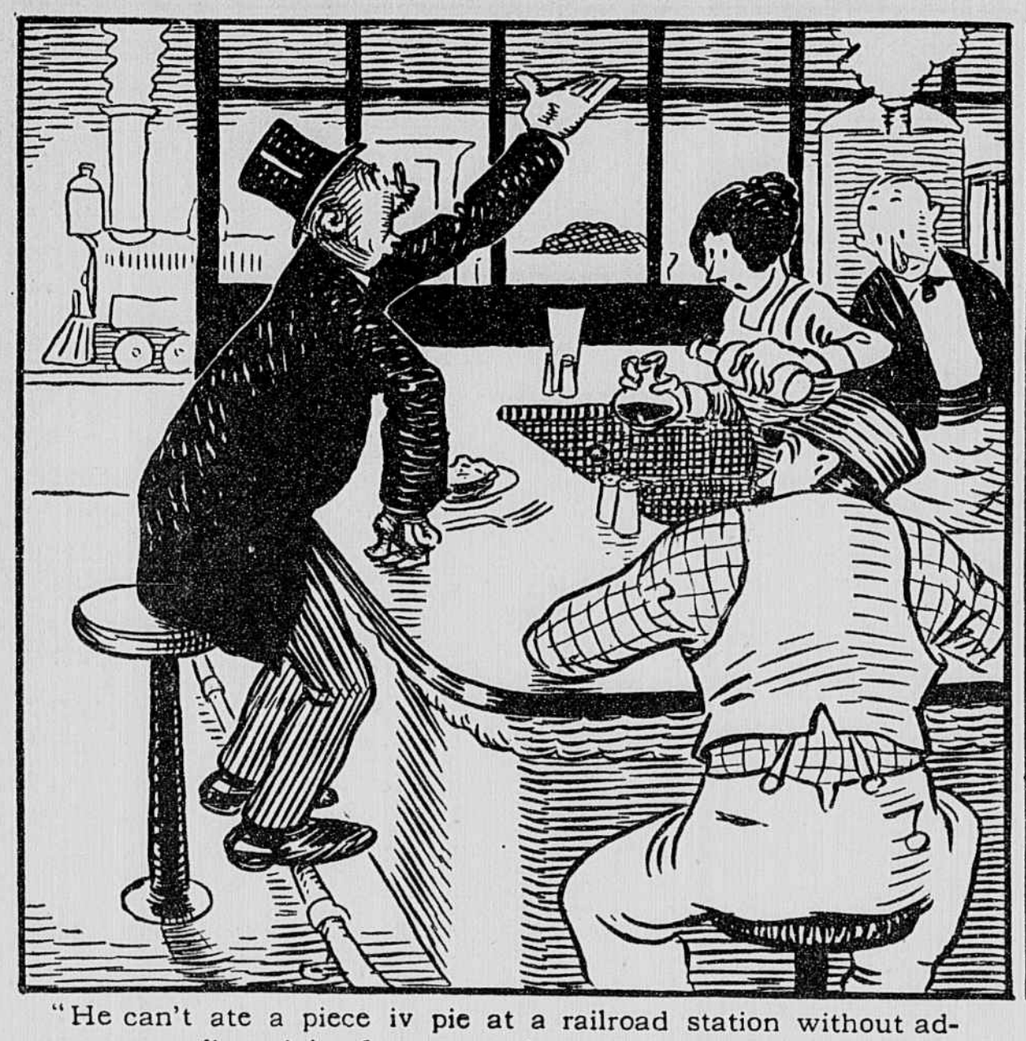
MR. DOOLEY ON OUR DIPLOMACY

BY FINLEY PETER DUNNE



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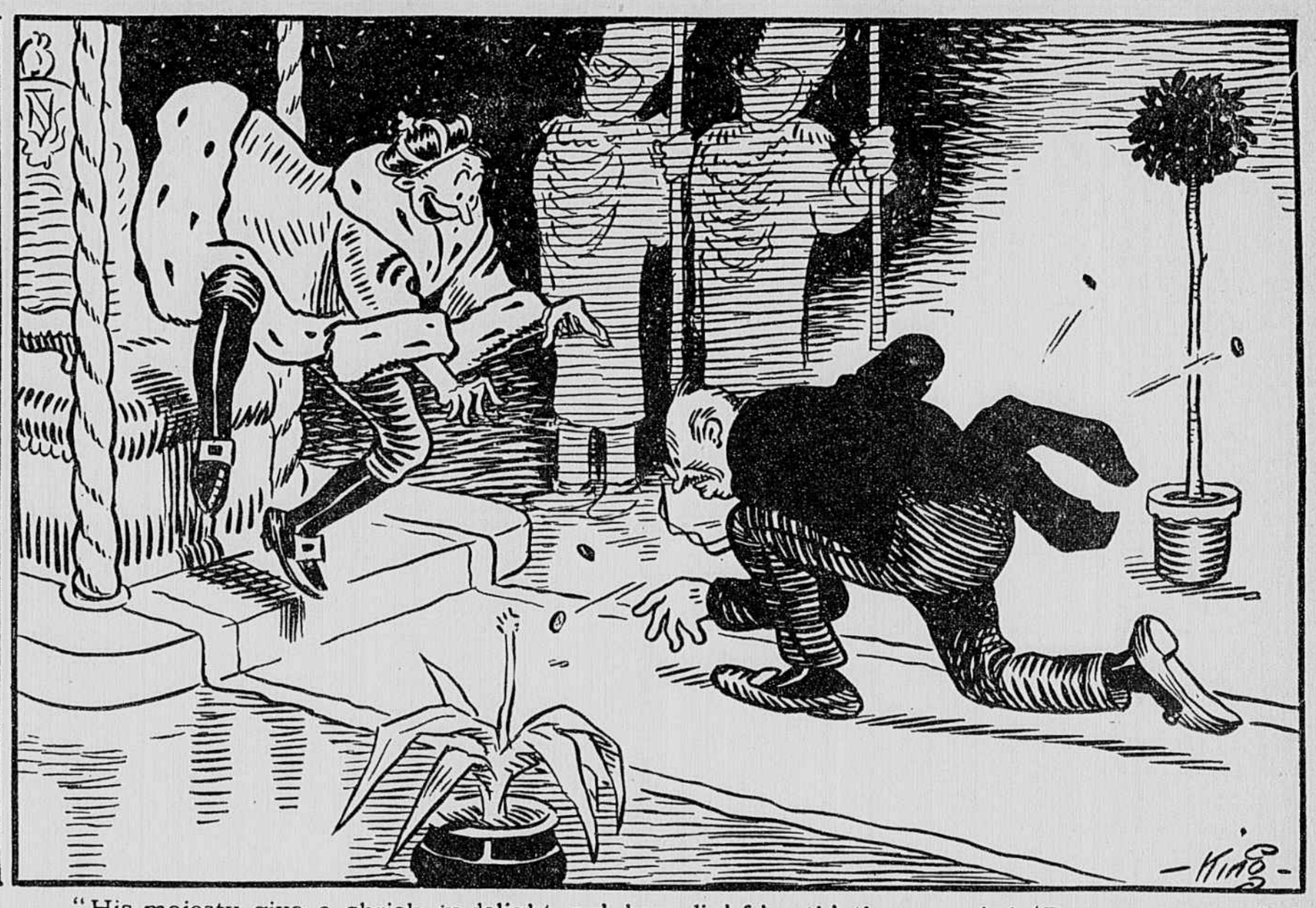

"His majesty give a shriek iv delight, an', boundin' fr'm th' throne, cried, 'Buttons, buttons,' an' began scoopin' up these mimintoes iv me visit."

"GALLAGHER has had a letter fr'm Tommy Slavin," said Mr. Dooley.

"Who is he? Do I know him?" asked Mr. Hennessy.

"Sure ye do," said Mr. Dooley. "He's that red headed boy that used to play third base on th' brothers' school nine. But now he's sicrety iv th' embassy iv th' United States iv America to th' rile coort iv Poosylanya, no less. He is that. He won th' appintment on his merits, f'r he's th' best tango dancer west iv Halsted sthreet an' he was thryin' to get a seat in th' ligislachure away fr'm O'Brien's son-in-law. Barrin' an income fr'm father, there's no surer path to a diplomatic career thin to want a good job at home that somebody else is holdin'. It's sthrange how often a vaultin' ambition f'r an infeeryor office will land a man in something betther. I wanst knew iv a fellow that got to be sicrety iv the navy because he wanted to be a congressman fr'm Matsachoosetts.

