The Times-Dispatch

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1909.

THE SHELL OF THE TARIFF COMMISSION.

The meat of the tariff commission idea was plucked out of the letter of the Payne-Aldrich law with care and deftness. There was left only the shell of the nut, consisting of a single sentence tacked on to section 2 of the maximum and minimum provisions. Instead of a board of high-paid experts, created with full investigative and advisory powers, the country found that it had merely "authorized" the President to employ "persons" to get information which would help him work the maximum and minimum. There was no word about the number or character of these persons; not a word about compensation for them; not a word directing the President to "employ them at all. He was simply authorized to employ them if he wanted to, and it also appeared that, if employed, they were to confine their activities to the question of maximum or minimum, and keep their noses religiously out of everything else. It is not believed that Mr. Aldrich cared or designed to have a lot of lynx-eyed economists fine-tooth-combing around the tariff generally.

The obstacles to a real commission thus seemed large. President Taft, a believer in the value of expert advice, has tackled them with enthusiasm and some faith. He has appointed a board of three, finally selected from over forty names, and he and Secretary MacVeagh have empowered these three to retain experts to help them. So far as we know the board is a good one. It consists of a professional economist, a professional statistician and financier and a utility man, said to be thoroughly familiar with industrial conditions in the West. These three will no doubt be entirely competent to engage assistants, and we assume that Congress, having authorized the employment of "persons," will stand ready to provide some honorariums for them.

The shell of a commission has now been created, exactly as the emasculated provision permitted. The President has used his "authorization" to the fullest. But it remains to be seen whether his board can become anything more than his advisers in the work of applying the maximum tariff. Not all of us have the President's optimism. The country wanted a board which should gather information bearing on all phases of the tariff, not simply on questions of reciprocity and discrimination; and it desired the free use of this information, not merely for the President, but for itself and for Congress. Has Mr. Taft's board such authority, and if so, whence does it derive it? If Professor Emery and his colleagues discover, for example, that conditions prove our present tariff on wool to be a pusillanimous fraud, shall we see them leaving their maximum and minimum labors for a moment to communicate this fact to the President, and through him to the country?

IMPROVING CITY GOVERNMENT.

The Norfolk Landmark thinks that we are wrong in believing that the Roanoke suggestion for a conference on commission government failed to arouse much interest among the cities. We had much rather be wrong than right in such a matter, and we sincerely trust that our contemporary has a more dependable outlook. But the Landmark in its turn is mistaken in thinking that the Richmond Chamber of Commerce had already appointed a delegation to attend this conference. Probably our chamber would have done so. But just at the critical moment there came the letter from the Roanoke Chamber announcing that the conference had been called off. The reason for this act, it seems, was the reason indicated above: lack of enthusiasm among the cities.

It may be that city government in Virginia has to be much worse before it can get better. For the most part, the beginning of reform is shock. Virginia municipalities have been generally and happily free from notorious graft, and it may be that slipshod inefficiency is not a powerful enough irritant to arouse those energies which produce results. Much of the active interest in improved types of city government is to be found, we think, among students of government, idealists, progressive editors and the like. The people generally, while unquestionably approving of reforms in city government, are too busy with other matters to translate that approbation into deeds. The public hearings on improved city government held not long ago in Richmond were conspicuous, it must be confessed, for sparse attendance and a quality approaching public apathy. The task of the leaders of thought in Virginia is not merely to prove upon paper that a simplified and efficient government is an advantage to a city. They must also arouse the people to a point where they will demand government of this type and accept no substitutes.

Norfolk and Lynchburg, at least, had appointed committees to attend the commission government conference. The newspapers in those cities properly insist that the conference idea is too good to be abandoned, and the report comes now that the Lynchburg committee will issue a call for a conference to be held in Richmond. Simultaneously, Secretary Jacobs, of the Roanoke Chamber, is trying to regalvanize the original plan for a convention in that city. Needless to say, we welcome both these evidences of public-spirited interest in the purposes of the conference and of unwillingness to permit it to fall through. Such a gathering offers decidedly the most helpful and effective means of overcoming those obstacles in the way of better city government, which happen to be so much more formidable, in several ways, in Virginia than elsewhere.

