

The Times Dispatch

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1913.

DIRECT GOVERNMENT IN PRACTICE

The Indianapolis News, an independent journal of progressive tendencies, lately directed a stiff correspondent to inquire into the practical workings of "direct" government in the States of Oregon and Washington.

He reports that the people of the two States in question have "long staggered under the burden of their responsibilities," and that "the system of the initiative, referendum and recall has practically broken down from its sheer weight."

"The truth of the assertion that the people are wholly unable to prepare themselves to vote intelligently on many of the long and complex proposals submitted (some of which are elaborate reconstruction schemes for taxation and State government) seems beyond dispute," declares the observer.

Even Jonathan Bourne, when still a Senator from Oregon, admitted that he had voted on but three of the forty issues for popular legislation which were on the State ballot, because he did not understand or know about the others.

In the State of Washington the situation is similar. There, "the use of the recall and the referendum of many questions to the people are causing such a multiplicity of elections that the people are already inclined to be weary."

One of the most important elections was the last in which the people were called upon to approve or reject different proposals on the \$25,000,000 harbor work, but only 12 per cent of the electorate went to the polls.

There is a general indifference which seriously hampers "direct" government where it is being given practical demonstration.

On every hand are daily evidences that Western civilization is full of serious weaknesses. The threatened menace of a "scientific" science and a materialistic philosophy is passing on to us.

There is something very important in these modern conceptions to bring God and man closer together, and to make the spiritual life of the world vigorous and helpful.

The Columbia States says its idea of "gentle exercise" is a pole-a-line, some worms and a black bottle. Those old umbra fish must get 'em in a black bottle.

THE HOUSE THAT RICHMOND BUILDS.

Do the architects, contractors, real estate men and residents of this charming old town ever stop to think that they are building a mighty lot of ugly, humdrum, undistinguished houses? The new streets are not pretty; they are monotonous. They are cramped and crowded. They run geometrically straight. Never a curve, a vista, or a surprise in contour hits the eye.

The imaginative enterprise of our house merchants seems to stop with naming the subdivision. "Utopia Place" reads fine. Why not make it look fine, too? Is the minimum cost limit in reserved districts too low for variety and beauty of architecture? Are the people in such mad haste to get a new dwelling that they take the first ordinary suggestion of a hand-me-down plan?

The observer of the magnificent growth of the West End is saddened by the lack of catholic interest in good house designs. You may walk for blocks on fashionable streets and see no residence that starts by its individual charm. So rare is this distinction that the few attempts at originality stand forth in striking emphasis. Almost everybody knows these few. At that a good many people think "They are too pronounced." We imagine it is a sign of better health to be pronounced than to be nothing.

At the root of this evil lies the queer belief that only certain districts are fashionable and polite. This produces a herding together and a severity of land. The lots dwindle until there is room for nothing but the simplest severity of angles. Any larger effect that requires a bit of land around for setting and background becomes impossible. Residences must be high and stiff. They cannot be low and flowing. Lawns are next to invisible. Porches become stoops. The back yard is full of garage.

Now, modern American residential architecture is constantly improving. Our artists in design have reached out all over the world and seized upon characteristic styles that are cleverly modified to suit native conditions. The bungalow has made a slight show in Richmond. The Spanish and mission court ideas are traceable. There is a little of the New England Colonial, which, by the way, looks surprisingly out of place, because we feel it to be a Southern Colonial stripped down to the skeleton. Our own style in that line is the best in the world. There is a lot of milk and water Renaissance stuff. The rest seem to be just "houses."

The apartments suffer from over-brightness. They must pay the ground rent. It still remains for some enterprising builder to put up the dainty six-apartment buildings of unique plan.

Old Richmond offers variety and simplicity. Its building is distinguished by dignity of line and the "home" look. We could develop its hints admirably in the new sections. If we do not build prettier houses, the city will suffer by comparison with towns where architecture is more versatile and experimental.

THE EXPANDING PEANUT. "Once regarded as a symbol of insignificance, the peanut is now earning a respectable place in the country's commerce and agriculture," says the Atlanta Journal, restating a long established fact in Virginia's experience. Millions are invested in plants for the manufacture of peanut products, while thousands of acres in the South are devoted to the cultivation of this excellent crop.

The peanut crop last year brought an average price of 35 cents per bushel, and this year, because of a general shortage in the country, it will bring much more. The average yield of peanuts in Texas is from forty to fifty bushels, and under the best conditions even seventy-five bushels.

