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"IT SURE BEATS HELL."

The Supreme Court declares that the Gay Shattuck law is not retroactive, and where the saloon existed before the passage of the law the 300-foot rule does not apply. Where the saloon and the church come in conflict, remove the church. In the language of the late Joe Riskey, who invented the justly celebrated combination of lime, gin, cracked ice and seltzer, "it sure beats hell how wise these legal sharps are."

It is only the judicial minds which become entangled in chimeras of legal construction. If an ordinary or common dollar-and-a-half man was to be directed to ensure a fixed distance, he would proceed with a regulation tape, marked with inches and feet, and he would announce without hesitation the exact distance of the measurement. But "it sure beats hell" when the legal rule is applied. We fully agree with the Crowley Signal: Whenever or wherever a church or a school house is in the way of a saloon remove the church and the school house. Give the saloon full swing. Why should any law be retroactive on the saloon? However, as in the application of the measurement of a fixed distance by a dollar-and-a-half man if left to the interpretation and the decision of the ordinary layman, he would reach this conclusion that retroactive is not an action backward, therefore it could not be applied to a thing which is past. A thing which is past is practically useless, it may be dead. If a party be involved in that indescribable condition of perplexity as to whether he is actually dead or may be alive, imagine then, if possible, the rejoicing which relieves the doubt of uncertainty. From a legal technical view he is dead on December 31, 1908, at 12 o'clock, from all other legal technical diagnosis he is resurrected, galvanized and electrified into the fullest existence, a new life on January 1, 1909, and forever thereafter, as though he had never ceased to exist.

"It sure beats hell" but fortunately it is in the power of the people to have this Gay-Shattuck law, a travesty on common sense, repealed at the next session of the General Assembly. What the people want and demand and will insist on having and will have is a law that shall be general in its application in the regulation of the saloons and clubs, operated beyond the prohibition districts, and so constructed as to leave no opportunity for quibbling in the interests of the New Orleans saloons and clubs. It may be said that the majority of the people who vote are almost ready to demand and to insist on State-wide prohibition.

RECKLESS AUTOISTS.

Mayor Behrman has directed the attention of Inspector O'Connor to the complaints that reach him concerning the violation of the speed law by automobilists on St. Charles avenue. As a result the inspector has instructed the police to break up this dangerous practice by placing all violators under arrest and preferring charges against them, says the States.

The reckless autoist is not confined to New Orleans. He is in Shreveport and is everywhere visible where an auto may be propelled. The States suggests that it will not be wise to wait until some citizens has been mangled and killed before taking up the question of putting an end to such criminal practices. One or two prominent arrests will produce a wholesome respect for the law and put an end to a serious abuse.

In Shreveport the arrests of citizens who are prominent in social and in business affairs has had a limited influence in checking the autoists who drive at an unlawful rate of speed. The fines are paid and the autoists promise to confine their speed to the requirements of the law, but this is soon forgotten when enthused by the whirl of the machine. Few autoists realize how fast they drive, but as this abuse of the privilege of the streets and the highways is increasing not only in Shreveport and in New Orleans but everywhere, there will have to be provided some enactment which will insure greater protection to people who are in constant jeopardy of life and limb, especially during the late hours in the afternoon and night.

THE LUMBER INTEREST.

Leesville Toiler: A petition has been sent to Congress from eighty-six lumber firms in Alabama and Florida protesting against the reduction of the duty on lumber, and urging senators and representatives from those State to vote against any reduction on lumber and its products.

STORIES OF THE STATESMEN

Proceedings of Legislators at Washington.

AN ANECDOTE OF FAIRBANKS.

The Former Vice President Could Enjoy a Joke Despite His Reputation For Seriousness—The Tunnels Between the Capitol and the House and Senate Offices.

