

WASHINGTON GOSSIP

District of Columbia to Be Square With Uncle Sam

WASHINGTON.—With the payment by the District of Columbia to the federal government next spring of a balance of \$76,283.29 on account of advances for special park improvements, the municipality will have completely discharged all indebtedness to the United States under the several acts of congress directing reimbursement for advances. This is shown by the annual report of the auditor, Alonso Tweedale, submitted to the District commissioners.

During the year just closed the District reduced its indebtedness by reason of cash payments made thereon in the amount of \$1,986,250.23. Its total debt at the close of the year amounted to \$7,015,433.29, made up of the item referred to on account of advances for park improvements and \$6,939,150 of the bonded debt, which does not expire until 1914.

The report shows that the payment of \$621,521.71 to the United States on account of advances, general fund, for extraordinary improvements, closes the account made during the fiscal years 1901 to 1909, inclusive, for certain extraordinary projects of permanent improvement in the District. Total advances on this account amounted to \$4,144,696.35 and the interest charges thereon paid by the District to \$587,887.64.

"During the period in which the foregoing advances were made," it is stated, "there was expended on account of permanent improvements over eighteen million dollars, one-half of which, paid from District revenues amounted to between nine and ten million dollars. All of these extraordinary improvements have been paid in cash from current revenues, without resorting to long-term loans, or permanent improvement bonds, which is the usual practice in other municipalities."

The District government, according to the report, closed the year with a balance in the treasury of \$75,875.24, and in the hands of the collector of taxes of \$45,694.65.

Poor Thomas Jefferson May Have to Move Again

WASHINGTON'S most artistic bronze statue—that of Thomas Jefferson by the French sculptor, P. T. David Angers—has had many locations since it was presented to the United States in 1834 by Capt. Uriah P. Levy, U. S. N., and may before long be told again to "move on," finding a final resting place in Monticello. For several years after the statue was delivered it remained in obscurity for some reason not explained, but it was finally placed in the semicircle in front of the White House, about where the fountain now stands. In 1874 it was removed to Statuary hall in the capitol, and occupied a position between the plaster statue of Washington, after Houdin, and the statue of Edward Dickinson Baker of Oregon, where it remained for several years. It was then transferred to the rotunda of the capitol and placed between the pictures representing the surrender of Cornwallis and General Washington surrendering his commission, by Trumbull. After occupying this position for some time it was again removed and placed on the right hand side of the east entrance to the rotunda, opposite the statue of Washington, where it now stands, but just how long it may continue in this position is not certain.

Just why Thomas Jefferson, third president of the United States (1801-1809), should change his location so often is rather peculiar; surely Thomas Jefferson of Virginia (1743-1826) and author of the Declaration of Independence and signer of the same, member of congress and minister to France, is entitled to have his statue located in some permanent and conspicuous place. The bronze of which the statue is composed, having been cast in Paris, is of a most excellent quality, having withstood the ravages of the elements for many years while exposed in front of the White House.

This statue of Jefferson was the first statue of artistic merit—in fact, the first statue of any kind—to be placed in Statuary hall, formerly the old house of representatives, in the capitol.

Crank Inventions for War Offered the Government

WITH the outbreak of war in Europe even more than the usual large number of crank inventions and ideas relating to war on land and sea and in the air poured in to the army and navy departments, and there is no letup in the flood. Most numerous of the recent inventions which have been sent to the departments in Washington are those relating to bomb-dropping devices. The bombs assume many ingenious forms. Some are loaded with a vapor which produces sleep, so that an enemy may be lulled to slumber and easily captured without loss of life and the suffering which comes from the explosion of bombs of more destructive character. One man suggested that the bomb be filled with printed leaflets that should make an appeal to an enemy, and so instill a spirit of friendliness and generosity, and thus produce the sentiment of peace.

There are also incendiary projectiles and bullets that, as the name and title implies, produce conflagration and are capable of creating havoc by fire. In the class of devices that are defensive rather than offensive there is the arrangement of huge mirrors set up at such angles that the approaching enemy does not see the opposing force behind these mirrors, but sees the impression of terrain, which is merely the reflection of that over which they are traveling. Then there are the electrical devices which betray the approach of an enemy, such as threads stretched across the country, which on fracture communicate with signals or sound alarms indicating the location of troops. There are hidden platforms which can be so finely adjusted that there will be an indication of headquarters of the strength of the enemy and its character, whether infantry, cavalry, or artillery.

One invention has to do with what is described in the patent as "composite armor," which may be of alternate thickness, or, as in one case, be mounted on powerful springs admitting no alternate backing for the attacking shell to penetrate. The projectile, it is represented, under such nonresisting target will bounce back.

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Secretary Bryan Beats Swords into Plowshares

ANOTHER delicate hint to the European belligerents to cease their fighting is contained in a present which Secretary of State Bryan has made to each of the 29 ambassadors and ministers who have signed with him one of the Bryan peace treaties. Included in the number are the representatives here of Great Britain, France, Russia and Belgium, all of which countries are at war.

