

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

FRANK A. MUNSEY

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NEUTRALITY AND THE BOERS.

It would be interesting to have an expert opinion on the matter of whether, in permitting the shipment of horses and mules to South Africa for the use of the armies of Great Britain, we are preserving neutrality.

A standard encyclopedia defines neutrality as follows: "As a general rule, neutrals should conduct themselves with perfect impartiality, and do nothing which can be considered as favoring one belligerent more than another."

Commandant Jan Krige, in a speech delivered in this city, has asserted that our British kinsmen are doing things in South Africa that are odious to the tenets of civilized warfare, and has also asked that America prohibit the shipment of certain supplies which are absolutely essential to the continuance of hostilities by Great Britain.

As we have said, it would be interesting to have an expert opinion on the matter of whether the law of neutrality is being violated by the shipment of mounts for British troops from the ports of the United States.

THE RUSSIAN REPLY.

Russia's reassurances to this Government in regard to the Manchurian question are particularly gratifying, for they indicate at least a postponement of the design to so promote the influence of the Czar in Northern China that the territory will naturally come into the domain of his great Empire.

The answer to Secretary Hay's note likewise indicates the ruling influence of the United States, and perhaps puts a stop to conivance in the Far East that will prevent for a time a serious clash between the European Powers.

In no way can America do a better service to humanity in general than by preventing hostilities. Regeneration makes much more rapid progress in times of amity, artificial or otherwise. The postponement of armed trouble is of advantage to the world. It is to be hoped that Russia will comprehend that any overt move in the Orient is dangerous, and that ambition will be checked in that direction.

Current Press Comment.

Spanish Humor. Milwaukee Sentinel—Now it is the Spanish Senate that wants to know who was Spain's best friend during the war. The devil's sense of humor was not buried with Cervantes.

Two Experts in Silence. San Antonio Express—Tom Reed and David B. Hill, of New York, both of whom are frequently mentioned for the Presidency, appear to be running a neck-and-neck race in the art of saying nothing.

A Pardonable Illusion. Atlanta Journal—From the amount of space that has been given by the American press to the illness of young Roosevelt the people of Europe may be excused if they form the idea that he is the heir apparent to the Presidential chair.

Venezuela on the Right Track. Philadelphia Ledger—Venezuela got rid of her trouble with England some time ago. She has just resumed diplomatic relations with France, and little has been heard of late about her entanglement with Germany. If she can smooth over her domestic difficulties, Venezuela may be happy and prosperous yet.

As to the Price of Eggs. Chicago Record-Herald—When a hen takes it into her head to be stubborn she doesn't care a cent for the law of supply and demand.

An Experiment in Preparation. Louisville Courier-Journal—Albert Lagrange proposes to increase French population by legislation making it obligatory for every citizen thirty-two years old to pay his father one-third of his annual income.

When Necessity Compels. Chicago Record-Herald—That Detroit Napoleon of finance had a motto which was, "No man should work after he is forty." Let us hope, however, that he will cease those deposits who may find it necessary, because of what has happened, to keep on toiling after passing the allotted age.

The Deputy's Greentness. Atlanta Constitution—How have the mighty fallen? Here we were looking for Richard Harding Davis to referee a South American scrap and he turns up in a New York police station after a jawing match with a cabman.

Not Yet Ready to Resign. Philadelphiaquirer—Resigning Uncle not having come, Attorney General Knox will not resign. There was no reason why he should. But the fomenters of discord are always busy and they did not overlook this case. When the proper time comes, assuming that it will, Mr. Knox will speak for himself. If he had not cultivated that habit he would not be where he is.

Not Troubled With Embarrassment. Cleveland Plain Dealer—It must have been a little embarrassing for that New Jersey city official when a woman picked him out of a line of men as the polite burglar who had unobscured her home. Still with most city officials embarrassment is a very unusual emotion.

No Regard for Reputation. Pittsburg Dispatch—England's famous Scots Greys have been the latest to test the fighting capacities of the Boers. A loss of fifty-four men in an unimportant skirmish shows that the reputation of their opponents makes no difference to the burghers.

A Somewhat Equivocal Compliment. Boston Journal—The Daughters of the American Revolution do honor to the militant proclivities of their forefathers.

Not Over Modest. Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph—Before asking \$750,000 a year rent for the isthmian canal route, Colombia must have asked up Uncle Sam's bank account.