It is also observed that in a dry season, when cotton cannot be made, peanuts flourish. "Practical experience in this connection has brought conviction to many farmers, and they now devote a part of their land to peanuts, and cotton, instead of relying exclusively on cotton." The peanut obviously is playing an important part in crop diversification. It is rapidly growing in popularity throughout the South.

Thomas A. Edison has a new office boy. He met his employer and held him up, because the boss confessed that he had no appointment with Mr. Edison. He asked the inventor to sign in his own office. "That" had in mind of the right stuff, and Mr. Edison knows it.

We have with us again the drop kicker.

DEVELOP BYRD PARK OVAL.

The time is certainly ripe for developing the athletic field at Byrd Park to something like its full possibilities. The Times-Dispatch suggested this summer that a dressing-house and shower-baths could be installed for the comfort of players on the oval. We have also mentioned the chance for a big swimming pool. For the next year, the beginnings of such a municipal pool can perhaps best be made on the other side of the lake, where a tank of concrete now lies idle. The proper equipment of the athletic field should not wait.

We trust that the dual track meet between a bank and a life insurance company will emphasize what is needed to make this playground really useful. The need has existed all along, but events of this kind are big enough to arouse a general interest that may result in action.

The simple fact of the matter is that violent exercise in the open should be followed by a bath and a sharp rub. The waste matter of perspiration must be washed off by a warm shower, and then the pores must be closed and the whole system braced by a cold dash. If this process be followed the exercise is a hundred times more beneficial than if the hot, tired player gets into the car and rides home before he undresses. He is likely to become chilled and stiff. Colds and soreness result. The fatigue poisons are not thrown off.

The Richmond Amateur Athletic Federation should have prompt and hearty support from the Council, through the Administrative Board, and from the citizens, in its effort to have a municipal clubhouse built at Byrd Park Oval. Clubhouses of this sort already exist in many cities. Here one would furnish a great stimulus to more outdoor sports. It could become a valuable adjunct to the athletic work of the public school system. It would offer an incentive to unattached athletes to go into training. The federation would co-operate to make the house useful to the entire athletic life of the city.

We need something to supplement the work of the Y. M. C. A. and playgrounds. The sum of \$20,000 is none too much for the right encouragement of health and strength in our young men.

THE PARAMOUNT ISSUE.

Experts of the Federal Department of Labor have recently completed an investigation of retail prices of food-stuffs in forty American cities. They estimate an increase of approximately 60 per cent in the cost of living since the decade of 1890-1900. The tendency is still upward, a fact evidenced by the advance of 3 per cent since last year.

Who gets the money the consumers are compelled to "fork over" in ever-increasing amounts? Financiers, economists, publicists and others are striving to solve the question, but none has done so. "An international congress to discuss it has even been suggested."

The government report referred to supplements the more elaborate report issued by the British government. That document did not give the latest figures for this country and for Japan, but it announced that the rise in prices in these countries was unquestionably higher than anywhere else. Here are some of the percentages it found:

In Austria-Hungary, the rise since 1900 has been 25 per cent; in Belgium, 30 per cent; in Germany, 39 per cent; in Italy, 29 per cent; in France, 16 per cent; in Great Britain, 13 per cent; in Australia and New Zealand, 15 per cent; in Canada, 51 per cent.

It thus appears that the United States leads the world in the high cost of living, while Canada comes second.

CONGRESSIONAL VACANCIES.

The death of Representative Roddenberry, of Georgia, causes the sixth vacancy in the House in the last few months. The special election in the Third Maine reduced the number of present unfilled seats to five. The next election is in the First District of West Virginia on October 14.

"Big Tim" Sullivan's death a short while ago created the second vacancy in the New York delegation, the first having been brought about by the appointment of Francis Burton Harrison to be Governor-General of the Philippines. These two districts, the Thirtieth and Twentieth, are safely Democratic.

The Third Maryland has had no Representative since last May, when Representative Koenig died. This is in Baltimore, and likewise Democratic. The Third Massachusetts is without a Representative, because of the death of William H. Wilder, who died two weeks ago. He was a Republican, elected in 1912 by a good margin.

The vacancy in West Virginia arises from the appointment of Representative Davis to be Solicitor-General. He was elected by a slim majority, and the Republicans hope this year to regain the district. Of the vacancies to be filled, this is the only one which will have national political significance.

