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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1912.

WHAT WILL RICHMOND GET?

The two bids received by the Council for the electric light and power franchise suggest once again the pertinent question: what will Richmond get in return for the right to use all its streets for fifteen years? The Henrico Company offers $10 for this privilege; a firm of New York brokers offers $5,000. The Times-Dispatch does not believe that any franchise should be granted, because such action will inevitably add to the burden of the consumers. But if the Council is determined to make such a grant, and bases its determination on the theory that competition will help this community, it should be absolutely certain that the fullest and most beneficial competition will be demanded by the ordinance, under heavy penalties.

The present bids are absolutely meaningless. Can any sensible man think that the right to use the city's streets for fifteen years is not worth more than $5,000? Is the rental value of the streets only $334 a year? Any company actually using this privilege to its full extent should be compelled to pay at least a reasonable return to the city. If these bids, on the other hand, indicate that there is no real intention to furnish an adequate service of light and power, but merely to acquire a franchise with a speculative value, then competition, the sole reason advanced for granting the franchise, will not exist, and the Council should refuse to pass the measure.

If, moreover, it is declared that the city will be amply compensated for the use of the streets by the increased service and the lower price of electricity, we frankly state that in the paper as at present framed there is absolutely no guarantee of any real service or any saving in price. The bond required for the full execution of the provisions of the ordinance is only $10,000, a sum certainly far too small to have a real significance in holding the grantees to their contract. In addition the ordinance, if fully complied with, requires only that the holders of the franchise shall construct one route of the distribution service. There is no designation of any specific territory to be served or where extensions shall be made. All true extentions to provide the promised competition must be demanded by the Council through the Street Committee, and according to the opinion of the city counsel, such demands can be made the subject of prolonged litigation.

The ordinance guarantees nothing. A mere technical satisfaction of its clauses will enable the holder to use this franchise for speculation. The city will get no return for the munificent gift of its streets. The introduction of outside bidders shows how absolutely essential it is that the franchise itself be perfected until it protects the city, regardless of who may buy it. The bids should be rejected by the Street Committee, or such amendments and restrictions incorporated in it as to guarantee adequate service at minimum price.

KITCHENER'S EGYPTIAN POLICY.

While we seriously doubt, as recently claimed by an enthusiastic Cairo correspondent, that Lord Kitchener has already put an end to the Nationalist movement in Egypt, it can hardly be questioned that, as the new British agent in that country, his policy cannot but be making rapidly to that consummation. The British papers, in reviewing the first nine months of his administration, are practically a unit in declaring that the situation was never more satisfactory, or the prospect of content with foreign overlordship so bright and promising. Lord Kitchener seems to have adopted a golden mean between the rigid standoff and distrustful methods of Lord Cromer and the "liberal," altruistic and confiding theory of Sir Eldon Gorst, who succeeded Lord Cromer, and who was succeeded by the present agent in turn. The hero of Omdurman, who so ruthlessly crushed the last rebellion in the Soudan, "the grim sphinx of the Anglo-Boer War," has shown another side to his nature in dealing with the Egyptian natives in times of peace. He has proved himself entirely approachable to the humblest.

The doors of the agency are no longer barred by a network of red tape, that could only be untangled by resort to all sorts of formalities, as was the case under Lord Cromer's regime. Nor is the agency a mere fountain for the emanation of impractical and dangerous reform doctrines, such as Sir Eldon was wont to proclaim. The entrance is wide open, Lord Kitchener is accessible at all times; and to all visitors he talks frankly and practically. Personal contact and discussion is his motto. As one result, we are assured the agency has become "the Mecca of an Egyptian social, political, industrial and agricultural renaissance." It is the general testimony of our British contemporaries that Lord Kitchener has secured the confidence of the Egyptian masses to a measure never enjoyed by any of his predecessors; and that confidence has been justified by the institution of many reforms that go to the heart of the grievances of and the pockets of the common people. Notably among these are revision of the system of the minor courts, so as to insure equal and exact justice for rich and poor, high and low alike, and the establishment of peasant savings banks, by which the fellah is being rescued from the jaws of the "loan sharks," who constitute one of the greatest curses of the land. Whether or not the claim that Lord Kitchener has already put an end to the Nationalist movement is premature, it must be recognized that the policy he is pursuing is pregnant with prophecy of that attainment, if he continues to be given a free hand.

