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#### OUR CHIEF BENEFACTOR GONE

Many men have been benefactors of Burlington. Some have given of their resources; others have performed service in various ways. It falls to few men in the history of the city to devote themselves to a community in so many ways as did the Hon. William J. Van Patten, whom we now all mourn. He gave not only financial support for various worthy projects and institutions and manifold service, but also unceasing thought for our progress and welfare and uplift combined with sympathetic and efficient co-operation.

It is difficult for the present generation to picture Burlington without a building owned by the Young Men's Christian association. The present substantial Y. M. C. A. building owes its existence to Mr. Van Patten. He was a pioneer in the movement for a home for this worthy organization, and he not only helped to organize the project but he also underwrote its finances to a degree that ensured the erection of the edifice. From that time to this he has been recognized as a dominating spirit in Y. M. C. A. work, not only in Burlington, but also in the State as a whole.

Another institution in which he had an abiding interest and which he was ever seeking to serve in various ways is the Carnegie-Eletcher library, with which he was long connected in an official capacity. In this work as well as in his service for the local and State Y. M. C. A., he was constantly brought into close association with youth, and led to think of their welfare. He was eminently fitted for service in both directions by his broad and generous sympathies and quick impulses toward every worthy cause.

Long before most people had begun to think of organized charity in this region, Mr. Van Patten had conceived of the idea of putting the relief of suffering and want on a thoroughly practical basis that should afford relief without at the same time incurring the risk of the pauperization of the recipients of charity. He was largely instrumental in perfecting the organization and outlining the work of the Howard Relief society, whose building has long adorned the northeast corner of Pearl and Clark streets. That this was pioneer work is shown by the fact that when the venerable and lamented Rev. Edward E. Hale was invited to come from Boston to lend the benefit of his long experience in the "Lend A Hand" work in this city, he said he was gratified to discover that Burlington had progressed so far in the putting of organized charity on a practical basis, that he could only admire and commend instead of suggesting.

As president and long time director of the Mary Fletcher hospital, Mr. Van Patten gave of himself ungrudgingly, and, as was the case with so much of his work for his fellow beings, wholly without recompense. It was a labor of love. In this service he was constantly seeking to combine the practical and the ideal. He realized that sympathy and good cheer are important factors in healing and health restoration, and many a patient could testify to his unobtrusive attentions and floral messengers of sweetness and hope that are so appreciated by the invalid.

Mr. Van Patten's sympathies were so broad that no local barrier could hedge in his activities for humanity. It was a natural step for him from thought for the welfare of the boys of Burlington to solicitude for the fatherless and the homeless boys of the commonwealth as a whole. His service for the latter in connection with Kurn Hattin homes in southern Vermont, can not easily be measured. In this work as in so many other directions he was a pioneer, and in his death, the fatherless boys of Vermont have suffered an irreparable loss.

The comprehensive view of conditions which Mr. Van Patten thus gained in the State at large as well as in Burlington and vicinity found a natural fruitage in his splendid service in organizing the Vermont conference of social work and in the later project of establishing the State Board of Charities and Probation. Whether as State senator and president of the Senate, advocating broad measures for the commonwealth, or as mayor of Burlington or as commissioner or trustee in various departments, championing public development like more parks or a paid fire department as a substitute for the old volunteer department or as seeking community uplift, he was ever the ideal citizen, the gentleman of the old school and the Christian worker combined. Whether in official position or in private life, he was untiring in his public service.

It would be difficult to mention any public improvement within the memory of the present generation in Burlington in which he did not have a helpful share. If indeed, he did not take the initiative. It will be recalled that at the outset there was not a little opposition to the erection of the Edmunds high school on account of cost. Mr. Van Patten was so intensely interested in the project to provide Bure-

#### PUZZLING PRESIDENTIAL QUESTION IN NEW ENGLAND

The "New England candidate" from the time of Blaine and Reed down to Weeks and Coolidge has had to contend with the spirit of New England independence as well as the disposition on the part of the rest of the country to emphasize geographical location.

Senator George F. Edmunds of Vermont was among these who did not take kindly to the Plumed Knight from Maine in 1884, although he supported Blaine in a way after the latter was nominated. Vermont in 1896 gave its delegation to the national convention to McKinley rather than Reed, while in 1916 it clung to Hughes in preference to Weeks.

