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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1911.

WHAT IT DID IN DES MOINES.

Des Moines, Iowa, affords the most impressive example of municipal governmental reform in the republic. Previous to 1907 that city was rotten. The public service corporations controlled the city administration, and in return for franchises and special privileges protected gambling dives and vice. There were the usual number of ward bosses, each "fattening like a tick" on the municipal body. Taxes were going up steadily. It became more and more difficult for the people to buy land and build homes, and because of such situation times were very hard.

In 1907, snatching at the only straw that was in reach, the people of Des Moines voted in the commission form of government. They did this in the face of tremendous opposition from the city administration, and the public service corporations. Entrenched special privilege yelped, grafters whined "unconstitutional" and office-holders howled through the night. But good government swept the deck.

What has been the result in these four years of the new plan of government in Des Moines? Listen: The net loss to the city in the last year of the old government was \$124,516; the net gain in the first year under the new charter was \$48,439.10, a total relative saving of \$172,955.10.

The tax levy for city purposes in the last year of the old charter was 38.7 mills (on the 25 per cent valuation established by law); the first year under the new charter it was 36.1 mills.

Public improvements valued at \$387,758.50 were made during the first year of the new system.

Contractors have been held strictly to the specifications. Claims for extras, which had developed into an outrageous abuse, have been firmly rejected. The quality of all public work has visibly improved.

A modern bookkeeping system has been installed.

Municipal expenditures have been confined strictly within the city's revenues, putting an end to the practice of piling up yearly deficits, to which almost the entire city bonded debt was due.

Street lights formerly costing \$75 to \$85 have been reduced to a uniform rate of \$65 per arc per year, and the moonlight schedule has been abolished, insuring better service.

Incandescent lights have been reduced from \$25 to \$17 in some cases, and the all-night schedule has been substituted for a moonlight schedule in others at the same price—\$17.

The streets have been kept noticeably cleaner; the alleys in business sections, never before cleaned at all, have been thoroughly cleaned.

Street signs have been put up throughout the city. Years of clamor for it failed to persuade the old government to make this improvement.

The wages of the men with teams have been increased from \$2.50 to \$4.50; those of day laborers from \$2 to \$2.25; much better service has been required.

The cost of cleaning catch basins has been reduced from \$1.40 to \$1.12. Uniform cement walks have been laid throughout the business section.

Bridge paving under the old system cost \$4.74 per yard by contract under the new system it has been done by day labor for \$4.09.

Culverts costing \$12.61 per cubic yard under the old plan have been built for \$12.63 under the new.

Mowing in the parks has been done at 75 per cent of the former cost.

Work done by contract has been let to the lowest bidders without manipulation.

The sources of immorality and crime have been largely abolished. Gambling houses have been closed.

Friendly, but mutually self-respecting relations between the city government and the public service corporations have been established.

City politics have been utterly divorced from State and national politics.

There has been a 35 per cent increase in population in the last decade, largely due to the improvement in the city effected by the new plan of government.

This is what commission government has done for Des Moines. Could it do anything for Richmond?

THE DANIEL MONUMENT. In the city that he loved to call "home," the grateful people of Virginia are to erect a monument to the imperishable memory of John W. Daniel.

erection of this memorial is timely and commendable, meeting as it does with the hearty approval and desire of all Virginians. His former comrade-in-arms in the Army of Northern Virginia, Sir Moses Ezekiel, a sculptor whose long residence in Rome has not weakened his love for the Old Dominion, will model this statue of the "Lame Lion." To erect this monument \$10,000 is required, and the originators of the memorial have decided to invite contributions from the admirers of the late Senator Daniel. No organized campaign will be made for the money, nor will funds be solicited. This is the one to be honored would have wished. No contribution of more than \$100 will be accepted, as this is meant to be a voluntary popular tribute to a favorite son of Virginia.

Virginians need no suggestion in this matter. In his life, John Warwick Daniel received poor reward for the service he rendered his State and the glory he brought to her; nor asked he any. He died, as he had lived, of little estate in this world. The erection of this memorial can be but an inadequate recognition of the debt Virginians owe to this superb statesman and patriot.

