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BURLINGTON, THURSDAY, DEC. 21.

WANTED.

When you want anything, advertise in the new special column of this paper. Some bargains are offered there this week which it will pay you to read about. See page two. This paper has more than 25,000 readers every week and one cent a word will reach them all.

With forty cases on the calendar and not one ready to proceed to trial, Justice Goff of the New York supreme court indulged in a plain talk to lawyers the other day. According to this wearer of the ermine, dilatory lawyers are responsible for dilatory courts, and dilatory courts for the law's delays.

According to the searching diagnosis of The Brooklyn Eagle the real trouble with the country is that "everything is being made right at once. This should be a warning to us to never allow things to become overwhelmingly wrong, but to begin to right them before a revolution reaches the point of necessity.

Justice Lurton of the Supreme Court has just upheld a law which makes the city of Chicago responsible for damage to property done by her mobs. In view of the fact that the too obvious corruptness of certain Illinois politicians has forced the government to enter upon an investigation costing five hundred dollars a day more or less, which has already been in progress some months and promises to go on forever, it seems as if a law making the towns and cities responsible for the damage caused by their corrupt politicians, might be acceptable.

TAFT SENTIMENT IN VERMONT.

Talk about republican insurgency in Vermont partakes of the nature of political rainbow chasing. The Rutland Herald undoubtedly holds the mirror up to Vermont in the following quotation and comment:

"If there are some people who are trying to organize a movement in Vermont against President Taft, as intimated in a Boston paper, it is well to know where the State stands. Nobody should be afraid to come out in the open, especially if he believes the people are in reality with him, in opposition to the President."—Burlington Free Press.

If Vermont had a "favorite son" of her own, there would be some reason, perhaps, for opposing Mr. Taft's candidacy. As things look just now, however, the opposition referred to is rather more fanciful than real.

We are reminded in this connection of the remark by somebody that republican insurgency is usually strongest in the "next county."

LARGER STANDING ARMY NOT NEEDED.

Secretary Stimson protests against allowing our army to go neglected while the navy receives more than its fair share of attention. It is natural that any man in charge of an institution or department should see the thing which is his charge a bit larger and more important than it really is. To Gifford Pinchot the forest reserves of the United States seemed almost the biggest thing in the country. Doctor Wiley doubtless believes that perfectly pure food would bring the millenium. Secretary Meyer is tormented with solicitude for the navy. Colonel Goethals lives at the world through the Panama canal. And now comes this wail from Stimson.

But what do we want of more army? What would we do with it? We are not terrified at thought of invasion by the Canadians. Champ Clark would handle them. Nor do we tremble at mention of Mexico. And beside Mexico and Canada now and then, who in the world can we reach with an army? We have a defense more valuable than any armed force in the great oceans which will always keep threatening nations at a distance. With a strong navy and good credit, the United States should always be safe. With harmonious citizens at home and wide business affiliations abroad, this country should be doubly secure.

INTERNATIONAL ROAD VIA CHAMPLAIN.

The project for an "International Highway" extending from Quebec, Canada to Miami, Florida, now well under way, received additional impetus at the annual dinner of the Lake Champlain Association in New York city, at which dinner President Benton of the University of Vermont, was the principal speaker. The Lake Champlain association is composed of men who were born in the Champlain valley, or who have summer homes here. It has been organized about three years, its first president having been Francis Lynde Stetson, the famous lawyer. Supreme Court Justice Chester B. McLaughlin was president one year. Last year Darwin P. Kingsley, president of the New York Life insurance company, was the head of the organization, and he now gives way to Frank S. Witherbee, who will direct the destinies of the organization during the coming year.

The association adopted a resolution to the effect that its members heartily endorse the movement in favor of the International Road from Quebec, Canada, to Miami, Florida, through the valley of Lake Champlain; that each member of the association co-operate so as to hasten the construction of this road before 1914; and that a committee composed of the president, the secretary and treasurer of the association act with Mr. George A. Simard of Montreal and Mr. Howard D. Hadley of Plattsburgh, N. Y., to help in the consummation of the plan to erect an arch on the Canadian frontier, where the International Highway crosses the boundary line.

