

The Times-Dispatch Daily-Weekly-Sunday

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MAKE THE PRIMARIES HONEST.

"We favor honesty in elections, and to that end recommend to the Legislature the passage of a bill legalizing all primaries in the State."

This resolution was adopted by the Democratic Convention of the Second District at Suffolk last Monday. There is room for an honest difference of opinion as to the merits of the primary system of making nominations for office. The results obtained by this system have not always been satisfactory. In some of the States, notably in one which we have in mind, better men were named for office by the old convention plan than by the primary system; but it is claimed that when securely guarded and honestly administered the primary system affords the best and most democratic method of selecting candidates for office.

We do not intend to discuss either view of the question at this time; but as the primary system has been adopted in this State we agree wholly with the declaration of the convention at Suffolk that it should be "legalized"—that is to say, that every provision of the law can make for the honest conduct of the primaries should be made. Under the law, as it stands, it is doubtful that those who engage in sharp practice at the primaries can be punished by law.

The recent experiences in the Second District have proved that the Democrats are not always as honest as they might be, among themselves at least, and the declaration in favor of legalized primaries is for the purpose of assuring the honest conduct of these elections in the future. This is a step in the right direction—a movement which should have behind it the support of all honest men in the General Assembly.

If we really "mean business" we should go at the settlement of this important question in a thoroughly businesslike way. In a "legalized primary" law, provision should be made for the registration of all Democratic voters, for the organization of Democratic clubs in the several districts and communities, for the appointment of managers or judges of elections so that they will be responsible for any failure to administer their functions fairly and without prejudice between the candidates for office. No person should be permitted to vote at a Democratic primary who is not qualified to vote at the general election; who has not reached his majority; who has not paid his poll tax and his other taxes as well; who has not complied with all the terms of the law requiring his registration as a voter. No act should be passed touching the conduct of the primary election that is not "horse high, pig tight and bull strong." The penalties for any violation of the terms of the law should be made so severe that they will deter any voter, however active his partisanship, from encouraging any dishonest practice at the primary. If we really mean to be honest there can be no objection to these suggestions.

Membership in a Democratic club should not entitle a man to vote at the primaries who is not qualified to vote at the general election. The management of the primaries under such a law as this would entail new burdens upon the people; but if the results should assure honesty in the management of party affairs the people would be more than compensated for the expense and trouble of keeping the politics of the party clean.

REGULATION OF EXPRESS RATES.

Fast on the heels of the fight to regulate Pullman car rates comes the contest to regulate express rates. Many people have wondered why there should be regulation of railroad rates and not of express rates, and this sentiment has increased in volume until now a strongly backed demand is to be made to the Interstate Commerce Commission for relief from what the petitioners call "excessive and extortionate rates charged by express companies for the distribution of merchandise." One hundred and twenty-four Chambers of Commerce, State retail merchants' associations, boards of trade, and other organizations, have joined in a petition to the Commission for relief.

This petition, drawn by former United States Attorney-General John W. Griggs, as counsel for the demanders, declares that merchants have suffered for many years past and still suffer from unjust and unreasonable charges, classifications, regulations and practices. Every express company doing interstate business is so charged.

It is also alleged that the net returns have been out of all proportion to services performed and capital invested—an almost incredible disproportion. In the words of the petition "the enormous accumulations and enormous dividends paid on small investments establish the extent to which extortion has been practiced."

The Great Northern Express Company, it is said, is an illuminating ex-

ample of this disproportion between investment and returns. This company was organized in 1852, with \$100,000. The total cost of its property on June 30, 1909, amounted to \$71,288.91. Upon this investment the company has paid during the past ten years \$2,200,000 in dividends. Its last annual dividend was \$500,000. It has accumulated in addition, \$1,488,881.58. These dividends, it should be noted, have arisen from the company's share of its total charges to the public after the company has paid to the railroads from 45 to 55 per cent. of its gross earnings.

The petition of the complaining customers of the express companies alleges that the investment of other express companies is approximately no greater in proportion to amount of business than in the case of the Great Northern Company. Some other companies, it is said, have profits as great, if not more excessive.

Those who are seeking this relief are determined and are thoroughly organized. The Interstate Commerce Commission will consider the matter within a very short time, and its action will be awaited with keen interest all over the United States. Railroads and express companies are intertwined to a very considerable extent, and it would not be surprising if express companies should be made to come under the same regulations which railroads have suffered of late.

WOULD MAKE A FINE CHIEF JUSTICE.

