when the captain put his mouth to sweeter usages.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

Of the foreign patents issued by the United States most of them go to France.

The total number of applications filed at the United States Patent Office in seventy years was 1,465,986.

Dr. Buckley says that more than half of all the Protestants in Iowa—54 per cent.—are Methodists.

The public lands vacant and subject to settlement in the United States on the 1st of last July amounted to 774,385,069 acres.

Bliss Perry, doctor of letters, editor of the Atlantic Monthly, is to be Boston University's commencement orator this year.

Hon. Amos L. Allen, of the Maine delegation, has informed his constituents and rivals that he will not seek another term.

By wireless telephone two French naval officers have succeeded in having conversation, songs and even whistling heard perfectly at a distance of ninety miles.

Miss Helen G. McDermott quit teaching to take a place in the business office of the Worchester Post, and now she has been appointed Worcester's police clerk.

What are known as camels in Asia Minor are in reality a common species of dromedary. Camels have two humps, while the race found in Smyrna has but one.

Since its introduction into the English protectorate of Uganda, in 1901, the sleeping sickness has killed no fewer than 200,000 out of a total population of 300,000.

In a once famous tea district of India the cultivation of rubber has driven the production of the former to second place, nearly 17,000 acres being devoted to rubber plantations.

One of the greatest leather belts in the world recently was completed at a Philadelphia factory. Three-ply it was 150 feet long by five wide, and required 390 hides in its manufacture.

Belgium has a Sunday postage stamp, issued for those who do not wish to have their mail delivered on Sunday. All mail bearing the Sunday stamp is held over by the carriers for delivery Monday.

An automobile that swallows its own dust is described in Popular Mechanics. Pipes suck up the dust from the rear wheels and draw it into a box, from which it is again deposited on the road in granulated form.

Miss Hilda G. Clarke has just been elected official helper to her father, the Rev. DeWitt S. Clarke, D. D., in his church work as pastor of the Tabernacle Congregational Church in Salem, Mass. She is a graduate of Smith College, and during the past year has done much to help her father in his work for the church.

The Great Need of the Navy.

As Admiral Luce shows in Army and Navy Life, a reorganization of the navy is not only a simple matter in point of fact, but its methods are too obvious for discussion. He exhibits the multiplicity of bureaus with the consequent confusion, repetition, imbecility and expense, and indicates the remedy clearly. He declares that the seven or eight bureaus should be reduced to two—material and personnel—and he asserts further that even these two should be robbed of their statutory authority to issue orders of even value with those of the Secretary himself, and reduced to a proper subordination to the general scheme. The whole bewildering structure ought to be obliterated, the machine and store shops subjected to a single management, and the supreme control confided to the Secretary of the Navy, with a small board of military advisers—not a large board—to enlighten him in all technical and professional respects. Thus, with the luxuriant undergrowth cleared away and the service placed upon at least as practical a basis as any ordinary private business, the Secretary would be free to apply himself to the development of the navy along legitimate lines.—New York Sun.

Missing a Chance.

France, with savings of $1,000,000,000 in a year, makes the question pertinent whether the Paris Stock Exchange is alive to its opportunities.—New York World.

The Courts of Europe.

By La Marquise de Fontenoy.

King Edward Has Bestowed 500 Titles During the Past Year.

KING EDWARD, during the twelve months which have just been brought to a close, has bestowed near half a thousand honorific distinctions. They comprise seven new peerages, of which two are of the rank of viscount, and the five others baronies. Singularly enough, five baronies have become extinct during the last year, through the death of their holders without issue. Consequently, the actual increase in the number of peerages is to be found in the two viscounties, namely, those of Lord Morley of Blackburn, the Secretary of State for India, and of Lord Wolverhampton, President of the Privy Council, who was Henry Fowler. Neither of these viscounts have sons, and their honors will lapse at their death. Eighteen new baronetcies have emanated from the so-called Fountain of Honor—that is to say, from the Crown—during 1908, and four only have become extinct. Where the chief increase, however, is to be found is in the number of knighthoods of the various orders bestowed. These include no less than four ribbons of the Order of the Garter, while ninety-seven men have received the Grand Cross—that is to say, the highest grade of the other orders. In addition to this, there have been almost a hundred bestowals of the dignity of Knight Bachelor—that is to say, knighthood of none of the orders of chivalry, but which enable the person thus honored to prefix the word "Sir" to his Christian name, while his wife is entitled to the predicate of "Lady" instead of "Mrs."