FOR A WESTERN OYSTER BAY.

Mr. Ballinger thinks that the President ought to make his summer home in the West. But for a single reason we should reply that there is no better spot for a presidential summer home than the city of Richmond, where the cool river breezes continually blow when not engaged elsewhere. The thing that stays our hand is the fatal proximity of this city to Washington. We concede to the President the right to get away now and then where it isn't so easy for the politicians to swarm down and pester the life out of him.

Probably Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Taft have firmly fixed the summer capital among our institutions. Later Presidents will hardly be expected to swelter out July and August in the fervent District. Mr. Taft, presumably pleased with his surroundings, has already taken the Beverly cottage for another year. But there is clearly a good deal to be said for Secretary Ballinger's idea. Washington, Beverly and Oyster Bay are all in the East. In fact at least two of them are about as far East as you can crowd without getting wet. It is natural for the West to feel that the present arrangement is one-sided, and to put in a claim for more of the presidential time. Washington is doubtless a fixture, though Chicagoans know some very good reasons why the capital should be there; and that leaves only the summer capital for the hopes of the West. By spending three months of every year out there, a President could do good both to himself and to the West. Mr. Taft, as it happens, does not particularly need the broader outlook which such a residence would give, but there is no doubt that his presence would please the West, give a touch to its pride and patriotism and in a small way help to draw it closer to the East. A Western summer capital would be, of its kind, a unifying influence. If it, is thought necessary to show the fleet in the Pacific, why isn't it worth while to anchor a President occasionally across the Mississippi?

Practically, Mr. Taft starts his great 13,000-mile tour to-day, though the first leg of the journey takes him no farther than Boston. To-morrow he definitely sets his face toward the western sun. In the countless places he will visit before he is again at the White House, is it not possible that he can find one in which he could endure to spend the summer of 1911?

SOME ELEMENTARY LOGIC.

The New York Sun is fond of insisting that direct primaries wherever tried have resulted in "humiliation and failure." Hon. Everett Colby, a young reformer who has waked up New Jersey, respectfully but firmly calls the Sun's attention to the fact that no State, having once installed the direct primary by law, has ever discarded it. Our esteemed contemporary, though dealing editorially with Mr. Colby's remarks, observes silence regarding this retort.

Yet it is evident that, if the system of direct nominations invariably results in humiliation and failure, and if, further, some twenty-two States (or all that have tried it) resolutely cling to the system which has brought them these disasters—it is evident, we say, that the world here confronts a situation which requires some explaining. To us four explanations occur offhand as possible, and we are encouraged by the silence of our esteemed contemporary to submit them.

One is that the people, though repeatedly humiliated and dashed headon into failure, are not aware of their misfortunes, but complacently believe that they are doing very nicely. This supposition credits the people with an appetite for being humbugged far beyond even Mr. Barnum's estimate, and is open to some criticism on that score.

Another is that the people, though realizing that their primary laws result in humiliation and failure, have not yet had time to get to the Legislature and repeal them. It will, of course, be retorted that neither have they had time or experience to get to the Legislature and perfect these laws.

A third is that the people, though appreciative of the humiliation and failure which their primary laws have brought them, yet find these laws none the less acceptable as substitutes for a system which brought them even more humiliation and failure. No one who is familiar with the characteristics of the convention system will deny that there is much plausibility in this supposition.

The fourth possible explanation involves a scrutiny of our premises, of which it will be recalled that there were two. Possibly there was some lack of soundness here. One premise was that every State which had tried a legal primary had clung to it. This is an assertion of simple fact, susceptible of disproof if false; but it happens to be true. The other premise was that every State which had tried a legal primary had thereby met humiliation and failure. Men differ so much as to what constitutes failure that this may fairly be called a statement of opinion rather than of fact. If all the other suggestions above are rejected as inadequate, we inevitably reach the conclusion that this opinion is jaundiced and wanting in truth, and that the primary, in fact, has not brought universal humiliation and failure.

Of all imaginable explanations for a situation that plainly demands explanation of some sort, we must confess that this last one seems most convincing to us.

We venture to say that Baltimore will hesitate before again locking horns with the astounding ball-tossers of the Richmond City Council.