It is reported that President Taft is considering the appointment of Associate Justice White to the Chief Justiceship of the Supreme Court. He could not make a better selection or a selection that would instantly command the confidence of the public and the respect of the American Bar and Bench. Judge White is, in our opinion, the ablest man on the Supreme Bench. He was appointed Associate Justice by Mr. Cleveland in 1894, when he was United States Senator from Louisiana. He is regarded as one of the most profound lawyers in America and is said to be the greatest authority on the Code Napoleon on this side of the Atlantic. He is sixty-five years of age, is a Democrat in politics and a Roman Catholic in religion. At the time of his election to the United States Senate he was a Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court, and everywhere he has commanded the respect of his associates and the unvarying confidence of the people.

WHAT STIMSON SHOULD DO.

Even Homer sometimes nodded, and now comes the New York Evening Post suggesting that the least said is soonest mended. Stimson's prosecution of the World for its publications about the Panama Canal scandal, when Stimson was United States District Attorney, Columbia, with its sky-scaper and university and colleges and suburbs and State Fair and Legislature and brass bands and all that, and even with all that it has been able to count only 25,219 population of a very much mixed sort, when we have been saying and believing all along that there could not be less than 40,000 people there, and more coming in all the time. Fewer people than there are in Charlotte, and only about as many as there are in Wilmington, and something like the population of the average village in Virginia. Oh, Columbia! Columbia! how often would we have gathered you as a hen gatherer her brood under her wings, and here you come piking along with less people than are served by the early trains in Virginia with The Times-Dispatch.

There must be something wrong, we repeat, with Monsieur Durand's adding machine; but we don't care. Both of the South Carolina towns are fine towns, and are growing surely but steadily. They might have been like St. Jo, Missouri, but they are not, and they must be taken for what they are, and not for what they have thought that they were, and they are, in the things which make communities really great, exactly what we should like them to be—self-respecting and self-reliant.

"I AM A DEMOCRAT."

David Bennett Hill died yesterday. He was sixty-seven years old. Only a few years ago he was a great political power in the country, but since 1902 he had refrained from active participation in politics. Member of the New York Legislature in 1870, president of the Democratic State Convention in 1877 and 1881, Mayor of Elmira in 1882, the same year Lieutenant-Governor of New York, with Grover Cleveland as Governor, succeeding Cleveland as Governor upon his election as President, subsequently twice elected Governor, United States Senator in 1902, defeated for the Democratic nomination for President the same year, defeated for Governor of New York in 1904, he yet retained much of his influence with the party, and in 1902 "practically dominated the Democratic State Convention, and was active throughout the campaign." While he was in the Senate, Mr. Hill set himself in opposition to many of the plans of Mr. Cleveland, of whom he was very jealous, prevented the confirmation of Wheeler H. Peckham and William B. Hornblower to be Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, opposed the income tax clause of the Wilson Tariff bill, and estranged many of his political friends. It was greatly to his credit that in the Democratic National Convention of 1896, he stood for the gold standard and worked manfully, if without avail, to stem the tide of radicalism in the party.

SOUTHERN WHEAT.

The production of wheat in the South is well worth noting. From figures which have recently been compiled it is shown that in the wheat crop the Southern States all show a decided increase, amounting in the aggregate to 4.24 per cent. over 1909, and contrasted with a 10 per cent. decrease in the rest of the country. The twelve Southern States furnish 86,298,600 bushels of the 691,769,000 grown in the United States.

The statement of the wheat crop for the last year and for the present year makes it evident that the Southern crop is of great importance. The total increase in the South was from 60,535,000 bushels in 1909 to 62,995,000 bushels in 1910, a net gain of 2,460,000 bushels. For the rest of the country there was a decrease from 676,654,000 bushels to 665,561,000 for this year, a falling off of 11,093,000 bushels. The decrease in spring wheat—which is not grown in the South—was from 290,822,000 bushels to 233,475,000 bushels, a falling off of 57,347,000 bushels, equal to 19.5 per cent. The decrease in winter wheat in the country outside of the South was from 355,831,000 bushels to 372,086,000 bushels, or a falling off of 13,475,000 bushels, equal to 3.5 per cent.

What was Virginia's share? This

Commonwealth stands fourth in the list of the wheat-producing Southern States. Texas leads, Maryland is second, Tennessee is third, and Virginia comes next with but 152,000 bushels less than Tennessee. The crop in Virginia is 10,948,000 bushels as against 8,818,000 bushels grown last year. This shows an annual increase of 1,200,000 bushels, a very creditable showing. In fact, Virginia is right alongside of the Western States, which are so famous for wheat-growing. In Virginia the average value per acre of wheat is \$11.51; in Kansas, it is \$11.06; and in Illinois it is \$12.51. This is but another evidence of the agricultural prominence of the Old Dominion.