WILSON AND FREEDOM OF OPPORTUNITY.

Much has been said to the effect that Woodrow Wilson stands for enlarged opportunity for the average man. That is a general statement, but it is a plank in his larger platform that Wilson can translate into most practical results. Every man now has opportunity to some degree, but Wilson believes in striking down, as far as possible, the unnatural and unjustifiable limitations imposed by law upon the opportunity of the plain man. He would enlarge the plain man's opportunity by giving him a greater participation in government and vesting him with greater responsibility for what that government does. He would restore by competition the opportunity of the small business men who has been sent to the wall by illegal combination. He would enlarge the estate of the plain man by removing the protective tariff which now practices extortion upon the American people.

He would enlarge the political opportunity of the average man by putting political office above pull and above price. He believes that the poor man is just as much entitled to office as is the millionaire or the political boss. The two cases in which Governor Wilson routed James Smith, Jr., the former political proprietor of New Jersey, illustrate what the former means by freedom of opportunity.

The first of the Smith cases was when James Smith, Jr., announced his candidacy as a Democrat for the United States Senate from New Jersey. James E. Martine had been nominated at the Democratic primary, but Smith felt that that did not matter. James Smith, Jr., a millionaire and a political power, felt that Martine, a poor farmer, could not stand in his way, even if Martine were the choice of the people. If Wilson had agreed with Smith, Smith would have become Senator, but Wilson stood by the people and by their choice, Martine, and almost forced the election of the farmer, instead of the rich man.

The second Smith case came this summer, when the same old Smith announced his candidacy for the other senatorship from New Jersey. Against him was pitted William Hughes, who, as an Irish lad, came to America and was compelled to leave school when he was ten to make his own way in the world. He met all sorts of difficulties, but he went steadily upward, until he won a seat in Congress. His is the typical story of American grit overcoming every obstacle. The millionaire boss opposed him, but Woodrow Wilson again thundered his denunciation of the man with a bad record who hoped to make pull the lever to lift himself into the Senate. And again Smith was defeated.

Here, then, were two men without pull, without machine and without money sent into office because Woodrow Wilson believed in equality of opportunity. The yardstick by which he measures a man's title to office is not pull, but the right. Here, as he would in all things, he made straight the way for equality of opportunity, instead of special privilege.

PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL GROWTH.

Dr. Philander P. Claxton, United States Commissioner of Education, prophesies that the day will soon dawn when every boy and every girl in this country will have at least a high school education, and the data upon which he bases his prediction seems to bear him out fully.

It is estimated that of every 100 pupils entering the schools of the United States, twenty-five remain to enter later the high schools, if the negro is not included; if he is included, twenty-two is the number.

The public high school has grown rapidly in the last two decades. Of the 1,250,000 boys and girls attending the high schools of the country, 1,100,000 are in public schools and 150,000 are in private institutions. In 1890, forty of every 100 high schools were private and sixty public. In 1900, there were twenty-three private high schools to seventy-seven public, and in 1911 there were sixteen private to eighty-four public high schools. In 1890, 32 per cent of the pupils attending high schools were in private institutions, and 68 in public; now there are 12 per cent in private high schools and 88 per cent in the public high schools.

CHARITY THAT BEGINS AT HOME.

It is gratifying to observe the tendency of modern philanthropy and social service to preserve the home. The fact is being scientifically established that no institution can take the place of home influence and parental affection in caring for dependent children. At the National Conference of Catholic Charities in Washington, Mary Shinnick, probation officer of Cincinnati, made an interesting address, urging that, where mothers cannot support and educate their children it is better for the State to intervene and sustain the home than to break it up by sending the child to an institution, however admirable.

The vital necessity of affection for the well-being of children has been strikingly shown by figures gathered from an orphan asylum on the Pacific Coast. This institution is a model in every respect, fully equipped with trained attendants, and provided with the most modern devices for making children healthy and happy. Yet even under these almost perfect conditions, the infant death-rate was much higher than the normal for children living at home with their mothers. The explanation is that the isolated children withered for lack of maternal care and affection. Nothing can replace mother love in the daily life of those who need tenderness and personal relations with loved ones as much as they need food and clothing.