The referee is slow in announcing a decision on the Ballinger-Pinchot mill.

A negro stood at the pole with Peary, and there is no holding down old Jackson Ward.

Why this surprise at Peary's statement that he "nailed" the flag to the pole? The Commander evidently has his hammer along, hasn't he?

Nansen, Abruzzi, Greely and others are doubtless congratulating themselves that no claim to having discovered the old pole can possibly be unloaded on them.

It is said that there is enough coal in the United States to last 7,310 years. Most of us now living are willing to find ourselves outside the coal-consuming belt at the end of that period.

Still, on a life insurance rate, we see no reason why the aeronaut should not get a shade the best of the chauffeur.

Our private information is clearly to the effect that Mr. Aldrich is not entitled to have a man like Mr. Taft go West apologizing for him.

Anyway, the New York conference has proved that it is entirely possible for two Democrats to meet without swatting each other between the eyes.

Mr. Longworth is reported to have remarked that he will not allow his wife to go up in an airship. This is a good story, but we must all bear in mind that it is only Chapter I.

Colonel Roosevelt has been making speeches in Africa, but what of it? Why, hang it all, he'd do the same at the North Pole, wouldn't he?

We gather that the Georgia Pardon Board is trying to earn its name by doing so for everybody on the premises.

Give the pole to Denmark? She may prefer to fight.

We suspect that Oct. will find Sept. not such a little slouch as a pacemaker.

The Milltown Banner remarks that "poverty is often a blessing in disguise." Yes, indeed; but it seldom needs any false whiskers to get by without suspicion.

"Liar? Now when have we heard that word before?" asks the Washington Herald. Far be it from us to trespass upon the Herald's personal reminiscences, but we do trust that it is not alluding to Old Subscriber.

Let others take and keep their pennants. We have seen enough flags nailed to things for one season.

UNTYING THE HANDS OF JUSTICE.

Decision of Ohio Court Would Abolish Many Legal Delays.

There is cause for gratification in the unqualified approbation by many able attorneys and editors of standing in Ohio of the recent decision of the Circuit Court of Hamilton county, the effect of which is to check the tendency toward technicalities in the administration of justice. A former president of the Ohio State Bar Association goes so far as to assert that the finding should be preserved in bronze, because it anticipates by a half-century the evolution of judicial procedure, which will bring with it that ideal administration of the law where justice shall be done, even if errors have to be ignored.

In this case in point the city of Cincinnati was sued for damages. It appears that the jury found for the plaintiff strictly upon the evidence, though it allowed him even less than the facts warranted. The solicitor for the city appealed from the verdict, because of purely technical or formal error of trial, which did not go to the justice of the case. In denying the writ of error the Circuit Court lays down as a principle of law the following proposition: When uncontradicted evidence shows liability for whatever damages resulted, and also that the plaintiff suffered greater damages than were allowed him, errors of law in the charge to the jury or in the admission or rejection of evidence at the trial become immaterial.

In short, technical mistakes in the conduct of a case of this character will not be permitted to obstruct the flow of justice. . . .

The Circuit Court acted in commonsense fashion, a thing pleasing to the body politic. The average citizen, supplied with that same saving grace of common sense and possessed of ordinary business honesty, is disposed to regard legal technicalities as frauds, which choke and befoul the fountain head of justice.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

HARRIMAN'S SUCCESSOR.

Speculation Is Idle, For No One Will Take His Place.

A deal of ingenuity is being wasted in idle speculation as to Harriman's successor. History speaks falsely if Harriman is to have a successor. The great railroad properties which he controls will be operated and new combinations of interests will be made. In these new combinations what are now known as the Harriman interests may control or new interests may come in to absorb instead of being absorbed.

None of our railroad kings has had a successor. What they left behind has been held intact in some instances, but it has usually drifted on the tide until a new genius for organizing appeared to claim it. If Gould or Huntington or Vanderbilt had had a successor, there would now be no Harriman in control of the great properties they left behind them.

Our railroad, financial and commercial leaders have not been selected by any arbitrary process. They have grown up to their full measure by demonstrating ability of the special kind necessary and working in combination with opportunity. Personal force is the essential quality. Mr. Harriman might name a successor, but it would be a waste of energy. If any one succeeds him, it will be one who has the strength to take, just as Harriman did before him.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Borrowed Jingles.