WATCH CHARLESTON GROW.

Some more figures were given out by the census people in Washington yesterday. They relate to the population of two places in South Carolina—Charleston, "the most convenient port to Panama," and Columbia, the State Capital, and until recently the headquarters of one of the largest whiskey establishments in the country. Charleston is credited with a population of 58,833, an increase of 3,225, or 5.4 per cent., over 55,607 in 1900. Columbia is said to have a population of 25,219, an increase of 5,211, or 24.7 per cent., over 21,108 in 1900.

There must have been something wrong with the adding machines when these statistics were made up. It certainly cannot be said that they are extravagant. Less than a year ago the City Directory census of Charleston, prepared with unusual care by Walsh, gave that town something over 72,000 people, and, judging by the business it is doing and the position it holds by right among American municipalities, we should say that there are not far short of 100,000 people in Charleston. Last year the business of the town aggregated in value \$100,000,000. It is the largest fertilizer manufacturing centre in the world; it is the centre of the second largest truck-growing district in the United States; it has more money on deposit in its banks than any other town of anything like the same size in the country; it possesses one of the finest harbors in the world; it is better fortified than any other port of the United States. It has more than thirty feet of water in its main ship channel, and it has been doing great things all the time. Durand probably left off a cipher at the end of his row of figures; at least, he will have to put on two ciphers by 1920, or we shall be greatly disappointed. Besides, it must be said that 3,225 people of the sort that live in Charleston is not so bad after all. Down that way it is not quantity that counts so much as quality; at least, this seems to be about the right thing to say, in the circumstances.

But look at Columbia. If you please—Columbia, with its sky-scaper and university and colleges and suburbs and State Fair and Legislature and brass bands and all that, and even with all that it has been able to count only 25,219 population of a very much mixed sort, when we have been saying and believing all along that there could not be less than 40,000 people there, and more coming in all the time. Fewer people than there are in Charlotte, and only about as many as there are in Wilmington, and something like the population of the average village in Virginia. Oh, Columbia! Columbia! how often would we have gathered you as a hen gatherer her brood under her wings, and here you come piking along with less people than are served by the early trains in Virginia with The Times-Dispatch.

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This, in brief, is the story of Mr. Hill's public life. He was much derided and wickedly misrepresented by his political opponents, was held up to public reproach as the most pronounced type of popular clamor excited against him by an irresponsible press. In all the bitterness of the opposition to him, it was never charged, we believe, by any

one of his most unforgiving enemies, that he had used his power and opportunities for personal profit. During the fight against the swindling management of the great insurance companies a few years ago, Mr. Hill, admittedly one of the best insurance lawyers in the country, was accused of unprofessional conduct. At the time he was president of the New York Bar Association, we believe, and he met the charge by insisting that the Bar Association should make a searching investigation of the matter and pass judgment upon him. The examination was made and the conclusion of the Association was that there was absolutely no ground for the accusation. Mr. Hill held that if he were guilty as charged, he was unfit to associate with the members of his own profession, and he chose this most effective and severe way of disposing of all time of the aspersions upon his personal and professional integrity.

Mr. Hill was a rather hard man to understand, and harder still to manage. He had few intimates, but those who knew him best had faith in his good intentions. We did not like him, probably because we could not understand him. He was a very able lawyer, a strong debater, and possessed a genius for organization. He did not forget his friends, and he was unforgiving to his enemies. His administration of the office of Governor of New York will not suffer by comparison with any administration that went before or followed after, and in the Senate he conducted himself with dignity and ability. He was one of the conspicuous figures in the life of this country during the last twenty-five years, and when the true story of his work is written, history will give him "a square deal."

BYE, BYE, BULKELEY.

The Republican nominations for the Connecticut Legislature have all been made. There are 295 of them—25 for the Senate and 258 for the House, and, according to the Hartford Courant, they stand: For McLean, 199; for Bulkeley, 94. In the Bulkeley column the Courant has placed all the doubtful or uncertain nominees. If the Republicans shall control the Connecticut Legislature, which it is our proud party hope they will not do, McLean's election to the United States Senate appears to be assured by a practically unanimous vote as the Bulkeley people will doubtless flock to the McLean standard, it being one of the characteristics of Connecticut Republicans to go with the crowd wherever the crowd happens to be going.