The Washington papers say, "Come to Washington. Trade Week starts Monday." Wrong again—they don't make the tariff that way any more.

The candidacy of the Hon. John A. Looney for the General Assembly of Virginia has attracted wide attention because of his patronymic. The Wilmington Star says that "he may be somewhat different from the Looney members who generally get the Legislature in hand when the session first opens and bills begin to be introduced." The Florida Times-Union thinks that it "isn't half as bad for him to be running for the Legislature, 'as it is for him to be running the Legislature, as is the case in many States."

ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT

By ROY K. MOULTON.

The Duty of a Bone Head. I set out to be a short story writer. I could see a mint of money in it, and G. H. Hardy and Guy de Maupassant were not going to have a thing on me. I wrote my first story and mailed it to a well-known magazine, which had the habit of printing the names of contributors on its cover. That was eighteen years ago.

The editor of this magazine sent back the manuscript, saying that he was sorry he couldn't use it. It was the best short story he had ever read. It was, in fact, a masterpiece, but he was afraid all of his other contributors would get jealous and quit him if he published it.

For nine years the story kept coming back, and all of the rejection slips read about "the same, with slight variations." In short, I was the marvel of the literary world, but they couldn't use my stuff. One editor said he was afraid it would go over the heads of his readers. I don't know how many trips to New York that story made, but I had enough rejection slips to paper three bedrooms and a living room, when finally eight years ago the story was accepted. It was accepted by the magazine I had sent it to first, many years before the other editor had died. This magazine received the story and read it eighteen different times before accepting it.

It was accepted eight years ago, but it has not yet been published. I have just received a check for \$25. The postage I spent on that story during its ten years of travel amounted to \$125.84.

There may be money in literature. There must be, for nobody seems to get any out of it. At the meantime, I have held down a lucrative position in a steel mill, and have earned enough to pay the postage on my story. Now that I have received a check for the first story, I am going to write another on the chance that I will get paid. I checked before I reach the sea and yellow lead.

I also hope that some of my children will be being enough to see my first story published.

Don't Blame the Animals. There never was a bunny in existence who was innocent enough to dance the bunny-hug right out in public. The grizzly bear may be a fleece beast, but there is nothing to show that he ever went through the movements of the grizzly local as noted at some of our effete and popular summer resorts.

The turkey is a dignified bird, and when he moves about it is with a stately tread. He does not humiliate himself in a bow knot and dance around with one foot behind his left ear and throw his partner half-way across the barnyard. He wouldn't recognize a turkey trot if he saw up his tail.

Somebody, as usual, has been nature-faking. From the Tall Grass. Gosh, darn it, Bill, it's these here trusts that's bleedin' us to death. The way them fellers carry on would take away your breath. You have to take an airship now when you go out to buy.

What's that you say—half-past eight? By heck, that meetin' on. What sort of meetin' did you say? Just pass that damn john. You don't mean to tell me, Bill, you haven't heard the bill. To git together here this fall. And git all that we can.

Justification. What is the difference between the justification of Abraham and that of the Apostle Paul? N. C. C. The difference between following the "dispensation" of the Old Testament and that of the New.

Interest and Pensions. What interest is allowed on State bonds? When the widow of a Confederate soldier eligible to pension? MRS. B. C. H.

The interest varies in different States. The Auditor of Virginia can probably send you some pamphlet showing the rate in various places. You can get from the Auditor of Virginia, Library Building, Richmond, the full text of the pension law and information on all its provisions.

Old Verses Wanted. A Will you publish the old verses giving the order of the Presidents of the United States? They begin: "The American presidential line began in seventeen eighty-and."

Terrapins and Turtles. Can you tell me how to rid my fish pond of terrapins and turtles? FISHFARM.

About the best thing is a trap made of splits with funnel-shaped opening, baited with flour dumplings tied up in cloth. This will almost certainly take some of the fish, but they may be replaced in the water.