THE AUTUMN CHORUS.

The Joneses have come back again
From o'er the seething pond;
They cast their eyes on local scenes
With glances that are fond;
And Jones remarks, triumphantly,
As men have said before:
"The part of traveling that's best
Is getting home once more."

The Browns—they went away this spring—
Took in the glorious West;
But they are settled down again,
Safe in the old, warm nest,
And Mrs. Brown, with eyes a-shine,
Declares in tones that ring:
"This getting home's the best part of
The game of traveling."

And so the chorus rises loud
In these glad autumn days,
When all the suit case folk return
From far vacation ways;
The things they saw were grand—oh, yes,
But this drowns praise of Rome:
"The best part of this traveling
Is getting home, home, home!"

—Denver Republican.

MERELY JOKING.

Of Course.

"I want to shake hands with the engineer of this train."

"What are you a candidate for?"

"Nuthin'. I think somebody ought to remember the engineer, even if it is an off year."—Washington Herald.

Heavenward.

Blinks (in 1910): "What kind of a funeral did Howard have?"

Jinks: "A mile of aeroplanes."—Baltimore Star.

A Gift Cigar.

"Cohen's ill in bed, I hear."

"Yes. He smoked a cigar from the wrong pocket."—London Opinion.

Righteousness of Eve.

Eve meditated.

"Perhaps I tempted Adam," she cried, "but I never tempted another woman's servant away by offering higher wages."

Herewith she felt herself truly righteous.—New York Sun.

Going Up!

"What would be a good name for my flying machine?"

"Why not call it 'The Cost of Living?'"—Houston Post.

Variation of the Old Story.

"Amelia, I am going to ask you the old, old question."

"Oh, Herbert, this is entirely unexpected. I need time to think! Please ask it hypothetically!"—Chicago Tribune.

THE JOLLY PARAGRAPHERS.

By founding an institution for the treatment of paralyzed babies, Mr. Rockefeller hopes to atone for having paralyzed the infant competitor in the days when there were infant competitors.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

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The long-promised "awakening of China" is about to be realized. Mr. Roosevelt is going to visit that country.—St. Paul Pioneer Press.

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The government has no sense of historic perspective in making Lincoln pennies. Lincoln was no copperhead.—Detroit Free Press.

• • •

His gymnastic instructor says that President Taft is a strong fighter when he has the gloves on. He ought to keep them on.—Puck.

• • •

Says Mr. Bryan's Commoner, in a burst of candor, "It pays to work for the public welfare." So we understand.—Milwaukee Sentinel.

• • •

Government experts estimate that there is enough coal in the United States to last 7,310 years. Orders for delivery after the expiration of that period are rejected by all responsible dealers.—New York Evening Mail.

• • •

A minister in Pittsburg is in jail, charged with bigamy. And the much denounced millionaires, to whom all the city's picturesque wickedness has been charged, are jubilantly chorusing, "There are others."—Baltimore American.

WHAT WILL TAFT DO?

His Western Speeches May Show His Factional Sympathies.

The Boston Herald is proving disappointing as a means of information from Beverly. Only a few days ago it came with assurances that the President was making a study of the geography of his tour with an eye to avoiding any unfortunate local references calculated to encourage debate within the party. Now it comes with equally positive assurances that the President intends to try out the tariff sentiment of the West with some very vigorous speeches.

According to the Herald now, the President is satisfied that there is no criticism of the new tariff, excepting on the Chautauqua platform:

"The President told a visitor at Burgess Point this week that there was little or no dissatisfaction with the new tariff law, as far as he was able to learn, outside of a few Westerners, who have been busy on the Chautauqua circuit ever since Congress adjourned. He added that prosperity had returned and was rapidly increasing. Under such conditions the President has little sympathy with pessimistic utterances."