"Who's th' ambasadure? says ye. Why, our frind Pickles Schwartzkop, that hardened old Dimmycrat who refused to wear a necktie because he said it was a badge iv sarvichood. Manny people used to call Pickles a arnychist because he spoke so harsh about th' crowned heads iv Europe. An' no wan iver thought iv him iver bowin' his head in a rile coort, although he's a great expert at sourin' th' cucumber an' his name is a household wurrud wheriver ketchup is used. But he niver knew nawthin' about pollyticks an' he nachrally become an original Wilson man. Th' fam'ly had him watched f'r other signs iv insanity up to th' time iv th' convintion, an' thin th' docks stopped holdin' a light to his eyes an' testin' his knee jerk, an' he become a great statesman, an' aven O'Brien wint around to see him. Afther th' iliction Dock Wilson sint f'r him an' said it was his desire to put lithry men in th' diplomatic corps an' he'd been readin' Schwartzkop's advertisin' matter an' admired it gr-reatly an' wud like him to pick out a place f'r himsilf abroad. Pickles was modest an' on'y ast to be minister to Germany, but whin it was pinted out to him that th' German impror had socyal objections to atin' at th' same table with his former subjicks he consinted to be hitched to the vacant post at Poosylanya, an' there he is now, upholdin' th' honor iv th' flag, while Tommy Slavin keeps alive th' best thraditions iv our thurkey throt.

"Annyhow, here's the letter: 'Carey Miguel (which manes "Dear Mike"): Me an' his ixcillincy arrived here safe las' week. Poosylanya is not as large a counthry as O'Brien riprisinted it to me. To tell th' thruth, it's that small that if th' injyneer iv th' thrain hadn't put on th' emargency brakes at th' borders we wud've gone through it befure we cud stop. Th' principal industhries are market gardenin', brewin', th' ar-rmy, th' govermint, an' th' tailor who makes th' unyforms. It's what is known over here as a buffer state, because it is placed between two gr-reat powers that are always threatenin' to clinch. Nachrally it's been squeezed down ontil now whin they put it in a map they have to use a tattooin' needle.

"'Th' monarch iv this domain, which stretches as far as th' eye can see, is his majesty King Charleymange th' Forty-fifth, a splendid figure iv a man, measurin' at laste five be wan. He's th' last iv his race, an' whin he kicks out th' peopel will have to go shoppin' f'r a king in Denmark, where they have a hand me down store f'r mon-

f'r an anointed ruler. There was some opposition to him whin he come in on th' ground that he had niver been able to larn to spell an' was given to throwin' fits in public, but him bein' th' on'y mimber iv th' rile fam'ly thin at large they had to take him.

"'An' there he sets, presidin' over th' destinies iv this proud people an' supported be a socyalistic parlymint that absolutely does his hidding afther it has told him what to bid. He has forty unyforms, is a colonel in twinty-two Euro-peen rigimints, carries a soord that has give him a bad list to starboard, an' his fav-rite spoort is sthringin' buttons. He has th' largest collection iv buttons in th' wurruld. It is a noble sight to see him clingin' to a snow white charger an' reviewin' th' Poosylanyan ar-rmy, which is almost as big as th' Father Matthew Fife an' Dhrum corps. But he has to be watched all th' time to keep him fr'm cuttin' th' buttons off his unyforms an' puttin' thim on a sthring. I made a great hit with him be sindin' him me own modest colliction that I'd pried fr'm th' coats iv th' officers iv th' law in Chicago while they lay asleep.

"'But ye'll want to know how th' ambassadure is gittin' along. He's a credit to his counthry an' his ancient calling. He has done ivrything expicted iv an American ambassadure. He has larned to talk afther dinner at a lenth sootable to th' best thraditions iv our di-plomacy. It's become sicond nature with him, an' he can't ate a piece iv pie at a railroad station without addhressin' a few reemarks to the hired help on th' ties that binds th' two great nations together. At a meetin' iv th' Poosylanyan-American society, which was formed befure th' exthradition threaty was passed, he made an oration that lasted fr'm a quarther to twelve ontil his mellow peeryods mingled with th' tinkling iv th' bells on th' cows bein' dhriven to pasture be mimbers iv parlymint. He said that Poosylanyans an' us were brothers, or annyhow cousins; that we spoke th' same dilect; that th' same blood coorsed through our veins. America, he said, claimed a half inthrest in their cillybrated pote, Hockheimer, while th' wurruks iv such Poosylanyan authors as Myerowitz, Wynzeyzky, an' Pflutch were read as eagerly in Ioway as in th' land iv their birth. He gloried in th' fact that George Wash'nton, Abraham Lincoln, an' Willum Sulzer were iv Poosylanyan exthraction. He said it was too early [A voice: "It's half past four," an' laughter] to discuss a threaty which he was arrangin', but he hoped in a few days to announce that Poosylanya wud remove th' jooty on our pickalilly an' we wud let in their smeerkase free. Whin that gr-reat charter, that pact iv peace, is completed, he says, th' two pow'rful nations will march hand in hand an' ar-rm in ar-rm an' cheek be jowl, spreadin' a gloryous example iv brotherhood throughout th' wurruld an' darin' th' jealous powers to come on.

