

The Times Dispatch

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 1913.

FRAMING A PLATFORM.

Our readers and exchanges, discussing our recent suggestions for a definite Democratic platform, are asking how we are to get it, and in some quarters are inclined to the belief that we cannot frame a platform until we return to the convention plan of making party nominations.

This, of course, was to be expected, for along with those who are sincere believers in the convention system are some who never lose an opportunity of criticizing any system which would give the people the right to choose their own nominees for high office.

But are all of these critics or any of them right? Must we make nominations by a convention to have a convention? Must we have either to get a declaration of principles?

Though we should never advocate a convention if it were to make the nominations now made by the primary election, we should like to see a convention called to frame a platform, a "get-together" convention, which will harmonize the party forces of the State. Many of our party differences are due to the fact that the party as a whole never gets together; some of them would certainly disappear were the party to assemble in council.

But if there is no prospect of getting a convention unless it be one to upset the primary system, why should not the Democratic committee, at its forthcoming meeting, prepare a general platform of principles for use in the campaign? While not the best plan that might be proposed, this would be far better than nothing and would at least save us the disgrace of going before the people with no declaration of the faith that is in us.

In the meantime, cannot the press of the State return to first principles during the campaign and argue those fine old doctrines of good government upon which the party is founded, together with those reforms which are needed to bring Virginia back to the forefront of Democracy?

CANT GET 'EM THIS WAY.

John Bull seems to believe that he can raise athletes for the next Olympic by raising money, and he is very much concerned that the English public will not contribute the necessary funds to get a winning team. In fact, he is positively astounded because Earl Grey, Lord Roberts, the Earl of Westminster and a host of other notables united in a public appeal for \$500,000, and have only been able thus far to raise a paltry \$25,000.

THE PROSECUTORS OF NEW YORK.

It would be too much to judge the efficiency of the prosecuting officers of New York State by their efforts to recover Harry Thaw, and it would be too much to presume that they follow every criminal with the same care. Yet the efficiency of the office during recent years is worthy of comment, especially when compared with the weakness of the other branches of the executive and the miserable corruption of past Legislatures.

Why is this the case, and why have there been no scandals against the Attorney-General's office, or against the District Attorney for New York, in all the hue and cry that has been directed against the other executive officers of the government? There may be some disagreement as to the reason, for to our mind, the reason is at least fourfold. Something, of course, is due to the legal standing and ethics of the men who have been elevated to high office in the State's service as prosecutors, for while New York has many an Abe Hammel, it has a splendid legal tradition.

Still more, however, of the prestige of the prosecutors of the Empire State is due to the white light of publicity in which these advocates of the people have worked. Whitman's fight against the police "system" and Jerome's prosecution of Thaw are cases in point. Men looked to these men for the maintenance of the law, their every act was scrutinized, and glaring headlines held out to them daily the promise of fame. The opportunity, in short, developed the man.

But whatever the reason, it is pleasant to reflect that in the present political and administrative chaos in New York the prosecutors have gone about their work with splendid attack and care. Jerome, as special deputy attorney-general, is to lead; one assistant is in Canada, another is in Vermont, and the Attorney-General stands ready to maintain the majesty of his office and to uphold the righteousness of the law.

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt dislikes Mrs. Pankhurst. The latter would be doubly justified in hissing, "Cat."

THE HOSPITAL.

The failure of the Committee on Public Buildings, Properties and Utilities to get a quorum yesterday afternoon will be a source of regret to the people of the city, not because we anticipated any definite action at that time, but because we thought the city should at least show its appreciation of the tender made by the Medical College of Virginia.

We hope, however, that the absence of a quorum yesterday was merely one of those accidents that happen with busy men, and that the next meeting will find all the members present, ready to consider in a liberal spirit the entire proposition of a city hospital.

We say the entire proposition because, as we see it, the discussion as to whether or not the city will accept the offer of the Medical College of Virginia is really the old question we have agitated for years—whether or not the city intends to abandon the policy of caring for its sick and its injured in the same building.

Upon this point the views of The Times-Dispatch are so well-known to our readers as scarcely to need repetition. We have always felt that a great and prosperous city like Richmond was doing its citizens an injustice when it offered to the honest workman injured at his craft no better facilities for hospital treatment than those afforded at what is primarily a home for the city's indigent. We have felt that instead we should follow the example of other large cities and provide an emergency hospital where an honest workman need not feel himself on a parity with paupers.

On this point we believe the sentiment of business and workmen alike is unified. When the Council committee comes to consider the proposition it should regard this sentiment, and should pass on the proposal with an eye to the real needs of the city—tomorrow not less than to-day.

