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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1911.

BE A POLITICIAN.

Mayor Richardson gave a bit of excellent advice to the business men of Richmond when, at the recent meeting in the interest of the new form of city government, he urged them to become politicians. By that he did not mean that he would have every good citizen a professional politician, but that he would have him a student of politics, familiar with the problems of the city, its needs, its offices and its officers. That citizen is best who knows his city and will by a due participation in politics advance the interest of his city.

Every progressive citizen should be a politician just at this time. A movement for a better form of city government is on foot, and that movement requires the aid of every citizen who would promote the prosperity and prominence of Richmond. If this is not the time for the citizen to go into politics, he ought never to go into politics. Here we have a splendid plan for a more effective and efficient city government, a plan which is the result of the long labor and study of a committee of patriotic and able citizens, a plan which is based on the experience of American municipalities. This plan ought to go through, because it will give Richmond better government and give every citizen his money's worth. The adoption of the governmental scheme will put the city's business on a business basis and have it conducted by business men on business principles. Every man who is for a greater Richmond should back the plan, not half-heartedly, but actively and vigorously.

To the end that this plan may succeed, let every citizen be a politician for the time being. There is work for him to do, plenty of it, but the two main things for him to do are: Let the Councilmen from his ward know that he favors the plan. Let him qualify to vote.

The Council will adopt the new plan, if it is made clear to the majority of its members that their constituents desire its passage. That is why every citizen should tell his representative in Council how he stands. Every citizen should qualify to vote, because his political influence is doubled when it is known that he has a vote. Councilmen give ear to the voter, but pay little heed to the good government advocate who has no ballot. The present qualified electorate of the city is limited almost wholly to officeholders and large property owners. The advocate of better government for Richmond, by qualifying to vote, will put himself in a position where he can defeat in the April election those in the Council who oppose progressive government for Richmond.

Be a politician now. Tell your representative how you stand, and see to it that your friends and employes in like manner talk to their representatives. Qualify and get others to qualify. Talk this plan up, get well informed about it and talk it whenever you can.

If the citizens who want good government will do a little "politicking" now, the new form of government will be adopted, and a tremendous shove upward will be given to Richmond.

THE DURBAR.

With Turkey and Persia now constitutional monarchies, and China struggling to become a republic, King George is making a dramatic and well-planned play to arouse loyalty of India by the great ceremonial Durbar to be held at Delhi. The Oriental mind can be moved by pomp and display where it cannot be touched by the written or spoken word. That is why the first English King ever crowned Emperor of India on Indian soil will make his coronation the most gorgeous and imposing that Western invention and Eastern imagination can devise. Rajsahs and Gaekwars and Nawabs and princes will shine in jewels that are only to be equaled in India. Elephants with gilded trunks and golden howdahs will shambles ponderously behind and before the white King. All about his tent, walking or sleeping, for he will not trust himself to a house while in Delhi, will stand on guard his own white soldiers, and over him will watch faithful Sikhs. Poison he may escape, and cholera and typhoid. But it is a desperate risk for a hated foreign King to parade himself in India now when all that land is seething with a ferment of nationalism that shows itself chiefly by writing inflammatory articles and throwing bombs of the latent model.

Much of India is loyal to the English. The Rajputana and hill tribes—that is, the fighting men—appreciate and trust the race that outfought them. Bengal is wholly different. There the people are in the hands of the educated Bengalis, and these, the more they learn the more rabid they become and the more united. It is the educated babu, the officeholding, English-

speaking, petty official class in Bengal, that causes all the anti-English sentiment in India now.

That is the class from which the King may most expect harm. The warriors will meet him openly, but a fanatic Bengali may throw a bomb that will set all Hindustan on fire.

AN INDEPENDIBLE SYSTEM.

Jefferson county, Ala., is one of the largest counties in the State, and contains the city of Birmingham, a municipality slightly larger than Richmond. The fee system of compensating public officers obtains in Jefferson as in all the other counties, and that iniquitous system is causing wholesale charges of graft to be made against the officials of Jefferson. The grand jury of that county lately declared that the fee system is at the bottom of it all, and we doubt it not. The fee system is legalized graft, and the line that separates it from plain old graft is almost invisible.