Mr. Simard is chairman of the Montreal-Rouses Point highway committee, and Mr. Hadley is president of the Quebec-Miami International Highway association. Mr. Hadley says that the road from Montreal to Rouses Point will be completed by October 15, 1912, and the road between Rouses Point and New York city is about three-fourths completed. There is a good road between New York city and Washington, with the exception of one or two short stretches between Philadelphia and Baltimore and one short piece between Baltimore and Washington. These will be improved early next summer. The worst stretch between Montreal and Miami is the run from Washington, the capital of the nation, and historic Richmond, the capital of Virginia. The people of Washington and Richmond are alive to the situation, however, and some way will be found to get that 150-mile stretch built.

It is hoped to have the road from Quebec to Miami completed by 1914, when the 100th anniversary of peace between English-speaking nations will be celebrated for nothing will do more to aid the cause of permanent peace between Canada and the United States than good roads between the two countries. A magnificent stone arch over the international highway where it crosses the boundary line between this country and Canada will be a fitting emblem of the welcome which the people of each country always find in the other and at the same time serve as an enduring monument of peace.

Residents of Vermont, who are always loyal to the interests of the Champlain valley, would rejoice over the consummation of this great project as a matter of sentiment alone, but as a matter of fact not a few of those who use the international highway will find their way to the good roads on this side of Lake Champlain and become our summer guests.

VERMONT AND THE ARBITRATION TREATIES.

United States Senators William P. Dillingham and Carroll S. Page have signified their intention to support the general arbitration treaties negotiated by the United States with Great Britain and the United States. This is in accordance with the general wishes of the people of Vermont as manifested through various avenues of public expression of opinion.

At a recent meeting of the Burlington Commercial club resolutions were adopted in support of the project to secure the ratification of treaties of general arbitration with European countries.

Senator Dillingham has enclosed to the president of the club a copy of a letter he sent to the Hon. William J. Van Patten stating the position taken in support of general arbitration. Omitting the personal part of the letter, we are permitted to quote Senator Dillingham's statement that he is "heartily in favor of these treaties and would not contract the scope of the arbitrable questions as therein defined in the slightest degree. Such agreements are in accord with the spirit of the age and their moral effect upon the maintenance of peace among nations cannot be measured." Senator Dillingham continues:

"I am glad to learn also that most of those who find it difficult to favor the ratification of these treaties 'as they were sent to the Senate' are heartily in favor of treaties of this character and would sooner broaden the scope of arbitrable questions than to contract the same. Instead of opposing the object and purpose of these treaties, as many have been led to suppose, they heartily favor them and seek only to guard against a danger which they see in the powers granted to the joint high commission under the last clause of Article III, to determine whether any particular question which may be in dispute is one which comes within the terms of the treaties in a case where the parties to such treaties are unable to agree that it is arbitrable.

"The Senate committee on foreign relations recommends the elimination of that clause, insisting that under it the joint high commission, in determining what questions are arbitrable, may draw the line to suit themselves instead of observing the line drawn by the treaty-making power, as, for instance, to compel the United States to arbitrate the question of its right to exclude objectionable classes of aliens, which no one could consent to.

"That you may clearly understand that these gentlemen are not in an attitude of opposition to the treaties but are seeking only to provide against a possible danger to the United States of being compelled to arbitrate questions quite outside those embraced in the terms of the agreement, I am sending you under separate cover a copy of the report of the Senate committee on foreign relations upon these treaties. The committee making this report was composed of Senators Cullom, Frye, Lodge, Smith, Root, McCumber, Sutherland, Borah, Burton, Bacon, Stone, Shively, Clarke, Rayner, and Hitchcock, and of this number Senators Root, Cullom, and Burton were the only ones to dissent from the views of the committee as expressed in the report made by Senator Lodge, recommending simply the elimination of that one clause. But it will be noticed that Messrs. Root and Cullom in part recognize the danger suggested by a majority of their associates and suggest the adoption of a resolution, which Mr. Root has since introduced, in connection with the ratification of the treaty, which is intended to obviate such danger without changing the text of the treaties.