The Herald brings assurances that the President will rally the old-line party support against what it terms the Cummins-La Follette propaganda:

"He will take occasion to ascertain at first hand, while he travels westward, whether the people are dissatisfied. He has already made known his intention to go deeply into the tariff issue in his speeches. By this course he will speedily determine whether the opposition within the Republican party is formidable. Some good political judges have been saying that a very strong Republican following will rally promptly behind the President, all the way from Ohio, through Indiana, Iowa, Colorado and other States where the radical Republicans have been active and where the Democrats have been winning elections. They declare that the weakness of the Cummins-La Follette propaganda may be demonstrated during the President's visit to affected States."

In view of these entirely conflicting reports from the same source it must be confessed that about all there is to do is to await the event. The President is to leave Beverly on the 14th and his first utterance will suggest the general tenor of his tour.—Des Moines Register and Leader.

WARSHIPS ARE TRANSFORMED.

Fleet Now at Practice Unlike the Ships That Returned From the East.

The ships of the Atlantic fleet now engaged in target practice were recently at the navy yards for the purpose of receiving the alterations planned for them in the scheme of improving naval construction and equipment. A number of changes have been made and a number of new devices installed which have done much to revolutionize the appearance of the battleships. The ships have been equipped with a new skeleton fire-control mast which is believed to be safe against destruction by gunfire. What is regarded as another improvement is the removal of the tophamper of the battleships, such as the emergency cabins and other obstructions which interfered with free movement above decks and serve as a target for the enemy's guns as well as considerably increasing the weight of the vessel.

During the target practice now going on tests will be made in order to ascertain whether the theories of the experts are sustained and the changes have been wisely made. The officers of the fleet will report upon the improvements, and if it is shown that they were justified they will be extended to all the ships of the navy. The tests will be made under conditions closely akin to those of actual war, and it will not be difficult to determine the extent of the advantage gained by the removal of the bulky tophamper of the big battleships, which offers a good target for the enemy to shoot at and adds much to the cost of the vessel.

As a result of the changes which have been made the appearance of the ships may be rendered less imposing, but it is believed that their effectiveness as fighting machines will be greatly increased and the cost of construction reduced.—New Orleans States.

The Courts of Europe

By La Marquise de Fontenoy.

After Large Fortune.

"LET right be done." These portentous words, followed by the signature of the sovereign, not only authorize the heirs of the widow of General Robert Dudley Blake to proceed against the crown for the recovery of her large fortune, estimated at some $3,000,000 or $4,000,000, but also suspends the action of the statute of limitations in the case.

Mrs. Blake, whose maiden name was Helen Sheridan, died in 1876, intestate, leaving a large fortune, to which many claimants have since appeared, a number of them hailing from this country. While in the majority of instances the most cursory examinations of the pretensions of these claimants has sufficed to demonstrate their fallacy, there are several of them that appear to be well founded, and the necessary documentary evidence, until recently lacking, having now been secured, the matter is at length being brought into court for decision by the English tribunals.

In most instances of stories of great fortunes held by the crown awaiting the rightful heir the fortune is a myth. With regard to that of the late Mrs. Robert Dudley Blake it is a reality, for the property comprises Twizel Castle, in Northumberland, now rented on a long lease by the crown to some members of the Blake family, situated on the River Till, and close to the Twizel Bridge, mentioned by Sir Walter Scott in "Marmion," where he describes the march of the English "from Flodden Ridge" while the Scots "watched them as they crossed the Till by Twizel Bridge." Then there is Hand Cross House, a country place in Sussex, and other pieces of real estate in Middlesex and Surrey. When Mrs. Blake died without leaving a will the crown took charge of the fortune, and after waiting for some time for heirs to come forward to prove their claims, in response to the brief advertisement for claims to the estate of "Helen Blake, deceased, of No. 4 Earl's Terrace, Kensington," no mention being made of her Irish parentage or of her husband's name and military rank, the personal property was sold for the sum of a little over $600,000. This, with accruing interest since 1880, as well as the real estate, represents the Blake fortune of near $4,000,000.