The contribution of the newly created peer to the exchequer of the political party to which he belongs, and to which in the majority of cases, he owes his elevation to the upper house of Parliament, is not the only expense to which he is put in connection with his coronet. There are likewise fees to be paid to the Crown, which range all the way up from $2,000 to $5,000, according to the grade of the peerage, the fees in the case of a barony amounting to about $2,000, while the fees for a baronetcy are a little over $1,500. These fees are almost entirely in connection with the making out and issue of letters patent. Letters patent are required for all baronetcies and peerages. But they are not required in the case of ordinary knighthood, where the latter is bestowed in person by the sovereign or by his representative. They are only issued if the knight is prevented by residence abroad, or by illness, from being personally invested with the honor by King, Prince of Wales or viceroy. The Crown realizes that it would be unjust to exact the cost of the patent of knighthood, amounting to some $200, from the recipient of the honor, who is often a meagrely paid servant of the government, who is prevented by his duties from returning from abroad to receive the honor in person, and it accordingly assumes the expense, which is paid out of the so-called civil contingencies fund, the accounts of the latter during the past year showing the payment of $3,400 under the following item: "Cost of letters patent conferring knighthood on twenty-one persons residing abroad who are unable for other reasons to attend investiture."

While on this subject, it may be mentioned that in the case of a number of orders of knighthood the insignia has to be returned after the knight's death. The same rules, however, do not apply to all orders. Thus, in the case of the British Order of the Garter, of St. Andrew, and of St. Patrick, the star and ribbon have to be returned to the sovereign by the nearest relative or next heir of the deceased knight, in an audience given for the purpose. The gold and enameled collar of the three orders, and in the case of the Order of the Garter, the jeweled garter as well, are returned, not to the sovereign, but to the Central Chancery of the Royal Orders of Knighthood at St. James's Palace, except in the case of the Order of St. Patrick, the gold collars of which are returned to Dublin Castle. With the other orders—that is to say, the orders of the Bath, the Star of India, of St. Michael and St. George, of the Victorian Order, and of the Indian Empire—the collars alone have to be returned to the Central Chancery at St. James's Palace, and no audience of the monarch is needed. The family of the deceased knight are permitted to retain the remainder of the insignia, except in the instance of all three classes of the Order of the Star of India, and the two higher classes of the Order of the Indian Empire, which have to be returned. In Prussia the collar and insignia of the Order of the Black Eagle, in Denmark the Order of the Elephant, and in Austria and Spain the insignia of the Order of the Golden Fleece, have to be returned.

With regard to the latter order, the collars and insignia worn by the principal knights are the very same that figured hundreds of years ago upon the breasts of some of the most illustrious personages in history. Thus, I recall that Emperor Frederick's insignia of the Golden Fleece was the very same that had belonged to Fernando Cortez, while the late King Humbert had that which had belonged to Christopher Columbus. Don Carlos, the Spanish Pretender, has the insignia worn by the founder of the order, the Duke of Burgundy, while that of Emperor Charles V. belongs to the present Duke of Wellington, and was previously worn by the victor of the battle of Waterloo. The most costly badge of this order is that of King Alfonso, which includes a forty-carat diamond, set with some superb pigeon-blood rubies, the entire jewel being valued at $150,000.

