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BURLINGTON, THURSDAY, JAN. 11. WANTED. When you want anything, advertise in the new special column of this paper. Some bargains are offered there this week which it will pay you to read about. See page two. This paper has more than 25,000 readers every week and one cent a word will reach them all.

The people of Vermont here not yet reached a point where they are prepared to make a martyr out of a cold-blooded murderer simply because the "chief executioner" did not know enough to provide a proper rope.

John Bull is in danger of growing more "chesty" than ever. British experts for 1911 broke all records, having reached the stupendous total of 22,270,000,000. Was this record owing to free trade or in spite of it?

The Philadelphia Press in speaking of President Taft's frank declaration of his candidacy for re-nomination, says that "this is as it should be. It is due to the party and due to the country at this stage that any man who is a candidate shall say so."

The Kansas Agricultural College co-operating with the United States government has demonstrated that while oats make a better feed for horses, than corn, a combination of corn and alfalfa is as good as oats and fifty per cent cheaper. Alfalfa plainly has a great future in our agricultural circles.

REVENUE ON MT. MANSFIELD. The Waterbury Record announces that "The members of the Vermont Press club are in receipt of an invitation from Walter M. Adams, proprietor of the Mt. Mansfield House, to be his guests for an over-night stay at this popular mountain resort some time during the latter part of June. The ladies are included in this generous invitation."

It is reassuring to note this evidence of early appreciation of the early efforts of the "early bird" Vermont has usually waited until June to advertise for summer tourists expected in July, and as a natural result many of these possible visitors have been entertained elsewhere.

We are gratified also that the Vermont newspaper circle is to form a "hollow square" so to speak on the summit of Vermont's highest mountain peak and renew its members' appreciation of the manifold beauties and attractions of that great natural resort.

It is to be hoped that the fraternity may turn out in full force, particularly the better half and that as a result the first step may be taken in making Mt. Mansfield more accessible to the tourist public.

Vermont as a summer resort will not fully come into its own until the public can ride by rail to the summit of the State's loftiest and grandest mountain height.

THE LESSON IN RICHESON'S CRIME. We have no desire to pander to the tastes of sensation lovers by dignifying the Richeson murder. There is, however, a side to this horror which gives the case a greater public interest than the ordinary murder should have. The wretch who committed the crime was a minister of the gospel.

POSSIBILITY OF A NEW POLITICAL PARTY.

The occultation of two stars in the political firmament has set the partisan world agog. Bryan and La Follette have met, either with malice aforethought or as a curious coincidence, and new party possibilities have been born again.

This talk about the probability of a third political party can hardly be regarded as novel, although it is ever new. When Theodore Roosevelt was returning from his chase after big game in the wilds of the Dark Continent, strange rumors came out of the east, but the wise men did not search after signs of a new political organization. They simply assumed that this was a manifestation of individualism rather than of organized opposition to the parties in existence.

So this jumping to conclusions because the political Moses of democracy and the standard-bearer of ultra-progressive republicanism met in the marble palace known as the union station in the national capital without coming to blows or engaging in other evidences of political hostility is not a safe pastime.

We of America recognize the fact that sooner or later political evolution will probably result in the breaking up of our parties into wings or factions, as has been the case in England as well as on the European continent, particularly in France and Germany. Party lines have come to rest lightly upon many men in the United States and prevailing conditions are likely to hasten the propaganda of political independence.

It must also be recognized that existing party policies are peculiarly favorable to the shifting of political divisions. It has long been a subject of remark that there is little difference between the fundamental principles of the two leading political parties in this country, and some people go so far as to hold that there is in reality at bottom no difference since both parties contain tariff revisionists and free traders as well as many protectionists. Standpatters and progressives as to the treatment of Big Business are common to all parties as well as to the great body of voters who are flocking by themselves under a nameless disorganization but ready to adopt whatever opportunity to do things seems most favorable.

Turning from general conditions to individuals, we have no less than three recognized leaders who might work together in the formation of a third party, Roosevelt, Bryan and La Follette. We are inclined to attach more significance to the present meeting of two of these shapers of political thought owing to the fact that it is not long since one of them, Mr. Bryan, had a conference with Mr. Roosevelt in New York city. They are all radical progressives in a broad way, although each has his own particular "ism" with reference to particular methods of arriving at the goal sought in common.