Personal Notes About Washington People. Mr. George C. Davies in confined to his home suffering from the effect of a fall on the ice, which he received a few days ago. His ankle was badly sprained and he was otherwise so badly bruised that it may be a week or more before he is able to resume his business duties.

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Let the Women Vote. By SIDNEY T. BATES. Would I let the women vote? Most certainly I would. For they're everlastingly that lovely And everything that's good; And like a pot of rose.

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NEED FOR AN INCREASE OF THE CAPITAL POLICE.

By RICHARD SYLVESTER, Major and Superintendent of Police.

A demonstration of police authority on occasions of importance in the District is made with great risk to the outlying districts. In other words, local interests must suffer generally for the special occasion. This is due to the limited police force, and such should not be the case here at the Capital of the United States.

If the men who make up Congress could only be made to understand the great injustice and danger attendant upon such events, as reasonable men they would make prompt provision for an ample police force.

For years a superintendent has urged action on the part of Congress for an adequate number of men, yet the appeal goes unheeded. Congress should not wait until some great calamity occurs to repair the means of protection.

The Superintendent of Police likens his work on occasions where the force must be concentrated to a game of chess where he is compelled by law to make important moves and has not the men to do it with. The Superintendent labors late and long in an endeavor to provide ample protection for all interests, but he finds it a hard task.

If thorough service is expected and required the Superintendent feels that ample material should be in hand to accomplish that end.

BURLESQUE VIEW OF THE RETIREMENT OF CLERKS.

By G. W. HARSCH.

As there seems to be no possibility of arriving at a satisfactory system of retirement for the Government employes, the following is offered with the hope that it will not meet with any objection and serve the greatest good to the smallest number:

That, commencing at once, all baldheaded employes shall be compulsorily retired on the following basis: For complete baldness, at full pay; for each hair remaining on the pate, a deduction of 1 per cent to be made; for premature baldness, regardless of age, caused by excessive brain work outside of the department, 50 per cent of first salary received; for early hair below the pate, 75 per cent of lowest salary received; but in no case shall those retired be given enough to live on after six months, and neither shall a man who has served fifty years receive as much as another who has served one year. The use of hair tonics and restorers is forbidden after ten years of service.

Voluntary retirement shall be granted all employes who are able to do manual labor, and who can secure employment elsewhere at reduced pay.

That every employe who is so accommodating as to provide promotion for fellow-clerks by turning his toes to the daisies shall be treated like a Chinaman, except that his grave shall be strewn with crisp \$10 notes, the expense to be borne by those already retired. Employes dropping dead at their desks shall also receive flowers for their sudden generosity.

That the expenses of retirement shall be met by taking up collections in all the departments the second week after pay-day; that the Secretary of the Treasury shall pay interest thereon while the money is being disbursed, and the employes so disbursing the same shall receive the thanks of the employes annually, without compensation; that no employe shall be assessed or compelled to contribute to said fund, but those receiving the lowest salaries shall contribute the largest amounts; in case of deficit for any reason, the amount required to be supplied from the surplus remaining from the appropriation for the Civil Service Commission.

UNDER THE CAPITOL DOME.

Mr. Boutell's Repartee.

Representative Boutell, the diminutive member from the big city on Lake Michigan, is as apt at repartee as any man in the House. His intellectual ability is not over on his feet he always has full confidence in himself, and no amount of cross-questioning causes him to lose his equilibrium.

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Senator Mason as a Stenographer.

If at any time the official reporters of the Senate should go on a strike or should all fail to attend some session of the body it would not be necessary to go outside of the membership of the Senate to find someone who could fill the place of at least one reporter, and do the work well.

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Can Get Appropriations With Ease.

When it comes to securing appropriations for one's district the member of Congress who belongs to the veteran class seldom fails to get what he asks for. This applies with special force to appropriations for river and harbor improvements, and with few exceptions every member of the House has a more or less personal interest in the rivers and harbors bill.

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SOLOMON'S JUDGMENT.

A decision just pronounced by a Paris commissaire de police reminds one of a famous judgment of Solomon. A young woman well known in the theatrical world was driving down the steep Rue de Clichy in a cab when the horse bolted and, having upset a costermonner's cart, headed for the Place de la Trinite, there, owing to the heavy traffic in every direction, it was pretty certain to come to grief.

Three cab touts who were passing by looking out for a job made a rush at the horse's head and stopped it. The actress, who had probably given herself up for lost, showed her gratitude by throwing out a 50-franc bank note for the men to divide among them.