Of course, we trust that a Democrat will be sent to the Senate from Connecticut, but, as we have said before, if there must be a Republican for Senator, it would be better, not only for Connecticut, but for the whole country, if the Republican should be of the McLean type rather than of the Bulkeley vintage.

This fable teaches Bulkeley and other politicians of his sort that there is nothing the people so resent on the part of their representatives as bad faith. "George" has won out, as his friend promised him he should, but, alas! without his friend's support.

PLACE FOR THE PEANUT.

In the opinion of the Columbia State, "Virginians are strangely modest about Virginia's peanut supremacy in this great Republic." There is something in that view, certainly. We fear that our peanut growers do not press the sale of their unrivaled product as they should, and we would suggest that agents of the State Agricultural Department be sent to the capitals of the several States at the time the Legislatures are in session.

The Indianapolis News reports that "the Hon. Wm. Dudley Foulke is making speeches for Mr. Beveridge," and adds that "of course, Mr. Beveridge could not hope to get through the campaign without some handicaps." Does the News mind telling us now who Foulke is? Where does he live? What does he do? Where has he been, and why is he?

The trouble with the Republican campaign in New York is that its equilibrators is dragging nearly all the time to the great merit of Stimson and his associates, but to the great delight of Tammany Hall and Wall Street.

THE CITY IN CONGRESS.

As the population of the nation has increased, the significance of the city has been emphasized. It has grown to be more and more a factor in county, State and national politics; the drift is toward centering to the city the balance of political power. This is strikingly evident in the lower branch of Congress, where the importance of the city is coming more and more to be felt.

If the basis of one member of the House of Representatives for each 194,182 of population shall be continued, it will result, because of the general increase in population since the last census, in the enlargement of the House from 391 members to more than 400—a considerable gain. This will mean that cities will, to a very appreciable extent, count more in Congress than heretofore. The wonderful growth of Greater New York will give that city alone twenty-five representatives in the next House—a representation equal to one-twelfth of the entire membership, roundly speaking, Chicago will have eleven or twelve representatives.

If the basis of representation shall be increased and the House remain at practically its present size, there will be vital realignments in the distribution of representation which will make New York City still conspicuously predominant. Its population has grown so far ahead of the average of the country.

The fight for redistribution will hardly come up at this session of Congress, but at the subsequent meeting

of that body. Whatever the result, the influence of the city in the popular branch of the National Legislature is increasing. If they continue to grow at the present rate, the large cities will soon be a powerful and almost invincible influence in legislation for the whole nation.

HELP FOR HITCHCOCK.

An up-State man in New York has written to the Post-Office Department at Washington asking for "information as to the wages of the Postmaster-General and the educational requirements to pass civil service." He ought to know that the occupant of this office is not required to pass any civil service examination at all and that his wages are not excessive for the amount of work required of him, officially and unofficially.

The story has been renewed that Hitchcock is to retire from office; that he has been shelled, practically, as the political adviser of the Administration; that he is to be elected Senator from Arizona or some other State out West. We do not know what may happen to him at almost any time. One of the stories that has been in circulation is that he is going to be married, which will be the most important incident of his life. We should like to give him some advice on this subject and could make some wise suggestions touching certain desirable prizes we have in sight, with or without mothers, as he might prefer.

Hitchcock has been much criticized by a good many people who do not know him and whom he would not care to know, probably; but he has made good in his office, the report now being that he has managed affairs so well that his Department will not only support itself next year, but will earn a dividend for the Government. A dividend-earning Post-Office Department would be something entirely new in the history of the country.

There was a banquet given in Chicago Tuesday night to the steel manufacturers visiting that town. It is said that the people who attended the dinner represented \$7,000,000,000 of actual wealth, and we doubt that they had any letter time or enjoyed themselves more than if they had been present at a Bryan dollar dinner. It is almost certain that they ate more than was good for them, and doubtless some of them drank more than their feunims could stand.

Mr. Gary, Chairman of the United States Steel Corporation and President of the American Iron and Steel Institute, made a speech, in which he saluted the "calamity howlers," and declared that love of country burned just as fiercely in the breast of men of wealth and affairs as in the breast of any politician. "Moneyed men, no matter what their wealth," he said, "were not altogether selfish or unkind of the welfare of others." This is encouraging. It shows that we all have some friends among the manufacturers of great wealth; but we wish Mr. Gary had spoken of the methods by which so many of the men of great wealth have acquired their fortunes. An interesting subject that he might have touched on the side was the method by which the degeneration of the Tennessee Coal and Iron concern was accomplished.