Washington, March 31.—[Special.]—Senator Heyburn of Idaho has again introduced the bill to purchase all of the squares south of Pennsylvania avenue between the capitol and the treasury department, so that the government may erect thereon the additional public buildings that are so badly needed in Washington. This measure has several times passed the senate, but has dragged along in the house until there was not sufficient time to consider it properly. It has not yet been determined whether the senate shall pass miscellaneous bills during the extra session. That body is ostensibly just loafing along at present, taking recesses for three days at a time. But very soon it will get down to work, and Mr. Heyburn is inclined to press his measure then.

Proposed Extension of Tunnels.

Tunnels were built more than a year ago to connect the senate and house office buildings with the capitol. Now it is proposed to extend these tunnels so that the three buildings shall also have underground connection with the new Union station and then go on to the government printing office. It fortunately so happens that in making the extensions the government will not have to buy any additional land, as the tunnels will run under the public streets or else under land already owned. It will cost only \$500,000 to carry out the plans and will not only facilitate the handling of the mails, but be invaluable in communicating rapidly with the government printing office.

Prospect For Lumber and Hides.

It is evident from Chairman Payne's flat footed statements in the house discussions that he feels reasonably certain that hides and lumber will stand just as the paragraphs were reported by the committee. He has warned those who are trying to have the duties on lumber restored that if they persist in their efforts they may wake up some fine morning and find that this product has been placed absolutely on the free list. Free hides, he insists, are demanded by the country, and he ridicules the idea that the farmer gets any benefit from the present duty on hides. His theory is that if the tanning industry is given this help and the duty on leather goods is reduced as provided in the pending bill the farmer will then truly be benefited.

All Must Be on Hand.

The house Republican leaders appear to recognize the importance of keeping their men strictly on their jobs when the tariff bill is to be considered under the five minute rule and amendments favored by the majority of the ways and means committee are to be voted upon. Absenteeism caused a great deal of trouble when the McKinley and Dingley bills were under consideration in 1890 and in 1897 respectively. While the late Thomas B. Reed of Maine was speaker he caused some members who were absent without leave to be docked in their pay. The understanding is that Speaker Cannon and his lieutenants are lecturing their party men and are insisting that they must remain in Washington for all emergencies.

House Leaders Fix Possible Date.

The extra session of congress which was called by the late President McKinley for the special purpose of revising the tariff in 1897, like the present one, started on March 15. The Dingley bill, which was then passed, was introduced two days after congress met, and it was passed on March 31. The Payne bill was reported back on the 15th of March, and the Republican leaders now estimate that it will be passed about the 15th of April by the house. At the start they are allowing wide latitude for general debate, with the understanding that if there is much of a disposition to fight certain measures a drastic rule will be brought in to shut down debate and permit separate votes only on paragraphs which the Republican managers sanction.

Appreciated the Situation.

One day in the senate shortly before Vice President Fairbanks retired from office an elderly statesman over on the Republican side of the chamber was making a very prosy speech. Scarcely anybody was listening to him, and a dozen of his party associates were in their seats. Over on the Democratic side of the room Senator Bob Taylor was quietly spinning yarns to three or four of his chums. They had their heads together and were laughing, but not loud enough to interrupt the proceedings. Mr. Fairbanks, taking in the situation, sent this note to the humorous Tennesseean: "If that old codger who thinks he is making a speech is interfering with the stories you are telling, I will call him to order." All of which goes to prove that the most solemn looking men will have their little jokes at times. CHARLES W. ARTHUR.

FACTS IN FEW LINES

Korean miners are paid 30 cents per day of ten hours.

The music of "Home, Sweet Home," is probably Scottish.

There are in Glasgow 17,000 unlet premises, 16,000 of them being dwelling houses.

Less than 1 per cent of the public has occasion to make use of the world's cables.

Venice has a new seven-story hotel commanding splendid views of the Adriatic and the Alps.

It is reported from Genoa, Italy, that snow fell there the past winter for the first time in forty-one years.

The next international congress for the discussion of appliances for refrigerating will be held in Vienna in 1910.

The Pennsylvania railway ferries alone transport about 35,000,000 passengers across the Hudson river every year.

