

THE WASHINGTON TIMES. FRANK A. MUNSEY

PUBLICATION OFFICE, Tenth and D Streets.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES TO OUT OF TOWN POINTS, POSTAGE PREPAID MORNING EDITION, one year \$5.00; six months \$3.00; three months \$1.50. Evening Edition, one year \$3.00; six months \$1.50; three months \$0.75.

Any person who cannot buy the Morning, Afternoon, or Sunday Edition of The Times on any news stand in Washington, in suburban towns, on railroad trains, or elsewhere, will confer a favor by notifying the Publisher of The Times, corner Tenth and D Sts., Washington, D. C.

A BENEFICENT SCHEME.

Thousands of mothers and children in the National Capital do not know the meaning of the word vacation. It is the intention of certain warm-hearted citizens to give these mothers and children a local outing in shape of car rides which will fill their lungs with fresh air and brighten up their lives during the trying days of the heated term.

The fund for this laudable purpose is already started, and the response to the appeal for aid has been gratifying. Within the next few days it is believed that a large sum will be added to the treasury which will disburse car tickets to the women and little ones who seldom enjoy a ride into the country with its attendant benefits to mind and body.

The suggestion was recently made that the street railway companies might well give free transportation during certain hours of certain days to women with infants. Perhaps the corporation may not see fit to do this, but we would suggest that it might be to their advantage to co-operate with the committee already appointed in the matter of free rides for women and little ones, giving them special advantages for outings which are much needed, and, perhaps, making special rates for those engaged in this humanitarian project.

The inauguration of the free ride system will be awaited with intense interest by many persons in Washington, and that it will be a beneficent success is beyond question. The gentlemen who have undertaken the plan deserve the highest commendation and the substantial co-operation of those citizens who are able to lend their aid to a worthy and practical plan.

WHY ANOTHER SUNDAY LAW?

It does seem as if further legislation on the subject of Sunday observance in the District were decidedly superfluous. In the first place, existing statutes appear to be sufficiently drastic, even in the opinion of the majority of the Board of District Commissioners. And then it can be safely asserted, without fear of successful contradiction, that in no city in the United States equal to Washington in point of population is the first day of the week so quiet, so entirely free from all objectionable features as right here. This is true to such a degree that strangers express surprise that it should be possible in so large a city to maintain so inviolate the proprieties of that day.

Perhaps there is no especial objection to the McMillan-Jenkins bill as an over-draught statute, but there is no need for it at all, and for that reason it were better to let it die the death. That seems to be the opinion of Commissioner Ross and Acting Commissioner Newcomer, both of whom express themselves as opposed to it on the ground that no further legislation is needed. Captain Newcomer puts the case very forcibly when he says that "these bills are not urged on religious grounds; neither are they required in the interest of public safety or order." "It is not understood," he continues, "that anyone claims that present legal business transactions on Sunday give rise to any disorder. Even were such found to be the case the District Commissioners have ample authority to correct the evil," etc.

If, under existing conditions, public safety and order are not jeopardized; if, even were such the case, ample power is vested in the Commissioners to cope with the problem, what is the use of burdening the statute books with still further laws, and by the very act proclaim, as it were, to the outside world that the necessity for such legislation exists? Why not let well enough alone?

CURRENT PRESS COMMENT.

Fires Versus Finery.

Milwaukee Sentinel—The announcement that the Vassar College fire brigade has proved to be a failure was to be expected. While the girls were putting the Gibson fold in their shirtwaists buildings had time to burn to the ground.

An Irishman From Back Bay.

Cleveland Plain Dealer—The Boston papers are quick to claim that Arthur Duffy, who has just lowered the sprinting record for 100 yards, is a Boston boy. But, of course, his last name proves that.

Reckless to the Last.

Louisville Courier Journal—James J. Cavanaugh, of Watertown, Mass., died the other day in his one hundred and twelfth year. He was in the habit of taking alcoholic stimulants and he had used tobacco for more than 100 years. What other life-shortening vices he had are not mentioned.

In W. J. B.'s Class.

Chicago Inter Ocean—Dr. Conan Doyle and Michael Davitt have both made bad guesses. The former assumed, more than a year ago, that the Boer war was over, while the latter has just announced, also in book form, that it is going to continue indefinitely.