The Green Mountain State is now inclined to stand by Governor Coolidge of Massachusetts as a loyal son of Vermont. Our people as a whole would undoubtedly rejoice to see him the New England candidate. In this juncture we are faced by the fact that the Bay State seems now as in 1916 to be experiencing pronounced difficulty in getting together with reference to their presidential preferences.

When the candidacy of Governor Coolidge started spontaneously as a result of his splendid exhibition of backbone in connection with the problems involved in the strike of the Boston police, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge announced that he would be a candidate for delegate at large to the republican national convention for the purpose of presenting the governor's name for nomination for the presidency.

According to the Washington correspondent of the Boston Herald the withdrawal of Governor Coolidge as an active candidate for the support of the Massachusetts delegation for the sake of producing harmony in the Bay State and the closing of his headquarters in the national capital has put Senator Lodge in a dilemma. The correspondent says:

"Is Governor Coolidge definitely out of the presidential contest or does he still harbor some modest 'dark horse' aspirations? Senator Henry Cabot Lodge would like an authoritative answer to this question."

Our readers will readily understand why as the time approaches for filing as a candidate Senator Lodge is at a loss to know what his course should be. If Governor Coolidge is in the contest Senator Lodge would file as a candidate pledged to him. If the Governor is out of it the Senator says he would file as an unpledged candidate.

The correspondent continues: "The Governor's statement, together with the abandonment of the Coolidge headquarters here, would justify the conclusion that the Bay State executive has withdrawn from the contest. Yet in political circles there is a persistent 'underground' that Governor Coolidge is still in a receptive frame of mind and that if the right circumstances developed he would not be averse to re-entering his name in the lists."

"For example, it is pointed out the Governor's only practical chance of nomination, and it is conceded he would not enter the fight for a mere complimentary vote, would come in the event of a convention deadlock. If this contingency arose Coolidge as a man who had been favorably mentioned but who had withdrawn to prevent a contest in his own State might loom big as a compromise candidate."

"Senator Lodge is a bit scrupulous about keeping political promises. If he should announce himself as an unpledged candidate while there is still doubt about the Coolidge withdrawal, it would appear as if he were abandoning the governor, a situation he does not propose to permit. Consequently, he awaits a final word from the Governor before filing his nomination papers."

"Should Governor Coolidge release Senator Lodge from the arrangement which brought the latter into the delegate contest, Senator Lodge will run as an unpledged candidate independently of any group. While it is an open secret that with Governor Coolidge definitely out of the running the Senator looks with favor on the candidacy of General Wood, he will not align himself formally with the Wood movement in Massachusetts. To do so would bring him into political company which is not altogether congenial."

We can readily see how Senator Lodge cannot afford to associate himself with any of the political booms, other than that of the Bay State executive, because of the delicacy of his negotiations in maintaining some semblance of party solidarity on the treaty question in the Senate.

Another reason he does not propose to run as a member of a group, even though the group be unpledged, is his unwillingness to serve as a vehicle for other candidacies. With his public career coming to a close, the Senator is said to believe he has earned the right to play a lone hand in this contest free from the complication which may attend some of the other candidates. That at least is his view now.

Meanwhile Senator Moses of New Hampshire announces additional impetus to the Wood movement in New England in the shape of reports that F. W. Estabrook, national committeeman from New Hampshire and Jesse M. Barton, another candidate for delegate-at-large, had abandoned their plan to run as unpledged candidates and had filed as pledged to General Wood. As a consequence of this Senator Moses is confident that all New Hampshire's eight delegates will go to Chicago instructed for Wood.

At the present time General Wood seems to be profiting from uncertainty regarding Governor Coolidge's candidacy. How the rejection of general military training as a policy for adoption at this particular time will affect General Wood's chances remains to be seen. His name has been associated with that policy to a greater or less degree, and on general principles one would expect him to suffer to a certain extent from the latest developments in that connection.

It is to be noted in this connection that according to 'advice from Washington the candidacy of Senator Harding of Ohio has also entered a new phase during the past few days. The original intention of Mr. Harding's friends was not to campaign for delegates in any State outside of Ohio. Now, however, the Harding candidacy has become more pretentious. A nation-wide organization is being brought together and in a few days will be announced. Aggressive efforts are already being made to secure the delegation from Indiana, and similar efforts will shortly be made throughout the country generally.