Recalling the Biblical text, "They shall beat their swords into plowshares," the secretary obtained from the war department a number of obsolete swords, the blades of which he had made into miniature plowshares. On them he had engraved the text quoted.

It is the secretary's hope that these plowshares be always on the desks of the diplomats as paperweights, as perpetual reminders of "the better way." The handles of the swords Mr. Bryan has had made into paperweights for the members of the senate committee on foreign relations, who passed on the peace treaties, while the scabbards were cut into short pieces, filled with lead and polished up so that they also may serve as paperweights of peace.

The secretary also had replicas of the plowshares made of brass, nickel-plated, which he presented to the newspaper men who call upon him daily at the state department.

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CHASES A THIEF AS EVE

Young Woman Captures Robber Who Had Stolen Father's Suit—Ran a Mile.

East Orange, N. J.—Early risers along the road leading from East Orange into Newark were attracted to the windows the other morning by the screams of a woman. They hurriedly glanced out to see what the disturbance was all about. Just as quickly they drew back from the window to hide the blushes which insisted on coming to their faces. And the trouble was that the woman, who was chasing a man, had not stopped to complete her dressing.

Pretty Miss Elizabeth Gomer is an early riser. She had not completed her toilet when she heard sounds below. She hurried down the stairs and saw a stranger leaving the house by the window route with a suit belonging to her father. That was enough, and the young woman called upon the man to stop. When the man only hastened his stride, she started after him.

It was so early that the streets were practically deserted, and nobody appeared to stop the fugitive. The chase had gone nearly a mile and the two were well inside the Newark boundary when the stranger gave up. His athletic education had been neglected, while Miss Gomer is a devotee of outdoor sports.

She caught the man and held him in spite of his struggles, until a policeman arrived in response to her cries. He made the man discard his coat, and Miss Gomer buttoned it around her waist. Thus attired the trio went back to East Orange. The prisoner said his name was George Nelson of Newark and when arraigned was held in \$2,500 bail on the charge of burglary.

3,000 MILES TO BURY A DOG

Young Woman Ends Holiday in New York When Pet Dies in California.

New York.—When a young woman from San Diego, Cal., ran out of her room on the fifteenth floor of the McAlpin with a crumpled telegram in her hand and crying, "She's dead, she's dead!" the clerk for that floor did what she could to comfort the grief-stricken one. Ordinary measures failed, and the young woman became hysterical. Mrs. Lois Hughes, the manager of the woman's floor, was telephoned for and hurried up at the top speed of the elevator.

Mrs. Hughes sent for the young woman's father and brother. One took the telegram and read it. They looked one at another, the elder helplessly, and the younger man defiantly.

"She'll insist upon going straight back home," said the father.

"Fiddlesticks!" exclaimed the brother. "I am not going to have my holiday spoiled by her foolishness. I am going to stay right here in New York as long as we planned."

"What a heartless son!" said Mrs. Hughes to herself.

"No use making such a fuss over a dog, anyhow," went on the younger man.

It was Mrs. Hughes' time to feel like going into hysterics.

So yesterday afternoon the young woman and her father, sure enough, took the train for home. The brother stayed on.

DYING DOG DELIVERS NOTE

Poisoned Spaniel Lives Just Long Enough to Turn it Over to Mistress.

Greeley, Colo.—Dangling himself into the house with a note for his mistress, Mrs. John W. Rodman, Colonel Hunch, a thoroughbred St. Charles spaniel, looked profitably up into her face, swam into a heap on the floor and died from poison that had been fed to him some unconscious summer.

The note was from Rodman, who is clerk of the county court, and the message related to home affairs.

Colonel Hunch was taught to carry notes in its collar when he was a puppy, and all that was necessary for either his master or mistress to do to get a note delivered was to slip it under his collar and set him to go.

BIRDS STEAL DIAMOND RING

Fly Away With Woman's Souvenir of Her Engagement—Recovered Two Years Later.

Los Angeles.—An old peach tree that had flourished beyond usefulness in the back yard of J. Richard Reed was chopped down. For a number of years a pair of blackbirds had annually made their nests in it. When the tree fell the nest was dislodged and torn apart. Reed examined it and found a small diamond ring missed by Mrs. Reed nearly two years ago.

Mrs. Reed believed the ring was stolen. It was her engagement ring. She took it off while baking and placed it on the window ledge. It is supposed the birds were attracted to it and made it a part of their nest.

Missed Crow, But Hit Girl. Brownsville, N. Y.—Glentworth Birdsall of Brownsville has just paid \$225 each for four teeth he accidentally shot out of the mouth of Miss Josephine Ash. From his cellar Birdsall shot at a crow perched on a fence. He didn't hit the crow, but the bullet struck Miss Ash, whom he failed to see lying in a hammock in a grape arbor.