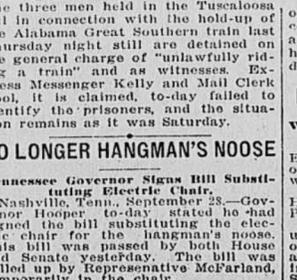
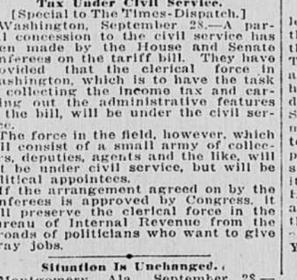
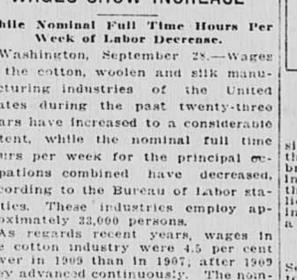
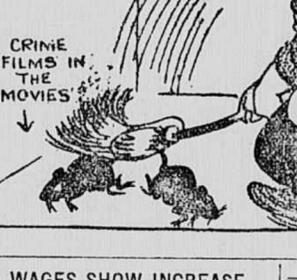
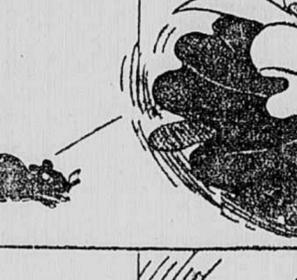
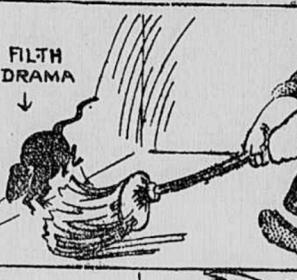
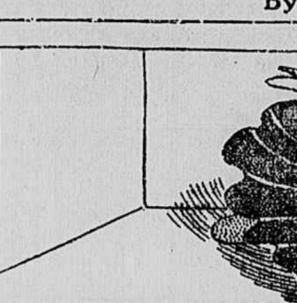
Abe Martin

No matter how well a feller is doin', his wife is allus figurin' on how much more he could save if he'd quit smokin'. A grocer often charges of "smokin' but I see if 'e folks that owe him are still in town."

THE ENDLESS STRUGGLE.

By John T. McCutcheon.

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News of Petersburg

The Times-Dispatch Bureau, 5 Bollingbrook Street, Petersburg, Va., September 28. (Telephone 1485.)

Thomas Edward Eubank, aged about sixty-five years, was found dead in bed this morning in his home in Bollingbrook Street. He had long been an invalid from the effects of paralysis, though able to move about. It is believed he suffered another stroke during the night. He leaves a son and a daughter.

More Room Needed. A meeting of the congregation of the Second Presbyterian Church was held to-day following the hour of morning worship to consider the question of enlarging the Sunday school room for which, owing to the growth of the Sunday school, has become a necessity. The proposed enlargement will necessitate an addition or annex to the rear of the church at considerable expense. The proposition was approved by the congregation and a resolution was adopted for the appointment of a committee of nine to consider and report on the cost of the proposed enlargement, and calls for the raising of the sum of \$5,000. Of this amount the sum of \$1,200 was subscribed to-day. The committee to which the matter of plans, subscriptions, etc., is referred, is composed of the pastor, Rev. J. A. McClure, two members of the session, two from the deacons, two from the congregation and two from the female membership.

General News Notes. A wreck resulting in the derailment of several freight cars on the Atlantic Coast Line, near Stony Creek, was reported this morning. No one was hurt. Passenger trains were delayed until the track could be cleared.

Luther Matthews, colored, employed by the Virginia Lumber Company, at Disputanta, had one of his feet mangled by being caught under some falling railroad ties on Friday. He was taken to Petersburg for treatment and had one injured leg amputated.

Booming Bright Tobacco Market. The large offerings of bright tobacco on the Petersburg market during the past two weeks were a surprise to the warehousemen and manufacturers. The presence of so many buyers representing big companies, and the high prices paid, were surprises to the planters. The fact seems established beyond question that Petersburg is to be a bright, as well as a dark tobacco market hereafter. Many of the planters of Dinwiddie and other counties have realized \$25 to \$35 a 100 pounds on their brights since the opening of sales this season, and it is understood that large crops raised this year in the Southside Virginia will all be brought here.

Chinese Commander Apologizes for Recent Killings to Consul at Nanking. Nanking, September 28.—General Chang Hsun, commander of the troops at Nanking, accompanied by a body-guard of fifty cavalry, this morning went to the Japanese consulate and apologized, according to the Japanese demands in connection with the killing of several Japanese and an insult offered to the Japanese flag. The consul expressed his satisfaction at the action of the Chinese commander.