"'Here he stopped to weep. It is wondherful how quick he has adopted th' American diplomatic custom iv weepin'. I've seen him mix horseradish without showin' th' laste emotion, but now he can't mintion th' frindship between our counthry an' this cabbage garden without sobbin' as though his heart wud break.

"'There's on'y wan thing that bothers his ixcillincy, an' that's his harness. As ye might say, it's th' on'y fly in his vinegar. Befure he come over here he took th' advice iv th' sicrety iv state and' bought himsilf a swallowtail suit fr'm Fel-

dark. But th' other day a fellow come up to th' house dhressed like a dhrum major. There's an old assistant sicrety who's been here f'r forty years. His jooty is to take th' raw mateeryal as it's handed to him on th' hoof, teach him how to act, how manny genuflexions to make befure th' king, what kind iv pants to wear at diff'rent parties, tow him out iv the rile prisince whin his majesty becomes restless, kick him in th' ankle whin he f'rgets th' polite use iv th' knife, an' gin'rally to attind to all thim important little deetails that cemints frindships between th' powers an' prevints wars. "Hello," says Pickles whin he see th' la-ad with a soord at his side an' a bearskin muff on his head. "Here comes th' king. I had no idee his majesty wud be so prompt. Show him in, an' do ye run up an' tell Augusta to slip on something an' come down an' see him," he says. "That is not th' king, ye'er ixcillincy," says ol' Etiket. "That's wan iv his ekerries come to invite ye to th' palace," he says. "Well," says Pickles, "I s'pose I'll have to go, although it grieves me dimmycratic

"He carries a soord that has given him a bad list to starboard."

soul to be assocyatin' with such relics iv barbarism," he says.

"'That night he took me aside an' says he: "Tommy," he says, "let's f'rget about ye'er ixcillincy an' Misther Sicrety an' talk as we used to befure we left Gawd's own counthry," he says. "All right, Pickles," says I. He shuddered a little, but wint on. "Ye are a smart fellow," he says, "an' I'd like ye to find out something f'r me. That old Manual iv Table Manners at th' embassy has been tellin' me what I've got to do tomorrah. He says whin I enter th' king's prisince I must dhrop to me knees at th' wurrud 'Charge.' Whin told I can get up I must advance on th' right foot, makin' three bows to th' right an' three to th' left an' eight in front till I arrive at th' throne, whin I can let down me left leg again. Well, that's all right. A certain amount iv respict is joo to th' sov'reign iv a frindly power

American flag in th' faces iv furriners. I will perform anny kind iv gymnastics that is customary in showin' respict f'r his majesty so long as I ain't asked to do a head spin. But there's wan thing I've worried about. This here fellow tells me I will have to wear me dhress suit at wan o'clock in th' afthernoon. D'ye s'pose that's right? I wondher is that ol' man thryin' to kid me. I wisht ye'd go out an' see somebody an' find out f'r me," he says. So I wint over to th' Eyetalyan legation an' found a frind iv mine that I've been larnin' mocheeka. "Is this on th' level?" says I. "It is," says Luigi. "That's th' dhrapery he'll have to hang on himsilf if he don't expict to be shot be a sinthry at th' gate." "But," says I, "he says he'll be ashamed iv himsilf." "That's th' way an American ambassadure ought to feel in th' prisince iv a king. He'll have to dhress th' part," says Luigi. So we put him in th' first part clothes an' started him off f'r th' palace. He come back three times befure he left f'r good. "Ar-re ye sure this is absolutely all right?" says he. "It's what ye've got to wear," says I. "Well," says he, "I'll have to take ye'er wurrud f'r it, but if ye're makin' a joke iv me I'll have ye both coort martialed. I never felt so narvous in me life. Ivry minyut I expict some wan to rap on a plate with a knife an' sind me f'r a cheese sandwich," he says.