It would not be a difficult matter for these three men of deserved political renown to agree on principles, but the great obstacle to unity and harmony of action would probably be the selection of a general-in-chief. All in all it would probably be easier for Bryan and La Follette to work together than it would be to establish an American triple alliance.

Mr. Roosevelt has nothing to gain from establishing a new political organization and he has not jumped the party traces. On the other hand in Congress as well as out of it the democrats and the republican insurgents have repeatedly demonstrated their entire ability as well as willingness to pull together.

As between Bryan and La Follette the Nebraskan also has reason for watching for the breaking of light along the eastern democratic horizon. The gathering democratic clans, who are to select a time and place for the next national convention are already beginning to show signs of dissatisfaction with the principal presidential possibilities of their party.

It is claimed by some democratic speakers that Champ Clark is more of a politician than a statesman, and his international joke about Canadian annexation would rule him absolutely out of the class of diplomatic presidents, were he by any freak of political chance to gain official entrance to the White House. Wilson is dubbed a mere theorist as well as a man of volatile opinions, which characterization is justified by his talk about freedom to change one's mind in spite of written letters, printed in another column this morning, and his present controversy with Mr. Bryan is regarded as likely to shunt him toward the list of democratic impossibilities.

Governor Harmon of Ohio is being anathematized by many democrats of the progressive brand because of his intimate connections with Big Business and he is also handicapped by the pronounced hostility of Bryan.

Chairman Underwood of Alabama, is laboring under the disadvantage of being a "southerner," although we do not see why every resident of that section should be disbarred forever from the White House because some of the fathers of that section sought to establish their own independent government. They have paid the penalty over and over again.

The chief obstacle to the promotion of the Underwood boom is the fact that during the late extra session, Bryan demonstrated Underwood's self-interest in industries that were receiving apparent protection in a democratic bill providing for revision of the tariff and that stigma is likely to stick, particularly in view of the fact that Harmon and Wilson and Champ Clark and practically all of the democratic presidential possibilities have declared the tariff to be the paramount issue in the national campaign of 1912.

In fact the only man among the democratic scorpions in the presidential race who has not recently been heavily handicapped is the man from Nebraska. The chances are therefore that he will be among the promising starters in the democratic national convention.

However, if Bryan should be disappointed by the democrats and La Follette should find excuse for pronouncing the republican national convention a non-progressive body, we would not be greatly surprised to see them joining hands in a third party movement of considerable proportions.

Now who is to blame? Who, beside the villain himself, can be found responsible for this blow against the very embodiment of men's ideals? If there are degrees of wickedness, this Richeson was one of the most wicked men of whom we have ever heard. He was not only a coward and murderer; he was the cowardly murderer of the one that loved him. Men do not become as wicked as that of a sudden. Before he ever became a minister this man had a bad record. In his college life he was notorious for cheating and bad morals. It would seem that the men who were so lax as to allow such a character to find his way through a theological school, and to gain admission to the most exalted profession, were guilty of something.

The minister holds a position of terrible power and responsibility. He is not only trusted and honored more than if stripped of his office; he is looked upon by many as a model. We all catch ourselves sometime or other acting upon the principle that whatever the minister does must be right. Before hiring a bank clerk prudent men throw a drag-net over his past. The man who watches over the people's morals ought to be as reliable as that one who watches over their money. And yet we are informed that for a man with a fair amount of brains and the pliability of mind which will enable him to say he believes what a board of examiners desire him to believe, it is ridiculously easy to gain admission to the ministry of almost any denomination. If this Richeson have had said that he was not

ton statesman once said "Go home and look in your Daniel Webster's dictionary and you'll find there ain't so much difference between the meaning of the words republican and democrat after all."

It is a fact that party differences are losing some of their power to keep men apart. Some call it a sad fact; others call it a glad one. Where men all over the country used to look to a man's party very much as Southerners look to a man's complexion, the popular mind at present is inclined to see in its political problems not so much a choice of parties as a choice of men. Undoubtedly there has been much undue allegiance to parties in the past and much narrow and unfair judging of the other side. This foolish sentiment and groundless prejudice was pushed to such extremes as to give a bad name to all party activity.

It is at present a reproach to call a man an extreme partisan. Partisanship is an obstacle in the way of the calm, sane settlement of great problems. Parties insofar as they have hindered a sound judgment by introducing sentimentality and prejudice where clear heads and unbiased motives were needed, have deserved most of the hostile things which have been said about them. But taking human nature as it is and our system as it is, and parties as they ought to be, it does seem that parties have a service to perform in the national life.