The advance in the price of wood and charcoal is rapidly forcing the Japanese to use gas for cooking purposes.

Calloway cattle are being raised in Alaska, their hides being considered equal to bearskins for beauty and service.

Fifty-six thousand Chinese are resident in the Philippines, about 22,000 in Manila. The net gain in five years has been 3,594.

A prominent French manufacturer of glass fruits admits that the cherries of California are at least as good in quality as the French varieties.

The duties on tobacco, cigars and cigarettes imported into Paraguay are very heavy, the tariff showing an average duty of 55 per cent ad valorem.

Though Swansea, Wales, is in the very heart of the Welsh anthracite coal fields, stores suitable for burning the coal are not to be found in that region.

The French colony of Tahiti and its dependencies, embracing five groups of islands in the south Pacific, have a population of 31,000, of whom 27,000 are of the native race.

A British sloop of war sunk by the American forces 132 years ago has been raised from the waters of Lake Champlain, near the ruins of Fort Ticonderoga. The sloop is ninety feet long and is well preserved.

The Panama canal commissary sells between \$75,000 and \$80,000 worth of clothing every month to canal employees. It runs thirteen stores along the line of the canal. It sells between \$25,000 and \$30,000 worth of tobacco every month.

It is almost certain now that the city of Messina will be reconstructed, the sentiment of the people being entirely in favor of such a course. Large sums have been spent on the harbor, which is excellent and too valuable in its situation to abandon.

A German inventor has managed to replace the needle in the phonograph with a jet of compressed air which follows the record without friction and thus does away with the unpleasant scratching and buzzing which have afflicted the instrument.

Although more than 125,000,000 pounds of rubber are used in the world each year, so little attention has been given to its cultivation that the pure article sells at wholesale at \$1.50 a pound, one of the highest prices paid for a staple commodity.

The site of the present Madison Square Garden, in New York, was occupied for nearly twenty years by the older Madison Square Garden, which was the abandoned passenger station of the New York Central and Hudson River railroad remodeled. It was at one time called Gilmore's Garden.

A Tyson (Vt.) correspondent avers that on the shell of the only egg laid in two years by a certain hen belonging to Ezra Hart of Tyson was a raised water line map, by which Mr. Hart discovered a considerable amount of gold buried by his great-grandfather during the Revolutionary times.

A new method of treating cholera in India by intravenous or peritoneal injections of strong salt solution is attracting wide attention. Whereas two-thirds of the cholera cases terminated fatally before the new treatment was introduced, since its adoption two-thirds of the patients have recovered.

Seminole, a famous foxhound belonging to Judge A. Floyd Huff of Hot Springs, Ark., was lost during one of the field trials of the National Fox Hunters' association, but reached her home after traveling about 650 miles, during which trip she was compelled to swim both the Mississippi and Arkansas rivers.

The "perpetual lamp" of Professor Molisch is a glass flask of gelatin supporting a colony of phosphorescent bacteria. The light is less than that of a candle, but is sufficient for photography, and germinating peas and lentils turn to it as a source of energy. Being without heat rays, it represents the much sought cold light.

Commenting on the fact that President Roosevelt set aside fully 70,000 acres on the Pacific coast as a refuge for birds, a German periodical exclaims, "And this in the land of the 'dollar hunters,' while we in idealistic, warm hearted Germany have within the last fifty years completely exterminated several varieties of birds."

As the taxicab is fast detouring the old horse vehicle, so wireless telegraphy is crowding out the pigeon as a carrier of messages. As each of the important warships of France has now wireless apparatus, there is no longer any use for the pigeons, which occupy an important position at Rochefort. The minister of marine has intimated that after next New Year's day the maritime dovecot at Rochefort will not be maintained.

HARRIMAN ON HIS POLICIES.

Government Should Co-operate With Railroads. He Says.

ALWAYS FAVORS REGULATION.

Declares Ex-President Roosevelt Possibly Carried It Too Far—Blames Interstate Commerce Commission For Share In Panic—Denies Rumors of Ill Health and Retirement.