It is to be hoped that nobody in this country takes seriously the projects of reform of the House of Lords put forward by the committee of which Lord Rosebery is chairman. These proposals are purely academic, and were they to be put into execution, and the bestowal of peerages restricted in the manner indicated, the entire system of parliamentary government would have to be changed. To government by party, campaign funds for party warfare are indispensable. For the work of the central organizations—what corresponds in this country to the National Republican and National Democratic Committees—cannot be carried on without plenty of cash. Hitherto the principal means of filling the coffers of the party in power, especially on the eve of a general election, has been by obtaining from the sovereign peerages for those who have contributed most liberally to the party's exchequer. Scores of peerages, the bestowal of which in recent years is otherwise wholly inexplicable, have been conferred solely and entirely in recognition of such subscriptions, ranging all the way from $200,000 to $500,000, and an interesting list might be made of the members of the House of Lords who have thus obtained their seats in the upper chamber of the national legislature through cold-blooded purchase.

Both King Edward and his predecessor, Queen Victoria, have raised objections to this misuse of rewards which should be reserved for recognition of services to the state, and to the nation at large, instead of to a mere party. But the practice is too strongly established, and when the ministers in power have insisted upon the bestowal of a peerage, the Crown has had no alternative but to yield, and to accord the royal sign manual to the patent. Were Lord Rosebery's projects, which look very well on paper, and are altogether unexceptionable in principle, to be adopted, the political party exchequers would be depleted by the loss of their most productive source of revenue, namely, the virtual sale of peerages to plutocrats and nouveaux riches. This is an eventuality which neither of the great political parties can contemplate without the most profound concern, and under the circumstances there is not the slightest prospect of the suggested reforms ever being put into execution.

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STATE PRESS

Make 'Em Easy to Get.

From the Clinch Valley News (Dem.) we call this beautiful defense of the poll-tax as a voting prerequisite in Virginia:

"The poll-tax qualification for voting is a good one. No man should be allowed a voice in the government who is unwilling or too sorry or indifferent to pay the small sum of $1.50 for the privilege. The six months in advance qualification should be repealed, and some shorter time fixed, perhaps, but the law is a good one and should be retained. If politicians want to buy votes the six months provision won't stop it. 'Let 'em buy 'em.' The State gets the money all right. If a man will sell his vote he can always find somebody to buy it, and no law—certainly not the present law—will stop either. Let the poll-tax qualification stand, except let it be payable at any time except on election day."

That's it: "let 'em buy 'em, but let 'em buy 'em more easily than they do even now."—Norfolk Landmark.

A Life-Term for Marye.

Colonel Morton Marye, Auditor of Public Accounts of the State of Virginia, has served in that office continuously and most acceptably for a quarter of a century. He was first elected in 1884 during the administration of Governor Cameron, and has occupied the same relation to the government during the successive terms of six executives—Fitzhugh Lee, McKinney, O'Ferrall, Tyler, Montague and Swanson. Three of these Governors have passed away during this period, but the sturdy old veteran, who stands sentinel over the collection and disbursement of the revenues of the Commonwealth, seems to gain new strength and energy from the passing years. Colonel Marye has been a faithful and capable servant of the people, and his long retention in the place he so admirably fills is honorable alike to himself and the General Assemblies which have retained him in it. The Virginian-Pilot gives greeting to the veteran official and hopes he may live to round out a full half century as an examplar of Virginia's appreciation of a loyal son!—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

More Good Roads Talk.

Everybody who considers the subject, believes it would be a fine thing to have a metal road from Staunton to Richmond. The suggestion of the matter by this paper met with universal approval. But roads are not built simply by saying it would be a good thing to have them, it takes work and planning and a great deal of it.

After this improvement was proposed the idea struck people over between Richmond and Norfolk that there ought to be a metal road between Richmond and Norfolk, undoubtedly a good thing, and before the ink on the suggestion was good and cold, a meeting had been called for Petersburg, to organize and get systematically to work to build the road.

If we are to do anything with the proposition to build from Staunton to Richmond we must organize and get people to work all along the line. Those interested in the project should agree on a time and place for a meeting, and then stir up interest in the meeting and get people to attend it. There ought to be representatives from every county along the line.—Staunton Dispatch and News.

Not Enough Plums Now.