In the last race for sheriff of Jefferson county, not less than \$100,000 was spent by the several candidates. It is said that the sheriff's office pays \$10,000 the year in big, fat fees. The sheriff's term is six years, and he can be counted upon to rake in about \$210,000 in a single term of office. Is it any wonder that there should be such an all-fired scramble for the job? As the Montgomery Advertiser, always conservative, says, "when \$100,000 is spent among the voters of one county it would be ridiculous to assert that it was spent legitimately." Every one must be forced to the conclusion that when such a sum is spent voters were corrupted. When a candidate spends \$100,000 to get in and gets in, let nobody worry that he will fail to collect all the fees that are coming to him.

The annual fees collected by the various officers of Jefferson county are: sheriff, \$10,000; judge of probate, \$25,000; county back tax commissioner, \$15,000; clerk of Criminal Court, \$15,000; clerk of City Court, \$15,000; clerk of Circuit Court, \$10,000; register in chancery, \$10,000; tax collector, \$15,000; tax assessor, \$15,000. Thus, the total annual sum paid to these officials by the people of the county is \$160,000.

In striking contrast the Advertiser draws up a list of these big national, State and judicial officers whose total salaries only equal the amount paid to the county officers of Jefferson, who draw fees: the President of the United States, the Vice-President of the United States, two United States Senators from Alabama, ten Congressmen, Governor of Alabama, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Alabama.

In the next general election the people of Alabama will vote on a constitutional amendment abolishing the fee system in Jefferson county. If that amendment is not passed, the voters will be, using the language of the Advertiser, "indifferent to a grievous wrong." On the one hand is a burdensome exaction from the people to pay the fees, and on the other deperate fighting with attendant corruption by the candidates to get these highly paid offices.

There is perhaps no county in Virginia yielding such an aggregate of large fees as Jefferson county, Ala., but the evil is about the same in both States. Many county and city officers in this State are tremendously overpaid, and we have here the sorry spectacle of a court clerk receiving more money than the Chief Justice or the Governor or either of our Senators or any of our Congressmen. The most hotly contested place in the recent election was the trusteeship of Rockingham county. There were four candidates for the place, and a long campaign. The office is said to be worth somewhere between \$8,000 and \$10,000, and the occupant, in his term, can put by twice as much as any Governor of Virginia could. The system which permits this sort of thing is fine for the fee officer, but it is poor for the people.

WINE CONSUMPTION IN FRANCE.

When England laid its tariff on French wines the squires and nobility were in the habit of drinking a bottle or two daily after dinner. That was why gout followed so fast upon the heels of the heavy Spanish and Portuguese wines, which took the place of French clarets. It was a generation before the British gentry learned how heavy and how strong the more southern vintages were, and that knowledge left a tendency towards rheumatism and gout that still exists. In any event the consumption of wine has greatly decreased in England, and now the total consumption for the United Kingdom is a bottle and a half a head for each inhabitant. Beer, ale and whiskey have taken the place of the fruit of the vine for good and all. But not so in France. Despite the alarming growth of the use of highly alcoholic beverages the French are still a wine-drinking nation. The magnitude of the wine industry in France is difficult to conceive, where in a good year taxes are paid on more than 1,000,000,000 gallons. Besides this Algeria adds an additional 200,000,000 gallons. "A tonneau of 2,000,000 gallons," says the London Times, "is a pretty large vessel, and a thousand such would fill a good-sized ship, and we have to multiply that by a thousand before we reach the production of this one French colony—one-fifth of all the wine consumed in France, or re-exported. A simple sum in arithmetic shows us that Algeria alone, in one year, would supply the whole consumption of the United Kingdom for nearly twenty years. One is staggered by these colossal figures, which are vouched for by the French revenue returns."

The problem is not alone, how do they raise so much wine, but who drinks it? The answer, of course, is that France drinks most of it, with an

annual consumption of from 110 to 160 bottles per head, according to the abundance and the price; and that the rest of it is exported to the rest of Europe and to other countries more thirsty for wine than England. In France natural wines are looked upon, after bread, as the next great necessity of the people. Hence the vital importance of a good vintage. And also the explanation of the fierce demonstrations in the Gironde and champagne districts when the vintage failed. Then, as always, social and political agitators helped to excite the people, but it turned out that the real underlying trouble was not bad laws, but bad weather.

In Northern France and Germany, where the quality of grapes is finer, wines have sold at public auction as high as \$5 a gallon, and "grand wines" bring \$50 per bottle. The first requisite for producing such rare and delicate wines is a vineyard situated near the northern limit of vine culture on slopes overlooking large rivers. These conditions are said to be admirably met by the lands lying along the Columbia, Clearwater and Snake Rivers in Oregon. The expert vine dressers and cellar-men have not yet been developed in those sections, but with the great essentials of soil and climate in their favor the Northwest territory may readily become a wine-producing centre second only to France.

