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FRANK A. MUNSEY

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MONDAY EVENING, APRIL 11, 1910.

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TRUST DECISIONS BY CLOSE VOTE OF COURT.

The action of the Supreme Court in ordering rehearings in the Standard Oil and Tobacco cases, presumably because of the death of Justice Brewer and the illness of Justice Moody, indicates that tentative decisions had already been reached in these suits by close divisions of the tribunal.

The order may probably be interpreted as meaning that whatever the decisions were, they had been arrived at by so close a margin that the court did not care to promulgate them, in view of the present limitation in its active membership. It may also be inferred that there is serious question whether the decisions, when they came, would be the final word in the issues involved. Instead, the evidence of evenness in the division of the court may likely mean that the cases could be made the basis of much future litigation.

The first and most direct effect of the order is the probable postponement for some time of the decisions in these cases. President Taft is expected to name Justice Brewer's successor this summer, and Justice Moody is expected to be sufficiently recovered to serve in the fall.

This probably means it will be October before the suits are re-argued, and winter before the findings of the court are announced.

On the whole if these premises are correct, the delay is worth while, for what is most wanted is an absolutely authoritative decision when it comes.

SHOULD MAKE CONFIDANT OF PUBLIC.

Although all organizations, to be effective, must have rules and regulations for the purpose of systematizing their operations, there are times when red tape should be cut, precedence ignored, and quick, direct action taken, for the purpose of attaining some specific, desired end. Such an occasion presented itself to the Associated Charities of Washington last week, but, unfortunately, its significance was ignored.

The Associated Charities is just now being made the object of attack by a few well-meaning but misinformed people, whose basis of criticism is that the society uses too much money for salaries and administration and not enough for relieving distress. Those who understand thoroughly the purposes of the Associated Charities are not moved to criticize it for this record. They believe in the theory that the society is not primarily an institution for the purveying of food, fuel, and rent money to the needy, but for the uplifting of unfortunate people through the administration of means to enable them to help themselves.

Just now, however, the degree to which the society has succeeded in working out this theory is under question, and instead of openly giving its record to the public, it shows an inclination to withhold information. In the minds of those already in doubt as to the effectiveness of the organization this but tends to foster suspicion.

For the good of those whom it benefits, for its own future success, and because the public is entitled to the full record, the Associated Charities should be candid. Its books should be open to inspection to all sincerely interested people. No fair idea as to whether the society has labored well and profitably can be formed unless the actual facts are known. There can hardly be any doubt but that the Associated Charities has nothing to conceal. It is not ashamed of its record. It is convinced it is doing, not only right, but well. This being true, its officers should not hesitate to allow any one at any time to see its accounts and its record of work done.

Before the criticism of the society goes any further or does any more damage, the Associated Charities should make specific public answer to the charges that have been laid against it, and should present detailed information on local conditions to show that its theory for the relief of distress is good and is being effectively followed.

REDUCTION OF RATES ON UPPER BERTHS.

At times there is a disposition to criticize the Interstate Commerce Commission for not accomplishing all the things the public expects of it. But it has just come to the front with one decision which will unquestionably have the approval of the masses of travelers

who ride on the railroads. This decision is the one that holds that charges for upper berths should be substantially smaller than the charges for lower berths.

The particular cases decided involve the rates for Pullman sleeping car accommodations from St. Paul to Chicago, Superior, Seattle, and Grand Forks. Certain reductions are made in the rates for lower berths, but the meat of the commission's finding is in the holding that the Pullman Company is not entitled to as much pay for upper berths as for lower ones. No fixed percentage is laid down as the differential. In the cases decided it ranges from 15 to about 25 per cent.

The injustice of the arrangement that extracts from the Pullman car patron the same amount whether he occupies a lower berth or an upper one is so apparent that the only wonder is the practice has been permitted to endure so long. It is gratifying to observe that in handing down its decision in the particular cases involved, the commission practically serves notice that this differential will apply in all cases brought before it.

It is not unlikely the Pullman Company will appeal to the courts, but it is doubtful if the decision of the commission can be upset. This is true for the reason that the commission has made an exhaustive inquiry into the capitalization and financial history of the company, and finds that while the capitalization and the dividends have practically doubled in the past eleven years, no new capital has been invested, the increase in the plant being supplied out of earnings. In view of this situation it looks as if the decision would be followed by reductions in Pullman rates, especially rates for uppers, all over the country, and the public would be relieved of an exaction that, in the light of the capitalization facts discovered by the commission, has been nothing short of extortion.

