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ESTABLISHED JANUARY, 1906

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WEDNESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 3, 1906

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1521—Martin Luther excommunicated.
1661—First appearance of women actors said to have been made at Lincoln Inn Field theatre, London.
1724—Philip V. of Spain abdicated in favor of his son.
1740—Benedict Arnold born.
1777—Battle between American and British forces at Princeton, N. J.
1793—Third partition of Poland arranged between Russia, Austria and Prussia.
1804—Insurrection of Irish convicts in New South Wales.
1830—Methodism first introduced in Germany.
1857—Assassination of the archbishop of Paris (Sibour.)
1885—Earthquake shocks felt in Maryland, Virginia and New Hampshire.
1891—Fifth avenue theatre, New York city, burned.
1895—Mrs. Mary T. Lathrop, W. C. T. U. leader, died.
1900—Gen. Leonard Wood released 40 prisoners unjustly detained in Cuban jails.

Sentiment to Be Inculcated.

"Let reverence of law be breathed by every mother to the lisping babe that prattles in her lap; let it be taught in the schools, seminaries and colleges; let it be written in primers, spelling books and almanacs; let it be preached from pulpits and proclaimed in legislative halls and enforced in courts of justice; in short, let it become the political religion of the nation."
—Abraham Lincoln.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS.

One of the most peculiar things in connection with the actual working of congress is the assignment of new members to the several committees. The appointments are made for personal reasons, and the fitness of the member for the work he will be required to do does not enter into the matter at all. With the probable exception of the judiciary committees, the chairmanship of which are usually filled by the best lawyers of the respective branches of congress, the intricacies of the work to be done is largely learned by the committee members while working up from the bottom of the ladder. The new member is often assigned to a committee whose work is entirely foreign to his former occupation. A few years ago William L. Wilson, the author of the Wilson-Gorman tariff bill of the last Cleveland administration, was defeated by by Alston G. Dayton, a country lawyer of mediocre ability, whose home was in a country hamlet in the heart of the Allegheny mountains, and in the entire congressional district there was not a single navigable river even. His defeated opponent was a man of national reputation, and while defeated by the treachery of his own party, the reputation of the man who had accomplished his defeat became a matter of national interest. Mr. Dayton's first appearance in congress was like that of a country boy suddenly dropped into a great city. The public was disappointed, and to add to the already ludicrous situation, he was made a member of the committee on naval affairs. He knew less about naval construction and naval organization than the average man knows of Sanskrit. It took ten years of his congressional life to learn what a member from a marine district would have known in the beginning. This is an illustration of the usual fitness of committee appointments. Lawyers are appointed on committees having financial matters upon which to formulate legislation, business men from the cities are serving upon committees having agricultural questions to consider.

Better results in national legislation would be secured if the new members were assigned to the work to which they had devoted their energies in private life, and in a few years the legislation of the nation would be largely in the hands of experts in nearly every line. The result would be a decided bettering of the legislation, less wrangling in the halls of congress, and less speechmaking for political purposes, and for more satisfactory laws for the people.

PRACTICAL VS. THEORETICAL.

At the recent state gathering the teachers of Minnesota declared themselves in favor of a text-book that would require more practical and less technical grammar. Had they have advocated a text-book requiring more of both practice in the use of the English language and at the same time a more thorough study of the principles of that language in the form of technical grammar, they would have gotten nearer to the proper idea of teaching language in the public schools. It is a regrettable fact that the public schools have gone farther after fads in the teaching of language than in almost any other subject. The reason is not difficult to find. When the public schools of the older states added English grammar to their curriculum, the text-books were entirely technical, that is, they dealt entirely with rules and gave no opportunity for their practical application. They furnished the skeleton, but entirely neglected to clothe it with that which would make it useful. Against this condition, there naturally arose a revolt and a crying demand for a more practical teaching of the English tongue. As a result the other extreme was adopted and the schools were filled with text-books devoted entirely to the practical use of the language as it was termed. Students were trained in the construction of English without the least idea as to the reason of such construction. Consequently the knowledge acquired became superficial. Not only was the bedrock principle of education—the development of the child's reason and judgment—entirely eliminated, but it became an educated parrot, using its language by note, and entirely unable to master new problems or difficulties over which it had no already been led. The results obtained from the system were fully as unsatisfactory as were those under the old style of the technical grammar fad. Both are wrong. What is needed is a happy combination of both systems that woll give the student a thorough understanding of the principle of the English language and so combine this with its practical use that neither will suffer from either over or under development.