Wherever this ideal of supporting the home for the child has been realized, the results have been beneficial. Unless the natural instincts of the mother have been in some way destroyed, by vice, disease or madness, she is superior to any other guardian that law or religion can provide. Moreover, the home itself is of supreme value to society. Its influence upon character is far above what can be supplied by impersonal care. Nor is the cost greater in the end. In many respects it is probably less. Certainly if it be judged by the returns in a finer and happier class of citizens, there can be no question of the importance of this movement for preserving home-life.

TAXATION BY APPEARANCES.

How was it possible for the tax-gatherers of New York City to add $80,000,000 to the personal tax list in a single year? Simply by going about and suspecting that those who were already paying taxes ought to pay more, and that those who were not paying at all could and should be made to pay. There were plenty of clues. The ownership of an automobile was one test. Residence in an expensive apartment was another. Even dressing in the mode was considered a clue. People who ate at first-class restaurants were investigated, as were occupants of good seats at the theatre. People who gave any kind of external evidence of prosperity were considered.

Of course, the inquisitors did not always strike pay dirt. Evidence of possession of wealth does not always mean that wealth exists. Yet the system undoubtedly made many tax-dodgers come to time, with a result that was financially most satisfactory to the tax collectors. The New York tax-gatherers do not take a man at his word when there is evidence tending to discount his testimony.

MISLEADING THE PEOPLE.

The Tazewell Republican, in its issue of October 10, prints a news article purporting to inform the people as to the merits of the pending constitutional amendments permitting unlimited tenure to city treasurers and city commissioners of the revenue. Instead of stating the arguments on both sides, it unfairly and misleadingly prints a one-sided argument from the Lynchburg News for the passage of the amendments. If the Republican had confined its argument to its editorial columns, it might have been justified, but it is unfair and unjust to the people to substitute in the news columns for an impartial statement of the arguments on both sides an incorrect, biased and misleading argument for one side. Why cannot the Republican state both sides of the case? Why does it argue in its news columns when the proper place to do that is within its editorial columns?

"What has become of the good old-fashioned housekeeper who used to serve the pot 'licker' that the turnip salad was cooked in?" asks the Greenville Piedmont. Oh, well, she disappeared along with the old-fashioned housewife, who had hog and hominy for breakfast.

The cable reports that Montenegro has suspended telegraphic communications on the Antivari-Scutari-Podgoritza-Touz and Andriovitza-Berana lines. The question is, how could communication exist at any time where they have names like that?

The aviator has done something to even up the death score from flying. A hydroaeroplane rescued a man about to drown in Long Island Sound.

Will Mr. Roosevelt now deny that Archbold wrote his own letters?

Abe Martin

Miss Fern Pash has returned from a month's visit highly pleased with her relatives. White shoes may be cleaned by removin' th' spots.

Voice of the People

The Last Voyage.

Rocking light upon the foam,
Stately the galley waits
To bear the great Viking home
Through looming, unknown straits;
None who sailed those seas before
Ere returned to land once more,
Or p'loted from the shore
One through the misty gates.

The sails are scarlet and white,
All gilded are the vanes,
The dragon's head in the light
Of sun flashes and wanes;
Ready—ready all—they tread
The deck with their kingly dead,
Bear him to the warrior's bed,
Cold chieftain of the Danes!

His helmet gleams on his head,
War harness girds him round,
On his breast the stealing red
Of spilt blood its way has found;
Across it gold beard lying
Like rippling tress outflying
O'er heart of loved one dying,
From a fair head thus crowned.

His hand clasps firm the good sword,
Long-drawn as wailing cry,
And near to the sleeping lord
The mead horns scattered lie;
Voyaging to Valhalla,
They will redden that numb pallor,
Recalling deeds of valor
And joyous battle cry.

Red jewels and earthly gear
Lacks not this pulsing barge,
Though there be not one to steer
Or keep its sacred charge;
But almost it feels a heart
Within its quiv'ring, sealed sides start—
Icy, eager to depart,
Chafing the landward marge.

Is it his that beats no more
Within that Viking form
Which answered wild ocean's roar
With surging of life-blood warm?
On the deck no living man,
Returned all again to land,
And waft on prayers to Odin's strand
Their chieftain safe from storm.