"The fact that all but one of the members of the committee on foreign relations see danger in the aforementioned clause creates a situation which cannot be lightly treated. While the danger arising from this provision seems to me to be so remote that I can favor the ratification of these treaties as they were sent to the Senate, I can see little objection to Senator Root's resolution which makes clear the fact that we are not submitting any question which depends upon or involves the maintenance of the traditional attitude of the United States concerning American questions, or other governmental policy, this being the construction of the treaties which is placed upon them by those favoring their ratification as they are. While, as before stated, I can vote for the treaties as they stand, I would willingly vote for this amendment if through its adoption the ratification of the treaties can be assured, as that is what I most desire."

Senators Dillingham and Page would like to have their constituents study the reports of the majority and the minority of the foreign relations committee regarding these treaties and communicate freely with them on the subject.

The report of the majority quotes the first article of the treaty which provides that all differences between the two signatory countries which cannot be adjusted by diplomacy shall be submitted to the permanent court of arbitration established by the Hague convention in 1907, or to some other tribunal by special agreement.

The majority holds that while the definition of the questions to be submitted to arbitration is very large and general and somewhat indeterminate, these questions are justiceable by reason of being susceptible of decision by the application of the principles of law and equity. In England and the United States, and wherever the principles of common law obtain, the words 'law and equity' have an exact meaning but in France it is necessary to construe broadly and therein lies the chief danger.

To guard against any undue extension of the scope of arbitration it is provided that if either party desires, a joint commission of inquiry shall examine into and report upon the subject of the controversy between the two powers concerned and the report shall be binding on both parties.

The majority also says that to take from the Senate in any degree or by any means the power of saying whether a given question is one for arbitration is to destroy the power of the Senate on the most important point to be decided in connection with differences arising with any other nation, even if it were constitutional.

The gravity of the matter is increased by consideration of the fact that if we enter into these treaties with Great Britian and France, we must make treaties in precisely the same terms with other friendly powers that ask us to do so.

There are questions which no nation will consent to submit to the decision of any one but themselves, and to force such questions into arbitration would mean the violation of the treaty and the possibility of war.

The minority report says that the pending treaties do not involve any abandonment of the constitutional powers of the Senate and that the contrary view can not be maintained except on the theory that all general treaties of arbitration involve such abandonment.

The minority report suggests the avoiding of all uncertainty and without amending the treaty by including in the resolution of ratification a qualifying clause.

With the possibility of limiting danger of serious international misunderstanding over what questions are arbitrable thus made plain, there would seem to be no reason why the sentiment in favor of general arbitration should not be given expression, thus gaining for the United States the prestige of having taken the most important step in modern history toward the universal peace for which, even amid numerous wars, the world is still hoping.

VERMONTERS AND COMMITTEE POSITIONS.

(From the St. Johnsbury Republican.)

Congressman Plumley has now an enviable place for a comparatively new member. His position on the great agricultural committee is an important one and one which offers a limitless opportunity for usefulness. He was taken for Thomas A. Edison in New York the other day and is now wondering if the implied compliment makes it necessary for him to invent some new kind of chain lightning, or some other era-making electrical contrivance.

Congressman Foster is one of the republican leaders of the House. He has just purchased a house at the capital. He has evidently become satisfied, as the people of his district have long been willing to concede, that he is a fixture in Washington. He was just getting established in his new home as Congress opened.

The death of Senator Frye of Maine made necessary a number of committee changes, some of which have already been announced. In this change Senator Dillingham gets the vacant place on foreign relations. Senator Dillingham is comfortably established at the Cochran as is Senator Page.

Senator Page has just had new responsibilities added to his already long list in his assignment to the committee on printing. He is making a systematic campaign for his educational bill. He hopes to win out for the measure.

EDMUNDS ON AMENDING ACT

Author Of Anti-Trust Law Discusses Proposed Changes.

Criticism of Argument for a Statute More Explicit in Terms—Opinion on E. H. Gary's Plan of a Federal Commission.

Ex-Senator George F. Edmunds, chairman of the United States Senate Judiciary committee which drew up the anti-trust law in 1890, has given to the Evening Post his opinion on the various proposals to amend it, which he did not discuss in that article. He now states his own view of the recent agitation, especially in Wall street, over the alleged obscurity in the present anti-trust law and the difficulty encountered by business men in finding whether their own business projects are contrary to the law, or not, the Post continues. He speaks with particular energy, regarding the argument that the law ought to define with great explicitness what is a violation of its terms, and declares that legislation with such minute provisions would be absurd and impracticable.