THE STEPHENSON PROBE. One hundred and seven thousand seven hundred and ninety-three dollars is the sum admitted by Senator Stephenson, of Wisconsin, to be the amount expended to secure his nomination in 1903. Yet this old and sagacious politician boldly asserts that it was all spent legitimately. For confidence in others and free-handedness his equal would be hard to find.

Stephenson says that he never bothered about "details." He gave his campaign managers what they asked for and they did the rest. Did he keep accounts of vouchers? No, indeed, how could a man who is president of "more than a dozen active industries" have time to concern himself with the red tape of book-keeping? If he was told that his postage bill was \$11,000, why should he have demanded proof of it? He was no less liberal when his managers asked him one day for \$10,000 and shortly afterward came back for \$15,000 more and got it. Listen to the testimony: "Didn't you ever ask them what they were doing with all that money?" "No, only in a general way."

"You gave Publisher several thousand dollars, didn't you inquire what he wanted it for?" "No, I supposed it was some bill." That sort of defense has held water too long already. The old, old story is too hard to swallow now. Does anybody think that this wise old capitalist, this really close-fisted business man, turned over \$107,753 without knowing in what specific way it was to be spent and to whom it was to be given? Not a bit of it.

This moth-eaten plea of "My friends may have done it, but if they did, I knew nothing about it" is on its last legs. It is the usual defense of the trapped politician who would have the people believe that his agents were really the principals. Some people may distribute money recklessly and benevolently, but candidates for the Senate of the United States do not.

WILSON ON HYMNS. At the union mass-meeting of the Protestant Sunday schools of Trenton last Sunday Governor Woodrow Wilson delved into hymnology—one of the multitudinous subjects upon which he is scattering his fire. He rather went out of his way to ridicule "The Beautiful Isle of Somewhere," which, nevertheless, is a very sweet and consoling hymn. He said:

"Some of the songs we sing to-night are silly and meaningless. They have neither poetry nor sense in them. Why cannot we sing the old psalms? Why cannot we take in paraphrase, if in no other way, those immortal voices which have sung the spirit of God through generation after generation? Why do we have to concoct silly rhymes of our own? Where is that ridiculous 'Beautiful Isle of Somewhere'? Who has discovered it; who has charted it; where is it? I don't want to float through vague seas like that."

Such criticism seems gratuitous. If people wish to pour out their religion in verses of their own, why shouldn't they? The psalms can be sung as well as the more modern productions. As for "The Beautiful Isle of Somewhere," it is an exquisite song, full of consolation and bright hope. It was the favorite hymn of President McKinley, and was sung at his funeral. Why is it wrong to speak of the hereafter as a "Beautiful Isle"? Is Governor Wilson so omniscient that he knows that the undiscovered country is not an isle? No one, of course, can correctly describe the land beyond the valley of the shadow, and the imagination of one is worth as much as the imagination of another.

Governor Wilson had better stop right where he is. It isn't good taste for a Presbyterian to criticize a good old Methodist hymn, nor, forsooth, is it good politics.

PAYING FOR THE WRAPPER. The Inspector of weights and measures for the District of Columbia has announced his determination to help Washingtonians solve the problem of the high cost of living. Not stopping merely at the point of false weights, he has demonstrated the loss to purchasers through the custom of selling several ounces of pasteboard and brown paper as part and parcel of the article paid for.

The Washington Post thus comments on the custom: "What is the experience of the average citizen here and elsewhere in this respect? Does he get cent pasteboard for his money, or is he 'short-changed' on every hand? If a man were shown where he could obtain 6 or 8 per cent annually on an investment, without a chance of loss, would he snap it up? And yet with

all his financial acumen alert to such an opportunity he submits daily to a mulling that amounts to far more than those figures in half the purchases he makes, and there is neither outcry nor protest."

When you go into a grocery store to buy a pound of butter, do you buy a pound? Is the wooden tray weighed with the butter? Do you pay butter prices for the wood? If you are sold a chicken, are not the head and feet and crop weighed along with the white meat and drumsticks? Ask a dealer for lamb chops. They are so much not trimmed and two cents more if trimmed. Then the dealer weighs the bone, which he cuts out and retains, although it has been bought at meat prices. The fish is weighed first and afterward cleaned.