On the democratic side the effort of party leaders to head off Bryan is now coming into sharp and open conflict with those who are determined to make Mr. Bryan a figure in the convention. The Democratic party organizations, as organizations, in the various States, are generally opposed to Bryan. But the rank and file of the party in many of the same States are in favor of Bryan. In order to forestall the growth of Bryan sentiment and to head off any attempt to give formal endorsement to him, the party leaders have been following a policy of calling their State conventions and State committee meetings earlier than they anticipated.

Significantly enough Senator Walsh of Massachusetts endorses the position of Senator Lodge relative to the treaty of peace and Col. William A. Gaston, one of the democratic wheel horses in the Bay State, has come out in a statement in praise of Senators Lodge and Walsh for safeguarding our national interests. This announcement is said to ensure Colonel Gaston a place on the Bay State's "big four" in the democratic national convention in San Francisco.

Meanwhile so excellent a republican authority as former President Taft has warned his party that if the democrats nominate Hoover on a platform favoring a League of Nations with reasonable restrictions the democratic candidate might become a highly formidable antagonist. If Hoover is inclined to be "wet" to even a mild degree, some of his people claim it would strengthen him with the host of people who favor beer and light wines. All things considered the presidential situation is puzzling not only in New England but also throughout the United States.

lington with a fitting and creditable high school building that he bore the entire expense of a canvass of citizens by mail, the results of which were published in the Free Press showing an overwhelming sentiment in favor of that public improvement, which was thus assured.

Mr. Van Patten was an apostle of good roads decades ago when that movement was less generally advocated than now. He was active in bringing to Burlington Professor Cabot, the engineer, who made a voluminous report, in favor of what was then regarded as permanent stone

roads, telford and macadam, and who formulated the plans under which Burlington expended the proceeds of its first bond issue for permanent roads.

One of the splendid projects for a greater and more beautiful Burlington which Mr. Van Patten long ago advocated, but did not live to see materialize was a boulevard along the lake shore north of Burlington. He lamented Burlington's lack of a fine drive along the shore of Lake Champlain for our visitors as well as ourselves. He conducted a party of other enthusiasts along what could be the route of such a driveway pointing out its beauties and showing its advantages. It would be a fitting and handsome tribute, if Burlington should some day construct as a memorial the Van Patten boulevard.

Mr. Van Patten's love of children was the mainspring of still other praiseworthy projects than those hitherto enumerated. He was a thorough believer in parks for the benefit of all concerned as well as playgrounds for the special benefit of the little ones. In providing Ethan Allen park for this community, it was his particular pleasure that here would be a place where the children could have their swings and slides and other means of joyous, health-giving exercise in the open air.

After he had seen Ethan Allen Park materialize his thoughts turned again to the lake he loved, as affording an opportunity for still another park by the side of the water. He long advocated the purchase by the city of the entire John A. Arthur farm, where a large park could be developed with a bathing beach as one of its attractive features. This project was later consummated in part, although the city did not buy that portion of the farm which Mr. Van Patten believed should be made an addition to Lake View cemetery. Other instances of Mr. Van Patten's public spirit and progressive nature could be given, but these will readily suggest themselves to different residents of Burlington.

The part which Mr. Van Patten took in connection with the industrial development of Burlington is worthy of special emphasis. His activity in the building up of the enormous business of the Wells & Richardson company has already been mentioned. He was one of the prime movers in establishing in Burlington the Queen City Cotton company in which he was largely interested. Later on he developed the Champlain shops at the corner of Main and Battery streets, and many a handsome natural finish interior in Burlington buildings testifies to the artistic taste as well as fine workmanship done under his supervision. The large plant established in this city for the Malted Cereal company is another monument to his progressive spirit as well as his vision. It is significant in this connection that success crowned his efforts in every direction where he could work out his own ideas unhampered. It thus becomes evident that his versatility and good judgment in business were as pronounced as his broad and generous sympathies were all-embracing in connection with his manifold benefactions.