Lo, out over the foam-field
And whirling, white wave-road
Plougheth now that flashing keel
With soul on sea bestowed;
None may say where the wild swell
Beat on rocks the wondrous knell,
Or into whose hands there fell
The lone ship with its load.

MABEL LAIRD GOODE.

LINES

On General Lee's Headquarters at Petersburg, Va.

Ghost-like shadows haunt thee now
And 'round thy stately trees
A bed of faded leaves are strewn
By dying Summer's breeze,
Where 'once the couriers' dashing tread
Brought some new hope or fear,
We linger now in Glory's light
To wipe the galling tear.

O little house, who shelter'd once
That man of war and God,
When like a tiger brought to bay
He fought each inch of sod
The headless hand of progress wont
To crush dear History's shrine,
Has passed thee by, has stayed her blow,
'Gainst what seems so sublime.

The shrieking shell, the hissing grape
Long lull'd give place to peace,
And gentle women guard thee close,
The sentinel's found release,
Those ragged super-soldiers each
Three fighting men in one,
Shall never leap to planned attack
Thy work, oh, house, is done.

Ah! can we let thy walls decay,
Who shelter'd Genius's mate,
The grandest man that ere drew sword
Or wore the thorn-crown fate.
Embalmed in immortelles of love,
By wealth from harm made free,
A sepulchre where once there beat
The heart of Robert Lee.

Headquarters of the knightliest arms,
That took the fields of time.
Thy doors are closed forever now
To rank and file and line,
Where once the courier's dashing tread
Brought some new hope or fear,
We linger now in Glory's light
To wipe the galling tear.

G. WATSON JAMES, JR.

Spider Says "Wilson—That's All."

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—I am sending you an article, the truthfulness of which can be vouched for by the writer, by the party named in the article, as well as by a number of other people.

J. W. CLAY.

Hickory, N. C.

Wilson, Says the Spider.

Something happened in Catawba County, near Hickory, N. C., yesterday that has struck terror to the hearts of the Republicans, created a panic in the camp of the "Bull Moosers," and caused general jubilation in the ranks of the Democrats, for the incident is looked upon here as being a most wonderful prophecy that Wilson will be our next President.

The thing that happened is this: Yesterday evening several little tots, children of J. W. Starnes, went for a stroll in a corn field in the creek bottom near the house. They were chasing butterflies and having a good time in general, when Wesley, a bright boy of six summers, noticed a beautiful spider web hanging gracefully between two stalks of corn. So unusually beautiful was the web, and of such splendid design that it attracted the attention of this son of the soil, and he sat down to watch the spider finish its work, as it seemed to be busy putting the finishing touches in the centre of the web. After watching for a few moments he saw that the spider was taking the white fuzz from off the backs of two moths that had been entangled in the web, and was weaving it into letters. And so plain and distinct were the letters that this little boy, who is in the first grade at school, could read them without the least effort. The spider began with a beautiful capital "W," and followed it with the letters "ilson" in a smaller design. And so surprised and astonished was Wesley at the action of the spider that he called his brothers and sisters to come and witness the wonder. And so surprised were they all, they decided to take the spider, web and all to the house and show them to their parents. And so surprised were the parents that they called in passers-by to witness the work.

The spider that did the work was a large spotted variety known to naturalists as the Harlequin, and the writing was as plain and perfect as writing could be made. The word was in the centre of the large web, and was made of different material from the web, so that the word "Wilson" stood out very prominent.

But the significant thing about it all is the fact that the web was found in the corn field which only last year brought fame and glory to Ernest, an older brother of Wesley's, who tended the field, by producing a record-breaking prize-winning crop of 146 1-2 bushels to the acre. This fact is thought to be an omen that tells of a period of great prosperity when Wilson shall be elected President.

The two moths (one was larger than the other) are supposed to represent Taft and Roosevelt, and the spider, writing the name with the fuzz from off their backs, is supposed to be Wilson writing his name in the annals of history by getting the votes from Taft and Teddy.