A FEW DRAWBACKS TO RENO, THE DIVORCE MECCA.

Divorce has become an institution of such magnitude, almost reaching in importance marriage itself, that it is interesting to learn in detail something of the conditions prevailing at the great center—Reno, in Nevada—where there is established the most conspicuous divorce colony in the world. Here reside persons in all walks of life—many of artistic and social distinction, the people of the operatic and dramatic stage, of literature and art, the possessors of great wealth, the lights of the sporting field, and not a few of the plainer sort of folk—humble in the procession, but striving not less determinedly and hopefully to disembrace themselves of the shackles of matrimony.

All these varied folk, indeed, are seeking to be free—believers in independent lives, according to Nietzsche and Ibsen, and impatient of the fetters of a traditional and effete condition, so desirous of casting off the old and embracing the new. And yet some of these, it seems, are finding curiously a renewal of interest in the association of the sexes, and are even going so far, to while away the ennui of a dull spot, as to engage in flirtation. The divorce colony at Reno, like the gambling casino at Monte Carlo, is unique and the only place of its kind on the globe. The element of chance, too, it appears enters into both. In this lottery, as in the game at Monte Carlo, when the croupier announces that red has won you may find that you had bet on the black. There are not prizes for all.

Surprising to learn, considering the social prestige of many who live in the colony and the accomplishments of presumably not a few, the place is on the whole rather dull. Also, as a lady resident there gloomily confesses, the climate is "perfectly dreadful on the skin and hair." The sallowness wrinkles the skin and the only salvation is loads of cold cream. This is, indeed, sad to learn, for a ruined complexion and thinned hair, to say nothing of wrinkles, may operate seriously should there be a desire for fresh conquests in the matrimonial field. It is well known that, although marriage may often be a failure, there are few who are thoroughly disheartened. Some even try and try again, and to have one's natural advantages exposed to danger in a climate so unfriendly as that of Reno is a subject worthy of anxious consideration.

GOV. HUGHES WOULD EXPOSE ALBANY CORRUPTION.

Governor Hughes, at a recent dinner of the legislative correspondents in Albany, made an onslaught on legislative graft so outspoken as to startle the old machine leaders of the State. He served notice he would demand a thorough investigation of the corruption that was little more than hinted at in the Alldis inquiry. This particular occasion was one when the governor was protected by the rule that what he said should not be quoted. For this reason his exact language has not been disclosed, but all accounts agree he was astonishingly frank.

Nothing less than a thorough house-cleaning at Albany will do, as Governor Hughes views it. If the Legislature does not take the initiative he will do so. He proposes to rip the lid from all hidden venality and make an unsparring exposure of dishonest practices. The governor is the more free to force a thoroughgoing inquiry because he does not want a third term and probably could not be prevailed on to take one.

Governor Hughes' position is of striking

interest at this time. If his demands are carried out—and he is in a position to see that they are carried out—it needs no prophet to tell what will happen. The old leadership of the Republican party in New York will be crushed. The old machine leaders will be driven into retirement. The old organization will be smashed beyond any hope of resurrection.

This, however, is insurmountable. Governor Hughes is an insurgent. Just now a great deal is being heard around Washington of suppressing insurgency, of stamping it out, of casting it forth. It is argued by the old organization crowd in Washington that the only way to save the Republican party is to kill off insurgency or drive the insurgents over to the Democrats. But it appears that in New York the only way to save the Republican party is to crush the old machine, clean house, take up with wholesome and progressive policies and satisfy the people.

If a policy of advancement, of enlightened progress, of non-machine domination, is a good thing at Albany, why is it not a good thing for the Republican party throughout the nation? Gentlemen engaged in the business of suppression of insurgency might do well to consider this question with some care.

If, when the Pullman Company reduces its rates, it will also inaugurate a system whereby the public is relieved of paying the porters' wages, there will be cause for genuine joy.

Mr. MacHarg is a poor man to pass judgment on "inertia" in the Republican party. He never was inert in his life and, therefore, has no first-hand knowledge of the disease.

A grim sense of humor was displayed by those wire tappers in selecting a horse named "Redeem" on which to cash in a million.