Parties are necessary mainly for two reasons, because it is desirable to have something to take the punishment for a bad choice or a disastrous policy, and because ideas are so intangible as to need some indorsement, insure popular choice only in an indirect way if at all. At some point in the proceeding the men to be voted upon must be "put out." There must be some way of holding somebody or something accountable for the work of putting up.

Individuals accommodate some and go, but the party remains. If the party indorses inefficient or unfaithful men, the party suffers. Also the party can gather up within itself certain policies which it comes to represent in the popular mind.

If the ex-republican governor of Massachusetts were to be the democratic nominee for the presidency, what would we know about his ideas on such things as centralization of government. An old traditional democrat like Woodrow Wilson can be counted on to oppose anything that looks like a strengthening of the national power as opposed to the rights of the States, but what of a man who went out of the republican ranks for personal reasons.

After all there is much good in the old party system.

HANGING VS. ELECTROCUTION. It is to be hoped that Ely's Kent may be the last man to be hanged in Vermont, and that Mary Rogers may be the last woman to suffer death by the noose in our State.

This does not mean the abolishment of the death penalty, but merely a change in method of executing murderers. It was asserted long ago that "hanging had gone out of style in Vermont." This is true to so marked a degree that those charged with the duty of executing murderers do not have experience enough to enable them to observe ordinary precautions in connection with the manipulation of the gallows.

The Boston Record quotes the striking statement: "The rope used was the same used December 8, 1905, in hanging Mrs. Rogers, when a similar lunatic occurred."

The absurdity of this test becomes plain when we know that Kent weighed 150 pounds.

The sheriff who bungled so execrably in connection with the execution of Ely's Kent, however, greatly to his credit, has simply given Vermont a lift in the direction toward which it has been tending for a considerable period, the substitution of electrocution for hanging.

It is considerations involving the avoiding of gruesome spectacles like that which disgraced Vermont in connection with the hanging of "Doc" that he believed in the Trinity or something else which theologians revere, we suspect he would never have been given a church. But after all, what is theology in comparison with a good life.

The lesson of the Richeson tragedy seems to be that the churches to retain their own high position must look with the greatest care to the character of the men they put in authority.

GOV. FOSS AND PARTY LINES. The democratic Governor of Massachusetts, who was once a Vermonter, makes a bid for the highest honor the Democratic party can give. It is generally admitted that the message in which Governor Foss advocated national questions and advanced certain things which at present are to voters what sugar and vinegar are to flies, was nothing less than a bid for the presidential nomination. The chances are that the Governor probably will not be chosen. The very fact that he has a chance is nevertheless significant.

When it is said that Governor Foss was once a Vermonter it is as good as said that he was once a republican. That an ex-republican who only became a democrat when he was read out of the select little company composed of Lodge and the other saints of present-day Massachusetts should aspire to lead the Democratic party proves several things. It proves that the man has more than his fair share of assurance and self assertion. But beyond that it goes far to show that the difference between the two parties

is not all that broad as we are sometimes led to believe.

in some other States. We believe our Legislature should provide for a referendum on many an issue before legislation enacted goes into effect, which is now decided without reference to the voters; but that does not mean that the people should be kept in constant turmoil of canvass and agitation over questions that are properly delegated in our system of representative government founded by the fathers, and, we believe, found wisely and well.

Otherwise we should be compelled to take away from our governors and Legislatures the selection of all officers of the State, and other matters of detail and get a direct vote of the people on every principal move in connection with our State affairs.

In a word we suspect we do not materially differ fundamentally from the Banner, as for example, when it says that "our Vermont system of recall of judges" involved in biennial election, is "so much better than the cumbersome system in vogue in the Western States that Vermont certainly should not change it until some better plan is provided."

We also agree with the Banner that "Senator La Follette would show himself wise to adopt more ideas from New England."

In short the Banner and the FREE PRESS seem to "shut" together to a considerable extent.

St. Johnsbury has voted to appropriate \$1,500 for the installation of a combination automobile fire truck.

Waitsfield is to have a public building, which will include a town hall, school, and the company, George A. Joslyn of Omaha, Neb., who was born in Waitsfield, will give the building.