THE RURAL CHURCH

THE FARMERS THE CUSTODIANS OF THE NATION'S MORALITY.

Co-operation of Church, School and Press Essential to Community Building.

By Peter Radford Lecturer National Farmers' Union.

The church, the press and the school form a triple alliance of progress that guides the destiny of every community, state and nation. Without them civilization would wither and die and through their life may attain its greatest blessing, power and knowledge. The farmers of this nation are greatly indebted to this social triumvirate for their uplifting influence, and on behalf of the American plowmen I want to thank those engaged in these high callings for their able and efficient service, and I shall offer to the press a series of articles on co-operation between these important influences and the farmers in the hope of increasing the efficiency of all by mutual understanding and organized effort. We will take up, first, the rural church.

The Farmers Are Great Church Builders.

The American farmer is the greatest church builder the world has ever known. He is the custodian of the nation's morality; upon his shoulders rests the "ark of the covenant" and he is more responsive to religious influences than any other class of citizenship.

The farmers of this nation have built 120,000 churches at a cost of \$750,000,000, and the annual contribution of the nation toward all church institutions approximates \$200,000,000 per annum. The farmers of the United States build 22 churches per day. There are 20,000,000 rural church communicants on the farm, and 54 per cent of the total membership of all churches reside in the country.

The farm is the power-house of all progress and the birthplace of all that is noble. The Garden of Eden was in the country and the man who would get close to God must first get close to nature.

The Functions of a Rural Church.

If the rural churches today are going to render a service which this age demands, there must be co-operation between the religious, social and economic life of the community.

The church to attain its fullest measure of success must enrich the lives of the people in the community it serves; it must build character; develop thought and increase the efficiency of human life. It must serve the social, business and intellectual as well as the spiritual and moral side of life. If religion does not make a man more capable, more useful and more just, what good is it? We want a practical religion, one we can live by and farm by as well as die by.

Fewer and Better Churches.

Blessed is that rural community which has but one place of worship. While competition is the life of trade it is death to the rural church and moral starvation to the community. Petty sectarianism is a scourge that blights the life, and the church prejudice saps the vitality of many communities. An over-churching community is a crime against religion, a serious handicap to society and a useless tax upon agriculture.

While denominations are essential and church pride commendable, the high teaching of universal Christianity must prevail if the rural church is to fulfill its mission to agriculture.

We recently have three or four churches in a community which is not able to adequately support one. Small congregations avoid services once a month and all fail to perform the religious duties of the community. The drought of religious forces and the missing fragments of moral effort is oftentimes little less than a calamity and defeats the very purpose that it seeks to promote.

The evils of too many churches can be remedied by cooperation. The social and economic life of a rural community are inseparable units and cannot be successfully divided by denominational lines, and the churches can occupy this important field by cooperation and co-ordination.

The efficient country church will definitely serve its community by leading in all worthy efforts at community building, in getting the people in all cooperative endeavors for the general welfare of the community and in arousing a real love for country life and loyalty to the country home and these results can only be successfully accomplished by the united effort of the press, the school, the church and organized farmers.

Why He Likes Wagner.

"Do you like Wagner?" "Better than I used to," replied Mr. Currox. "There's a lot of his music that no one would attempt to dance to."—Washington Star.

Many people do not know how much they must know to know how little they know.

The Weekly River Press is a good newspaper to send away to your friends in the east. It will save you the trouble of writing letters.

BENTON LODGE No. 28.—A. F. AND A. M.—Regular communications of the above named lodge are held at 7:30 p. m., on the first and third Mondays of each month. Members of sister Lodges and sojourning brethren are cordially invited to attend. E. L. CRANE, W. M. ROBT. RICHARDSON, Sec'y.

BENTON LODGE, No. 59. I. O. O. F. Meets every Wednesday evening at Odd Fellows' hall. Visiting members are cordially invited to attend. C. T. NEUBERT, N. G. ARNOLD WESTFALL, Sec'y.

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GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY. THE COMFORTABLE WAY. Effective November 22, 1914. FORT BENTON, MONTANA. WESTBOUND. No. 223 10:25 a. m. No. 235 3:43 p. m. EASTBOUND. No. 224 4:29 p. m. No. 236 11:34 p. m.

Benton State Bank, FORT BENTON, MONTANA. Capital Stock \$125,000.00 Surplus \$44,000.00. DIRECTORS: C. J. McNamara, Geo. B. Bourne, Geo. L. Overfield, D. G. Lockwood, A. E. McLeish, J. S. Brown, G. W. Fields, J. P. Williams, C. B. Power, L. D. Sharp, F. A. Flanagan. OFFICERS: C. B. POWER, President, L. D. SHARP, Vice President, F. A. FLANAGAN, Cashier, J. F. SULLIVAN, Ass't Cashier.

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