When the Stork of Time dropped little kid 1906 into this cruel world he selected rather strenuous weather for the youngster.

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INSURANCE INVESTIGATION.

The life insurance investigation has no more cold blooded feature than that which Andrew Hamilton, the chief lobbyist, disclosed when from the safety of a residence in Europe he said:

Payment by my check would necessarily have disclosed the fact that the person recieving the check was under retainer by me and would thus have necessarily hampered that portion of my work which was most efficacious.

This statement referred to the payments made by Hamilton to persons who had assisted in influencing legislation to suit the demands of the insurance companies. If the statement is true, it is a severe indictment of the legislators of the states, and places the members in the same category as the officials of the insurance companies. The American public will require much more than the word of a man like Hamilton to convince it that those selected from the great citizen body become the objects of barter and corruption as soon as their official life has begun. The whole theory of Hamilton is that he could by the use of large sums of money, so influence the legislaturgs that no laws inimical to the interests of the great insurance companies would be considered. The story, however, will not bear investigation. Whatever legislation would be injurious to the insurance companies would be injurious to the great army of policy holders, and the officers were the mere servants of the people. These policy holders were scattered in every state of the Union and were sufficiently numerous to have made themselves felt in any concentrated effort in shaping legislation. A protest from them would have caused any lawmaker inclined to injure their interests by obnoxious legislation to stop and consider. Such a movement would have obviated the need of Hamilton's work, even if there was a need for it, which is decidedly doubtful. It would be more reasonable to believe that the vast fund of $720,000, which Hamilton admits he handled, went into the private pockets of some of those who have been convicted of high crimes in insurance matters.

ONE YEAR IN NORTH DAKOTA

The Times has every reason to believe that the grand aggregate productions of North Dakota for the calendar year just closed will reach the enormous sum of one hundred million dollars—$100,000,000. We have not all the statistics at hand, but there can be no doubt that the figures given above are under, rather than over, the mark. This is a pretty good showing for a state with half a million of people, and we venture the assertion that it is far beyond the production of any other state in the Union, population considered. And the beauty of it is that this vast sum of wealth came out of the soil, the original and most satisfactory source of wealth. It was the fruit of honest toil. The greater share of it will remain in the state and be invested in lands and permanent improvements from which new wealth will be taken next year.

One hundred million dollars from the efforts of half a million in a year. It is almost beyond belief, especially when we remember the struggles and the deprivations of the pioneers of even twenty years ago. There is no parallel for it in the history of any other country on earth.

DEMOCRATIC HOPES.

The "off-year" insurgent will find great comfort in the editorial opinions of leading Democratis newspapers. The New York World (Dem.) says; "We recently asked if the Democratic party was dying. It is far from dead." It then points to the recent elections in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Massachusetts. The St. Louis Republic (Dem.) offers the discouraging suggestion that the Republican party "has no popular asset except the president, whose actual value is not known until he has passed through the crucial test of the present Congress." The Memphis Commercial Appeal, the New Orleans Picayune, the Atlanta Constitution, the Jacksonville Times-Union, and other representative Democratic papers see in the election returns evidences that the Republicans are not invincible, and tell the Democrats there may be hope for them in 1908. These exultant remarks are generally regarded as a strong bid for the votes of the assistant Democrats who helped to elect Cleveland in 1892.

OUR WEEKLY.

The Times Publishing Company has purchased the plant, subscription list and good will of the Grand Forks Courier, which will hereafter be known and published as the Weekly Times and Grand Forks Courier. It is proposed to make this publication the greatest dollar weekly in the Northwest.

