

The Farmington Times

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THE TIMES MANAGEMENT GUARANTEES THAT THE MERCHANTS WHO ADVERTISE IN THIS PAPER WILL GIVE YOU BEST VALUES FOR YOUR MONEY.

A FRANKING ABUSE

Congressman Tavenner of Illinois recently granted Mr. Ford of automobile notoriety the privilege of using his "frank" in sending two million copies of the speech of the former through the mails. We don't know just the nature of the speech, but suppose it must be along the peace lines which Mr. Ford affects. It is a peculiar political alignment, Mr. Tavenner posing as a Democratic Representative and Mr. Ford as one of the "peace" priests being voted for in the primaries of several of the States as a possible nominee of the Republican party for President. But it is not that to which we would call attention, but to the abuse of the franking privilege, by which a Congressman's name written or rubber-stamped on an envelope or package takes the place of a postage stamp, and in which Mr. Ford, the multi-millionaire automobile manufacturer and private citizen, joins him in loading down the mails which the government must pay the railroads for hauling and the rural free delivery carriers for delivering at their final destination.

We call it an abuse of the franking privilege, which Congress, in the name of the people, has voted to its members, but such use of the privilege, and other uses made of it during political campaigns, might be called by a harsher name. It was probably intended in the first place to apply to official correspondence, and any other use to which it may be put is an abuse. But it has been diverted from its original purpose into a graft. Why should any one, because he holds office at the expense of the people, be permitted to conduct his private correspondence and his political campaigns at public expense? But as long as the franking privilege is permitted to exist, Senators and Congressmen will abuse it, burden the Government printing office with extra work in grinding out tons of speeches inspired for political campaign consumption and send them through the mails to serve their private or some partisan aims at the people's cost. It is one of the many grafts against which the public ought to protest until they are all wiped out.

We are authorized to announce positively that Hon. Benj. H. Marbury will not be in the race for the Democratic nomination for Attorney General at the primary election. We understand that this decision was reached on account of Mr. Marbury having to devote a major portion of his time to his Oklahoma mining properties.

The undercurrent of feeling in the Republican party seems to be that there is no chance for Republican national success with any of the favorite sons for President who are reaching out after the nomination. There are Root of New York, Weeks of Massachusetts, Sherman of Illinois, Burton of Ohio, Cummins of Iowa, Fairbanks of Indiana, and even Roosevelt to choose from. Yet the Republicans look askance upon them all—they can't discern a winner in the lot—and turn with longing but doubtful expectancy in the direction of Supreme Justice Hughes. But the gowned jurist is coy and elusive; he deprecates the use of his name in their State primaries, and as far as anybody knows has given no hint that he would accept a nomination by the Republican convention though the party pachyderm might hand it to him with the most graceful wave of his trunk. Would he accept? It is the puzzle of the "Woman or the Tiger" over again. Yet, in the sore dilemma in which they find themselves, they nurse the shadow of a hope that the bosses of the party will in some sort of desperate strait nominate him and take the chance of his acceptance.

STATE AUDITOR GORDON

State Auditor John P. Gordon, who is a candidate for the Democratic nomination to succeed himself, was in Farmington Tuesday getting in touch with our people. Mr. Gordon is serving his second term as Auditor and is one of our most efficient and popular State officers. His wide-awake, energetic and courteous nature invites confidence and respect, and he made a number of new friends during his short stay here. St. Francois county has a candidate for State Auditor, which of course Mr. Gordon understands, but he wanted to visit and get better acquainted with our people. He left Wednesday morning for Flat River and to take a look through the Lead Belt.

No man in the State, perhaps, better understands the financial situation and needs of the State than Mr. Gordon. He says the low condition of its general revenue fund at this time is nothing new nor strange, but is something that has occurred every year about this time for the last thirty years, all because of the inflexible provisions of our State Constitution, and not because the Treasury is short of money. There is plenty of money in the Treasury—over six millions. More than a million dollars of this amount in the State interest fund and \$126,000 in the "escheats" fund, whatever that is, he says, lies idle in the Treasury, practically dead money, because certain provisions of the Constitution will not permit it to be diverted to the general revenue and used as the State needs it, and these useless funds continue to grow and increase in amount. He declares that this can never be remedied until the Constitution is eliminated of its hindering provisions or we adopt an entirely new Constitution. He is decidedly in favor of a Constitutional Convention to draft a new, modern and up-to-date Constitution to be submitted to the people for their approval, for there are many provisions of the present instrument that are a hindrance to the advancement of the best interests of the State. The readers of The Times will be interested and get much valuable information by carefully studying the Auditor's monthly statement, issued the first of the month, to be found on the second page of this issue of The Times.