Alfonso to Use Red Paint.

Boston Herald—The King of Spain is going to travel! He is to see Paris, and any more of the world after that experience will be superfluous. If the youngster doesn't get into hot water it won't be his fault. He will do all he can to taste the joys of freedom in that tempting city of light. Mumsey is to remain at home.

Superheated Eloquence.

Chicago Chronicle—Grown eloquent upon the forestry bill, Congressman Lacey declares that "There is a spot where the hand of man has never set foot." The figure is reminiscent of the Warsaw, Ind., correspondent who, describing a shooting spree at a society function in that metropolis, stated that "While the viols were throbbing out a passionate waltz the hand of death stalked into the room."

Same Cause, Same Effect.

Philadelphia Ledger—It is somewhat curious that Boers and Britons, after the declaration of peace, fraternized and sang the same songs that were sung by Union and Confederate soldiers under similar circumstances thirty-seven years ago—"Home, Sweet Home," "Auld Lang Syne," and "Hard Times, Come Again No More."

Moving Within Narrow Limits.

Chicago Chronicle—The governor of Rhode Island has called out the militia because of the traction strike, but according to the dispatches he did so with great reluctance. Undoubtedly, his excellency appreciates the difficulty of maneuvering his serried battalions without getting them into Connecticut or Massachusetts and causing protests from those Commonwealths.

A Poet's Fervid Vision.

Baltimore Herald—Pension Commissioner Eugene Ware made a Flag Day oration in which he predicted that the earth would go into the hands of a receiver, that the United States will be the receiver, and Old Glory will float over the universe. Mr. Ware evidently intends to continue to avail himself of his poetic license.

Personal Notes About Washington People

Mr. E. C. Cutter and daughter were passengers per steamer Commonwealth, which arrived at Boston Friday last. They have been abroad since early in January, passing much of the time in Egypt and other Oriental and Mediterranean resorts. The marriage of Miss Cutter to Lieut. Arthur Tremaine Chester, U. S. N., is expected to occur within a few weeks.

Dr. John F. Moran has left for Europe.

Mrs. M. A. Gibbons has gone to New York for a short stay.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Watkins have taken a farm near Falls Church, and will live there in future. Mr. Watkins' health failed about a year ago, and he being unable to resume his desk, he will engage in the raising of poultry.

IMMUNITY FROM HOLOCAUSTS A MATTER OF GOOD FORTUNE

By ROBERT W. DUTTON, Chief of the Fire Department.

The fact that Washington has escaped during the past several years large fires attended by loss of life has been due to good fortune and the efficiency of its fire department, "but more," says the fire-fighting head of the department, Assistant Chief Belt, "to good fortune than to anything else."

This good fortune, it is feared, has led not a few people to imagine that the city is immune against disaster from fire, but should any well informed member of the fire department be asked he would reply that there are many buildings here the total destruction of which it would be practically impossible to prevent, in the event of fire therein, should the flames gain any considerable headway before being discovered, or should the fire occur during the prevalence of a high wind or during a time when the department is engaged at another serious fire. And if the inquiry were further instituted, it would be found that some of these buildings are owned or leased by the United States Government, and daily occupied by hundreds of officials and employes.

Prosecuting the inquiry still further, it would be learned that, in the opinion of the local fire fighters, more or less loss of life would result should such buildings be wholly or even partially destroyed at a time when occupied.

During the past several months two officers of the fire department, Assistant Chief Belt and Fire Marshal Bieber, have been daily engaged in an inspection of the hotels, apartment houses, stores, hospitals, and charitable and educational institutions of the District for the purpose of ascertaining whether the laws and regulations for the protection of life and property are being observed. Much good has been accomplished by this work of inspection, but there remains a great deal to be done on this line, and it will be continued indefinitely, or so long as the very limited force and resources of the department will permit.

About the best illustration of the necessity for this inspection is the fact that Assistant Chief Belt and the Fire Marshal have so far found but one out of the many buildings inspected by them so well protected as to require no reconditionment from them for its additional protection. In most instances, those responsible for the lack of proper protection against fire have co-operated with the authorities in their efforts to protect the buildings and their occupants, but it is to be regretted that this co-operation has neither been as extensive nor as prompt as it should have been.