When Bishop, the ten thousand dollar press agent of the Panama Commission, loses his job he may conclude to enter the field of real journalism, but we serve notice on him now that he is too high-priced for The Evening Times. While we aim to employ the best talent to be found in the country, we want men who can perform any and all kinds of newspaper work—except digging canals.

A grim joker is that Iowa farmer who, in response to a promise that he would receive $1,000 from his father in Germany for each visit of the stork to his domicile, has up to the present time made twelve drafts on the paternal exchequer in the dear old fatherland—and the end is not yet.

Some papers are "horrified" at President Roscvelt's sending a letter of sympathy to poor old Lanky Bob Fitzsimmons. It is well known fact that the president is an athlete himself and his action in this case was no doubt meant as generous, wholesouled sympathy for a fallen gladiator, not an endorsement of the game as it is played at. Among the "horrified" ones will be found some puny, knock-kneed editors who can not make a shadow themselves but are the first to sureptitiously peruse the papers to note the outcome of the contest.

A recent dispatch states that Premier Witte is confident of saving Russia. Viewed from a distance it looks as though the wily statesman must move with considerable dispatch in carrying out his intended programme if he expects to save anything but the pieces.

After being interviewed in a dentist's chair one day last week Senator Foraker said: "I hope to heaven that on the day I am buried nothing of interest in Ohio politcs occurs, for if it does that young man will pry up the coffin lid and ask me for the particulars."

In the year 1905 it is said that 1547 marriages occurred at St. Joseph, Michigan and the papers are publishing this fact. Here is a means of advertising certain to bring results and St. Joe will be crowded next season without doubt.

Speaker Cannon insists that he is by no means impatient for the dawn of the millenium. Uncle Joseph should possess his soul in patience as there is no immediate prospect of the socialists assuming control of mundane affairs.

Walter Wellman will try for the North pole in an air ship. Well, many a newspaper man has went up (and down) by the same route and let us hope the famous writer will not "light his pipe" until he lands the bean stalk.

Dr. Osler insists that it is not hard to die. Now if that erudite gentleman will proceed to give a practical demonstration in support of that theory. much will be forgiven him.

NOTE AND COMMENT

Some boys in an English school were asked the other day to define "editor." Here are some of their definitions: "An editor is a man who handles words." "An editor makes his living out of the English language." "An editor is somebody who does not do anything himself, and when somebody else does goes and tells other people all about it." "An editor is a man who has the industry of a beaver, the instincts of a bee and the patience of an ass."—Exchange.

The Grafton News and Times is twenty-five years old. Now as ever the News and Times is without a compeer among the weekly newspapers of the northwest. The Evening Times extends congratulations and wishes it and its talented editress, Mrs. S. E. Bates, another quarter of a century of continued prosperity.

T. S. Scott, for many years the faithful and efficient foreman of the Langdon Republican is the founder of the new paper at Munich, The Leader. Besides being an expert printer, Mr. Scott is an old and experienced journalist of recognized ability and should do well in his new field of labor.

Captain and Mrs. T. E. LaTourette, among the earliest pioneer settlers of Nelson county, recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at Lakota. The genial captain and his good wife have a multitude of friends in the Red river valley who trust that they may live to celebrate their diamond wedding.

The patrons of the Aneta postoffice are up in arms against the local postmistress for making a practice of closing the postoffice at six o'clock p. m. The aid of Congressman Gronna has been invoked in order to make the recalcitrant lady extend the closing time at least a couple of hours.

The Record appears to be inclined to mildly jubilate over the forthcoming production of the "Black Crook" in Grafton. The last black crook that made his appearance in Grand Forks was promptly "pinched" by the police for having been caught taking undue liberties with U. S. mail matter.

The Cavalier Chronicle celebrated its fifteenth birthday last week. Editor Fairchild is giving his patrons much more than their money's worth in his excellent paper, and as a result he is enjoying an unusually large measure of deserved prosperity.