Edison, the electric wizard, has announced that Roosevelt is the only man for President. We all concede that Edison knows a good deal about electricity, but we have never heard him accused of expertness in statecraft or in superior judgment as to the fitness of men to conduct the Ship of State. He shines to better advantage in his laboratory.

"Bride of Almost a Month Travels 4,000 Miles to See Husband for First Time," was a heading in Monday's Globe-Democrat. The article that followed told of a marriage which for distance, we believe, has seldom been equalled. Juan Vila, of St. Louis, wooed his bride, Senorita Crispi, of Barcelona, Spain, through correspondence, married her by proxy on April 24th, and the couple were really united in New York last Sunday. The couple will reside in St. Louis, where they will doubtless soon become better acquainted, and we trust will enjoy a long and happy union.

W. T. Brown, First Vice President of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers, according to St. Louis papers, announced Saturday night that he had effected an agreement with the Missouri Pacific Railroad Company, whereby all station agents and telegraphers of that system are to receive a six per cent increase of wages, shorter hours, a fifteen day vacation with pay and an increase in overtime pay. He left for Chicago, where he had similar negotiations with other railway companies. It is said that rules were affected for the making of better working conditions for all the men. It is to be hoped that this is the beginning of an amicable understanding and agreement between the railroads and their employees in the latter's demand for an eight-hour haul, over which the general strike and the locking of all railroad traffic is threatened, and that such a strike, which would demoralize and embarrass business all over the country, may be happily averted.

ARMY BILL AGREED UPON BY CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Washington, D. C., May 16.—Revised figures on the army reorganization bill as agreed upon by House and Senate conferees and submitted to the Senate today by Chairman Chamberlain, show the new army will be even larger than announced when agreement was reached last Saturday.

Careful analysis shows the maximum strength in time of peace will be 211,000 officers and men, including 25,000 staff troops, Philippine scouts and unassigned recruits, and that the war strength will be 236,500 officers and combatant troops, which with staff troops, scouts, etc., added, will bring the aggregate maximum strength of the regular army to 261,500. The National Guard as reorganized would total 457,000, making a total of 718,500 available.

Provides Well-Balanced Army
"The results of the work of the conferees, while possibly disappointing to some few who have made hobbies of certain features," Senator Chamberlain told the Senate, "must as a whole be welcomed by all who are reasonable and unprejudiced, as a good bill."

"For the first time in our history we have provided for an army that is well balanced throughout and which will be an efficient fighting machine. It provides for troops enough for the required overseas garrisons and the remaining troops at home will be such as will make up complete brigades and divisions and the regular army will no longer be a hit and miss collection of regiments and battalions as it has heretofore been, due to piecemeal legislation of former years. Not only are the higher tactical units properly provided for, but the internal structure of regiments and companies of all arms has been improved to meet the requirements of lessons learned in recent wars."

Companies Real Working Units
"The company units will no longer be skeletons, but real working units of about two-thirds war strength. An infantry company will be 100 men in peace and 150 in war; a troop of cavalry will be 70 in peace and 105 in war; a battery will be 126 men in peace and 190 in war."

"The officers' reserve corps and the reserve officers' training corps have been adopted as written in both original bills. They provide for the education, selection and training of civilians in time of peace for the duties of officers in time of war."

"The National Guard will have greater inducements to improve and progress than was hoped for before this year, and it will be on trial during the next few years to prove that the claims made by its representatives were correct and that it was only held back from becoming a real asset in our national defense by forces over which it had no control. These obstacles, it is hoped, have been removed in the new bill and time alone can tell whether or not the National Guard will take its place as an important factor in the army."

REPUBLICANS AT SEA

The leaders of the Republican party are drifting aimlessly at sea in their "search for a Moses" to lead them out of the wilderness and despair. So far no one has been found who comes anywhere near filling the bill. Roosevelt and Hughes are the favorites among the rank and file of the Republican voters, but neither of these seem to fill the bill. The Republicans want a man who can bag the solid German vote, and Roosevelt has said such bitter things against Germany that he is objectionable on this score as well as having made exceedingly bitter enemies by splitting the party in 1912, and for the party to take him up would mean a surrender to an absolute one-man boss. Justice Hughes of the Supreme Court "ripped out" so many things and hurt business so much when Governor of New York, that the party leaders are afraid of him.

Republican leaders are trying to bring about a combination of circumstances which will enable them to nominate Elihu Root, as he is their real candidate, that the trust-controlled party desires to place in the White House, because he can serve the trust "so skillfully" and artistically that the people will not get on to his "wily ways" until his work is done, and a rule of the trusts has become complete and absolute.

Several States will send women delegates to the National Democratic Convention. The California Democrats have elected three women delegates and one alternate; Colorado two women delegates, and Kansas one woman delegate and three alternates.