One of the worst features connected with getting up in time to see the comet is that it is awfully hard to stay awake all night.

Employers who find their employees arriving unusually early these days may thank Halley's comet for the reform.

The high cost of living makes it impossible to eat enough food, but everybody still must have his automobile.

The public is still anxiously awaiting the appearance of the Roosevelt press report bearing the Elba date line.

If the upper berth rate is really cut, that old saw will have to be changed to read "the higher, the lower."

It would be interesting to know just how the proposed berth rate reduction is viewed by Mr. Roosevelt.

It seems that the New Jersey Legislature pulled off that "orgy" under the unanimous consent rule.

It will be mighty hard to make the jewelers believe there's anything in this alleged hat pin evil.

The Interstate Commerce Commission is doing its part to reduce the cost of sleeping, anyway.

The insurgents got the glad hand in Washington and the icy mitt in Chicago.

FURTHER UPRISING FEARED IN SPAIN

Royalists Uneasy Lest Election Will Bring Another Crisis.

BARCELONA, April 11.—There is widespread fear among the Spanish royalists, following the announcement by the government of the dates for the election of members of the cortes, that the election will precipitate another national uprising against the monarchy.

The military republicans have already begun lining up their forces, on the theory that with a fair ballot they will win, but they do not believe that they will get such a ballot. If they are defeated by fraud they think they will have the support of the masses of Spaniards and the sympathy of liberty lovers abroad in resorting to force. If they should win at the polls, their first step will be to overturn the monarchy by legal means.

The hope of the republicans is Alejandro Lerroux, who assumed their leadership following the execution of Ferrer. Only the fact that Lerroux is himself a member of the cortes saves him from being dealt with as a traitor. His membership makes him immune from arrest except for some overt act.

BIG ORDER FOR COAL.

BLUEFIELD, W. Va., April 11.—The American Coal and Lumber Company, of Philadelphia, has placed an order for 3,000,000 tons of Pocahontas coal with several of the mines in the West Virginia district. Shipment will be started April 15.

What's on the Program Tonight in Washington

Georgetown Citizens' Association, Potomac Hall, Wisconsin avenue and M street, 8 p. m.
Northwest Washington Citizens' Association, Northeast Temple, Twelfth and H streets north-east, 7:30 p. m.
Sportsman's Show, Light Infantry Armory, Fifteenth street and Pennsylvania avenue.
Musurgia Club, Washington Circle, rehearsal, followed by song recital, by Victor Balch, tenor.
Special service at St. Thomas' Church, Eighteenth and Church streets, in honor of the National Society for Humane Regulation of Vivisection.

Theaters.
National—"Follies of 1906," 8:15 p. m.
Belasco—"The Midnight Sons," 8:20 p. m.
Columbia—"Bobby Burnet," 8:15 p. m.
Chase—"Follies of 1906," 8:15 p. m.
Casino—Continuous vaudeville.
Academy—"Lion and the Mouse," 8:15 p. m.
Majestic—Vaudeville and motion pictures, 7 to 11 p. m.
Lycium—"Dreamlands," 8:15 p. m.
Crescent—"Golden Rule," 8:15 p. m.
Masonic Auditorium—Motion pictures and vaudeville, 7:30 to 10:30 p. m.
Arcade—Midway and other attractions.

(The Times will be pleased to announce meetings and entertainments in this column. Phone or write announcements.)

Capital Tales.

Trot Line Missing.

ANYONE finding a stray negro youth with a fine trot line, which looks as if it belonged to a member of Congress, likewise a large string of fish, will confer a favor by reporting to Representatives Hamlin and Rucker of Missouri.

The warm weather lately stirred the cat of the wild in the bosoms of Rucker and Hamlin, and they went up the Potomac fishing. They fished diligently and industriously, and caught nothing. A colored urchin came along, just when they were blaming the quality of fishing hereabouts, and said:

"You all ain't fishin' right!"

Rucker and Hamlin protested they were fishin' just as fishin' was done with great success in Missouri, but the boy insisted they were wrong. The outcome was that they entered into a bargain whereby they were to furnish a trot line and bait, and the boy was to furnish the fish.

All arrangements completed, the two statesmen went back home, and a few days later left the Capitol for up the river, announcing they were going to return with fish. They returned, but had neither fish nor paraphernalia. They were unable to find the boy, the bait, or the good line they had given him. They are of the opinion that the boy was a high financier in disguise.