"From the proposal of E. H. Gary and others, that a federal commission be appointed to administer the law, supervise industrial corporations, and the intimation, by Mr. Gary and Mr. Roosevelt, that such a commission might take a hand in regulating prices of commodities, ex-Senator Edmunds dissents strongly, and, although himself a strong republican in politics, he regards such a project as an unwarranted interference with the powers and responsibilities properly lodged with the States.

"Mr. Edmunds served as United States Senator from Vermont in the twenty-five consecutive years between 1866 and 1891. He was a powerful influence in all the legislation of the period, and his high repute as a constitutional lawyer gave him a leading voice in some of the most important statutes of the day; including the specie resumption law. With him, on the Senate Judiciary committee, which drew up the anti-trust law of 1890 in exactly its present form, were such other well-known Congressional lawyers as Senator Evarts of New York, Senator Hoar of Massachusetts, Senator Vest of Missouri, Senator Ingalls of Kansas and Senator Pugh of Alabama. Five out of the eight sections of the anti-trust law were drawn up by Senator Edmunds personally.

NO PERIL IN QUASI-PANIC.

Mr. Edmunds thus states to the Evening Post his opinion on the proposed alterations of the law:

"You say that at the present moment the difficulty of the discussion lies in the perfectly well-meaning argument of many sound business people that the law leaves sufficient uncertainty, regarding who and what are amenable, to make it difficult for a given business organization to be sure what would be its position if challenged under the law; and that there is no doubt that this view of the case is shared by a great part of the business community.

"You ask my views regarding this part of the subject. I think (and, indeed, feel confident) that the solicitude of the well-meaning people you refer to has been in large degree created and fomented by some people who at least suspect themselves of having violated this law with their eyes open, and have knowingly taken risk of punishment with the same hopes that all law-breakers have that they will not be brought to justice. The feeling you mention is a quasi-panic that I believe intelligent and honest men will soon recover from. No instance has, I think, occurred in the numerous cases prosecuted under the law, where any transaction has been condemned that was not manifestly, upon the proofs, a clear violation of it, as I have said in the North American Review.

"Doubts in regard to the construction of laws, contracts, and duties of good citizenship have always existed, and always will exist; and to solve these courts of justice have been established, and honest men have been compelled to bear the inconveniences of legal proceedings to vindicate their rights in their own particular cases; and this must always be so, as long as Governments exist to protect the coincident rights of individuals and the public.

CONDEMNS ABSURD SUGGESTION.

"A statute that should undertake to define its own terms would, in most instances, at once necessarily involve a definition of its own definitions, and so on. It needs no lawyer to tell intelligent men how absurd and impracticable such legislation would be.

"In fact, all legislation of a prohibitive character must use general terms, or one-half the offenders would escape. The circumstances of each particular case (varying more or less from every other), being displayed in court, determine in the eye of justice whether or not the law has been broken. In legislation against crimes, what statute could define what is robbery of a vessel in "distress," or what is "material" in a case of perjury, or what is giving "old and comfort" to an enemy in a case of treason, etc.? And in the case of this statue, how could it define the word restraint, or how could the statute define the word unreasonable if the statute had used that word? All these are judicial questions; it is needless to multiply instances. Whoso thinks he can frame a statute that will define itself, and describe every case of the mischief to be forbidden let him try it, and give a waiting public the draft of such a law.

"Your second inquiry is whether the wishes of some of these well-meaning people, that a federal commission ought to be appointed to administer it and to supervise the operations of great industrial combinations particularly in the way of judging whether prices are reasonable or not, can well be accomplished. My answer is that such a commission, substituted for the courts of justice, necessary implies that it is to exercise a discretion in granting or withholding privileges that are not defined by law; and it is clear from human experience that it would be in danger of becoming the victim of political influences, if not the cause of them.

"It ought always to be kept clearly in mind that there is a wide and radical distinction between the powers of Congress to regulate commerce and its power to interfere in any way with the industries of production, which are in no sense commerce. The control and regulation of these belong exclusively to the States, and, it any belief, it is important to the safety and welfare of the people of the several States that this power should remain where it is.