The longer this inspection has continued, the more convinced the department has become that to good fortune more than to anything else has been due Washington's escape from serious disaster from fire. Good fortune, however, does not continue forever, and, unless the District Fire Department is materially strengthened and thoroughly equipped with modern apparatus and appliances, Washington will some day surely suffer, and suffer severely.

The average territory covered by a District fire company is greater, much greater, than is covered by a company in any other city, one company, Truck Company A, guarding a territory just about one-third of the total area of the District of Columbia.

The pending District appropriation bill, should it become law as passed by the Senate, would be a very gratifying step toward a stronger and better equipped fire department, for it would then provide three new first-class steam engines to replace three practically unserviceable ones, a reserve aerial hook and ladder truck, a truck company for Southeast Washington, an engine company for Southwest Washington, and double the appropriations for repairs to engine houses and apparatus and for the purchase of new appliances.

UNDER THE CAPITOL DOME.

Mr. Goldfogle's Happy Story.

At a recent gathering of prominent citizens in New York city, the object of which was to raise funds for the benefit of a hospital, a number of speeches were made commending the worthy charity and sounding the praise of the management of the institution. But none of the speakers once during their little talks alluded to the main object of the meeting until it came to Representative Goldfogle to address the gathering. He was greeted with applause when he stepped forward on the platform.

After stating that he had listened with pleasure to the high words of praise and commendation bestowed by the speaker on the management of the hospital, he said he had failed to note that anyone had felt it necessary to call attention of the audience to the purpose that had brought them together. This oversight on the part of the gentlemen who had preceded him reminded him of a story.

"When Lincoln was President of the United States," he said, "he took a walk down Pennsylvania Avenue one cold winter evening. During his stroll he met a poor, forlorn woman, thinly clad, shivering with cold. When she saw the President she mistook him for a minister, and, falling upon her knees, with hands uplifted, begged his blessing, saying that she had three small children at home starving and freezing to death. She said: 'Oh, Mr. Minister, pray to the Lord to help me.'"

"When she had finished President Lincoln said: 'My good woman, it's not a minister that you need. You need a grocer,' and the President took a card out of his pocket and gave her an order for \$25 worth of groceries."

The point was at once seen by the audience, who applauded loudly, and the result was a liberal subscription to the benefit fund for the hospital.

Senator Kean's Oyster Stew.

Senator John Kean of New Jersey has become known to Washington restaurateurs as one who likes good eating. A little while ago he sought out a popular resort noted for its cooking, and especially for the variety and excellence of its methods in serving up oysters. To the waiter he unburdened himself thus: "I want you to tell the chef to take a dozen oysters and put them on a napkin to dry. Then tell him to take some cream and put it on to boil. When it boils let him drop the oysters in the dish and let them stay there until they curl up at the edges. Then I want the oysters taken out and served in a napkin. Now, you tell the chef to do exactly as I told you, and I'll give you each a dollar." And the waiter went back to the speaking tube and called out the chef. "One stew?" was all that passed down the pipe.

Mr. Tompkins' Modesty.

Representative Emmett Tompkins of the Twelfth Ohio district, whose seat was contested by John J. Lentz, is a singularly modest man. Under the law, every contestant for a seat in Congress as well as the man who holds the seat is entitled to his expenses up to \$2,000. Invariably the contestants find that their expenses have been just \$2,000. It was not so with Representative Tompkins, however. He wanted only what was right, so he put in his expense bill for \$1,999.04.

Particular in His Language.

"Such purists in language who about so much about grammar always make me think of the fellow out in my district who was fishing off a dock and fell into the water," said Representative Bledsoe of Ohio a few days ago. "Some people nearby helped him out. Then one of the rescuers asked, 'How did you come to fall into the water?' 'I didn't come to fall into the water,' replied the man, 'I came to fish.'"

Friends of the Soldier Exercised.

Friends of the private soldier are much exercised in the House over Senate amendment No. 4, on page 5 of the army appropriation bill, which is now in conference. The amendment is as follows: "Provided, that no enlisted man who has passed the examination for promotion shall be commissioned or paid as an officer until he shall have taken such course of instruction as the President may deem necessary to determine his fitness for the grade of second lieutenant." It virtually repeals the old law which prescribed examination by which enlisted men who passed would be promoted to the grade of second lieutenant. If the House concurs in the above amendment it will mean that all the soldiers who have passed a successful examination for promotion will have to undergo another, and, perhaps, entirely different examination.