Word comes that the Republicans will make a great fight for the next governorship. Not so. There are not enough Federal offices now to go around, and the Virginia Republicans have never welcomed recruits, because such a policy would diminish the emoluments of the faithful.—Winchester Evening Star.

A Healthful Competition.

Old Dinwiddie should look out for her laurels as leader in the improvement of county roads. Augusta county has set her hand to the work, and has already built ten miles of macadamized road, and proposes to build ten miles every year until she has a complete system of improved county roads. That's sound economy and good business sense. Augusta spends money to save money with the prospect of making money ultimately. Let the counties of Southside Virginia, especially the counties of Dinwiddie, Prince George and Chesterfield, go and do likewise.—Petersburg Index-Appeal.

Joining the Octopus?

Some time ago it was announced that the Religious Herald of Richmond had absorbed another church paper. Now it is announced the movement to consolidate the four great Presbyterian papers of the South—the Central Presbyterian of Richmond, Va.; the Southern Presbyterian of Atlanta, Ga.; the Western Presbyterian of New Orleans, La., and the Presbyterian Standard of Charlotte—has been successfully carried out, with the exception of the Presbyterian Standard. The Presbyterian of the South is the title of the consolidated organ, and the deal became effective January 1st. It will be published at Atlanta, but the editorial work will be done in Richmond.

Are our religious contemporaries going to join the Octopus?—Newport News Times-Herald.

LONDON VIEW OF HIM.

British Opinion of the President and Recent Messages.

Mr. Roosevelt is so great a man in many respects that it is a thousand pities he can not contrive to be a greater. The office which he still holds is one of the highest to which any human being can aspire, and the enormous power for good which it confers has, upon the whole, been worthily exercised by its present occupant. It is, therefore, with feelings of regret and repulsion that we see the President of the United States descending into the gutters of controversy and endeavoring to outvie the very Bowery of New York in the violence and coarseness of his abuse. This is the true lese majeste, and it is infinitely more damaging to the dignity of a great ruler than any foolish gibes from the outside can ever be. Mr. Roosevelt talks of "lying," "blackmail," "scurrilous libels," declares that his parliament is deeply concerned over the fact that Secret Service agents are investigating the conduct of its members, and recommends the criminal prosecution of a newspaper which has dared to attack his government.

Mr. Roosevelt had far better recommend the prosecution of himself for the heinous offense of degrading the presidential office by mingling in sordid and disgusting disputes. The "ginger" which, to use his own words, he put into Mr. Taft's election campaign, has evidently entered his own system, and the result is a very melancholy spectacle. It was a betrayal alike of the traditions of the great office and of the simplest canons of good taste even to throw himself into the campaign at all. But, having done so, and having succeeded, he might surely spend the last few months of his occupancy of the White House in an atmosphere of personal dignity. To preserve to the end the manners and the language of an angry fishwife is not the way to win the respect of his own country or of any other.—London (England) Globe.

LINCOLN HIGHWAY.

A Memorial Proposition That Interests Two States.

If the Federal government will consent to engage in road building at all, no better beginning can be made than the proposed road to Gettysburg. It would be a model road in every respect, wide, of easy grade, well paved in the best good roads fashion and shaded with trees. It would lie in three jurisdictions—the District of Columbia, Maryland and Pennsylvania. It would eventually be met at Gettysburg by Pennsylvania's own system of improved roads, Maryland is also building improved roads, which would tap and be feeders to this memorial highway. It would connect the White House and the Gettysburg battlefield, but incidentally it would connect the national capital with the improved roads of all the States to the north and northeast of it as eventually they will be developed, and in conjunction make a great interstate system of improved roads.

In view of the condition of the national finances at the present time, and the very large estimate for the normal expenditures of the departments, we have little expectation that this memorial highway will be provided for at the present session. It is possible that Congress may be unwilling at any time to enter upon any national highway construction for fear of the pressure that will be brought to secure the building of roads at the national expense in other localities.

Those States that want good roads will make sure of them only by building them out of their own revenues, but the Federal government might properly, in exceptional cases, join in that good work. We know of no road construction that can be undertaken by the national government with greater propriety than this proposed Gettysburg highway in memory of the great President of the Civil War, whom a reunited country agrees in honoring.—Philadelphia Press.