SIX'S SIMULATION.

There was a timely sermon in the forenoon preached yesterday by the Rev. Frank L. Wells, at the Broad Street Methodist Church. His theme was "The Romance and Tragedy of Sin," and he illustrated in several ways the fact that behind sin's pleasant mask there is a hideous and deadly visage. Sin has a million allurements and attractions, and the way is hard for the young man. It is so easy to get started on the twisted road that leads to ruin and death—so many young men have deceived themselves with the comforting self-assurance, "I can stop when I want to." Evil has illimitable fascination for the young, even for those who have been brought up by godly parents. Deeply has there been impressed upon this community the lesson of the prodigal son, whose father's forgiveness could avail naught. The greatest delusion among young men to-day is the damnable delusion of good-fellowship; that very phrase, lingering in the memory, has sent many a young man to his ruin. As Rev. Mr. Wells so well said, "Sin is a fascination now, young man; it is an exhilaration. But after awhile it is a collision; it is defeat; it is death."

WYMAN'S WORK.

Walter Wyman passed from the stage of human activity, and thousands who read of his death did not know who he was and what he did. Like many other great and useful public servants, he cared little for the spotlight. He gave thirty-five years of service to his country—practically all of his life.

Wyman was surgeon-general of the United States Public Health and Marine Hospital Service. He had the ability to see a public need and supply it; he was essentially a man of action. A simple summary of his work speaks eloquently of the man. He entered the Marine Hospital Service in 1876, and was stationed successively in St. Louis, Cincinnati, Baltimore, New York and Washington. His first notable work was for the betterment of the conditions affecting seamen in the merchant marine, and he caused many laws to be passed for their benefit. He brought to notice the treatment of deck hands on steamboats plying the Western rivers and of crews working on the oyster boats of the Chesapeake, establishing a hospital for the latter. In 1893 he headed the force engaged in preventing cholera from entering this country.

Wyman rose rapidly in the public health service. It was supervising surgeon-general of the United States Marine Hospital Service from 1891 to 1902. He was made surgeon-general of the United States Public Health and Marine Hospital Service in 1902, in which office he remained until his death, having in charge the administration of the national quarantine law and the national quarantine establishments.

It was he who suggested and established the first government sanatorium for consumptives. He was instrumental in securing the enactment of quarantine laws; the improvement of the food and quarters of seamen; the regulation of the manufacture and sale of viruses, serums, toxins, etc.; the creation of a leprosy investigation station in Hawaii; the establishment of a hygienic laboratory in Washington, and the establishment of the Bureau of Public Health. At the same time, he wrote voluminously, being the author of many pamphlets, addresses and books of instruction on matters affecting the public. He was the main instrument in systematizing and putting into effective operation the machinery whereby the nation is protected from the dread pestilence of contagious disease.

The South owed Walter Wyman a peculiarly great debt. Under the Marine Hospital Service and the Bureau of Health, the Gulf coast is protected as it never was under other supervision; the immunity from disease brought about is worth millions to the South. Wyman never wielded sword nor ordered batteries into practice, but he was one of the greatest fighters the nation had. His task was not the destruction of life, but its preservation and protection. He fought a greater foe than any foreign army—

disease. His name is written down as one who served his country well.

"MADAME SHERRY" AT CHURCH.

If Dr. Woodrow Wilson was displeased with the singing of that exquisite hymn, "The Beautiful Isle of Somewhere," he would have been overwhelmed with chagrin had he been in Chico, Cal., Sunday before last. It seems that in Chico every little movement had a meaning of its own in the Baptist church when the collection was taken up at the regular Sunday night services. While the contribution box was being passed, the congregation was "electrified" by a new air played by the "orchestra." There was "a secular hit" to the tune that made the church-goer go into his pockets and bring it out "in waltz time, jingling with coins." The ushers, as they passed the plate, stepped more lightly than usual. Most of those at church did not know the air that was being played or some of the members might have followed the old-fashioned Baptist habit of speaking out in meeting. Some members realized that Moody and Sankey never composed anything like what was being played, but it remained for some of the young folks to recognize that the orchestra was playing "Every Little Movement Has a Meaning All Its Own," the popular waltz number from the popular comic opera "Madame Sherry."