In older countries than ours a "kimping system obtains, which seems strange to us, but which has this merit—one gets what one pays for. This is so true that economical housewives carry an iron ring to market with them and every egg that slips through the ring is returned, while those that cannot go through are bought.

All of the pretty little packages with alluring names and "hermetically sealed" attractions appeal to the buyer, but bacon is bacon, and all the cartons and gilt paper count in dearly in the cost of food.

As the Post says, some day the American citizen will realize that he is paying "fearful tribute" to those little niceties, but until he does, "one of the worst evils in the list that goes to make up the high price of living" will be unremedied.

HAMPDEN-SIDNEY. William H. Whiting, Jr., of Hampden-Sidney, has written a very interesting letter to the New York Evening Post, in which he brings out very clearly the record for turning out eminent men possessed by Hampden-Sidney College.

Referring to the general alumni catalogue of that celebrated institution, he says that the number of students listed to 1906 was 3,558, although this is much below the correct total, because the records are incomplete. Of this number, one was President of the United States, four were ministers to foreign countries, ten were members of the United States Senate, twenty-two were members of the United States House of Representatives, and eight have been Governors of States. In addition to these, there have been scores of judges, generals, college presidents and men distinguished in all the walks of life. "Nor has this been true in the distant past only," asserts Mr. Whiting. Of the living alumni of Hampden-Sidney, two are presidents of important universities (Washington and Lee and Cluodnnat), six are presidents of colleges, two hundred and forty-five are honored ministers of the Gospel. Of the general State officers in Virginia to-day, Hampden-Sidney claims the State chemist, the State librarian, the State superintendent of public instruction, the secretary of the Commonwealth, the Lieutenant-governor and the governor.

In a review of the alumni catalogue of this institution, the Manufacturers' Record says: "It would be difficult, if indeed, possible, to match the conspicuous record of ability and public service thus indicated for Hampden-Sidney by that of any other college of the size and length of life. . . . History would lack much if it were not for the record of the work of Hampden-Sidney men, not merely in the lofty positions upon which the public eye is usually directed in estimating deeds, but in the more quiet, but none the less influential places occupied by teachers of men, whether ministers of the Gospel, college professors, physicians or lawyers."

As Mr. Whiting says, this surely shows the value of the small college. In fact, the small colleges have done vastly more than their proportionate share in sending out future great men. Of the seventeen college-bred Presidents of the United States, only two were the products of the large college or university as we now conceive it, the other fourteen were small college men.

THE IMPORTANT SUPERVISORS. Very lately some eminent publicist has laid down the dictum that good government depends on good county supervisors. Whoever he was, he seems to have been forestalled by the late Alexander Bruce, of "Berry Hill," Halifax, a far-seeing, sagacious, practical, constructive farmer. According to the Halifax Gazette, he once remarked "that it was much more important from many viewpoints to select able, practical, clear-headed gentlemen to be supervisors of the county than to be ourselves about who should be President of the United States." There is a vast amount of truth and homely wisdom in Mr. Bruce's observation.

The board of supervisors of each county exercises immediate control over the finances of that county; they hold the purse-strings. They have great responsibilities of far-reaching importance to the people. They make the levies for taxes, they make disbursements of the money collected. If the supervisors are good, up-to-date, progressive men, the people of their county are well governed.

MUNICIPAL "MURPHIES" Mayor Shank, of Indianapolis, has put on sale in the market place potatoes at 60 cents the bushel, plus the freight rate from Michigan, which will be only a few cents. Consumers have been paying from \$1.60 to \$1.40 the bushel, but when the Mayor began his cheaper food experiment potatoes fell down to 55 cents. The commission men threaten that if the Mayor persists in his cheap food policy they

will fill Indianapolis so full of potatoes that he will feel very much embarrassed. The moral of the incident is this: that the commission men form a combination against the consumer and get 20 to 40 cents profit the bushel. It is the duty of the Mayor in behalf of the consumers to break up the hold-up. The people are warm in their praise of Mayor Shank, and letters of thanks are piling up on his desk.