USE MORE LOCAL NAMES.

Richmond people are much pleased at the action of a prominent firm of tobacconists in naming their leading brand of smoking tobacco after the hero of a novel. In approving, all of us will doubtless wonder why some good business man did not do the like years ago, and we will expect other manufacturers to use more local names in advertising their goods.

Why should they not take advantage of that splendid local tradition that makes Richmond distinctive, and why should they not brand their products with labels that will let people know these goods are made in the most famous of American cities? We have a host of local traditions, a host of literary associations, a host of historical settings, any one of which may legitimately be utilized for business advertising.

That it will be good business, we have no doubt. In fact, we believe that no Richmond manufacturer has a greater asset than the town in which he lives. People who know little of business or geography know of Richmond, and if they see the name of the city on goods offered for sale they will remember the brand. One Boston tobacconist, for instance, used to sell only Richmond-made goods, and when asked why he did this, would always reply that his customers knew the name of the city and were willing to trust its products.

Incidentally, of course, the city will be benefited, for where our name and our history are known friends will be made among our friends, visitors will come in ever-increasing numbers, and the industry of the town will be helped proportionately. Advertising Richmond's name, in short, will mean dollars and cents to every Richmond dealer.

Let's make the most of our greatest asset—our name.

WANTED—A KITCHENER.

It is an off season when Great Britain hasn't a little pacification war on hand in one or another of her numerous protectorates scattered over the face of the globe. Also in this connection it may be remarked that British coarseness and "slaughter and scuttle" policy in dealing with barbarous and semicivilized tribes and nations did hard.

The latest evidence of these facts is found in the recent "fighting" in British Somaliland, which is a strategic stretch of territory, running back from the waters of the far-off Gulf of Aden to Abyssinia. The "reverse" out there, as the official dispatches phrase it, only illustrates anew British failure to learn from disastrous experience, not to say that it exemplifies British contempt for the lesson of experience, as written in letters of blood all too frequently, especially in the record of British "pacification" in the Sudan and the Red Sea littoral.

The Somaliland affair now reported merely links up with a series of efforts to pacify the protectorate, running back to 1899, and which failed to pacify, owing to the confidence and policy we have noted. Between that year and 1903 various small punitive columns were sent out from Berbera, the chief seaport, and Sheikh and Burao, close-by inland posts, to suppress uprisings under Mahdis or Mullahs, only to leave the bones of most of their numbers bleaching on the sands, and without accomplishing anything beyond checking native advance.

In 1904, however, after a particularly disastrous dash into the interior, during which in one engagement (April, 1904) no less than eight British officers were killed, Major-General Egerton, at a cost of \$3,000,000 to the government, led a force of 7,000 British troops against the Mullah then in power, and defeated him at Siddballi, inflicting upon his enemy a loss of over 1,000 in killed and wounded. Then, as had been the case in the Red Sea littoral and in the Sudan prior to the Kitchener expedition, after the slaughter the British scuttled, leaving the country to the prey again of Mahdist fanatic following. The late reverse was to a camel corps of 150 men and officers, dispatched to punish some raiding tribes, and which lost over fifty in dead and wounded at a point not over thirty miles southwest of Burao. The corps was utterly defeated, and the survivors were barely saved from massacre by a small heroic band that went to the relief. But that is not the worst of it, for it is gravely apprehended that the "moral effect" of the tribal success will be to encourage a general uprising in the hinterland, and jeopardize the existence of the entire British Somaliland force, before adequate reinforcements become available.

As to the final outcome there can be no question. Great Britain is in Somaliland to stay. She must stay. The geographical and strategic position of the country as a back door approach to other British possessions and spheres of influence in Africa render this beyond dispute, as a glance at the map of East Africa will demonstrate. Moreover, she must open up and exploit the country with railroads extending from the coast. Meanwhile, however, there are those, we are told, who, in the light of the situation and menace caused by the fresh "reverse," have come to think that Somaliland cannot have a Kitchener too soon. And it would appear that they are thinking wisely.

WHY RICHMOND GROWS.

Those who have wondered at Richmond's growth found both evidence of it and proof abundant in the remarkable article printed Sunday in the Industrial Section of The Times-Dispatch. These figures, which our readers doubtless preserved for reference, gave a detailed comparison of the condition of our banks June 4, 1913, and February 28, 1890. The marve wrought in twenty-three years were really unbelievable.