This story is vouched for by J. W. Starnes, a life-long Republican, on whose farm the spider did its wonderful work, by his family, and by an enthusiastic "Bull Mooser," as well as by a loyal Democrat, and the question is being raised that if a common everyday spider could tell Aobert, the Bruce, of victory years ago, and could shield David from harm when Saul was after his head, why couldn't this extraordinary harlequin spider proclaim victory for Woodrow Wilson in this modern day?

CALLING FOR HIS CONFEDERATE.

By John T. McCutcheon.

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QUERIES & ANSWERS

Whitewash.

Please publish for me the receipt for whitewash used at the penitentiary. I understand that it is about the best known hereabout.

R. E. E.

Using a strong vessel, slake one barrel of lime with just sufficient water, adding one peck of salt as the lime is slaked. Cover this paste and let it stand three days. When it is to be applied it must be thinned with water to about the consistency of milk. The penitentiary people say that their whitewash is put on thin, and that its fine appearance is due rather to frequent application than to any secret in the mixing.

Civil Service Examination.

How may I get full information about the coming civil service examination in Richmond? L. K.

The postmaster, Richmond, Va., will probably be able to send you circular of information, as the date of the examination is too near to allow you to wait safely to hear from Washington. This he would have to do as a matter of courtesy, as you should have taken the matter up in time.

Tattoo Marks.

Can you advise me how to remove tattoo marks? R. S. H.

We shall be glad to send you the name and address of the foremost authority on such things here if you will send stamped and addressed envelope.

Educational.

Please inform me what per cent of the children of the United States are of school age, and what per cent go to school. Also what per cent of the people are educated. What is the meaning of "sciatica?" Do you furnish questions for debates? C.

The Commissioner of Education, Washington, D. C., can send you matter covering the first three queries.

Sciatica is neuralgia in the district of the sciatic nerve. The trouble is indicated by paroxysm of pain in the back of the thigh, the knee, the front and back of the leg and the foot.

There are whole books devoted to questions for debate. About as far as we should care to go in suggesting questions would be to give the names of such books and their publishers.

Charged With Theft.

Norman Reams was arrested last night by Policeman Hackett, charged with having stolen $53 from Mrs. Nettie Lipscomb, proprietor of a boarding-house at 1421 East Main Street. He was locked up at the First Police Station for a hearing in the Police Court this morning.

HEAVY VERDICT GIVEN

Plaintiffs in Danbury Hat Case Awarded $240,000.

Hartford, Conn., October 10.—A verdict of $80,000 and costs was awarded for the plaintiffs in the D. Lowe & Co.'s suit against members of the United Hatters' Union of North America in the United States District Court to-night. Under the Sherman antitrust law this award will be trebled, making the total amount $240,000.

It took the jury four hours to reach the decision, most of the time being spent in examining the expense account of the plaintiffs. The verdict is for the full amount sought. This already famous case has been before the court for nine years, during which time it has gone to the State Supreme Court of Appeals and once to the United States Supreme Court.

In the first jury trial three years ago the award for the plaintiff was $222,000. Steps were begun to-night by the defense to appeal the case again.

Suit was brought in 1902 against 240 members of the United Hatters of North America residing in this State, and was based upon the allegation that a conspiracy existed to injure the business of the plaintiff, who is a soft hat manufacturer, because he declined to unionize his factory. During both trials evidence was presented aiming to show that labor unions had instituted a boycott against the plaintiff's business.

The American Federation of Labor stood behind the defendants, and the Antiboycott Society of American was behind the plaintiffs, so the litigation developed into a legal battle between these two bodies.

WOMAN EATS TOADSTOOLS, MISTAKEN FOR MUSHROOMS

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Norfolk, Va., October 11.—Mrs. Charles M. Barnett, wife of the president of the Chesapeake and Ohio Coal and Coke Company, died at the Protestant Hospital to-night from poison caused by eating toadstools, mistaken for mushrooms. She had been ill four days at the Barnett home, in Princess Anne County, and was removed to the hospital to-day. She was a native of Evansville, Ind., and is survived by her husband and three children.

Abandoned at Sea.

Norfolk, Va., October 11.—With her decks swept and part of her foremast still standing, the schooner Henry Weller, of New York, is reported abandoned at sea. The steamer Creole reported sighting the derelict schooner in latitude 32.55 north, 75.35 west, on Thursday. There was no sign of life on board, and nothing is known here as to the fate of her crew.