The property was originally that of Robert Dudley Blake, a scion of that well known Irish house of Blake which has been settled in Ireland, and especially in the county of Galway, for over 600 years, and of which Lord Wallscourt is the chief representative in the peerage. Robert Blake was a lieutenant in the army when, while staying at Castlebar, he fell in love with the niece of the proprietor of Trawley's Hotel. Her name was Helen Sheridan, she was eighteen years old at the time, and had several sisters. He persuaded her to elope with him, and contemporary records relate how the couple were pursued by her father, Michel Sheridan, and her uncle, the owner of Trawley's Hotel, from Castlebar to Ballyglass, and from thence to Tuam; but they managed to get away to Scotland in safety, where they were married. Afterwards young Blake sent his wife to a fashionable boarding school in London, where she completed her education, and thus qualified her to mingle with the wives of the other officers of his regiment.

The marriage was a singularly happy one, and when Blake died, in February, 1850, with the rank of major-general, without issue, he bequeathed his entire fortune to his widow to remain at her absolute control.

It is true that a claimant appeared after her death, who insisted that he was a son of General and Mrs. Blake, and basing his pretensions on an entry in a parish registry at Dublin. But examination of the register disclosed such manifest signs of its having been tampered with, of erasures, of insertions, etc., that the claim was dropped, presumably under the threat of criminal proceedings. The general's will, made immediately after his marriage, and to which a codicil was added shortly before his death, makes no mention of any issue of his marriage.

Of course, the fact that Mrs. Robert Dudley Blake should have remained after her husband's death sole mistress of his property may be said to eliminate the members of the Blake family from the succession, unless it could be proved that her marriage had been by some manner of means invalid. This, however, is out of the question, since Mrs. Blake would never have been tolerated among the officers' wives of her husband's regiment during his military career, which landed him into the rank of general, had not her marriage lines been in perfect order.

Mrs. Blake's heirs must therefore be sought among her sisters—that is to say, the daughters of Michel Sheridan and of his wife, who was prior to her marriage Mary Jordan. None of the sisters, I understand, survive, but it is their descendants who bid fair to now establish before the English tribunals their rights to the property of their aunt or grandaunt, Mrs. Robert Dudley Blake.

I have mentioned Lord Wallscourt as representing the Blake family in the peerage; and yet it is a question whether Lord Wallscourt really belongs to the peerage. Indeed, he, as well as his father before him, have been so uncertain about the matter that they have never put forward any claim to vote with the other peers of Ireland in the election of representative peers to act as delegates of their order in the House of Lords at Westminster, for before being permitted to vote they would have had to establish their status as peers of Ireland to the satisfaction of the Committee on Privileges of the House of Lords. Indeed, Lord Wallscourt is in a most anomalous position, for while he figures in all the standard "peerages" and official works of reference as Lord Wallscourt, served as such as an officer of the Coldstream Guards, is received as such at court and exercises magisterial prerogatives under the crown as deputy lieutenant of the county of Galway, under the name of Lord Wallscourt, yet he has not established his position in the roll of Irish peers, is therefore not eligible to vote in the election of representative peers, or to himself become a candidate for election, while he is, on account of the presumption of his peerage, prevented from voting as a commoner. Indeed, he is in the singular position of being wholly without franchise.

This peculiar condition of affairs is due to the unique character of the patent by which the barony of Wallscourt was created, on July 31, 1780. It was bestowed upon Joseph Henry Blake, of Ardfry, where his ancestors had been established since 1612, "with remainder, in default of issue male of his body, to the heirs male of the body of his father." Strictly speaking, the barony should have been conferred upon Joseph Henry Blake's father, who was still alive, and who was a power in the county of Galway. But he was a Roman Catholic, and by the laws then in existence was as such precluded from any office or honor. His eldest son was a convert to Anglicanism. Some say he became a Protestant in order to be able to obtain the peerage, and his conversion was not regarded as real. He died three years later, during the lifetime of his father, and without issue. From the time of his demise until that of his father, three or four years afterwards, the barony remained in suspense, and was considered by many to have become extinct. But after old Squire Blake's death the eldest son of Lord Wallscourt's younger brother, Captain Ignatius Blake, who had died in 1797, was led by his relatives to assume his uncle's title as second Lord Wallscourt. He, too, died without issue, and then, in 1816, the son of another brother of the first Lord Wallscourt assumed the barony, the present peer being his son.