He has been urged to take up the apple question. The letters that he receives say that he can get thousands of bushels, at 25 cents for wind-falls or 50 cents for sounder picked. It is a good policy for the city government to protect a community against extortionate prices for food. Such a fair policy keeps the discontented from leaving and makes others discontented elsewhere emigrate to the better place.

The Colonel will "come back" to Pine Knot, Albemarle county, his hunting preserve. He has gone a-gunning in Africa after the lion, the elephant and the kirkak-dik, but he can't resist the temptation to shoot at some more Virginia wild turkeys. "Shoot at," we said.

The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot says: "We wonder if any surviving soldier of the South's great struggle for independence will live long enough to see completed the Battle Abbey at Richmond, which is to commemorate Confederate valor. The work is not yet begun, though the money for it has been in hand for several years. This may be nobody's fault; but it is a public misfortune."

What the matter is we do not know, but we do know one loyal Confederate woman of gigantic determination who will build it by herself if the delay keeps on.

Nobody who has ever been in Virginia can keep away. Even the only living ex-President of the nation is coming back this fall, and President Taft is journeying through the West on his way to the Old Dominion to take a deserved rest.

"Five or six years ago Richmond was quite a metropolitan city, but it struck me this time as being 100 per cent more progressive than before," said a recent visitor to this city, in speaking to a representative of the Birmingham Age-Herald.

The Hickory, North Carolina, Democrat lately printed an account of a family reunion in Caldwell County on the occasion of the birthday of Mrs. Seleniah Teague. There was some poetry in this account, and in the verses were these touching lines: "When they had out the lady brought, 'For she eighty-six years of life had fought. And in the time paralyzed was she, So 'brought' it had to be."

That is much more realistic than anything we have read of Alfred Austin, and Alf is the King's royal poet-smith. It is almost as pathetic as the elegiac strain of F. Dewberry Boitts, the sweet singer of Dinwiddie.

George Bailey, of the Houston Post, will be interested to know that the committee having in charge the restoration of the historic courthouse at Williamsburg "decided to rough-sand the columns on the portico to protect them from whittlers," according to the Virginia Gazette. The Texan is always saying something about the whittling propensity of Virginians, and this may give him a little comfort.

Mr. Hirschberg's War Against Women. To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—Mr. Hirschberg has created a sensation by his proposal to have an avowed intention of introducing into the City Council a bill to oust women from positions in city offices. It is difficult to see how this man, in this matter, or even to take him in earnest, especially since his standing in the Council and his hold upon his constituents are so good. Perhaps Mr. Hirschberg will be content to leave them undisturbed, because their salaries are so good. It is not to be expected that the male teachers and salaried clerks and stenographers (sometimes because they will work on reduced salaries) may consider that he has a right to employ whom he pleases.

If there were any prospect of success for such a scheme, our enterprising Councilman proposes one might protest against the injustice that denies to woman the right of becoming a "legal voter" and at the same time refuses to allow her the opportunity of making a living because she is not one. But there is no great danger in this case of "political rash" that affects the gentleman, which is only skin-deep and not contagious. The quickest and most effective remedy is to elect to the Council a man who is not a member of the same party as Hirschberg to enter upon the crusade for equal suffrage. That would furnish him a large field of operation, and he would be able to do some worthy of the praise of his constituents. His present attitude is conclusive proof that to woman as a class the ballot should be given as a matter of necessity. More than 6,000,000 women fill places in the field of labor in this country, and others are being added to their numbers every day.

Though, for various reasons, individuals drop out, the number steadily increases. To refuse to them the same wages as that allowed to men is a criminal injustice, as well as a tacit confession that economic combination with females is to be dreaded and, as far as possible, to be prevented.

An amusing feature of the times is this fact of the "weaker sex," which, happily is confined to the few, who sympathize with Mr. Hirschberg's views and who might aptly be termed "Hirschbergites." A LOOKER-ON.

The Old Ship of State. (From "Leaves by the Wayside.") 'Twas the Fourth of July, when the Old Constitution, Formed by Jefferson, Hancock, Adams Gave forth to the world the famed resolution, That the people from King's craft beneficent should be 'free,' Then the good ship of State swung its flag to the breeze, With valor undaunted, from Monmouth to Yorktown, on the land and the sea.