Senator Requires Room.

ORDINARILY the front row of seats in the United States Senate are the most desirable in the senate chamber, particularly during debate on an important piece of legislation. One of the exceptions to the rule is when Senator Heyburn of Idaho arises and launches off into a speech of considerable length.

Senator Heyburn is very large, the largest man in the Senate, in fact. He takes plenty of room when he addresses the senate, gets right up in their faces, and always gets it. The Senator himself is one of those favored with a seat in the front row. When he begins his speech he invariably stands at his desk for a few moments.

His next move is to roll his chair aside in order that he may turn easily and direct his remarks to Senators at his rear. His chair goes bumping into the chair of the Senator sitting next to him. The Senator unconsciously pushes first one chair and then another until he has them rolling hither and yon.

Sensors in the front row begin to get restive when they see a big piece of mahogany furniture rolling in their direction and pretty soon they move to safer quarters. Senator Heyburn, realizing that there are more empty chairs to be moved, keeps on moving them. After he is well into his speech he has a clear track, all of the front row chairs are vacant and he parades back and forth, stopping now and then to pound the desk of a Senator in the second row by way of emphasis.

Senator Heyburn, by the way, discusses the word "monarchy" in his speech as a Republican committee as hard as Edward, Cummins, or La Follette, but he does not want his criticisms labeled as treason. His protests against provisions of certain bills are in the way of enlightenment and if the Senate record, he votes for the bill as the Republican majority wants him to vote for it.

Not Seeking Publicity.

SENATOR JULIUS CAESAR BURROWS, chairman of the Committee on Privileges and Elections in the Senate, is not showing any noticeable signs of warmth over the campaign publicity bill. He has always stood out against such legislation, and there is every reason to believe he will do so now that the question is once more before his committee.

With a Congressional campaign coming on, the House and Senate leaders are not eager to have legislation which will disclose where they collect their campaign expenses.

Services Recognized.

THE House Committee on Pensions lately voted to increase from \$12 to \$15 per month the pension of Mrs. Anna E. Barnard, widow of John G. Barnard, late colonel of engineers in the army, and brigadier general, United States volunteers.

The action of the committee recalls the fact that General Barnard during much of the civil war was engaged in the construction of defenses of Washington. He was a West Point graduate and an engineer of great ability. He was a veteran of the Mexican war.

He prepared the defenses which were occupied by McClellan's army at Malvern Hill, where Lee suffered a bloody repulse. He worked in connection with the defenses of Washington was of highest importance, the fortified line extending over a distance of thirty-three miles, in which were constructed sixty-eight inclosed forts and batteries, with emplacements for 1,120 guns and 9' mortars of which 500 were mounted. The works also included 25 unarmored batteries, having emplacements for 400 guns, and more than 20 miles of infantry trenches. These works were in large measure responsible for the fact Washington was never captured in the civil war.

Mrs. Barnard is now eighty-one years of age, in poor health, and the committee says, in poor circumstances, and in view of her husband's great services to his country it is deemed fitting her pension be increased.

How Gage Was Spared.

THE stories of ruptures in the Cabinet which are being much repeated lately bring to mind the fact that Lyman J. Gage was nearly driven out of the McKinley Cabinet by newspaper reports.

After Mr. Gage had been in the Cabinet for a time, an influential paper appeared with persistent reports that President McKinley wanted to get rid of Gage but had found no way to let him know the fact delicately.

One story after another of that sort appeared until finally, Gage one morning, picked up a clipping telling how McKinley wanted him out and immediately thrust it into an envelope with a note in which he said:

"Mr. President, if you want me to leave the Cabinet you need not go to the newspapers to tell me so." Mr. Gage was about to address it to the White House when he showed it to a close friend, who told him not to send it and that President McKinley knew nothing of the stories of retirement. Gage took the advice, tore up the note, and ended the matter. It was a very close call, but it was a break in the Cabinet.

Mrs. Edson Bradley Gives Luncheon At Her Residence in Dupont Circle

Diplomatic and Official Society Represented Among Guests.

Mr. Clarke, of Hartford, Guest of President at White House.