"While it is perfectly true that Congress may tax production and all industrial operations, whether combined or several, by uniform laws, and may, perhaps, tax the 'big ones' accumulatively, it cannot lawfully intefere with the business itself. It was only able to intefere with State banking by exerting the powers of taxation. Though banking comes very near to commerce, it is not that thing."

ON A HIGH PLANE.

(From the New York Sun.)

In the House of Representatives on Saturday Mr. Dies of Texas protested unavailingly against the passage of the Sherwood pension bill, the ostensible object of which is to pay a dollar a day to old soldiers from the public treasury, but which is supported by the democrats for the purpose of "putting Taft in a hole." Mr. Dies did not spare his colleagues. He said:

"It may be that to be honest on this question would beat us for the presidency and leave some of our democratic seats vacant. I have about come to the conclusion that there are a great many seats here on both sides of the chamber that ought to be vacant. I do not doubt the honesty of this body, but I have lost respect for its courage. I think decapitation for a good many cowardly statesmen here would do this republic good."

Having made his argument against the measure, Mr. Dies took his seat. His analysis of the attitude of the members toward the Sherwood bill was immediately confirmed by another member, who remarked, not for publication in the Congressional Record, but merely for the edification of the gentlemen near him:

"That's all right for Martin Dies to take that position; we all know he has announced that he will not be a candidate for re-election."

Because most of the members hope to be returned to the House, the dollar a day bill will be passed by that thoughtful and patriotic body of lawmakers. That explains the enthusiasm of the democrats for the old soldiers and their abandonment of their policy of economy at the first threat of a lost vote.

PENNY POSTAGE THE FARMER'S FOE.

(From Leslie's Weekly.)

A scheme has been devised, obvious on its face, to create public sentiment for one-cent postage, and over this, through raising the rate for second-class matter, to strike at all newspapers and periodicals. To offset the protests against increasing the second-class rate which has prevailed for over a quarter of a century, the One-Cent Letter Postage association, abundantly financed, is making a systematic effort to line up Senators and representatives at Washington in a demand for a one-cent-rate bill.

It is the city that uses red stamps—not all its inhabitants either, but the great offices that center in the city. A single large mail-order house or one of our great insurance companies will probably use more two-cent stamps in a year than several rural counties. Government reports show that about 85 per cent. of all letters are mailed from first-class post-offices, while the 12 largest cities alone mail 34 per cent. In contrast with this we have only 4.5 per cent. mailed by rural routes in 1909. But if the farmer's share of first-class mail is small, his proportion of second-class mail received is extremely large. With but 22 per cent. of the population the farmers on rural routes receive nearly 35 per cent. of all the newspapers and periodicals sent through the mails. Penny postage would mean the foisting of a large part of the $20,000,000 deficit upon the village and country population. This would be injustice of the worst sort, and yet, by maintaining the present two-cent rate, injustice is done to no one. The large-bulk users of two-cent stamps in the cities cannot complain, for they are thus able to solicit business over an unlimited territory at the trifling cost of a stamp.

THE STORY TELLER.

WHERE TO STOP.

Ralph Wise, when he visited Boston for the first time, was undecided at what hotel to stop. As he wandered up Summer street from the South Station, he determined to inquire for a good hotel. So he accosted a fine-appearing man who was coming toward him, confident that from such a citizen he would be sure to get the very best advice as to his choice of a stopping place.

"What would be a good place to stop at?" he inquired of the stranger.

"Just before you reach the at," was the disconcerting reply.—Cosmopolitan Magazine.

THE LAST LAUGH.

"Hogan was raffling a clock," said Mr. Dore. "He was fairly successful in disposing of tickets in the shop where he worked, but he ran up against trouble when he canvassed his neighbors.

"Dropping in at a neighbor's house, he tried to sell a ticket on the clock.

"'It's a fine timepiece and it'll luk foine on yeh what-not or mantel,' says Hogan, cajolingly.

"'Gwan, the old clock doesn't run,' replied the neighbor.

"'Well,' drawled Hogan, changing front completely, 'well perhaps yez won't win it, and then ye'll have the laugh on the fellow who does.'"—Milwaukee Free Press.