The compass still points to the bright polar star, The chart is the old Constitution; By them guided aright, in all parts of the ship, There cannot be any confusion; The crew of the ship are the people, you know, And the cruise, it is well to remember, Must be made, to what port we ever may go, The best good of the greatest number.

As to politics, look! The manifest said That the people should manage the ship, That no load should be put in the hold of the ship, Save to meet the just public exigencies, But the tricksters, you know, have managed it so, As to bind on the backs of the people a load of "Frisperity," falsely so called, As high as a meeting-house steeple.

As to schools: have they stolen the key of all knowledge, On pretense of more excellent training, To make experts of athletics in high school and college, The control of the ship they seem gaining; Making lawyers and doctors and preachers to show the people, That the ship should be steered by feet and not head; No wonder so many to Congress would go, While so many thousands are waiting for bread.

As to faith: of what use is the compass and the chart, God gave for our guidance in sunshine and storm? His teachings so little controlling the Dynasties and science now giving faith form; The world made itself, of what use Revelation.

Or a grand scheme of a "First Great Cause," It was man made himself by some ape evolution; Such havers of faith win wide-spread applause. Then what of the home; the old homesteads are gone, The country forsaken for the town's bright evening fireside, the cows on the lawn; The hustling for wealth has scattered the seed of heart-ache.

The girl seeks a clerkship; even love seeks a trade, And marriage which was once a Now seems a contract which two parties have made, Till a court or a homicide tears them apart.

Alas for the ship! there are breakers ahead; Were there ever such fearful com-motions? While the men at the helm, so selfishly led, Add their roars to the roars of the sea.

Let the people awake, by their hal-lows declare, That the good Ship of State by Jefferson planned, Shall still float in all seas, in rough weather or fair, Of freedom the pledge only honest men manned.

Charlotte C. H. LEONARD COX. Sonnet—To London. Home of the great romancer who hath ruled the realm of human happiness and health; Thy pictured names and places far have made the world call; To shape a time, or fill new Nation's wealth.

Stage of the Poet! Sweet, immortal Will, Who with his pen created kingdoms And peopled them with men more real than still. Who live in language destined to abide. Cradle of Liberty and Government! Bow Bells ring true, the Past, and Ideals built of Character and blent With truth, which carries far o'er land and sea.

Old London Town! thy laurels live in rhyme, An English legacy to Art and Time. BY EDMOND FONTAINE. Charlottesville, January 11, 1909. Father Ryan. When walls of conquered nation rose, When leaders failed who were our trust; Our banner by relentless foes All torn and trampled in the dust, From out the darkness there was a heard, And it seem'd divine; It sang in strains that thrilled and stirr'd; Sweet Poet-Priest, that voice was thine.

A poet, priest, two calls divine To higher things inspir'd thee, And grace and genius both combine And give thee immortality. This grand monument thine to-day Hath tined the Universe (a seraphim), To sing his mystic harmonies so true. How hath our vision leaped since The Ethic-moral code for human-kind— That ancient script which Evolution giveth to the modern mind. And inspiration pressed upon the mind.

French History. How many eggs does a hen lay every year, first, second, third and fourth? The product of the hen varies with the breed, feed and other factors.

Coloring. Is there any coloring that can be used for whitewash on fences? I. Water plays upon them in fine jets delivered by copper pipes. A sack of flour may be thus made to yield about 110 pounds of moist gluten and twice that quantity of dry starch. Good samples of white English wheat contain some 10 or 11 per cent of gluten; from hard Venezuela wheat as much as 22 per cent has been procured. The outer and inner glutein are separated from it as bran contain, respectively, 4 to 5 and 14 to 20 per cent of gluten. When dried, loses about two-thirds of its weight, becomes brittle and semi-transparent; when strongly heated it crackles and swells and burns like a feather or horn. The gluten of wheat, when made to undergo fermentation or has begun to sprout is devoid of toughness and elasticity. These qualities can be restored to it by kneading with salt, lime water or alum. Gluten is employed in the manufacture of gluten bread and biscuits for the diabetic and in the preparation of a substitute for tea and coffee. For making bread it must be used fresh, as otherwise it decomposes and does not knead well.

