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WEEKLY DEMOCRATIC LETTER

SOME CONGRESSIONAL BIG GUNS.
OTHERS WHO DON'T SHOOT.

Political Circles Criticize the Acts
of the President—His "Gag Rule"
in Postoffice Department—As-
sociation With a Graft.

To the Ardmoreites.

Washington, D. C., July 13.—The three strongest delegations in congress, as delegations, are in Iowa, the Missouri and the Texas delegations. Nearly every man from these three states is a strong man and stands pre-eminent for marked ability in some peculiar line. In writing these sketches of public men in future I will take them up by state delegations. Many members of congress, in their relation to the general public can be disposed of in a very few words, for they have done very little to attract general attention, although they are good men and good legislators. Their work is done very quietly and in the committee rooms, where most of the effective work of a member of congress is performed without the emission of hot air, without fanfarronade and blare of trumpets.

Some people have an idea that unless a man shows up every day in the Congressional Record with a speech of some sort that he is no good as a congressman, when the truth is that just the opposite makes him the good and effective member. No matter how good a speaker a man may be or how well qualified to speak on any given subject, he can not say a word unless he gets the permission of the speaker, and then he is allotted a certain number of minutes and must limit his address. Very few men can exhaust their subjects in the time allotted to them; can not do justice to themselves; and that is why so few of them make speeches. The house of representatives has emasculated itself by the rules it has adopted and no longer is a deliberative body. There are some men, however, on both sides of the house who by their intellectual force have made themselves felt and deserve recognition.

Take the Missouri delegation, for instance. I have already mentioned the Hon. Champ Clark and the Hon. David A. DeArmond. There are other strong men on that delegation, and one of them is the Hon. Charles Fremont Cochran of St. Joseph, Mo. Undoubt-

edly Mr. Cochran is the most versatile and widely read member of the delegation. He is "loaded for bear," so to speak, on almost any subject that comes up for debate in the house, and when he gets through with an opponent his antagonist looks like a fender stack after a cyclone had toyed with it. He never makes a speech without adding to the sum of human information. In his capacity of lawyer and newspaper editor he has read everything and he has a memory like a far bucket; everything that gets in it sticks. His pet hobbies in the past two congresses have been the war in the Philippines and the Boer war in South Africa. On those two subjects he has hit the Republicans more hard licks than any two men in congress.

Another big man in the Missouri delegation is the Hon. William S. Cowherd of Kansas City. He not only is one of the best debaters in the house, but one of the best lawyers. His cogent reasoning and invincible logic compel admiration and knock down all barriers. There was an attempt in the last congress to put through a steal of about a half million dollars, and it came from the committee on the District of Columbia of which Mr. Cowherd is a member. With his trip-hammer logic and unanswerable argument Cowherd proceeded to hit it in the head, and when he got through talking it was as dead as Hector, the Republicans even refusing to vote for it. Mr. Cowherd has a future. Look out for him.

... the president of the United States is just now coming in for some severe criticism in the political circles in the capital of the nation which is causing Democrats to smile audibly and administration Republicans to wince perceptibly. There are several reasons for this criticism. One is the "gag rule" applied to the postoffice department investigation promulgated by him before he left for his summer home at Oyster Bay. That means simply that the investigation will be a farce from this time on and that the facts shall not be given to the public for fear of hurting the party of public plunder. No honest man or party ever was afraid of investigation or of being watched. It is the thief that is afraid of espionage or publicity. Only a short time ago President Roosevelt was justly proclaiming from the stump and through his messages to the congress that "publicity" was the panacea for the trust evils that now beset the honest consumers of the country. If "publicity" is the specific for trust evils, why is publicity excluded for the evils, the boodleism, grafting and unheard of corruption that honeycombs the postoffice depart-

ment? If he will reconcile those two divergent opinions of the benefits of publicity I will apologize for any criticism against the matter I may have made concerning him.

... Another criticism that one hears talked about in the corridors of the hotels in this political center is the close personal relations of the president and Congressman Littauer of New York who has been caught grafting while a member of congress by grabbing a contract to furnish gloves to the army. Mr. Littauer has boasted of his intimacy with the president and of his "pull" at the white house. Did that "pull" have anything to do with the landing of the glove contract while he was a member of congress and therefore against the law? The people would like to have an answer to that question.