HARNESSING A SHARK.

The shark's jaws are pried open to the fullest extent; a stout eight-foot spar of tough timber, four inches by four in cross-measurement, is fixed transversely far back in the angle of the jaw, the ends projecting on either side. A strong rope leading from the ends of the spar is drawn close and tightened with a clove-hitch round the fish's tail, behind the wide tail-flukes. It is thus the sailor harnesses his enemy.

The clamp of the cruel jaws drives the two-inch long teeth deep into the tough spar. The tight line holds it in place, and, struggle as he may, the shark fails to move the spar an inch from its position. As a finishing touch, the sailor drew his knife-blade across the shark's eyeballs and let him go.

Bitted and bridled, blinded, with jaws wide-gaping, he swam through a limitless sea in never-ending furious circles. The queer furnishings he bore scared away others of his kind. Lonely and silent he passed like Cain among the fishes till starvation and sheer misery ended his existence.

Cruel? Of course it was. But surely, like the venomous snake, the shark has long put himself beyond the pale of human mercy. Soft-hearted as he usually is, the sailor-man has a long memory. The shark has followed for weeks in the shadow of his ship, and has watched each man of the crew with greedy, malevolent eye. There is a heavy debt against all the shark tribe for many a lost mariner, and, when the chance comes to settle old scores, the sailor pays it to the full. Besides the thing has the sanction of immemorial custom. It was some old Phoenician, trading out of Tyre to the far Cassiterides, who, probably, first put the trick in practice.—H. W. C. Fagan in the January Wide World Magazine.

A CHRISTMAS LEGEND.

When borne upon the silent night
Long centuries ago,
There came the ring of bridle reins,
And voices hushed and low.
She hastened to her door to see
What prince or potentate,
Upon the road to Bethlehem
Was journeying so fast.

"Oh! whither dost thou go with glee
In pomp so great?" she cried.
"We follow yonder blazing star,"
A bearded king replied.
"It leads us to the babe, new born,
And in a manger laid,
Who comes to save the wicked world.
Pray join our cavalcade."

"First I must sweep the ashes up,
And put the bread to rise,
Then I will follow too,' she said.
"The glory in the skies."
But when the pots and pans were scoured,
And hearth and table cleared,
Beheld! the east was dark again,
The star had disappeared.

When loud and sweet the Christmas bells,
Chime out from tower and town,
Still seeking for the infant Christ,
She wanders up and down.
Her arms are full of cakes and toys
Her weary feet are sore,
The snow is on her old gray head,
She knocks at every door.

When fair and frosty falls the eve
Of His nativity,
She fills the children's stockings up
And decks the Christmas tree.
No little one is overlooked,
From vale to mountain high,
Lest one might be the Holy Child,
And she might pass him by.

—Minna Irving in Leslie's.

OUR KALEIDOSCOPE.

A HARDY PERENNIAL.

Jack Frost may be Cupid's discloser,
Warm-hearted in spite of the snow,
And the kiss that in June is sub rosa,
In December is sub misletoe.

Katherine Perry in Judge.

A REAL WORRY.

Him—"I don't know how to tell you how I love you."

Her—"Don't worry about that—I'll take it as it comes. What you want to get nervous about is how to tell papa about it."—Exchange.

PRACTICAL ADVICE.

"Speaking of etiquette, did you send the dollar for those advertised instructions on 'What to do at table?'"

"Yes."

"And what did you get?"

"A slip with one word printed on it 'Eat!'"—Boston Transcript.

CRAVING FOR VARIETY.

The servant girl, who had been given an afternoon off to attend a matinee, returned unusually early.

"Why!" said her mistress, "you can't have waited to see the whole performance?"

"No, ma'am," was the reply. "It said on the program that Act III was the same as Act I, and I didn't want to see it again."—London Opinion.

HER VIEW.

The Brother—She's got lovable eyes kissable lips, a huggable shape and holdable hands.

His Sister—Yes, and she's got removable hair, adjustable hips, colorable brows, and a transferable complexion.—Puck.

The ANSWERERS as well as the publishers of classified ads profit by them, get service and satisfaction from them!