Scotland Yard. Where does Scotland Yard get its name? Scotland Yard is the London Trafalgar Square, where the London police formerly had headquarters. The name is said by Brewer to have been derived from a former palace at the locality for visiting Kings from Scotland.

Birthday. If a person was born on Good Friday, 1856, what was the month and day of his birth? N. March 31.

To Lucette Water. Kindly give me evidence for the statement that a forked peach limb will direct you to an underground channel of water? B. B. R. This question was referred to the Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture, who sends the following reply: "In relation to finding water by the use of a forked peach tree, I can only reply that I have heard of a great many persons assert that it was entirely successful in locating the point at which water could be found at reasonable depth. So far as I am concerned, I have had no experience in this matter, and have always been skeptical of the value of such an operation. I can give you no information concerning it."

Regarding this question, a recent writer notes the following: "A branch of a peach tree, but it is my opinion that any living tree branch will answer the purpose. I have seen it demonstrated by the use of a forked willow branch. The branch should be forked, holding the two forked twigs downward firmly between the fore and middle fingers of the hand, and where it is desired to locate the water, the branch will turn of its own accord."

What are electrical fishes? E. About twenty species of electrical fishes are known, the Torpedo occurring in the Eastern North America being the most common. They have a flattened body and the tail of a shark. The "electrical plates" appear to be muscle tissue, the concentration of the nerve endings, the concentration of the fish's control, will deflect a needle, decompose water, and give severe shocks.

Divorcee in United States. Will you please state how many divorces are annually granted in the United States? A. The exact number will suffice if correct figures are too hard to obtain. GEORGE W. H. In 1909, when we have any figures in 1910 when divorces were granted in continental United States.

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ill the single portion of the branch where the two branches forming the fork meet points downward, which locates the water, it being impossible to keep single pipe. I am under the impression that any person is not able to do this. I am not a "water smeller," who is known as a "water smeller."

Gluten. Will you kindly tell me how gluten is obtained from wheat? L. S. Gluten is a tough, tenacious substance, somewhat elastic, nearly tasteless and grayish-yellow. In the apparatus for the preparation of gluten on a large scale balls of dough are worked backward and forward in troughs by means of cylinders, whilst water plays upon them in fine jets delivered by copper pipes. A sack of flour may be thus made to yield about 110 pounds of moist gluten and twice that quantity of dry starch. Good samples of white English wheat contain some 10 or 11 per cent of gluten; from hard Venezuela wheat as much as 22 per cent has been procured. The outer and inner glutein are separated from it as bran contain, respectively, 4 to 5 and 14 to 20 per cent of gluten. When dried, loses about two-thirds of its weight, becomes brittle and semi-transparent; when strongly heated it crackles and swells and burns like a feather or horn. The gluten of wheat, when made to undergo fermentation or has begun to sprout is devoid of toughness and elasticity. These qualities can be restored to it by kneading with salt, lime water or alum. Gluten is employed in the manufacture of gluten bread and biscuits for the diabetic and in the preparation of a substitute for tea and coffee. For making bread it must be used fresh, as otherwise it decomposes and does not knead well.

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YOUTHFUL COUNTS VERY UNFORTUNATE

BY LA MARQUINE DE FONTENAY. A young Countess, Ella von Blucher, who last week appeared in Justice Hoyt, in the Children's Court of New York, for protection against her mother, complaining of being treated by the latter as a willow branch. The branch should be forked, holding the two forked twigs downward firmly between the fore and middle fingers of the hand, and where it is desired to locate the water, the branch will turn of its own accord.

In 1852 in New York, and little Countess Ella, born in November, 1852, that year, the child whose alleged maltreatment by her mother is now being treated by the attention of the New York courts. The union did not turn out as planned. Her father, a German, drifted about the country, and a distance here and there by odd jobs, until finally he landed in the United States, where he died in Washington, where he had a man named Adolf, his next brother, Adolf, in whose favor he was disinherited by his father, met with a tragic fate. For having discovered that a