E. H. Harriman, president of the Union Pacific railroad, forcefully outlined his policy of the co-operation and consolidation of railroads in an interview at Los Angeles, Cal., the other day.

Mr. Harriman's initial remarks were a prediction of the remarkable development which he believes is to come to the west coast of Mexico, where he is building 1,800 miles of railroads. Asked about the extent of railroad building on his lines and the territory he would cover, he said:

"Our objective point is to connect with the Mexican Central, and about 450 miles of line will make this route complete. We went about seventy miles up the Yaqui river, into the mineral country."

"What is the attitude of the Mexican government toward capital?"

"Very liberal—very liberal, indeed. We found it so, and when anything unusual occurred we found we could always get very quick decisions."

"Do they have an interstate commerce commission down there?"

"No; they are quite intelligent."

"Do they try to exercise any jurisdiction over your operations?"

"No; they are very fair. They grant a charter and state just what you can do. I will let you into a little secret and will state that the conditions as brought about by my visit in 1904 are now in existence. At that time I asked them what they would do if I worked up a plan for them. They have that plan in operation now."

"Have they government ownership?"

"No; they have not so much government ownership as government partnership. I told them in 1904 not to make the mistake they have in America and build railroad lines at the expense of wasting capital without serving the country. I have always favored combination and I believe that legislation will sooner or later be enacted in favor of combination and enforcing combination. By this I do not mean to remove individual competition. Everybody should have the same right to move what he wants over the lines. I have always been in favor of regulation. That is on record. The men looking for political preferment are doing all the talking and are misleading the people. Some of them are afraid to tell the truth for fear that their heads will fall at the next election. It is carried to such a length that finally the people think there is really something in all this talk because the other side has nothing to say."

"It is more or less the fault of the railroads that they have become discredited to such an extent as they have."

"Today it is even a conspiracy of the managers of railroads to get into a room and talk of the relations of their lines to each other, and they can even be convicted if the fact can be proved. Such conditions have been carried too far."

"There should be co-operation between the government and the corporations. We can make no gentlemen's agreement any more. The law prevents, as I understand it. On the other hand, the rates have become more stable. Agitation against the railroads has reached the point where a great many of the agitators are getting somewhat mixed up and afraid."

"Have you any reason to think that Mr. Taft will continue the same conditions as those brought through the administration of Mr. Roosevelt?"

"The interstate commerce act was passed in 1887. There were regulations long before Mr. Roosevelt was talked of. The Sherman act was passed about the same time, I think. The idea of regulation did not originate with Mr. Roosevelt. It had become acute when Mr. Roosevelt came into the political field, and he was quick minded enough to see it and possibly carried it too far. I think the results have been rather disastrous. I think I said to Mr. Roosevelt in 1905 that he ought not to have the Hepburn amendment passed without having an amendment that would give the railroads protection as well as regulation. That was the time to have done it. We could have stopped all this recent trouble if that had been done then."

"The fact was the interstate commerce commission was just as much at fault as the rebate payers and the rebate takers. They failed to enforce the original act, passed in 1887 or 1888. This should be considered in a settlement of any kind, viz, that they are at fault as well as the railroads. Certain of the lines did not want to pay rebates, and still they have to bear their share of the blame. I do not think it is fair. I am not defending any particular corporation or any particular person, but this agitation, I am positive, caused the consolidation of the public in 1907."

Asked about his health and the rumor that he intended to resign, Mr. Harriman said: "I have not felt better in years, and my physician says that I am in good condition. Under those circumstances I have not thought of resigning. No; I shall keep at work for many years more, I hope."

CHOICE MISCELLANY

How He Learned English.

"Passengers who arrived in San Francisco the other day on the steamship Korea are telling with glee how Wong Kwong, a Chinese engineer, also a passenger, studied a very pompous Britisher who boarded the liner at Yokohama," said Frank Wallace of San Francisco.