"'But whin he come back he was a changed man. "Well, Pickles," says I. "Ye'er ixcillincy, Misther Sicrety, if ye plaze," says he. "Ye'er ixcillincy," says I. "How did ye'er ixcillincy like his majesty?" says I. "A wondherful charakter," says he. "He was settin' on th' throne whin I entered. I did me respictful crouch as directed, but I am not as young nor as light as I was an' thim jerry-built clothes iv Felsenthal's didn't hold. But what threatened to be a misfortune at first turned into a piece iv rare good luck. F'r his majesty give a shriek iv delight an', boundin' fr'm th' throne, cried 'Buttons, buttons,' an' began scoopin' up these mimintoes iv me visit. Fr'm that on I was perfickly at me aise with him, or as much so as a man can be whin his suspinders has ceased to exercise their functions. What kind iv a sublime heyro is he? Very simple, but very dignified. He is small iv stature an' if he was a plibean he might be called a runt, but there is something so magnificent in his bearin', something so piercin' in his glance, something so majestic in his walk, that befure ye have been in his prisince a minyit ye f'rget his achool measuremints an' wud not be surprised to hear that he is iliven feet high. His charakter is well displayed in his face, where ye see sojerly ardor in th' low forehead balanced be dogged consarvatism in th' rethreatin' chin. Ye can see at a glance that he was bor-rn to command. Whin he spoke, as he did sivral times durin' th' day, his penethratin' falsetto voice made me thremble. All in all, he is th' ablest man far an' away that I have iver met. But with it all so simple an' aisy in his manners. He set next to me at dinner, with his nurse on th' other side. He showed gr-reat inthrest in America, ast me was it a lake, an' seemed disappointed whin I told him I had no Indyan blood in me veins. Afther that he was silent an' listened while I described th' iniquity iv the pure food act an' told him iv th' health givin' qualities iv benzoate iv soda in tomato ketchup. Afther we had been at th' table f'r about two hours an' I was just startin' a seeries iv American anecdotes he suddenly give a cry iv

an' run screamin' fr'm th' room. I presoom that something I had said had suggested a solution iv some gr-reat quistion iv state an' he hurried away to put th' idee in writin' while it was still fresh. Annyhow I waited till a quarther to sivin f'r him to come down, an' thin accepted an' invitation fr'm th' ginral iv th' ar-rmy to go out an' take a walk in th' air.

"'"Yes, sir, Charleymange th' Forty-fifth will go down to histhry as p'raps th' greatest monarch iv th' present eera. Ye know what a rugged Dimmycrat I have always been. I have not changed me creed. As th' pote says, I was nachralized in old Wisconsin, an' fr'm her rugged breast sucked in th' tyrant hatin' milk that will not let me rest. But since seein' Charleymange I view monarchs in a diff'rent light. Much can be said in their favor. If th' arnychists go on attackin' th' pickle business in America I wudden't be surprised if it wud become nicissary f'r people iv our class to get together an' choose a king. Whin that day comes I cud wish f'r no betther fate f'r our counthry thin to be ruled over be th' great personage who this very day, just as th' clock sthruck two, passed the butther to me with his own august hands," he says.

"'So ye see he ain't much imprissed be rilety. He's on'y stunned. As f'r me, all this flummery wearies me. I wud be very homesick but f'r th' kindness iv her rile highness th' Princess Hildygarde Sophy Annamarier, who is larnin' th' Vicksburg lope fr'm me. As ye know she is th' most beautiful woman in Europe. Her hair is a light sandy in color, an' although short, like all her fam'ly, she is so gracefully proportioned that no wan wud suspict her weight to be two hunderd pounds. Gr-reat vivacity is lent to her face be her eyes, which ar-re slightly crossed. She has the simplest manners possible, but there is something about her, I can't say just what, but an ondefinable something, that marks her as iv rile blood. She threated me at wanst as an akel whin she larned that I am descinded fr'm Hugh O'Neil on me mother's side an' cud wear th' title iv earl if I wanted to. But if a piece comes out in th' pa-apers sayin' that there is annything seeryous between us plaze deny it. We ar-re just good frinds, nawthin' more. I will write more anon. In th' manetime, Cher Miguel, with renewed assurances iv me most distinguished considheration, believe me,

"'Yours,

"'THOMAS O'NEIL SLAVIN,

"'Late Captain Hibernyan Rifles,

"'Sicrety iv th' Embassy iv th' United States iv America to th' Coort iv H. I. M. Charleymange th' Forty-fifth iv Poosylanya.'

"So there ye ar-re," said Mr. Dooley. "Well it is f'r this counthry that we ar-re so splindidly riprisinted abroad. We set at home lightly sthrugglin' f'r food while these hardy envoys iv our civilization ar-re breakin' their backs bowin' befure a throne in our behalf or ridin' in th' pitiless glare iv th' noonday sun in clothes that no man wud wear be starlight if he didn't have to. They stay abroad till they are broke an' thin come home an' find that th' office they really wanted is permanently occypied."

"This here pa-aper," said Mr. Hennessy, "says we ought to have thrained diplomats."

"I don't know," said Mr. Dooley. "Thrained diplomats is liable to overthrain, an' whin th' time comes to put wan over they lack th' punch."

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