The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in session at Saratoga, N. Y., by a vote of 447 to 280 declared the church, as an employer, opposed to giving preference to union labor. The negroes were solidly against the proposition of preferences to union labor, and in speeches opposing organized labor declared that the union had discriminated against negroes in many cases.

Seven is the scriptural perfect number, and that is the number of aspirants for the Democratic nomination for Governor who have to date filed their declarations of candidacy with the Secretary of State. Which of the following the number will prove lucky to will be revealed at the August primary: Cornelius Roach, W. R. Painter, John T. Barker, John M. Atkinson, W. A. Gardner, W. H. Houchin and Rev. Mr. Lindsay.

"Love Test Blinded Him," says a headline. It's a way love has.

The Kaiser seem to be in search of somebody to show him the way to peace.

JUDGE PETER H. HUCK FOR RE-ELECTION

The announcement of Judge Peter H. Huck as a candidate for re-election as Judge of this (the Twenty-seventh) Judicial District, and for the Democratic nomination, we believe will meet the favorable consideration of a large majority of the people of the circuit, regardless of political predilections. While under our party alignments it is the universal rule to make party nominations for judicial as well as other offices, there is no politics in the position—only questions of law construction, impartial sitting in judgment on the cases that come before the bench for trial and adjudication, and a clear knowledge and penetration of the principles underlying all law. In the nearly six years that Judge Huck has been on



PETER H. HUCK.

the circuit bench he has shown in marked degree these elements of judicial character, and with them a uniform courtesy and consideration, a firm adherence to the spirit and purpose of the law, and a judgment tempered with a humane nature. With him law is not an instrument of punishment, but a means of conserving the best interests and universal welfare and protection of society. As such it must be upheld against the enemies of organized society and the peace of the community, and he does not hesitate to enforce it, fairly and impartially without personal bias or prejudice. So closely has he followed this course that he has retained the respect and confidence of lawyers, litigants and public alike. Perhaps there has been here and there a criticism, but when sifted and analyzed it has had little or no foundation upon which to rest.

Judge Huck is a man of high moral character, conscientious convictions, humane characteristics and judicial temperament. The people of this judicial district cannot do better than to retain him on the bench, not so much to honor and applaud him as a faithful public servant, as for the public welfare and an earnest that they appreciate the services of an honest and conscientious judge.

THE REPUBLICAN KEYNOTER

The Republicans have been very much perplexed to find a satisfactory man to make a "keynote speech," as it is called, at the Chicago Convention, which meets on June 7th. The suggestions have traveled all the way from the two extremes of Senator Lodge of Massachusetts, to James R. Mann, the Republican leader in the House of Representatives. James R. Mann stands for the cowardly and disgraceful hyphenated American policy whereby when Americans are murdered on the high seas by the German submarines, he would say to them that you "had no business sailing on Germany's ocean and it serves you right." Henry Cabot Lodge stands for the stalwart American principle, which says to Germany, "If you murder another American citizen with your submarines, you will have to account for it to the United States," with a probability of a declaration of war against you for your barbarous and inhuman methods of warfare. Well, whoever they get for the "keynoting" will have a hard time to make a funeral dirge sound like a battle cry.

RAIL FROM NEW YORK TO BUENOS AYRES

A result of the trip of Secretary McAdoo through the South American countries, the suggestion has been made that a railroad be constructed from New York to Buenos Ayres, Argentine, South America. This road will be 10,500 miles long, and of this distance only 2,700 miles will need to be built, as the existing lines already cover nearly 8,000 miles of this great distance. The cost of supplying the "missing links" of railroad will only be about \$150,000,000, which will be less than one-third of what the Panama Canal has cost us, and will be the most wonderful undertaking ever recorded in the commercial world.

The idea took like wildfire by business men all over the country, as it will be a wonderful promoter of commerce between North and South America to have this great double-track railroad whereby goods can be shipped by quick route from one continent to the other.

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SOUTHEAST CONVENTION OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

The Christian Churches of Southeast Missouri held one of their most successful conventions at Sikeston last week. The work of the Christian Church in Missouri is divided into districts, this part of the State comprising the Fourth District. The conventions are held annually for the purpose of discussing the various phases of church activity, Bible Schools, Christian Endeavor, missionary organizations and the advancement of the work in Southeast Missouri. About \$2,500 was raised at this convention to help carry on the work. The meeting was alive with interest, and sermons and addresses were delivered by a number of the ministers present as well as the carrying out of the regular business program.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, J. M. Bailey of Farmington; Vice President, J. M. Gordon of Poplar Bluff; Treasurer, R. A. Siler of Dexter; President of the Christian Women's Board of Missions, Mrs. Robert Moran of Bonne Terre. The latter two officers were re-elected.