For instance, the total resources of Richmond banks in 1890 were but about \$13,200,000, while one Richmond bank now has loans and discounts within \$500,000 of this figure, and our banks as a whole have resources of more than \$7,000,000. In 1890 the city felt it was doing a wonderful business when the banks showed loans and discounts of \$9,493,000; now we do not regard it as unusual to learn that our banks have outstanding loans and discounts of almost \$50,000,000. Our banking house property and fixtures were then worth \$241,000; they are now returned at \$1,853,000. More significant still is the comparison of surplus and profits—\$1,500,000 in 1890, \$7,650,000 in 1913.

Banking accurately reflects the business of a community, for the bank prospers with the progress of the city and loses when business declines. It is a splendid tribute to Richmond that, through the years the banks have prospered and have kept pace with the growth of the city, suffering no decline, but moving onward as the city has moved.

It is cheering, too, to note that not only have we rich banks and strong banks, but that we have good banks. Indeed, no city of the country can boast a more constructive, careful and successful banking policy than that of Richmond. Few cities have easier money; few a surer, safer market. Bank in Richmond and prosper!

A Washington judge has decided that a husband has no right, just because he paid for them, to take away his wife's false teeth if she deceives him. The man in the case was as mean as the boy who, according to late dispatches, stole his father's cork leg and pawned it.

Lord Strathcona, who is going to resign the post of Canadian high commissioner next year, will then be only ninety-four, and will doubtless become a life insurance solicitor.

ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT

By ROY K. MOULTON.

Equal Rights. Women demand equal rights with men. What does a woman have to wear during the oppressive dog days of 1913?

One low-necked sleeveless mosquito netting gown slit up to the knee. One pair silk stockings. One pair of slippers. That's all. What does a man wear during the said dog days?

One vest. One shirt with starched collar. One pair socks. One pair shoes. One union suit. One hat. One pair suspenders. One belt. One necktie.

If he takes his coat off in a hot restaurant he is thrown out. If he takes his tight collar off he's a rube. If he wears his trousers slit up to the knees he would be sent to the insane asylum.

Equal rights? Huh!

An Ear Trumpet Gone. Old Bill Sykes says that all of the equal suffrage talk he heard lately reminds him of Obed Hamburg's lamp chimney. Obed had a lamp chimney that was twenty-eight years old, and for years he had used it for an ear trumpet. It was chimed by Obed that you couldn't break his lamp chimney, but one night he went to hear an eke suffrage speaker down to the town hall, and taking' along his glass chimney ear trumpet he got right down into the front seat.

He was holding the thing right clus to his ear and was nodding his head to everything she said till all at once she hollered, "How's that tyrant?" and the concussion broke the top of his chimney into forty-seven pieces. That settled Obed, and he is now agin' the whole business.

Love Will Find a Way. Chicago young man climbed a tree and mewed like a cat to attract the attention of his sweetheart, who had been locked in the house by stern parent.

Young lady in Wisconsin, who was waitress in restaurant, wrote message to hard boiled egg, which she served to customer, and said a customer married her the next afternoon.

Unwelcome caller at a home in Ohio had a pair of aluminum trousers made, the bulldog placed on watch by his sweethearts' father, grabbed in vain and lost all of his teeth.

No Age Limit. I used to slam those boys slit skirts which showed a calf a yard; I thought they were the limit, and I died in language hard.

I used to see 'em on the street, and shameless things they were; I put on blinders like a horse, and turned aside. Yes, sir, I cannot roast them any more; My lips are must allow. For mother wears one now.

Summer Resort News.

Bunkum Beach, August 20.—Mrs. Fitzmaurice Reginald Estabrook, arriving at Bunkum Beach this week that she had left her party gown at home. She wrote to her husband for it, and he included it in his regular weekly letter and sent it to her. Mrs. Burlingame Jones-Jenkinson is having three yards of mosquito netting made into attractive bathing suits for her three daughters.

Eggs are only \$1.25 a dozen here. The price was reduced from \$1.50 last week. Butter remains stationary, at \$1.00 a pound. That is to say, it remains stationary if you mail it to the table.

Mr. Fitzmaurice Reginald Estabrook, who had the misfortune to dislocate two of his shoulders while dancing the bunny hug at the hotel last Saturday evening, is doing nicely, and is expected to be out of the hospital within a week.

There are four men and 522 women at the resort this week. The four men comprise the quartet at the hotel, and have to stay here on lose their jobs.

Mrs. Jane Frisby, of Kansas City, who is at the resort, is being made much of this week on account of her heroism in shooting a particularly ferocious mosquito last night. She shot the animal with a .32-calibre rifle, but the mosquito limped away, carrying the bullet with him.