No Ultimatum Sent. Peking, September 28.—The Japanese legation to-day emphatically denied that an ultimatum had been sent by the Japanese government to China. The legation stated that the Chinese authorities at Hankow and San Tung had fully complied with the Japanese demands. A Shanghai dispatch on September 27 announced the Japanese minister had presented an ultimatum to China, allowing three days to comply with Japan's demands. The ultimatum was rejected, with the demand that it was feared would be General Chang Hsun's refusal to offer an official apology. A later dispatch declared that Japanese warships with marines aboard were awaiting the issue on the Yangtze River.

Apology Clears Air. Tokyo, September 28.—The apology of General Chang Hsun to the Japanese consulate at Nanking has cleared the air, according to the Japanese officials here, and for the present removes the danger of complications.

Death of Sir Alfred East Was President of the Royal Society of British Artists. Sir Alfred East was born in 1849. Alfred East was knighted in 1910. He received gold medals at London, Paris, Munich and Barcelona. While on a visit to Chicago in January, 1910, Sir Alfred expressed the opinion that "Americans are courageous in action, but cowards in judgment." He declared the United States must develop an art of its own.

Thomas Mott Osborne Will Be Confined (Special to The Times-Dispatch.) Auburn, N. Y., September 28.—Thomas Mott Osborne, chairman of the State Prison Reform Commission, will enter Auburn prison to-morrow as an ordinary convict. It is his intention to be confined for a short term and undergo every experience that he would have to undergo as a felon, even to a taste of life in the prison dungeon. Later he will report on his study of prison influences in their psychological and physiological aspects, and also as to sanitation.

Taste of Life in Prison (Special to The Times-Dispatch.) Auburn, N. Y., September 28.—Thomas Mott Osborne, chairman of the State Prison Reform Commission, will enter Auburn prison to-morrow as an ordinary convict. It is his intention to be confined for a short term and undergo every experience that he would have to undergo as a felon, even to a taste of life in the prison dungeon. Later he will report on his study of prison influences in their psychological and physiological aspects, and also as to sanitation.

Millionaires on Panel (Special to The Times-Dispatch.) New York, September 28.—Coroner Fisher's inquest announced the special panel of fifty men, each of whom is reputed to be a millionaire, from the jury of twelve who will hear the case of Anna Ammiller next Friday. Theodore T. Shonts has been selected as foreman of the jury, which will hear the evidence offered by the coroner against Hans Schmidt, the young priest, who confessed the crime.

Action Satisfies Japan (Special to The Times-Dispatch.) Nanking, September 28.—General Chang Hsun, commander of the troops at Nanking, accompanied by a body-guard of fifty cavalry, this morning went to the Japanese consulate and apologized, according to the Japanese demands in connection with the killing of several Japanese and an insult offered to the Japanese flag. The consul expressed his satisfaction at the action of the Chinese commander.

Saved from Politicians (Special to The Times-Dispatch.) Washington, September 28.—A partial concession to the civil service has been made by the House and Senate conferees on the tariff bill. They have provided that the clerical force in Washington, which is to have the task of collecting the income tax and carrying out the administrative features of the bill, will be under the civil service.

Not Longer Hangman's Noose (Special to The Times-Dispatch.) Montgomery, Ala., September 28.—The three men held in the Tuscaloosa jail in connection with the hold-up of the Alabama Great Southern train last Thursday night still are detained on the charge of "smoking" the train while it was en route. Express Messenger Kelly and Mail Clerk Pool, it is claimed, to-day failed to identify the prisoners, and the situation remains as it was Saturday.

Wages Show Increase (Special to The Times-Dispatch.) Washington, September 28.—Wages in the cotton, woolen and silk manufacturing industries of the United States during the past twenty-three years have increased to a considerable extent, while the nominal full time hours per week for the principal occupations combined have decreased, according to the Bureau of Labor statistics. These industries employ approximately 33,000 persons. As regards recent years, wages in the cotton industry were 45 per cent lower in 1909 than in 1907, after 1909 they advanced continuously. The nominal full time hours per week in the principal occupations combined, not including finishing in the cotton industry, for 1912, showed small decreases.

Monoplanes and Biplanes in Cross-Country Test (Special to The Times-Dispatch.) Rheims, France, September 28.—The most interesting event of the second day of the Rheims aviation meet was a cross-country race for monoplanes and biplanes. The race was five times around a thirty-kilometer course, and started by flags in the same manner that a horse race is started. The biplanes were first sent away. Half an hour later the monoplanes were started.

The National State and City Bank invites you to open an account, either subject to check or at 3% interest in its Savings Department. CAPITAL AND SURPLUS \$1,600,000.00