This handsome behavior aroused the enthusiasm of the crowd which had gathered. One of the three cab touts picked up the note, whereupon the two others protested. Each of the three said he had pocketed the note thought to settle the difficulty by running away, but the other two stopped him with even less difficulty than they had stopped the horse and marched him off to the police station.

Several eyewitnesses of the scene followed them. The commissaire was unable to find out which of the three men had really stopped the horse and proposed to give each one a third of the sum, but they all protested they were entitled to the whole. The commissaire de police, with a pair of scissors, cut the note into three slips, gave one to each man and dismissed them, remarking that as soon as they came to an agreement they might come back and he would paste the slips together.—Chicago Chronicle.

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DOINGS IN THE WORLD OF SOCIETY.

Senator and Mrs. Dryden Guests of Honor at a Dinner Given by His New Jersey Colleague.

Colonel and Mrs. May Among the Dinner Givers—Reception to Be Tendered to Mrs. L. M. N. Stevens and Miss Anna A. Gordon, Officers of the National Woman's Temperance Union.

Senator Dryden Guest of Honor.

Senator and the Misses Kean entertained at dinner last night in honor of Senator and Mrs. Dryden, of New Jersey.

Colonel May a Dinner Host.

Colonel and Mrs. May were among those who entertained dinner companies last evening.

Reception to Mrs. L. M. N. Stevens.

Mrs. Margaret Dye Ellis will hold a reception at the Elmsore this evening, from 8 until 10:30, to meet Mrs. L. M. N. Stevens, of Maine, president, and Miss Anna A. Gordon, of Illinois, vice president-at-large of the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

A Distinguished Dinner Party.

Justice Thomas A. Anderson gave a dinner at the Portland on Saturday evening, in honor of the Attorney General, there being invited to meet him a large company of other distinguished guests.

In addition to Mr. Knox, those present included the Secretary of the Navy, Secretary Long, Justice McKenna and Harlan, of the Supreme Court of the United States; Minister Wu Ting-fang, of China; Senator Dillingham, ex-Senator John M. Thurston, Solicitor General Richards, Justice Morris and Justice Shepard, of the Court of Appeals; Justice Hagner and Justice Claiborne, of the Supreme Court of the District; Justice Charles B. Howry, of the Court of Claims; Representative William Alden Smith, H. C. Van Voorhis, Judge C. C. Cole, Judge Knapp, of the Interstate Commerce Commission; Col. Myron M. Parker, Senator Dubois, George H. Hamilton, Commissioner John W. Yerkes, Col. O. G. Staples, Harry L. Merrick, and Dr. Thomas Gordon.

Dinner Followed by Musicale.

At the close of the dinner given by Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Parker on Friday evening a number of additional guests came to listen to an exceedingly interesting musical programme, among them being Speaker Henderson, Rev. Dr. Stafford, Miss Wilson, Dr. Corea, Representative and Mrs. Scammon, Miss Fletcher, Representative Fletcher, Representative Blackburn, Miss Parker and Mrs. H. H. Burdette, daughters of the house. Mr. Wilford Russell, of London, gave a song recital, and Mr. John Porter Lawrence a piano solo.

Home to Attend a Wedding.

Miss Christine Owen has returned from New York, where she went to attend the wedding of Miss Alice Morton and Mr. Winthrop Rutherford.

Yericks' Sixth Dance.

In spite of the inclement weather, there was a delightful gathering at the Cairo Friday evening, when the Yericks gave their sixth dance of this season. Those present included Misses Keene, Cronan, Holtzman, Forrest, Hawes, Stafford, Yaste, Pleasants, Weaver, Harris, Harrison, Gardner, Tenly, Griesbaum, Wrenn, Pyle, Marston, Leech, Ritter, Schurz, Edmondson, and Shank, Mrs. Buss, Tongue, B. Henderson, Hengstler, Harvey, Yaste, Pomeroy, Gary, Thomas, Brown, Roberts, Davis, Tavenor, Schulz, Collins, Powers, Griesbaum, Harris, Tarbox, Hollister, Watson, McLean, Edmonston, Weaver, Keeling, Herbert, Kleis, Hooker, and Leech.

Progressive Euchre Postponed.

The progressive euchre which was to have been given this evening by the ladies of the Pelree Guild at the residence of Mrs. George B. Welch has been postponed until a later date.

Reception in Winodaughsia Parlors.

Miss Carrie M. Douglass, assisted by Mrs. Anderson and Miss Willard, will receive tomorrow, from 3 to 5, in the parlors of the Winodaughsia, 1420 New York Avenue northwest.