With a capital stock of \$3,000 the shoe business in Rutland, owned and conducted by W. C. Smith for 20 years, will become on February 1 the W. C. Smith company, composed of Mr. Smith, his brothers, Hubert and Edward, and his sister, Miss Nellie J. Smith.

The State board of pharmacy is in session at Montpelier, where the examination of candidates for the State of Vermont is being held. The board includes W. L. Goble of Bennington, M. G. Heale of Burlington, E. G. McMillan of Rutland and D. E. Davis of Barre.

Calvin Hatch of Danville was found dead in the Budgee barn in the village of Harvey Monday Jan. 1. He went to feed the horses and soon after was found dead under a horse's feet and his body bruised. The cause of death is not known.

Incorporation papers have been filed in the office of the secretary of state at Montpelier by Stokes Unity Church, a society and also by the New England Power company of Boston, with a capital stock of \$1,500,000 in 500 shares, to open offices in Brattleboro. H. E. Whitney of the latter town is named as one upon whom service can be made and owned by the company.

The State board of medical registration is in session at Montpelier. The attendance are: Dr. P. L. Templeton, Montpelier; Dr. E. B. Whitaker, Barre; Dr. W. S. Nay, Underhill; Dr. S. V. Hammond, Rutland; Dr. G. L. Forbes, Brattleboro; Dr. E. H. Gifford, of Shelburne, the other members, in presence. The candidates took the examinations Tuesday.

The winter meeting of the Western Vermont Congregational club will be held at the Congregational Church at Middlebury Tuesday, January 16. The speakers will include the Rev. Clifford H. Smith, superintendent of the Anti-Slavery League, and the Rev. James H. Booth, lecturer of the American Institute of Social Service of New York.

George Barnes son of T. E. Barnes, president of the Montpelier & Wells River railroad and vice-president of the Rutland & Maple Mountain road, Monday morning in the Wells River carbox in Montpelier. He has had some experience as a fireman on the New Haven system and will learn the business from the bottom up. He came to his work in his father's private car.

Daniel S. Pratt, aged 85 years, died Sunday night at his home in Brattleboro. He is a native of New England and a graduate of the University of Vermont. He was in the Revolutionary army. Mr. Pratt was a prominent farmer of short horn cattle and Southdown sheep. He was a director in some of the banks of Brattleboro for 20 years, and was at the head of the Vermont Lumber & Coal company. He was active in recruiting Company B, 16th Vermont volunteers, and at the close of the war was made quartermaster of the 1st Vermont regiment.

The Vermont State Spiritualist association will hold its annual convention in Grand Army hall, Montpelier, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, January 19, 20 and 21. Dr. Edgar W. Emerson of Manchester, N. H., and George B. Warrne of Washington, D. C., president of the National spiritualist association, are on the program. The former will give the test subject.

Just as the horse driven by George Brown, employed on the Morrill farm near St. Johnsbury, reached the crossing on the R. & M. road a part of the harness broke and at the same instant the afternoon train whistled a short distance away. Mr. Brown and his father barely had time to free the horse from the sled, loaded with grain and coal, when the train thundered by and scattered the load.

During the past year \$200,000 has been expended on what amounts to be a valuable granite mine three miles from Bellevue Falls. It is located on the Whittier farm and from 12 to 30 workmen have been employed during the summer and fall by J. Q. A. Houghton of Philadelphia. A shaft eight by 12 feet, has been sunk 70 feet and various sizes of ore struck. It is thought that one has been found that rivals in quality and quantity the best mines in the country. It is adapted to the making of the best lead pencils.

THE COMMERCIAL CLUB

Officers Elected at Annual Meeting Tuesday Evening.

New York State Engineer Gives Helpful Suggestions about the New Railroad Station and Water Front Terminals.

Burlington is fast finding its footing with regard to the stand it will take as to the proposed new union station. This fact was evident Tuesday, when, at the annual meeting of the Burlington Commercial club, the project was discussed enthusiastically by a large number of the members. Mortimer G. Barnes, a practical engineer, employed by the New York State horse canal commission, was present at the meeting and gave the club members a course of instruction in water front and station problems that have yet to be presented. Mr. Barnes is an expert in plan for the development of Burlington's water front and commercial business which was a revelation to every one present.