The Hen Might Object.

People who have experienced the difficulty of distinguishing between "eggs," "fresh eggs" and "strictly fresh eggs," except by the way they are charged on the bill, will applaud the determination of a member of the House of Representatives from Pennsylvania to offer a bill when Congress reconvenes requiring dealers to classify their eggs strictly according to their age, and in such a manner that even Mrs. Newlywed can tell exactly what she is buying. He proposes to have all eggs offered for sale branded as "storage," "freshly laid," "recently laid" and "doubtful." The suggestion has been made that the bill should require the poultryman to furnish every hen with a rubber stamp with which she could date her eggs as soon as they are laid. This would certainly be a good idea if it was practicable. The hen might, however, raise a question as to the constitutionality of the law, which would mean an appeal to the United States Supreme Court and would involve vexatious delay. Until it has been definitely determined that the hen comes within the jurisdiction of Congress, it will probably be better for that body to confine its attention exclusively to the poultry dealer.—Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

Ancient Political Platforms.

In the Americanization of English politics, American political terms are more and more coming into use. The word "platform," for example, is rapidly being domesticated in England. Purists, of course, cry out upon it. They call it one of those disgusting "Americanisms," which all lovers of the undefiled wells of good old English should avoid. But the Westminster Gazette makes some inconvenient citations, to prove that this raw American word is, in reality, excellent English, of 300 years ago. Thus Queen Elizabeth answered the "Supplication" of the Puritans, in 1586, by saying that she had "examined their platform"; and her successor, James I., spoke of "another ill-fangled platform to make that stubborn kick (the Church of Scotland) stoop more to the English platform." Finally, there was a couplet put by an old lampoon into the mouth of the Pretender in the early years of the House of Hanover:

What is the Platform we're to build on next?
Or what Schemes left, we've not already tried?

That certainly sounds intensely modern. One might almost think it an extract from an address of Mr. Bryan to his followers.—New York Evening Post.

Honor in Honest Work.

A true sense of proportion should show us, however, that as all are not fitted for the same field of work, so also it would be fatal for all to undertake the same line of endeavor. Where would the great benevolences of the Salvation Army be, for example, or Rescue Missions, or Doors of Hope, without the contributions of rich men who are immersed in business and shrewd in bargains?

There is honor in all honest work. Even Mr. Carnegie gives the world a sentiment that would be hard to surpass when he says that the only measure of a man's value to humanity and his worth as a man is the service he renders. This service must be rendered in different fields. In some it is given to bind up the broken-hearted and visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction. But the main work of the world must go on by means of the great army of laborers and capitalists. The great general, the millionaire banker, the man of learning, the soldier in the battle's van, the seaman before the mast, are as necessary to the world's work as self-sacrificing women are to its solace.—Indianapolis Star.

Low Tariff Best for Business.

Comprehensively summed up, the case of the manufacturer on the tariff issue may embodied in the question: "Do you believe in small profits and many sales, or in few sales with great profits?" The tariff makes the producer sell dear. It frequently makes him buy dear, too, when he comes to purchase his raw materials, owing to the tariff on such imports. Consequently he is gradually reaching the point of view that if he got his raw materials free, his cost of production would be lessened, and his sales proportionately expanded. Going a step further, if the duty on his finished product were then lowered, his output should increase again, for natually at a reduced price his sales would increase. Concessions make markets; tariff ramparts exclude them. The merchants and manufacturer realize this, and are beginning to record themselves in favor of quick sales and light profits.—Wall Street Summary.

A High Standard of Patriotism.