Washington's Birthday Dinners.

Portraits of the Presidents of the United States, from the Father of the Country to President Roosevelt, was the appropriate feature of the decorations at the dinner given on Washington's Birthday by Senator Warren in honor of Postmaster General Payne.

There was also the irrepressible cherry tree, at the base of which were tiny baskets hit with ribbons of red, white, and blue.

In addition to the Postmaster General, the guests were his niece, Miss Louise Jones, Secretary Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. J. Henderson, Mrs. Thomas F. Walsh, Representative and Miss Cannon, Representative and Mrs. Dainsell, Representative and Mrs. Grosvenor, Representative and Mrs. Teller, Senator and Mrs. C. D. Clark and Miss Clark, Senator and Mrs. Scott, Senator and Mrs. Hansbrough, and Senator and Mrs. Quarles.

STORY AND CHAT HEARD IN THE LOBBIES OF WASHINGTON HOTELS.

Woman Suffrage in Colorado.

"There is no indication that Colorado will abolish woman suffrage at any time in the near future," said Attorney General Post, of that State, at the Shorham.

"It was adopted in 1894, and I voted for it, but if it were to be done over again I am inclined to think my ballot would be on the other side.

"Not that it can be said that female suffrage is a failure. In fact, it may have done some good, particularly in the earlier years following its adoption, in the way of purifying the ballot and riding politics of some of its coarser and more corrupt features. Of late there have been strong indications that this good influence is not being maintained, and it is possible that it may become a constantly diminishing force.

"If the good women keep up their interest in politics and do their duty at the polls, woman suffrage will prove a blessing. It all hinges on that one thing, the ballot. In the hands of women has not proved such a glittering success in Colorado as to make the other States of the Union hasten to follow our example."

Pursued by Ill Fortune to the End.

"Pathetic indeed was the fate of Hon. Gaston A. Robbins, of Alabama, who perished in the Park Avenue Hotel fire."

"I knew Mr. Robbins well when we were both members of the House, and admitted to me that he was a very noble man. When he moved to New York City recently to engage in the practice of law, I was able to render him very substantial help in the way of introducing him to some first-class people, who immediately engaged his services."

"Had he lived he would undoubtedly have succeeded professionally in his adopted home. The ill-luck that caused him to be twice unseated in Congress seemed to have pursued him relentlessly."

"There Go the Ships."

There go the ships o'er liquid knells and hollows, I know not whither bound, nor whence, nor why; A star while sail shines, a smoke-sear follows. Printing a slender cloud along the sky.

Far fields bequeathed the sails; the coals lay hidden Through countless years within the earth's dark cavity; Both waited long the imperious call, unbidden. Yet ready for their summons to the waves.

The sea itself is fed from distant mountains; Its servant ships move only by the power Caught in the spindle's wool or chained in mounds; Biding in patience some predestined hour.

Very Able-Bodied Lying.

Philadelphia Bulletin—The shade of Annulus must creep with envy when he contemplates the multiplex apartment of the man who has been not about concerning the rescue of Miss Stone.

Comments on Case of Miss Stone.

Mr. Spencer Eddy, secretary of the United States Legation at Constantinople, is among the guests at the Arlington. He came over on the Krumpholtz and made but a brief stay in New York.

Mr. Eddy is feeling very happy over the news of Miss Stone's release by the brigands who have held her for a ransom since the early part of last September. He has no doubt of the authenticity of the despatches which tell of her freedom.

Speaking of the episode last night, Mr. Eddy said: "I don't think that Miss Stone ever experienced any downright ill treatment. Her health has been good throughout her captivity and she stood up bravely. It must be understood, however, that she was not like an ordinary kidnapping victim. She was taken not for the pecuniary profit of the brigands themselves, but as a means of raising funds to aid the Macedonian cause. It is purely a political matter, and had it been otherwise she would have had her liberty long ago. The Macedonians are struggling to rid themselves from the rule of Turkey. They do not, as a people, have any ill-will to missionaries, but they need funds to help on their struggle, and she has done this. It was a good stroke of policy to call the attention of the world to their wrongs by some such daring act. That they got a lot of advertising space in the United States they also got a considerable lump of good American money."

Mr. Eddy will return to his post in Turkey within a month. The story that he has been recalled here brands as untrue. He will spend some days in Chicago, the city of his birth, and where his relatives reside, ere he