The Grand Duke Horealis of Russia, who has been visiting at the resort for two weeks, has returned to Schenectady, where he has a lucrative position as salesman in a shoe store.

Mr. Aloysius Dodds, of Springfield, went out in a canoe this morning at 7 o'clock, and while in the same tried to pluck a pond lily. He leaves a large circle of relatives and friends.

Three of the waitresses at the hotel starved to death last week, and several of the guests have grown so thin that the wind blows through them, and they do not obstruct one's view of the scenery.

FLIES!

Horse manure is the principal hatching place for flies. It can be made sterile with coal oil, carbolic acid, copperas water or dry lime by mixing thoroughly.

Horsemen, stablemen, owners of horses and sanitary inspectors, pay attention! Cut this out. Let 1913 be a flyless year.

Abbe Martin



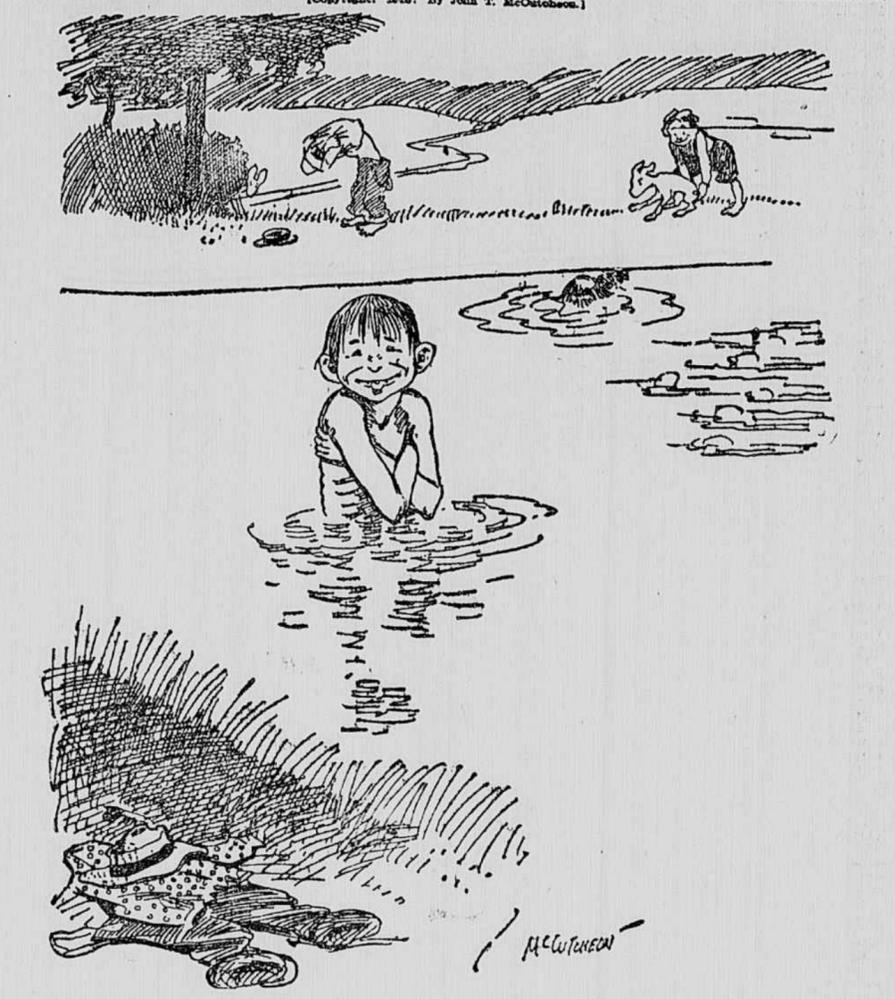
It's purty hard t' find th' waist line on a girl's foot this summer. Men ought t' keep still about our skirts since it's only been twenty-five or thirty years since they wuz wearin' bell-bottomed pants an' alligator shoes, says Miss Tawny Apple this morning.

A BOY IN SUMMERTIME.

C'mon in—it's great.

By John T. McCutcheon.

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Voice of the People

Defends Eugenes.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir.—We are glad to learn from H. P. Faunt Le Roy in Saturday's issue that "Much is being said about Eugenes and about the prospective bridegroom furnishing a health certificate." We were of the firm opinion that he was being said. We were disturbed lest Virginia were waiting to take her place as forty-first State on this great question, as in education, however, one of her citizens has so far awakened as to ask questions, and we are anxious to suggest the solution of a few problems proffered on the 15th last.