About the highest standard that a man in public life can set up for his guidance is that declared by Senator Knox with reference to his call to take the post of Secretary of State in the Taft Cabinet. There is scarcely a position in the higher service of the United States that does not involve a material sacrifice for the man who accepts it provided the man is entirely fit to fill that position. For capacity equal to the duties of a United States Senator or a Cabinet member could command a much higher money reward in private life. Mr. Knox could have made himself a very rich man by confining his activities to the profession of law. But he has once before taken a Cabinet position and has accepted election to the Senate. In each of these instances, as in his selection for Secretary of State, he has answered what he has regarded a call of duty. And it is especially pleasing to find a man of his splendid equipment who is not even lured by the honor of place, much less by the thought of material compensation.—Kansas City Star.

BUREAU OF EDUCATION.

Plea for an Extension of Its Sphere of Usefulness.

It ought to require no argument to prove to congressmen, as a justification for a more liberal allowance for the Bureau of Education, that there is in its work a vast and almost untouched field of public usefulness. One has only to refer to the voluntary conventions of teachers, to the various associations representing the secondary and higher institutions of education, &c., to recognize the fruitful field for simplification and unification in these directions. How much greater the opportunities in connection with elementary education, which is all that comes to the vast majority of the people. The present commissioner pointed the way to what might be done in the way of exchange of experience and information by the recent conference of State superintendents of public instruction, and the whole field of text-books and the co-ordination of courses of instruction open a wide field of endeavor.

It should not require a very wild flight of creative imagination to foretell the time when a student in a particular grade in one locality would naturally fall into the work of a like grade in another State to which he might be transferred by fate or necessity. At present there is neither standard of results nor unity of effort, even in the broadest sense, and these can only be brought about through some such national agency as the Bureau of Education is intended to be. This is the aim toward which it is working, and it is on this basis that it is making its modest request of the congress for a larger appropriation.—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

A Penalty of Night Riding.

It is brought out as an additional penalty for the communities and States which permit night riding that a court has held fire insurance companies exempt from paying losses by fires set by the Kentucky night riders. This decision by the United States Court at Louisville is based on the clause in the policies that they do not cover losses from fires caused by rioters, and the night riding proceedings are held to be riots of an obnoxious and cowardly type.

This is the law, and though it looks like hardship for the victims of that lawlessness, it is sound public policy. If communities cannot maintain protection from systematic and organized arson, fire insurance based on a presumption of civilized order cannot be reasonably expected to assume the risk of the lawlessness. Those who have already suffered must bear their loss. But the rule stated by the court will add to the penalties on the community by warning people with money or energy that they will be wise to stay out of any section where nocturnal mobs assert the privilege of destroying life and property.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

Blaming the Man.

According to the earliest annals man promptly blamed the woman when confronted with his first serious responsibility. But the sex lost no time in paying back in his own coin. Nor has the account been settled. Here, for instance, is a woman of popular prominence who says that man is the inspiration that prompts extravagance in dress of the modern woman. She adds that in New York the splendor of the wife's dress frequently enhances the husband's business credit. Hence the woman feels it her duty to dress well in order to uphold the man's financial standing. Other women resort to dress as a means to grapple man's love. As this authority somewhat Frenchily remarks, "The coquetry of clothes is the best safeguard against masculine indifference." She admits that there may be some truth in the hackneyed tradition that women wear fine clothes to make other women envy them, but she says the only reason worth considering is the fact that men expect the sex to dress well, and even demand it.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Doctors for the Well.

There seems to be much to commend the practice of employing a doctor at so much per year to visit the homes of his clients, watch their diet, clothing, habits, the sanitary condition of their person and homes; to teach them the laws of health and how to be temperate in eating, drinking, bathing, exercising, recreation and work. People who are never sick are the ones to whom this should apply with special force, for there always comes the day when sickness knocks at their door. The old adage, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," is as good to-day as when it was uttered centuries ago.—Boston Traveler.

Enough for Ohio.

The verdict in Ohio seems to be that the presidency of the United States is enough of political honor for one family, even though it is an Ohio family.—Springfield Republican.

1909 DIRECTORY

The canvass for the new 1909 City Directory has been completed. Any individuals or firms who have made a change in residence or business, or have reason to believe they have been omitted by the canvassers, can have same attended to by calling upon or dropping a line to

HILL DIRECTORY COMPANY,
823 Mutual Building.