Mrs. Edson Bradley entertained a company at luncheon today at her residence in Dupont circle, having, as her guests: Baroness Uchida, wife of the Japanese Ambassador; Mrs. James Robert McKee, of New York; Mrs. Albert Clifford Barney, Baroness Preuschen, of the naval attaché of the Austro-Hungarian embassy; Mrs. John Clarke, of New York; Mrs. Elisha Dyer, Mrs. Julian James, Mrs. Samuel Spencer, Mrs. Archibald Hopkins, Mrs. John B. Henderson, Miss Sherrill, Mrs. Samuel Reber, wife of Major Reber, Viscountess Benoit d'Arzy, wife of the naval attaché of the French embassy; Mrs. Charles D. Wood, of New York; Mrs. L. L. Leary, wife of Commander Reamey, U. S. N.; Mrs. John W. Dwight, and Mrs. Charles D. Walcott.

Mr. Clarke, of Hartford, Conn., is a guest of the President and Mr. Taft at the White House.

Miss Mary Cryder Hostess at Musicales Tea.

Miss Mary Cryder entertained at a musicales tea yesterday afternoon in her home on N street, which was adorned with palms and clusters of spring flowers. Mrs. Hilda Koehler gave several soprano solos and Miss Ethel Tozier played a number of piano selections. The delicately appointed table, which was adorned with a centerpiece of spring flowers, was presided over by Miss Murray Leary.

Baron Ambroz Guest of Honor at Dinner.

Baron Ambroz, the charge d'affaires of the Austrian embassy, who is leaving here shortly for his country, was the guest in honor of whom Charles Baumgardner entertained a party at dinner last evening at his country place.

The first of a series of spring entertainments will be given at the Congressional Club on Wednesday evening in the form of a dance for the younger set. The committee in charge includes Mrs. Needham, of California; Miss Hill, of Connecticut; Miss Ruth McCall, Miss Mattie, Miss May Gregg, Miss Ivy Moore, Miss Richardson, of Alabama; Miss Abigail, of Pennsylvania, and Miss Emma Gillespie, of Texas.

Miss Winifred Davis Hostess at Informal Tea.

Miss Winifred Davis, daughter of Mrs. Samuel Todd Davis, will be hostess at an informal tea this afternoon at 5 o'clock in compliment to Miss Beatrice Davenport, of Bridgeport, Conn. Spring flowers will form the house decorations and the tea table will be adorned with a centerpiece of jonquils.

Mrs. Edson Bradley will be hostess at a party of eight covers at dinner, Col. who have been in Washington to attend the 21st British convention, have returned home.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Mueller, of Denver, Col., who spent the past week in the city, left for a week's stay in New York, before returning home.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel J. Steinberger entertained a small company last evening at their apartment in the Tulane. Vocal and instrumental music was enjoyed by the company during the evening. A buffet luncheon was served. The table decorations were carried out in yellow. The centerpiece was a crystal bowl filled with jonquils and primroses. The guests were Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kohner, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Mosenthal, Mr. and Mrs. Sol Minter, Mr. and Mrs. Sydney C. Kaufman, Mr. and Mrs. Abe Sigmund, Mr. and Mrs. Sol Meyer.

Miss Bertha Leon and Miss Ida Leon, of Norfolk, Va., are the guests of Miss Rose Leon.

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Mrs. Taft to Attend Play for Boys' Home

Mrs. Taft will occupy one of the boxes at the entertainment which will be given at the New Willard tomorrow evening for the benefit of the Working Boys' Home. Mrs. Henry Kirke Porter and Mrs. John Hays Hammond have also taken boxes.

The entertainment promises to be one of the most interesting charity affairs of the season. The program includes two plays, "The Orphan" a sketch of Philippine life, by James F. J. Archibald, and "A Happy Medium," by Miss Elizabeth Hammond, sister of John Hays Hammond. Miss Dolly Lynch will also appear in one of her beautiful fancy dances, and there will be music by the Marine Band.

The patronesses of the affair are Mrs. Meyer, Viscountess Benoit d'Arzy, Mrs. Larz Anderson, Mrs. C. Barney, Miss Blunt, Miss Davis, Miss Gale, Mrs. Preston Gibson, Mrs. John Hays Hammond, Mrs. Robert Hinkley, Mrs. George F. Huff, Mrs. W. R. Merriam, Mrs. Edward Mitchell, Mrs. Morris Murray, Mrs. Thomas Nelson, Mrs. Richard Roland Cotton Smith, Mrs. Richard Townsend, Mrs. Herbert Wadsworth, and Miss Wells.