For instance: No. 1. The bride does not furnish a health certificate because she is not a virgin. No. 2. The sense of honor prevents the groom's investigating the matter. Men have more privileges here and can discuss the bride's physical condition unreservedly with the family physician, in most cases, I suppose, this is done, and if necessary the ceremony is postponed indefinitely.

No. 3. If immorality were confined to single persons by law there would be fewer weak-minded, idiotic women who were willing to exchange the marriage altar for a J. P.'s office, as Mr. Faunt Le Roy suggests.

No. 4. (a) Those thirteen Richmond ministers will have 3,000,000 recalcitrants to recite the Lord's Prayer that is not mutely with Colonial conventionalism. (b) Virginia must be certain that these conservative subnormalists are not shocked out of the ruts of mock modesty before she will consent to receive the next generation from degenerating into puppets of conservatism and servile imitators.

No. 5. A state law and a "ministers' union" will "protect" those who wish it, and those who do not should be subject to the same laws that obtain in Iowa. A magistrate may perform the marriage ceremony for prostitutes of both sexes, but no priest can officiate where they come from. But still they come, they come.

If it were something rare and beautiful, they'd die in spite of care. But oh, the flies, they never sleep. All their energy they keep.

They buzz and buzz and bite, and you can kiss and fight. And fly across an' back come, till he feels like saying d—n, but he only gets a fan.

He reads his paper for awhile, a fly lights on his hand. It takes his hand for a stile, and by the fly is tauged, he swats and curses for a mile.

It seems he'll never tire of walking on your hand; you think you will not fire; but soon you lose your sand, and swat, and swat, and d—n.

I don't think there is danger of exterminating flies. Fear is the gospel of Jesus Christ. North, South, East and West, He is the one great pest.

We can swat, and swat, and swat, till our arm is very lame. But one great lesson, dearly bought, And by the fly is taught, We must swat, and swat, and swat.

Richmond.

The Lieutenant-Governor Worth Its Cost. To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir.—In your editorial in Thursday's issue, discussing the expenses of the primary, you ask the question: "Is the office of Lieutenant-Governor worth the price paid for it?" I think it is, I have never sought any public office for pecuniary gain. I have been

QUERIES & ANSWERS

Big Snow.

In what year, six or seven years ago, was there a deep snow beginning December 22? WILMINGTON, C. 1908.

Liability for Wife's Debts. If a man living with his wife advertises that he will not be responsible for her debts, will that relieve him? READER. Not for debts contracted for things necessary for her condition in life.

Largest Rock, etc. Where is the biggest rock in the United States? What is the highest point in the United States, and what is its height? WILMINGTON, C. No one knows. The summit of Mount McKinley in Alaska, 29,300 feet.

Wild West Virginia. Where may I find in West Virginia a spot fifty miles from a sign of civilization? Where may I get information about that State? HUSTLER. There is no such spot. From the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Charleston, W. Va.

Mr. Webster. What American statesman was called "The Great Expounder," and why? Which is correct, "a wood" or "a woods"? D. Mr. Webster, on account of his admitted knowledge of the Constitution. The former.

Innocent Sermon. Is there any reason against having the baccalaureate sermon in a commencement on some other day than Sunday? R. G. L. No.

The Cherokee. Where may I get information which will help me to trace the Cherokees from the Chickahominy up the Rivanna to a settlement in Albemarle County, Va.? C. L. B. The Bureau of Ethnology, Washington, D. C. They may ask your attention to the an sit, by the way.

Bridal. Who should pay the bride's fee at a church marriage? BRIDE-ELECT. Are you not confusing the funeral baked meats? The bride's family.

Daily Menu. What publication carries a menu for each day? HOUSEKEEPER. The Modern Priscilla, Boston, Mass.; Good Housekeeping, New York City.

Grass Widow. What is the origin of the term "grass widow"? N. J. WILSON. It is "grass" widow, as opposed to "death" widow. The Latin is vidua de gratia; the French, veuve de grace. A smart discrimination is "grass" widow and "good" widow. It is said that the early adventurers to California had the practice of alluding among themselves to wives left behind as "out at grass," and it is sometimes suggested that the use "grass widow" came this way into existence.

REV. D. H. KENNEY, Philadelphia.

The Banking Requirements

Of business men are given prompt and careful attention by the officers of this institution. We have always extended encouragement and assistance to commercial enterprises of Richmond, and esteem it a privilege to confer with those considering the establishment of new or additional banking connections.

National State and City Bank

1111 East Main Street