... Another criticism of the president is based on an action of his that comes as a sort of sequel to something that occurred during his late political junket through the West, and which was commented on at the time of this correspondence. It will be remembered by the readers of this correspondence that I had something to say about the failure, the inexplicable neglect of the president of the University of California, Mr. Benjamin Ide Wheeler to mention the names of Mrs. Lucebe Hearst and William Randolph Hearst in the list of donors and patrons of the university when they had donated more than all others combined, on the occasion of the visit of the president of the United States to that institution. Wonderment was then expressed that such a thing should have occurred unless President Wheeler had been specifically asked by some one to omit the names of these two generous donors to the upbuilding of the University of California. Although he has been roasted to a brown turn by the press of California and asked to explain, Mr. Wheeler has never uttered a word by way of explanation for his un-called for and unheard of omission. The explanation has now come by inference and the conclusion is irresistible. A short time ago Mr. Benjamin Ide Wheeler came through Washington and was entertained at the white house by President Roosevelt and shown every possible courtesy. Thus it is as gross to the sense as the sun at noonday that this is a game of you tickle me and I will tickle you. Out in California, Wheeler, at the request of a soul so small that three hundred of them could dance the highland fling on the point of a cambric needle performs the act of an ingrate and in suits the spirit of his state. In Washington he gets his pay by being allowed to fawn at the feet of alleged greatness and stick his knees under presidential mahogany. He was entitled to anything the president could give him. He saved him from listening to the applause that would have followed the recital of the name of Hearst in California for it is a name that Roosevelt both fears and dislikes. And no wonder. Mr. Hearst has told the truth so often concerning Roosevelt and his party that every time the president sees a New York American he shies at it like his erstwhile managed broncho at a black stump.

CHARLES A. EDWARDS.

TODAY'S DISASTROUS FIRE

TWO TWO-STORY BRICK BUILDINGS AND CONTENTS LOST.

Ringer's Gents' Furnishing House and Hotchkiss' Jewelry Store Wiped Out—Law Offices Destroyed. Two Firemen Injured.

Again we are called upon to chronicle a disastrous fire in Ardmore which broke out at 12:35 o'clock this morning on Main street and burned two two-story brick buildings and their contents to the ground.

The fire was discovered in Ed Ringer's clothing store and later spread from there to C. W. Hotchkiss' jewelry store next door to the west, and with the exception of a few things that were taken out everything in the stores were consumed.

Fireman Oscar Wyont and Chief Slaughter says that they would have confined the fire to the Ed Ringer building had it not been for the bursting of the hose so much. Seven times the pressure of the water burst the hose, and as many times the engine had to stop for the broken section to be taken out. Aside from that they used up three cisterns of water, and the moving from one to the other caused considerable delay.

The fire boys fought with all their might and too much praise cannot be bestowed on these brave fire fighters of Ardmore.

The chemical engine was emptied and recharged fourteen times and was of great assistance in holding the fire in check while the broken sections of hose were being replaced by good joints.

Ed Ringer carried a \$13,000 stock of gents' furnishing goods on which he carried insurance with Roberts, Poland & Bruce to the amount of \$7,000 on stock and fixtures.

C. W. Hotchkiss, the jeweler, had a stock of jewelry, gold and silverware, valued at \$15,000, on which he carried \$3,750 insurance on stock and fixtures with Roberts, Poland & Bruce, and \$2,400 with Wolverton & Son. A quantity of his goods were taken out and saved from the flames.

The building occupied by Mr. Hotchkiss was owned by W. A. Ledbetter and was insured for \$2,500 with Roberts, Poland & Bruce. Total loss.

The building occupied by Mr. Ringer was owned by Frank Frenley and insured by Roberts, Poland & Bruce for \$2,000. He also carried \$1,000 with W. S. Wolverton & Son.

H. M. Furman of the firm of Furman & Mathers, lawyers, who had rooms upstairs over Hotchkiss, had a library valued at about \$5,000, and carried \$1,500 insurance with W. S. Wolverton & Son.

Thomas Norman, lawyer, lost his books and fixtures, valued at \$1,500, and did not have any insurance on them. He says that the rate was so high he could not afford to carry the insurance.