Mr. Barnes came to Burlington at the invitation of C. E. Cowles, who went to Albany recently as a representative of the Commercial club to attend the horse canal conference. That the New York State engineer reached Burlington at a most opportune time was agreed by those who heard his remarks Tuesday. Burlington has been asked by the Central Vermont Railway company, the Rutland Vermont Railway and the public service commission to present a plan showing what the city desires in the way of a new union station. At the meeting Tuesday night Mr. Barnes furnished some hints that may put the city on the right road to determine just what it wants in the way of station improvements. At the conclusion of the remarks by the engineer the club joined in extending a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Barnes. Information he had imparted, and also in extending the same expression of appreciation to Mr. Cowles for his initiative in getting Mr. Barnes to come to Burlington.

The plan shown Tuesday night by Mr. Barnes, which he already referred to elsewhere, showing how the lake front may be developed, and College street also, these were outlined in reply to a question Mr. Barnes outlined what might be asked for by the city if it so desired, possibly using this plan as a basis. The New York State engineer would place the proposed union station south of Main street, between Main and South streets. Instead of in the west end of Main street, as it has been proposed, and an open Main street to the lake at the same time making it wider. This would give opportunity for a pleasure pier at the foot of this street in future, should the city desire one. He would also make King street wider where it is to cross the railroad tracks, by means of underpasses, and College street also. These suggestions, with the additional suggestion of property at the foot of College street for a water front terminal, are among the important ones that Mr. Barnes advocates for the present. In addition to these, might also be added the acquiring by the State of land in the western part of the city for State docks, to be owned and controlled by the State.

The overpass system of crossing the tracks was not favored by Mr. Barnes, but rather the underpass method. The overpass method, he said, spoils the lake front sight at the outlet. As to the proposed tracks, Mr. Barnes does not agree with the suggestion that such elevation would put the appearance of the lake front all though he admits that a better effect might be gained by a steel or stone structure for elevating the tracks, rather than by a fill. Either method he said, could be handled in such a way that the elevated structure would be an ornament to the city.

The business meeting and election of officers presided the remarks by Mr. Barnes. Mr. Cowles reported on his trip to Albany and told how he came to invite Mr. Barnes to come to Burlington. Mayor James G. Burke made a motion that a welcome be extended to the club by the members of the State Engineers' association and the district, now assembled in annual meeting here, and that the club be urged through the press to attend the sessions of the convention, where many interesting and important questions are being considered. A vote of thanks was also extended the Algonquin club for the reception given Lieutenant Black and his men in the city in the interest of the large club.

A nominating committee, composed of Gardner Brown, W. J. Van Patten and M. D. McMahon, presented the following nominations for officers and directors, who were elected for the ensuing year: President—J. L. Southwick. Vice-president—E. S. Green. Clerk—Harry S. Howard. Treasurer—H. S. Wood. Auditor—S. L. Platts. Directors for three years, W. J. Van Patten, Lawrence Bartley, Gardner Brown, M. C. Reynolds, W. J. Shumley, directors for one year, E. D. Alonzo, M. D. McMahon, A. G. Ferguson, directors for four years, C. S. Isherwood, W. C. Isham, M. L. Powell, director ex-officio, Mayor Robert Roberts.

DURING THE MAJESTATE. They will tell of a resourceful Irishman of brilliant propensity who, over a period of months, continued to hoodwink the different magistrates sitting in an outdoor court. He was paid every two weeks and as regularly used to get the morning drink, which invariably handed him in the police station. Always he was tearfully penitent, and always close at hand there was a sniveling boy of about ten with a child little more than a baby, also sniveling in sympathy.

"If we send an away, Judge," the man used to plead, "as in the law, it's the childer, here, as'll suffer, him and the poor wife at home with the sick baby."

Invariably he promised to reform, invariably he was discharged by the sympathetic court, and invariably he was back again in two weeks.

They one morning, immediately after he and the offspring had trooped out, there arose a terrific uproar in the hallway. Investigation showed the boy stamping about, crying, and also cursing, in a veritable whirlwind of fury. The eristic father, he belated, was trying to sneak off without paying him his money. This led to the illuminating disclosure that the "father" was not his father at all—was, in fact, a bachelor who boarded in the neighborhood. He had permanently retained the youngster to come to court whenever he was arrested, and as a fee for the boy posing with his little sister as the prisoner's offspring, he had been paying a quarter each time.

The Home of Gordon and Ferguson Fur and Fur-Lined Overcoats. The best there is in Fur Garments. Pease's, The Daylight Corner