When the patent was made out in 1800, the Duke of Portland, then lord lieutenant of Ireland, and the famous Lord Castlereagh, afterwards Marquis of Londonderry, both protested strongly against the tenor and wording of the document, realizing that its validity would be called into question. But the Blakes insisted upon having it just so, and as they were all-powerful in Galway, where their support was needed by the crown, their wishes were complied with. The very fact that neither the present Lord Wallscourt, nor yet his father, should ever have sought to establish their status constitutes in itself an admission of their own doubts and fears as to the value of their peerage.

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STATE PRESS

Referring to Our Grain Graft.

To rob a municipality is so easy and so safe a process that no one need be deterred from sticking a finger in the pie by fear of consequences. Indeed, a really bold and original thief would blush to adopt a form of thievery so devoid of the elements of adventure and risk which lend attraction to the exploits of the highwayman and the burglar. Jack Sheppard would have scorned so dull and unrisky a method of obtaining a livelihood, and Bill Sykes would have classed the municipal grafter among the very lowest orders of the gentry who reap where they have not sown—the pickpockets, sneakthieves and junk pilferers.—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

Postmaster Allan.

The appointment of Edgar Allan, Jr., to be postmaster in Richmond meets with general approval. President Taft would have made a miserable blunder had he named an ex-Democrat for the place, as was frequently predicted in the newspaper reports. Mr. Allan has been a Republican all of his life. His father before him gave the best years of his life to the advancement of the Republican party in the South, and it would have been a case of rank ingratitude to have appointed some other man for the place, especially an ex-Democrat. We believe Mr. Allan will give the people of Richmond the best service possible in his new position, and though we differ with him in politics, we are glad to see him secure the office. We congratulate the party as well as Mr. Allan.—Clifton Forge Review.

That Commission Conference.

A mistake, we believe, will be made in putting such a convention down as favoring the commission form of government. Rather let it be a convention for considering ways and means for bettering the form of city government. There are many who are opposed to the commission form of government who are heartily in favor of correcting the defects and deficiencies of the council plan, and who believe the present form admits of changing in a manner that will meet that end. In the meantime, there should be a full and free discussion of every phase of the matter by the State press.—Roanoke Times.

Sullivan County's Roads.

It is very gratifying to the people of Bristol and Sullivan county, and to the friends of this section in all parts of the country, to know that in Sullivan county the good roads movement has made such progress as to elicit praise from no less a personage than the Hon. M. O. Eldridge, the government good roads expert, who is now delivering a series of lectures in the First Congressional District of Tennessee.

"Sullivan county is going to have some of the finest macadamized roads I know of anywhere," says Mr. Eldridge. "The road from Bristol to Blountville will be as good a road of its kind as there is to be found in the country."—Bristol Herald-Courier.

Voice of the People.

About Logical Deductions.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—I have read with much pleasure and approval your editorial remarks in to-day's issue, "How Peary Befriended Cook." It only strengthens my own convictions as to the respective merits of the two men who claim to have discovered the North Pole. I hope and believe that Dr. Cook and Captain Peary duly accomplished an exploit that has thrilled the world in this first decade of our new century. Of course, I rejoice in the fact of the successful explorers being American citizens.

But while I respect and admire both of these daring and heroic explorers in so bravely attaining their heart's desire, I am compelled to condemn the methods now being pursued by Captain Peary, which are so unworthy of the very worthy man that he is. I can well understand his sore disappointment when he learned that his great and successful rival had been the first man to reach the seemingly unattainable goal that a number of hardy, brave and noble men have grandly striven for through three centuries. The course now indulged toward Dr. Cook will greatly discount much of the honor and glory really due Peary when the final reckoning is reached. All the wonderful information that Dr. Cook has so far given to the world has been fully confirmed by Captain Peary's statements; Dr. Cook's claims are well sustained, firmly buttressed by the charming, graphic descriptions furnished by Peary, which is but eloquent praise of his rival.

The present animadversions or very malicious flings hurled at Dr. Cook only accentuate the blind envy, the hot, unguarded utterances, which will yet be greatly regretted under a normal condition of mind and heart. This leads me to say to you, Mr. Editor, that I consider your remarks as being most admirable and logical; hence this brief card "about logical deductions" is submitted only as an humble supplement. In no sense am I a champion for Dr. Cook (he does not need me), but I do greatly admire fair play, a square deal. If two reputable men have a dispute on an issue of such magnitude with the wide open, eager eyes of the world closely watching every move, it will be the wise thing if both contestants act the part of gentlemen. The spirit of noblesse oblige is most commendable; it should be imperative.