"Wong, who is only thirty-two years old," continued Mr. Wallace, "belongs to one of the best families in the Chinese empire. He is an educated gentleman of considerable polish and stands high in his profession. He is a brother attending Yale university and is himself a college man. He is now general manager of what is probably the most important engineering concern in China."

"The pompous Britisher was introduced to Wong and from the first policed the little Celestial in a most demonstrative way. Wong openly resented the Britisher's attitude, but he did nothing in retaliation until one day in the smoking room, just after Wong had told a very good story. The silence that followed the laugh with which the yarn was greeted was broken by the Britisher. 'I say, my man,' he said, 'you speak English very well for a Chinese.'"

"Yes," replied Wong; "I have a great many Englishmen in my employ."—Washington Herald.

Suggestive Undertakers' Signs.

There are three undertakers' signs in different parts of Philadelphia which have called forth humorous comment and vigorous protest. The first is of doubtful significance, the second brings a natural fear of death to the reader, while the last speaks of the ceremony attendant at death in the light of a formal farce. The first sign is to be seen in the northern part of the city and reads, "A Step In The Right Direction." One is at a loss to know whether this refers to death or the course of the surviving relatives. The second sign advertises complete funerals at reasonable rates and concludes, "We Have Done It For Others and Can Do It For You." The last sign advertises, "A Hall, a Minister of Any Denomination and Every Requisite For a Modern and Up to Date Burial." Philadelphia Record.

A Strange Star.

That wonderful star, Nova Persei, which suddenly blazed out in the heavens in February, 1901, attracting all eyes by its brilliancy, and then in a few months faded to invisibility except with telescopes, has recently had a critical date in its history fixed by Professor E. E. Barnard. When it faded it changed first into a nebula—at least its light was the light of a nebula. Afterward, as shown by its spectrum, it changed back into a star of a peculiar class, called the Wolf-Rayet stars, which seem to be a sort of cross between a true star and a nebula. Professor Barnard shows that this last change began in November, 1902, and seems to have been completed in February, 1903.—Youth's Companion.

The Red Room.

So many hotels, public places and even private families are decorating their principal rooms in red that it is becoming noticeable. From the standard of the artist and the trained decorator this is poor judgment, because red is the most irritating and unsatisfying color that could be used in decorating a big room. In a room where there is red paper, red curtains, red carpet and even red upholstery there is nothing restful. No person can take comfort in such a room. The color is bad for the eyes. It irritates the optic nerve, absorbs the light and contributes to the general air of nervousness that exists everywhere. London Globe.

Old Tapestry in the White House.

The new state dining room of the White House makes glad the eye of the one who is fortunate enough to be an invited guest to a banquet there. This handsome room is paneled in dark English oak and decorated with heads of American big game. To this collection of trophies have been added several fine specimens killed by President Roosevelt. The white marble mantel is surmounted by an old Flemish tapestry depicting a country scene and having in a panel a verse from Virgil in praise of hunting. The massive mahogany table will seat 100 guests.—Technical World Magazine.

Odd Distinction of English Village.

The little village of Buckland-in-the-Moor has many claims to distinction. It has a population of less than 100 and entirely belongs to the Rev. W. P. Bastard, who lives in Buckland Court and who has just celebrated his golden wedding by entertaining his tenants. Time was when the "big house" was looked upon as comprising half the population. Buckland is also unique, inasmuch as it has no public house, no policeman, no physician, no clergyman and no pauper. It is in the Ashburton church living, and all old people there are pensioned by the estate owner.—London Standard.

As India Sees Us.

There is a newspaper published in the English language, of course, in Bangalore, in British India, and it sheds this light on the Panama question:

"Panama is one of the fine states in the District of Columbia, which is the seat of the United States government provided by the state of Maryland." "Thus do the and of British being perfect themselves in respect of our institutions and in consequence their already established knowledge of political geography."—New York Sun.

CONGRESSMAN

Mansfield, Enterprise, Congressman Pujo of the Seventh Louisiana District says that the repeal of the tariff on lumber would mean a loss of \$200,000 annually to Louisiana.