The Palladium congratulates Postmistress Patterson and her able corps of assistants on the highly satisfactory manner in which the business rush incident to the Christmas season was handled at the Bismarck postoffice.

The Mayville Tribune reports that Dell Shaw, the poet-printer of the Goose River Farmer, is "scabbing" in one of the St. Paul job printing establishments. His employers furnish him with a body guard to protect him from the indignant striking printers.

In taking stock of his friends and enemies at the close of the year the Hillsboro Blade man is in doubt as to whether it would be more to his interest to adopt the Mosaic law instead of the golden rule as his rule and guide for the coming year.

The Robertson Lumber company assures the readers of the Grafton Record that "It is not a bit t oeoarly Record that "it is not a bit too early to get in storm sash and storm windows." An indisputable fact, surely.

Editor Crary of Edmore recently acted as his own attorney in a suit for libel. The genial "Milt" is evidently no believer in the old saw regarding the kind of a client a man is said to have who pleads his own case.

The Sargeant County Teller advances a convincing argument in favor of the erection of more residence houses and the installation of some sort of a public lighting system in Milnor.

"The Minneapolis Journal's haberdasher," is the flippant manner in which the Lakota Observer characterizes the great and good Mr. Cheney.

The Catholics will erect a commodious church edifice at Milnor next spring.

PULSE OF THE PRESS

A Sensible View.
[Donnybrook Courier.]

The newspapers of the state are at present teaming with articles on reform. Politically, some are advocating reform while others are content with things as they are. It is always a difficult thing for people to know what to think when the cry of "gang," "machine" and "reform" in repard to politics, is raised in different quarters. In most cases it is not safe to put much faith in the men who are calling loudest for reform. They generally have an ax to grind. Of course there are exceptions. It is best, however, to be sure that there is something very wrong with an administration and that a change is reasonably sure to be an improvement before breaking away and joining the ranks of the professed reformers. In local politics it does not take long as a rule to locate an undesirable official and relegate him to the rear.

All Right Where He Is.
[Hankinson News.]

The insurgent papers are suggesting the name of State Supt. Stockwell as a possible nominee for governor should the present organization leaders be overthrown at the primaries next June. The News doesn't profess to know what Mr. Stockwell's personal ambitions may be, but we believe he is needed where he is. It is a much easier matter to secure gubernatorial timber of average ability than to find a man who could replace the present state superintendent without injury to the educational interests of the state.

A Poor Recommendation.
[Hamilton Independent.]

A man named Rogers announces his candidacy for mayor of St. Paul on the democratic ticket, and advances the argument why he should be nominated that for 44 years he has voted the straight democratic ticket. Heavens! what an awful record! Think of a man boasting that he voted against Lincoln, Grant, Garfield, McKinley and Roosevelt, and putting that up to the American people as a reason why he should be eelcted to office!

Hard to Please.
[North Dakota Patriot.]

Some of the "insurgent papers are kicking because "Gov. Sarles held a reception at one of the banks in LaMoure last week," and the Litchville Bulletin wonders if Alex. McKenzie and Jud were also present at the LaMoure reception. Well, what if they were? You kick if they meet in St. Paul and you kick if they meet in North Dakota. It is a case of "damned if you do and damned if you don't." So there you are.

Advertisements Tell the Tale.
[Minneapolis Telegram.]

Though you paper scintillate with the sparks of your wit and its columns teem with the best news, but you have not a generous supply of advertisements, it shall not avail as a "boost" for the town, in the mind of anyone who is sizing up the situation. The reader will admire the paper and conclude that the editor is especially capable—but he'll feel that the town is "punk.:"

All in the Point of View.
[Sheldon Progress.]

The principal object of the republican insurgents is the overthrow of the bosses, and they are now busy hunting for a leader to help them accomplish their purpose. The head of your faction is a "peerless leader;" the other fellow's chief is an "unprincipled boss."

The Big Four.
[Dickinson Recorder.]

After reading the Searchlight, the reform organ published at Fargo, we were almost convinced that the population of North Dakota had dwindled down to just four people—the two talented editors of the aforesaid paper and Alex. McKenzie and Jud LaMoure.