If the House conferees do not insist on the Senate withdrawing this amendment a fight will be made against it when the conference report is presented to the House.

Opposed to Anti-Anarchy Bill.

Speaking of the anti-anarchy bill or, as some prefer to call it, "the measure to protect the life of the President of the United States and the lives of the officials in the line of succession," Representative Malcolm R. Patterson, of Tennessee, one of the ablest lawyers in the House, remarked yesterday that the passage of that measure marked the first time in the history of the Government that Congress ever passed a bill which is distinct in law or attempted to separate the official from the body of the people. Continuing, Mr. Patterson said: "I shall be mistaken if public opinion endures this drastic and Draconian measure, masquerading as it does in the livery of social order, which confuses the jurisdiction of the courts and aims a blow at the reserved powers of sovereignty States not less deadly than the one aimed at the dearest rights of the American citizen."

"It is the first time we have ever declared that the man clothed with authority by the people shall stand apart from them in another atmosphere, upon a higher plane, and be subject to different laws. It marks a new era and shakes the ancient pillars of the Republic. My own respect for the office of President of the United States is exalted, and so is that of the American people, and I have no objection to all proper and necessary safeguards to protect the life of the individual who occupies that high station. But I do protest against the declaration that the President, the Vice President, and Cabinet officers in the line of succession, and foreign ambassadors and ministers are to be put into an inner circle and surrounded with more than regal safeguards. Even in monarchical England it was held 'no treason to kill the king when he was not in the possession of government or acting as king.'"

"Likewise, it was not treason to kill the officers of the king unless being in their places and doing their offices. Before the law the stature of all citizens of the Republic is equal, and if a 'quid be added' to one and not to all it is the beginning of the end to free and equal government, and our grand experiment is at last a failure. In my opinion there is much of human right as well as republican life involved in this measure, and the note of alarm cannot be sounded too soon or too often. If the principle is once established that man the President is greater than man the citizen we have indeed assumed the royal garb. Such a measure as this will cause more evil than it will ever cure, and breed more anarchy than it will ever suppress. We have now no aristocracy of birth; let us not create one by law. 'There is no divinity which doth hedge about a king,' and none should hedge about the servants of the people.' Mr. Patterson added that in his opinion the bill was of doubtful constitutionality.

The Young British Officer.

The British committee on military education and training has been sitting on the case of the young officers of the British army, and apparently now proceeds to sit on the officers. The committee recommends that the regimental coach be abolished and that the officers be not permitted to keep hounds or to play polo. It intimates with surprising bluntness that the time has come for these young men to mind their business and stop playing, and that the fact that, as the English say, "keenness is not good form" will not be expected to serve in the future as an excuse for inefficiency.

One would suppose from the tone of some English novels that it was not good form in British society to know anything, or be able to do anything, very well; and that ability of any kind was too professional in its suggestions to be really gentlemanly. On the other hand, we know that when the English mind is really devoted to anything the result is knowledge whose extent and thoroughness shames the less superficial nations. Possibly the real condition of things is a mixture of these two standards of living; and that the present work of the committee on military education is to weed out the inefficient ones.

If it is really true that genuine ability and hard work are tacitly discouraged by a certain social set in England, as being a sign that one was not born to good society, the sooner that set gets out of power entirely the better it will be for the empire. In the army, as in all places where real work is to be done, such nonsense has no place. It is reported that men of exceptional ability have rather a hard time in working up from the ranks to the position of commissioned officers, but that they do accomplish this, the careers of several British generals prove. The main fact at the bottom of it all is that the world of achievement is, and must always be, democratic.

"Miss Summer."

She's here! With witching wiles And latest styles. A summer vision fair; With trunks in mix And golfing sticks. To woo the seashore air; Sans peer!

A maid Whose cheeks of tan Doth take a man And heart all by surprise, In bathing suit, La mode and cute, The cynosure of all eyes, Doth wade.