ST. MARKS EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Rev. Jos. H. Spiering, rector, Services today as follows: Holy communion 7:30 a. m.; litany and holy communion 11 a. m.; evening prayer 7 p. m.; Sunday school 9:30 a. m.; Regular meeting of Parish Aid Society Monday in chapel at 4:30 p. m.; Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday services at 5 p. m.; Thursday holy communion at 9 p. m.; Good Friday devotional service 12 to 3 p. m.; Musical service on Good Friday at 8 p. m.; "The Seven Last Words." Everybody cordially invited to all services. All seats free.

A FIRE.

The fire yesterday noon was the result of a defective flue which partly destroyed the roof of a small dwelling at No. 865 Cotton street.

CHARTER AMENDMENT

The Oil City Machinery Company.

State of Louisiana, Parish of Caddo: Be it remembered, that on the 12th day of February A. D. 1909, at a meeting of the stockholders of the Oil City Machinery Company, held at its office at Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, for the purpose of considering the question of increasing the capital stock of said corporation from three thousand dollars to fifteen thousand dollars, all the stockholders being present, to-wit: 6 2-3 shares, G. W. Hardy, 2 2-3 shares, C. W. Hardy, 11 2-3 shares, John Murray, 5 shares, H. N. Martin, constituting all the stockholders, the following proceedings were had:

The meeting being called to order, G. W. Hardy was selected as chairman, and C. W. Hardy as secretary, John Murray then offered the following resolution:

"Be it resolved by the Oil City Machinery Company, that the capital stock of the said corporation be and the same is hereby increased to fifteen thousand dollars, being one hundred and fifty shares of one hundred dollars each, and that Article IV of the original Charter of this corporation be and the same is hereby amended so as to read as follows, to-wit:

"ARTICLE IV.

"The capital stock of this corporation is hereby fixed at the sum of fifteen thousand dollars, divided into one hundred and fifty shares of one hundred dollars each, which shall be paid for in cash, property, or services before the same is issued, and all stock issued shall be fully paid and non-assessable. This corporation shall commence business whenever the sum of three thousand dollars of its capital stock shall be subscribed for."

Which motion was duly seconded and a vote being taken thereon was unanimously adopted.

There being no further business before the meeting, it was on motion adjourned. G. W. HARDY, Chairman.

G. W. HARDY, Secretary.

I, C. W. Hardy, secretary of the Oil City Machinery Company, and of the meeting the stockholders held on the above and foregoing date, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the said meeting held as above set forth, as shown by the original minutes of said meeting held, and recorded in the minute book of said corporation.

C. W. HARDY, Secretary.

State of Louisiana, Parish of Caddo: Personally came and appeared before me, the undersigned authority, G. W. Hardy and C. W. Hardy, who after being duly sworn, deposes and states that appearers are the president and secretary, respectively, of the Oil City Machinery Company, and that they were the chairman and secretary respectively, of the stockholders meeting held on the above and foregoing date, and that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the stockholders meeting, as shown by the original minutes of said meeting recorded in the minute book.

G. W. HARDY.

C. W. HARDY.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 12th day of February A. D. 1909.

W. A. MARRY, Notary Public.

State of Louisiana, Parish of Caddo: J. M. Foster, district attorney of the First Judicial District Court of Louisiana, do hereby certify that I have examined the above and foregoing instrument to the articles of incorporation of the Oil City Machinery Company, and finding nothing therein contrary to law, I hereby approve the same. This 17th day of February A. D. 1909.

J. M. FOSTER, District Attorney First District of Louisiana.

(Embraced): Filed and recorded February 17, 1909. F. A. LEONARD, Clerk and ex-officio Recorder.

State of Louisiana, Parish of Caddo: I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original act, as the same now appears on file and of record in my office. Given under my hand and seal of office, this 18th day of February 1909.

F. A. LEONARD, Clerk and ex-officio Recorder.