C. A. R.

Richmond, September 13, 1909.

TRADING CHILDREN.

Los Angeles Physician Would Thus Correct Juvenile Defects.

A physician in Los Angeles who has been trying to break into the prints for some time, has at last succeeded by stating publicly that children and their parents, as a rule, are incompatible. Therefore, he says, there should be made provision for the legal separation of the parents and the progeny, even as a man and wife may sever their relations in the divorce courts. The gentleman's theories are interesting, although not particularly disturbing.

In the first place, avers the medical man, temperament is hereditary. That is to say, the morbid, neurotic man and woman are likely to have children similarly disposed. Or, if the parents are dull, phlegmatic and unimaginative, their offspring will possess identical traits of character. In neither case is the child happily environed. The high strung, nervous youth is irretrievably harmed by constant association with the father or mother of the same disposition. The instincts of the stolid child are not quickened by the conversation and influence of his heavy-witted progenitors; the nervous, excitable child is only made more nervous and excitable by his association with parents of the same nature. That, at least, is what the Los Angeles doctor thinks.

Therefore, he suggests that in all cases of a like temperament in parents and offspring, there should be a systematic provision for separation and subsequent readjustment of relations. The nervous child, for example, should be placed in the home of the slow-going, mildly-disposed parents. The dull-witted youth should be given over to the tutelary care of vivacious adults.

The doctor is frank enough to admit that there is small likelihood of his ideas being generally accepted or applied. Parents are selfish, he says, and therefore would never consent to swap children promiscuously. One child is as lovable as another, he asserts, and it is reprehensible of parents not to be willing to trade their offspring when the exchange is all for the good of society. The boy and the girl belong to the State, anyhow, he says. They have their own destinies to work out, and it is unfair to arrest their best development by implanting false notions about blood ties in their minds. Society owes the child compatible parents. Therefore, according to the doctor, his personal traits should be studied with a view of selecting the most appropriate guardian for the individual.

The physician has other things to say upon the same subject, but these are the most startling of his ideas. He evidently is in earnest, but he will have to be more convincing if he hopes to secure any advocates for his theory.—Des Moines Register and Leader.

THE CONTEST OF THE ENGINES.

Turbines Are Unrivaled for Speed, But Use Too Much Coal.

While the wonderful performances of the great Cunard steamships Mauretania and Lusitania leave no doubt of the great superiority of the turbine marine engines for sustained high speed, there still remains much doubt among engineers as to the advantage of the turbines for more moderate speed, particularly where economy in coal consumption must be considered. The British Admiralty now installs turbines in all battleships and armored cruisers, holding that the element of great speed, when needed, is of more importance than the mere drawback of large coal consumption under ordinary cruising conditions. Our own Navy Department still hesitates to adopt the turbine unreservedly, although several of the later battleships are equipped with turbines.

The main objection to the turbine for battleships and large cruisers is the large coal consumption at ordinary cruising speed. To overcome this objection it has been suggested that the turbine and reciprocating engines might be combined, the reciprocating engines to be used alone for ordinary steaming, and both types of engines to be used when full speed was desired. One of the transatlantic passenger ships at present in service is reported to be so equipped, and one of the German lines is also building a vessel in which both types of engines are to be combined.

It is perfectly clear, however, that if we desire to secure the twenty-one knots speed in our big battleships of the Dreadnought type, they must be equipped with turbines. A speed less than twenty-one knots is no longer acceptable in a battleship, hence our naval service cannot afford to take the risk of an experiment until it has been demonstrated as successful in a less costly type of ship. It might be well to equip one of the moderate-size cruisers with a combination of turbines and reciprocating engines and note the results. If it be true that the contracts for the construction of the two 26,000-ton Dreadnoughts are being held back until the matter of engines can be settled, a mistake is being made, as nothing except turbines can be counted on to give satisfaction at the high speeds the contracts call for.—New Orleans Picayune.

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"Talk With Crafts."

Full particulars on Page 5.