H. A. Ledbetter's loss on books and fixtures was about \$500.

T. N. Coleman, druggist, first door west of Hotchkiss, lost considerable by removal of goods. Covered by insurance.

Ledbetter & Hedsoc, over T. N. Coleman, and others on the same floor, lost more or less by removal of stock and fixtures.

Roy Mobley, confectioner and cold drink dispenser, broke some of his goods in moving.

W. M. Green, who owned the building just east of the fire, had his wall considerably damaged, as did Mr. Coleman on the west side.

Lum Johnston, who was sleeping upstairs, barely escaped with his life, having to leave with a quilt wrapped around him.

This morning at 7:30 o'clock Chief Slaughter took an extension ladder around to the building to see if he could not tear down the front wall which was still standing.

The ladder was placed against the wall and Horace Kendall and Lon Sconyers, two firemen, volunteered to ascend it. They had not reached the top of the ladder when from the weight of them the wall was pushed forward and fell. The brave firemen were severely hurt by brick falling on them.

Horace Kendall was the worst hurt of the two, having his left leg broken. Sconyers received a wound in the head but otherwise was not hurt seriously.

UNITED STATES TROOPS RIOT.

Two Officers Shot—Men Got into Drunken Quarrel.

Wilcox, Ariz., July 13.—A terrible fight occurred Sunday night between men of I and M troops on one side and E troop on the other, all of the 14th United States cavalry at Bonita, three miles from Fort Grant. Revolvers, carbines, knives and slung shots were used. Corporal Seidensticker of troop M was fatally wounded in the groin, and Trumpeter Davis of the same troop was shot through both thighs. The men who did the shooting are unknown at present. One hundred shots were fired and a house wrecked. About fifty men are implicated.

ROOSEVELT WILL CRAWFISH.

Kishineff Petition May Not Be Presented to Russian Government.

Oyster Bay, July 14.—An important conference was held at Sagamore Hill today between the president and representative Jewish citizens of the society B'nai Brith regarding the petition to the Russian government on the Kishineff outrages. The administration has been embarrassed by the delay of the representatives of the Jewish society in presenting the petition. A draft of the document was handed to President Roosevelt several weeks ago, but it was decided, after some consideration, to modify the text of the petition before presenting it formally to this government for transmission to Russia. The result of the conference has not been disclosed yet, but a strong intimation is given that the petition may not be forwarded to the Russian government. The desire of both the president and Secretary Hay is that the Kishineff incident should be closed as soon as possible, as further delay in its consideration

might prove embarrassing to this government in other diplomatic negotiations with Russia.

ASSAULT AT SHERMAN.

Victim is Little Girl Less Than Seven Years Old—Negro Guilty Party.

Sherman, Tex., July 14.—The local officers are investigating a case of a startling nature. The crime charged is a criminal assault, and is alleged to have been committed in a ravine just off Everglade street in a thickly settled portion of this city. The case was reported to the officers this afternoon.

The victim of the alleged assault is Lillian May Mooreland, less than 7 years of age, and daughter of J. C. Mooreland, who resides within less than a block of where the offense is said to have been committed.

The child, badly lacerated and weak from loss of blood, with which she was covered, was found by an older sister. She was prostrated and fainted several times, and her statement is that she had been beset by a negro and assaulted.

She had given a description of the man to the officers, and other parties have an indefinite recollection of seeing such a negro in the vicinity. The length of time and meagreness of the clew is making it a difficult case to follow. The child's condition is precarious.

C. O. & G. EXCURSION RATES.

Old settlers reunion and picnic, Wapanucka, I. T., July 20 and 21. Rate, \$2.15.

Annual meeting Grand Lodge Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Baltimore, Md., July 17 and 18. Rate \$38.90.

Annual meeting Sovereign Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., Baltimore, Md., Sept. 17, 18 and 19. Rate \$38.90.

W. A. DASHIELL, Ticket Agt.

Webb's stamp photos are the latest. 24 for 25c. 14-12

I have today placed a number of my accounts with Curly's Credit Clearing House for collection and all other old accounts not paid or satisfactorily arranged for by August 1 will be similarly disposed of.

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