The Chico correspondent of the San Francisco Call, who is probably aligned with the progressives in the matter of church music, says that "a modern musical comedy tune could be successfully grafted on the church organ pipes and bear good fruit. Furthermore, there was something like vindication for those leaders of Protestant churches who insist that the old hymn tunes may with profit be relegated to the basement, while the choir left devotes itself to something more modern."

The planet Mars has an extensive and probably unexplored arctic region. Here is a good chance for old Doctor Cook to come back.

Voice of the People

Proposes Great Highways.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—I am a strong believer in the doctrine of good roads, and I think in good roads convention, which is now in session in our fair city, and I think I will have the sympathy and encouragement of every member of this community and every individual resident of the State in the pushing forward of its praiseworthy methods to enlighten the public how to better and maintain the country's thoroughfares. In this promotion of the construction of good roads an enduring benefit will be conferred upon our farming community, and its efforts are at this time the more welcome for the call of the Good Roads Association to meet and weld the links of intercommunication. And now that it is here and has started its thinking, to work with hope that from the interchange of news, a permanent and concentrated movement will be made in the building of better roads and providing for their proper maintenance, and by so doing receive continual blessings from the Lord. And now that it is here and has started its thinking, to work with hope that from the interchange of news, a permanent and concentrated movement will be made in the building of better roads and providing for their proper maintenance, and by so doing receive continual blessings from the Lord.

Some time ago I wrote a letter to the convention of which I am a member in a manner suggested by the construction of a wide boulevard extending from Richmond to Washington, to be called the "White Way"—a grand magnificent highway, to be built to each one of its historic highways and battlefields. Such a road would be a lasting memorial in honor of a united North and South.

Another suggestion, which I believe will find favor in some form in the convention's proceedings, is the building of a great macadamized highway for transcontinental intercommunication, uniting the Eastern States with the Western States within one grand roadway, in width about 300 feet, from Washington, D. C. on a line, straight as our accomplished engineers could make it, between the thirty-fifth and fortieth parallels, to San Francisco, Cal., by way of Cincinnati, St. Louis, Kansas City, Topeka, Denver, Salt Lake, etc.

In the construction of this magnificent roadway employment would be given to millions of our vast army of unemployed for a number of years, and it would indirectly add to our wealth and be the means of opening up to isolated districts quick avenues to ready markets for the products of the soil.

Such an undertaking would, when completed, take rank as the most wonderful achievement of the twentieth century and eclipse in its magnitude all other records of gigantic road-building of the ancients.

A committee of the convention, named to plan for the inauguration of this project, and it might be deemed advisable that such a committee should draw up a suitable memorial to be submitted to the Congress of the United States, asking it to assist, if not to carry out this creation in its fullest sense.

Such a highway would be of incalculable value to every landowner and farmer in the United States, as well as to the government. In times of

peace as well as in times of war—a perpetuity to be utilized and enjoyed by those who come after us. Trusting that the above subject may be deemed worthy of more than passing consideration, while the convention is engaged in its most honorable and beneficial duties, I beg to subscribe myself one of its well wishers. Richmond. EDWARD S. ROSE.

A BOY IN FALL-TIME. By John T. McCutcheon.



THREE DAYS BEFORE THANKSGIVING—"I believe I'll just pretend it's Thanksgiving already."

It was not until a quarter of an hour later that one of the women of the bridge party, who happened to be an Italian, and who had an inkling of the state of affairs, remarked jokingly, "Had not you better open that? It may be an ultimatum." Laughingly, the Premier opened it. His face blushed, he jumped up and without taking any time to excuse himself, rushed off to the palace to inform the Sultan that the fat was in the fire.

Queries and Answers

Discovery of Ether.

Will you kindly give me a little information through your column as to who discovered ether and when it was first used? H. T. J.

Like all great discoveries, that of the anesthetic qualities of ether was claimed by several persons and each has his own adherents. A monument in Mt. Auburn Cemetery bears the inscription: "William T. G. Morton, inventor and revealer of anesthetic inhalation, by whom pain in surgery was averted and annulled; before whom, in all time, surgery was agony; since when, science has controlled pain, and each has his own adherents. A monument in Mt. Auburn Cemetery bears the inscription: "William T. G. Morton, inventor and revealer of anesthetic inhalation, by whom pain in surgery was averted and annulled; before whom, in all time, surgery was agony; since when, science has controlled pain, and each has his own adherents. A monument in Mt. Auburn Cemetery bears the inscription: "William T. G. 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