Wrong Latitude.
[Princeton Union.]

While refreshing our memory upon generalities from Old Moore's Almanac we ran across this startling information: "Dec. 21—winter begins." The almanac was obviously one of an edition printed for circulation in the West Indies or some other like latitude.

Not to be outdone by a fellow commissioner, another old-timer told a tangle-foot and coffin story but lacked the blizzard to embellish it. He and a friend were fond of a practical joke and took delight in seperating a mu ual acquaintance from the contents of his demijohn. The first ruse they tried was sending him out to buy himself a nickle cigar, they furnishing the nickle. Whmile he was gone they drank a half dollar's warth from the demijohn. He of the demijohn also kept coffins, and when he discovered his loss he decided to outwit the hieves and hid it in a coffin. They sent him out a second time a day or two later for another cigar and then opened the coffin and took out the thirst quencher.

More About Graft.
[Minneapolis Journal.]

The publications of definitions of the word "graft" in The Sunday Journal has resulted in attention being called to the views of the eminent philologist who conducts the Fergus Falls Journal. Dr. Adams it seems, had recent occasion to define the word "graft" for the benefit of hi readers on the Tordenskjold prairies and he made "an exhaustive examination of the authorities" with the following result:

In Hostetter's Family Almanac we find:

Graft. N. (See grafter. Deriv. either from Grab, to take, to seize, or from graft, to make grow upon or insert in).

First—The benefiting of a public official or his friends at the public expense through an official set.

Second—The using of one's official position to gain advantages denied to others.

Third—To so act or do that an official's fellow citizens are injured while he and his friends profit.

Fourth—To take for one's self or to give one's friends special privileges.

Sixth—To take that which belongs to the public for private use.

Seventh—To grant one's self or one's friends immunity from that which others are compelled to do.

Eighth—To do a thing, pretending that it is for public benefit when it is only private.

Illus. To so run a sewer that an alderman may get the benefit of it while his neighbors pay for it. To sell to the city through a dummy when the law forbids an official to do it directly. To so place street lights that an alderman can enjoy it and the public cannot. Etc., etc. ,etc.

His graft was bold,
And yet within the pale of law.
—Ben Jonson.

He was as subtle a grafter as ever
graced a council's board,
Or fixed his street at ward's expense.
—Shakespeare.

"Black was a pastmaster in the art of grafting. He was a thorough parliamentarian. He always had his matters well in hand. His reports were always carefully prepared and every move was consummated with a clock-like precision. Although possessing a sensitive nature he was bold, almost brazen, in the carrying out of the jobs in which the combination, whose servile tool he was, was interested. The lord mayor, whose vast and varied interests frequently encroached upon public rights, relied upon him implicitly and he never failed. His associates on the board with one or two exceptions, were honest, but they were obtuse or weaklings and offered no resistance. The organic law governing the city was ignored, forgotten, and his grafting went on unhampered and unchecked."—McDougal's "The London Council."

Dr. Schopenkoffer in his "Growth of the Language," says:

"In these days when our vocabulary is being enriched by many new words whose origin and derivation cannot be traced to a certainty, there is a constant tendency to substitute, so that the exact meaning is liable to be confused and lost. We should strive to guard against this and by proper use fix their exact meaning. The words 'graft' and 'boodle' are cases in point. Their meaning is entirely different. Boodle is the price paid for an official act or vote, the taking or giving of which is a crime. Graft is the profit of an official act which, although within the law is morally wrong and not to be tolerated in well-ordered communities."

Minnehaha, filled with laughter,
Turning said: "You are a grafter;
Take another, it's no matter
Till the public catches on."
Grafts the graft that grafters long for
Till the maiden called for quarter,
Yelled and hiked for Running Water.
—Longfellow.

Space will not permit our going into this matter at greater length.

A bachelor should learn to say "No." He can never tell when some widow may propose to him.

Gold dissolved in a woman's tears is said to make an excellent cement for mending a broken heart.

A man may be honest and still take chances.

J. W. ROSS
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