It is to be noted that Mr. Van Patten's chief concern was for the higher and the finer things of life. His attractive qualities made him not only respected, but also loved by all. It thus becomes evident that it was not what Mr. Van Patten accumulated, but what he did and what he gave of himself for the city of his love and the State of which he was proud and for humanity as a whole, that really counts in the final analysis. His love of the beautiful led him constantly to seek to cultivate the aesthetic sense in others, as well as to satisfy love of the beautiful. He was ever making parks and small plots about public buildings to blossom with sweet flowers. He sought to carry beauty and joy into the lives of all our people. In his death we have lost our most public spirited citizen, and our children, their most loving public benefactor.

Concord, N. H., tells of trains actually freezing to the rails in that region. It was Mark Twain who told about his shadow freezing to the deck of a steamship in the Arctic regions. Possibly the Granite State has a budding Twain.

It may reconcile some of our readers to recent meteorological conditions to recall the tradition that hard frost and a heavy snowfall mean a generous harvest of maple sugar. Under these circumstances it is to be hoped the destruction by fire of a maple sugar implement factory in Rutland will not interfere with the maple industry in southern Vermont. If this is the situation, Burlington may lend a hand to our neighbors.

Sheriff Allen's statement that prisoners in the Chittenden county jail earned \$63.50 last year, half of which went to the State and the other half to the prisoners, is gratifying both as history and prophecy. We believe wholesome work for prisoners is one of the solutions of the question how to reform men and women, and especially men who will not work to support their families. It is simply pauperization for the taxpayers to support the families of men who persist in idleness. Generous doses of work with jail accompaniments will speedily cure this disease of the body social.

#### THE REASON

The friend of an English clergyman, who was spending a few days in the latter's parish, says the Guardian, went up to a neighboring country church one day and found an old woman just turning away from the door.

"Locked and bolted," she said. She then told him that she lived in a neighboring village and that she came every now and then to the church in which she had been christened and confirmed and married, but it was always the same; she could never get in.

## SOME MYSTERY ABOUT STATEMENT OF DOCTOR YOUNG

It Is First Admission That President Wilson Had Suffered Impairment of His Left Leg and Arm—Nature of the Communication Leaves Inference That Somebody in the Govt. Thought It Time Public Had Facts About Chief Executive's Illness and Told Dr. Young to Go Ahead

By DAVID LAWRENCE  
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Washington, Feb. 13.—Something of a mystery envelopes the issuance by Dr. Hugh H. Young of Johns Hopkins University of a statement describing in detail the illness of President Wilson and revealing particularly what the White House has so long declined to admit, namely that the President has suffered from an impairment of his left leg and arm.

So far as can be discovered neither President Wilson nor Dr. Cary T. Grayson, U. S. N., his physician, were consulted concerning the statement and there is good reason to believe that its publication was hardly pleasing to them. On the other hand, it is thought inconceivable that a man of Dr. Young's position would so far violate professional ethics as to authorize a newspaper interview revealing the nature of the illness of one of his patients without sanction.

The plain inference is that somebody in the government who has felt that the White House policy of concealing the facts of the President's illness was misleading and unfair to the public told Dr. Young to go ahead. It is not important to know who the person was but it is a confession that the curiosity of the public to know the truth about the President's ailment at last reached a point where the wishes of the President's own household to keep the matter a private affair are to some extent being set aside in the interest of the public.

The whole situation develops out of the conflict between the rights of the public and the rights of the President and his family to keep their privacy from being invaded. Just where does the right of the public and the right of a public official begin? There are those who defend vigorously the White House policy of silence on the ground that while the President was in the midst of the serious stage of his illness and nobody could tell just what developments might bring, it would have been politically disastrous to hand over to Mr. Wilson's political opponents a lever with which to delay action on the treaty by raising the question of the President's incapacity to discharge his public duties. Now that the President has passed the crisis and is on the road to recovery, it is insisted that no harm can be done by revealing in retrospect the facts of the case.

On the other hand the distinct loss to the White House in the circumstances is the impression that it has given to so many persons that informal utterances on subjects of interest to the public may have to be taken with a grain of salt. There always arises a moment in every administration when the newspaper correspondents begin to lose faith in the sincerity of public men who do not deal frankly. Usually when an embarrassing question arises, officials have been known to make a clean breast of a case and point out the reasons why secrecy is necessary. This was particularly true during the war and there are no cases of importance on record wherein confidence was violated.