On court She nibbles darts And plays with hearts A racket in her hand, The tennis maid; All "love" games played, However the score may stand; Love's sport.

With "mad" She cooly braves The tense heat waves Out on the scorching links; Oh, Cupid's tricks!—He jugs golf sticks—Then darts more potent, thinks That lad.

This miss A guitar thrums And sweetly hums Some love song to me, real; 'Neath mystic moon Her sweet love croons— Would make 'em honest steal— A kiss!—Baltimore Herald.

THE LOVE OF WAR.

Perhaps there never was a time when the discussion of the ethics of war was so serious and so earnest as now. For several centuries it was practically taken for granted that the soldier was among the noblest types of mankind, if not the noblest of all; of late there has been a reaction against this ideal, and while some thinkers are advocating with all their might the ideal of universal peace, others, of whom our President is one, are just as decided in their advocacy of the "strenuous life." The result is a somewhat mixed condition of national thought.

The mixture might be simplified, however, by going below the surface of things and inquiring what war is for—the improvement of the individual, or the effecting of a certain purpose. We have reached a time, perhaps the first in the history of the world, when it is possible to contemplate universal, if not absolutely permanent, peace. It is not to the interest of great nations to make war against one another without some very strong reason. But it is undeniable that now, and for some time to come, there will have to be fighting in various parts of the world, and so long as this is so, there must be soldiers to do it. That the individual soldier may be worthy of all admiration no sensible person ought to deny. A man who willingly dares wounds, death, and extremely hard and unpleasant duties for a comparatively

small reward deserves some glory as compensation. If the ideal of the army is kept where it ought to be it will certainly take "the best we breed" to come anywhere near reaching it.

The military force has, in short, reached the point in its development where it is a police force. Its work is to assure the safety and comfort of the great majority at the expense of the minority who want to make trouble. Take, for example, the British forces in India. If it were not for the border regiments the Afghan would make short work of the villagers of Northern India. If it had not been for the British army in South Africa the Kaffirs, Basutos, Massai and other native tribes would have made life impossible for white settlers. It is not fun for these policing regiments to get themselves out up in the interests of the home-staying Englishman and the colonist. Neither has it been amusing for the rank and file of the United States Army in the Philippines, if all reports are true. The sensible way to look at militarism is to consider the army as a necessity, in the present stage of the world's development, in that it shall be composed of men worthy of trust and respect, and send it only where it is needed for the good of the majority. Obviously, the way to attract the best men into the army is not to revile all soldiers as blackguards, and that is what some otherwise conscientious people are careless enough to do.

GOSSIP AND CHAT HEARD IN WASHINGTON HOTEL LOBBIES

Oil as Naval Fuel.

The Navy Department is experimenting with oil as ship fuel both in place of and as an auxiliary to coal," said J. C. Barber, of Los Angeles, Cal., at the New Willard Hotel last night. "The results are said to be highly satisfactory, and some persons predict that it will not be long before coal is superseded to a certain extent."

"I hardly look for such a radical change, but I do believe that oil can be used to advantage as an auxiliary to coal—that is, it will increase the steam-producing effect of coal when sprayed over it."

"In California oil is cheap. Coal is costly. Consequently the experiments appeal directly to us, as success in the new line of work will mean many dollars to California oil well owners, and much money saved to the owners of trans-Pacific and coasting vessels."

"There are a number of steamers operating between San Francisco and Honolulu which use oil in connection with coal. A steam spray is used, by which the oil is distributed over the burning coal. The results secured are said to be highly beneficial."

"The system would, however, be successful in California when it would fall elsewhere, where coal costs less and oil more."

"When oil alone is used as fuel there are at least three great obstacles encountered. The heat of combustion is so great that no fireman can stand for any length of time. The noise is deafening and the danger of carrying immense quantities is very great."

Decrease of Wheeling.

"It's five years since I was in Washington last, and while, as I well know, your city has undergone slight general changes in that time, I find little resemblance between the scenes presented on the street then as compared with those of that time," said Haley C. Anderson, of Chicago, at the Raleigh last night.