We agree with Mr. Gary in a general way that moneyed men are not altogether selfish or unkind of the welfare of others, but they have strained a good many points in law and morals in the acquisition of their fortunes. Particularly should they refrain at this time from the discussion of their charitable intentions.

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YOUNG MOTHERS

is woman's safest reliance; it is a medicine for external use, composed of oils and other ingredients which assist nature in all necessary physical changes of the system. Its regular use before the coming of baby prepares the muscles and tendons for the unusual strain, aids in expanding the skin and flesh fibres, and strengthens all the membranes and tissues. Mother's Friend lessens the pain and danger at the crisis, and leaves the mother in such healthful condition that her recovery is always rapid and natural. Mother's Friend is sold at drug stores. Write for our free book for expectant mothers.

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General Jackson's Children. Please state how many children were born to General Stonewall Jackson by his first wife, how many by the second wife, and how many children were living at the time of his death.

SUBSCRIBER. General Jackson was twice married; first, in 1854, to Miss Eleanor Huntington, daughter of the president of Washington College, now Washington and Lee University. She and her infant child died in February, 1855. In 1856 Jackson married Miss Mary Anna Morrison, Julia Jackson, their only child, was born November 23, 1862.

Highest Mountains and Bridges. Kindly advise in your valuable column the names of the five of the highest mountains in the world, State and country located; also the four highest bridges, State and country located.

WHAT ONE OF THEM THINKS OF THEM. There was a banquet given in Chicago Tuesday night to the steel manufacturers visiting that town. It is said that the people who attended the dinner represented \$7,000,000,000 of actual wealth, and we doubt that they had any letter time or enjoyed themselves more than if they had been present at a Bryan dollar dinner.

BY A MARQUESE DE FONTENAY. GERMANY'S Supreme Court has just rendered a decision in favor of Count Erasmus Erbach, whose sensational marriage to Dora Fischer, an extremely pretty laundry girl, daughter of a washerwoman, created so great a sensation some five years ago.

of the great houses of the German nobility, have hitherto been regarded as having the validity of the law of the land. There have been in the past many instances where noble houses have been excluded from the great German nobility were debarred from sharing the titles and the honors of nobility.

Several previous court trials in other portions of Germany had been obtained at the instance of the count's father, who was able, on the strength thereof, to secure the annulment of the marriage. The understanding that his son had not been in full possession of his reason when he wedded Dora Fischer, the old count seems to have relented, and what contributed to this was the attitude of his younger brother, Count Ernst, who was anxious to secure the succession of the entailed estates, which are extremely valuable, for himself and for his own eldest son, Count Conrad, who has been a member of the court since his infancy.

Count Erasmus is the only child of the head of the family, who, while he has been ready to do everything he could to break off the match, he has not been able to do so. He is the only child of his father, and he is the only child of his mother. He is the only child of his father and mother.

The board of arbitration decided against the old count and his son, and their verdict was endorsed by the court of law. The old count thereupon appealed, and the matter having been carried from one tribunal to another, has now been decided in favor of the old count by the Supreme Court of the German empire, at Leipzig.

Lord Collins, who has just retired from the office of Lord of Appeal, on the ground of ill health, will be remembered in this country as one of the arbitrators of the Venezuelan boundary controversy. As an Irishman, he has been the most perfect French scholar of the English bench, an adept in golf, and great at improving a meal. He has been a frequent brought up for discussion with the post-prandial cigar, while remarkably abstemious in drink, he has favored with a touch of the brogue, now from his lips as easily as the very sound judgment which he has been in the habit of delivering from the bench. No judge who has had so few legal decisions reversed on appeal, when he sat in the lower courts.

Until overtake recently by sickness he was an enthusiastic bicyclist, and on the Saturday afternoon might be seen out wheeling with Lady Collins and all his sons and daughters, turning a deaf ear to the arguments that the seat on a wheel was not in consonance with the dignity of a Lord of Appeal. (Copyright, 1910, by the Brentwood Company.)

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

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Daily Queries and Answers

Address all communications for this column to Query Editor, Times-Dispatch. No mathematical problems will be solved, no nouns or stamps valued and no dealers' names will be given.

General Jackson's Children. Please state how many children were born to General Stonewall Jackson by his first wife, how many by the second wife, and how many children were living at the time of his death.

SUBSCRIBER. General Jackson was twice married; first, in 1854, to Miss Eleanor Huntington, daughter of the president of Washington College, now Washington and Lee University. She and her infant child died in February, 1855. In 1856 Jackson married Miss Mary Anna Morrison, Julia Jackson, their only child, was born November 23, 1862.