But in the matter of Dr. Wilson's illness, the correspondents have literally been up a tree. Torn between a desire not to pry too closely the private affairs of the President and a consciousness at the same time that the public has a right to know whether its chief executive can transact public business, the newspapermen have consistently accepted statements made to them from authoritative quarters as being frank and complete. Dr. Young's revelation gives the impression that on more than one occasion the correspondents were deliberately misled.

This may not be important from the viewpoint of officials for they frequently imagine the public much less interested in events than are the inquiring correspondents. More than one request for information has been lightly dismissed as "idle" curiosity. In this particular instance, however, the policy of withholding the truth served only to intensify the eagerness of the public to know the true state of Mr. Wilson's health. Demands for information have come from newspapers usually very friendly but these editorials have had little effect. Somebody then hit upon the idea of issuing an inspired statement giving details. This appeared nearly a month ago in a Baltimore newspaper but the name of the physician was not given. The story was not given wide circulation because of its anonymity. Then the same newspaper acted on a doubt by the desire to keep faith with its readers, printed a second statement, this time by the authority of Dr. Hugh Young himself. Just how much the White House played a part in this effort to set the public straight cannot be ascertained as yet. Certainly the more direct method would have been to issue a statement to the Associated Press or the United Press and let the newspapers of the country reach all the people.

The mystery deepens when it is found that some of the things in Dr. Young's utterances are described as "minor inaccuracies," and while the substance of his declaration appears to be admitted, it is pointed out by others who are in a position to know that Dr. Young was not called in until the trouble with the prostatic gland developed. The inference is that he learned about the case second-hand from the other physicians who treated the President's arm and leg. And still there is no full and frank statement of the President's condition issued on the authority of the White House.

#### HARMONY THAT IS HARMONY

(From the Charleston News and Courier)  
 "We heartily endorse the party leadership of Woodrow Wilson and William Jennings Bryan," says the demagogue of North Dakota, in a formal resolution. Here is faith! Here is sublime indifference to signs and facts, to sayings and actualities, to probabilities and known. These North Dakota democrats are made out of the same stuff as those who hurrahed for Woodrow Wilson and for William Jennings Bryan even in the days of the Dumba incident, even at the very height of the crisis which had its climax when Mr. Bryan resigned his

This advertisement, written by Marie Brigham, the second prize in the Thrift Advertisement Contest in the lower schools.

Burlington Savings Bank,  
 Burlington, Vt.

Gentlemen:—In the present time of high cost of living it is necessary for every "one" to exercise the strictest economy—a little added to what one already has is my idea of thrift.

## BURLINGTON SAVINGS BANK

Time has demonstrated the soundness of the policies on which the first Board of Directors founded this Bank and which have continued throughout its existence.

Look for This Electric Sign Over the Door

## WINOOSKI SAVING BANK

Do Your Banking By Mail

The last two semi-annual dividends, July 1, 1919 and Jan. 1, 1920, were at the rate of 4 1/2% per annum.

51 Years of Successful Business  
 NO. 11 WINOOSKI BLOCK WINOOSKI, VT.

WAGES AND LIVING EXPENSES  
 May seem out of joint. Bank men have been forced to economize as have many other classes of labor. The wise man or woman lives within his or her income and saves regularly what is possible against sickness, etc., and deposits this in a savings account. We welcome you to use our facilities to this end.

Home Savings Bank, 190 Main Street, Burlington, Vt.  
 C. W. Brownell, Pres. C. S. Brownell, Treas. E. B. Taft, Vice-Pres.

## Chittenden County Trust Co., Burlington

Pleasant Relations  
 It is well known that the relations of this bank and its customers are of the most pleasant nature. This condition we appreciate and it has been brought about by our uniform courtesy to all.

OFFICERS:  
 JOHN J. FLYNN, Vice-President.  
 HARRIE F. HALL, Asst. Treasurer.

position of Secretary of State in Mr. Wilson's cabinet because he did not agree with the President's handling of our relations with Germany.

One thing at least is sure. There is no menace to democratic harmony in North Dakota. The harmoniousness of democratic harmony there is such that it can harmonize anything and everything. The North Dakota democracy is a Wilson-Bryan democracy. It can never be split and destroyed by the rascally-repub-

CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR OF BARRI  
 Frank M. Langley, editor of the Barr Times, has been nominated for mayor of Barre defeating Eugene C. Glyson by a vote of 316 to 172. Mr. Langley states that the tax rate might possibly be over 4.