The following were elected members of the District Board: J. M. Bailey, Farmington; S. L. Culler, Bunker; G. B. Gale, Flat River; K. A. Brumback, Cape Girardeau; G. C. Minor, Charleston; G. A. Hoffman, Bloomfield; R. E. Bailey, Sikeston, for three years; and Mr. Meredith of Poplar Bluff for two years. G. C. Minor and J. H. Tiller are new members of the executive committee.

NORTH WARD ENTERTAINMENT

The entertainment given by the pupils of the North Ward public school, at the Monarch Theatre last Monday night, was a complete success from every standpoint. In the execution of their various parts the children showed exceptional talent, and also reflected no little credit upon their teachers and those who had the preparation of the program in charge. The program was varied and well balanced, bringing in readings, recitations, dialogues, vocal numbers and ensemble chorus. The feature numbers from the opinion of many, were the Minuet as danced by the pupils of the higher grades, and the "Good Night" number, as staged by the primary pupils.

The proceeds exceeded seventy dollars net. The North Ward has already installed a Victrola and the funds obtained Monday night will be applied on the payment for same. The teachers having this entertainment in charge are to be congratulated on its splendid success.

HIGH SCHOOL EXERCISES

Splendid exercises were held in the High School Auditorium last night, when a carefully prepared and excellent program was rendered, in the presence of a large audience. Diplomas were presented to the eighth grade graduates by Mr. Fred Karsch. The graduating class was as follows: Randall Kincaid, Oscar Holland, Phelma Keith, Versie London, Christine Akers, Harley Knowles, Tessie Hawn, Leslie Evans, Mack Demman, Burdette Johns, Ferd Burgess, Eugene Ferguson, May Myers, Raymond Gruner, J. R. McCormick, Jesslyn Counts, Nettie Herbst, Irene Miller, Leone Nelson, Shelby Lyons, Gladys Edwards, Violet Mullins, Rudolph Fields, Fred Schramm, Virginia Marbury.

To-night the High School graduating exercises will be held in the same room, when Mr. J. B. Birks will present diplomas to the following: Irene Antoine, Ward Fleming, Harvey Halle, Delos Johns, Anna Overall, Martha Raines, Dorris Swink, Gay Klein, Opal Watta, Lea Wood.

TO THE PUBLIC

I hereby give notice to the public that during my absence in West Texas, for perhaps the next month, Mr. Wm. O'Sullivan will be in charge of my private business here, and I will stand behind any action he may take in transacting business for me. Any contracts, leases or other business he may transact in my name will be strictly adhered to by me.
J. C. WILLIAMS.

Announcements

We are authorized to announce the candidacy of the following for nomination for the office and by the party named at the General Primary to be held on Tuesday, August 1, 1916:

- DEMOCRATIC PARTY.**
- For Congress: EDWARD ROBB, of Perryville.
- For Representative: G. W. MOOTHART.
- For Sheriff: M. A. PATTERSON, C. J. SUTTON, B. A. EATON, of Flat River, L. GEORGE WILLIAMS of Bonne Terre, CHAS. ADAMS.
- For County Treasurer: W. T. HAILE, H. W. COFFIELD.
- For County Recorder: C. E. PORTER, THOS. V. BROWN, J. H. (JOHN) CLAY, J. A. LAWRENCE, HENRY M. O'BANNON.
- For County Assessor: LAWRENCE O. WELLS.
- For County Judge First District: W. A. MITCHELL, W. J. HOBBS of Bonne Terre, JOSEPH A. THORNTON of Bonne Terre.

Notice of Primary Election

State of Missouri, County of St. Francois, ss.
COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE
Notice is hereby given that a primary election will be held at the regular polling places in each precinct of said county of St. Francois, on the first Tuesday of August, 1916, being the first day of August, 1916, for the following offices to be voted for at the general election to be held on Tuesday, the seventh day of November, 1916:
Senator in Congress for Missouri, Governor.
Lieutenant Governor.
Secretary of State.
State Auditor.
State Treasurer.
Attorney General.
Judge Supreme Court, Division No. One.
Judge Supreme Court, Division No. Two (Unexpired term.)
Judge St. Louis Court of Appeals.
Representative in Congress, Thirtieth District.
Judge of the Circuit Court for the Twenty-Seventh Judicial Circuit.
Representative in the General Assembly.
County Judge, First District.
County Judge, Second District.
Prosecuting Attorney.
Sheriff.
Assessor.
Treasurer.
Recorder (Unexpired term).
Surveyor.
Public Administrator.
Coroner.
Township Constables.
Given under my hand and official seal at Farmington, Mo., this 5th (SEAL) day of May, A. D. 1916.
ALBERT WULFERT,
Clerk of the County Court.
(May 5, 12, 19 and 26.)
Your own property is concerned when your neighbor's house is on fire.