"Five years ago prizes were stung on every lip of the delights of bicycling on Washington thoroughfares. Washingtonians boasted with pride of the number of wheelmen in the city. 'Search every young man were knickerbocker and gay-patterned stockings then. One's life when on the street was in almost as great danger from whizzing pedalers as from trolley cars in Brooklyn. It was hard to escape an invitation to mount a wheel and take a spin out to Cabin John Bridge along the beautiful Conduit Road."

"But it's all changed now. People appear to ride bicycles for business purposes alone. The scootcher is apparently a thing of the past. Raised handle bars conducive to an upright position have replaced the bars with extreme drop which made riders look like monkeys. Cycling's not as strenuous as it used to be. The knickerbocker has disappeared. If a young man wants to feel the wind at a rate of twenty-five miles an hour he does it in an auto."

Fire Insurance in China.

"The invasion of China by American commercial interests is a determined one and the fire insurance agent is well up in the advance guard," remarked L. C. Herrick, of New York, an agent of a big insurance concern of that city at the Arlington last night. "The idea of the hustling fire insurance agent buttenholing mandarins and urging them to take out premiums on their pagodas and tea houses is somewhat incongruous, but the heathen Chinese is prudent and quick to see the advantage of insurance."

"Some of them have had their property entirely swept away by great fires. The wisdom of erecting buildings in regular order and with regard to health and safety renders the fire risks much less than they would have been in previous years."

"I was at the Consular Bureau in the State Department the other day and saw a communication from a man in Harbin, China. He suggested that a good business could be done in fire insurance there, as the rates charged there at present were rather high at 2 and 2 1/2 per cent. Russian companies are the only ones represented there now. "American fire insurance is much more to be desired than those of foreign countries, because it offers a wider selection of options to the prospective policy holder. In the letter it was stated that Harbin had two well-organized fire brigades. In some cities of the land of the yellow dragon the protection against fire is excellent. I would not be surprised if the competition between American companies for Chinese insurance business becomes extremely brisk within the next few years."

Signal Corps Work in Alaska.

"The United States Signal Corps is doing a great work in establishing a telegraph system in Alaska," said Fred Hellenbeck, of Dawson City, Alaska, who was at the National Hotel yesterday. "Within a short time a line will be in working order between Valdez and Fort Egbert away up on the Canadian border. It will run along the Copper River valley. At present the only mode of telegraphic communication with Fort Egbert is by the Canadian government line. The construction of the line is beset with great difficulty. Much of the ground is timberless and poles have to be conveyed on dog sleds."

"One great advantage of the Fort Egbert line will be that it will give direct communication between Juneau and Skagway to the southward of Valdez and St. Michael, inasmuch as a telegraph line is now working from St. Michael to Fort Egbert. There is already cable communication between the United States and Nome, just across the sound from St. Michael. It is proposed to connect Nome and St. Michael with the wireless system. It has been contracted for, and will be installed this year. There was once a cable there, but it was swept away. There is also a possibility of a wireless system being established between the line running from Valdez to Fort Egbert, and the line running from Fort Egbert to St. Michael."

Oriental Logic.

A man bought three pounds of meat, and brought it home to his wife to cook for dinner, and then went his way to his place of business in the bazaar. His wife was hungry, and ate the meat.

In the evening the man came home and asked for his dinner.

"There is no meat," said the wife, "for the cat ate it."

"Bring the cat," said the man, "and a pair of scales."

"Weigh the cat," said the man. The cat weighed three pounds.

"If this is the cat," said the man, "where is the meat? And this is the meat, where is the cat?"—Harper's Magazine.

Wanted His Pension Reduced.

Commissioner of Pensions Eugene F. Ware received a letter from a man in Illinois a few days ago which read: "I am now getting a pension of \$30 a month. Recently the Lord has prospered me, and I do not think I should get so much money. I gave my services to the country, and I think I should have some pension of course, but I think \$30 a month is too much. Is there any way I can have my pension reduced or suspended while I enjoy the prosperity that is mine at present?"

"This is the only letter that ever came to the Pension Bureau asking for a reduction of pension, and Commissioner Ware looked at it with much curiosity and some suspicion. After determining that the man is really on the rolls, he wrote to the special pension examiner in the district in which the man lives and asked him to investigate. This is the answer the pension examiner sent in reply: "I have the honor to inform you that the person who applied for a reduction in his pension is now in the insane asylum at this place, and has been for some time."