BARRE DAILY TIMES

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 1914.

Wilson's golf game is improving, so he must be, too.

It was the "frosty mit" which the New Year extended.

Barre is looking forward to one of its most prosperous years.

When the tea business drops off look for a challenge for the America's cup from T. Lipton.

The sympathy of the entire state goes out to United States Senator Carroll S. Page over the loss of Mrs. Page, to whom he was married nearly half a century ago.

The Times wishes a Happy New Year to all its contemporaries in Vermont. May dull care never rest too heavily on anyone of them during the 12 months just opened!

The clamor over the disagreement of the jury in the Hans Schmidt case is one of the most noticeable sounds coming from New York City at the present time; and it does seem rather odd in the face of the reported confession of the man that he killed Anna Aumuller. It seems that the only point on which there could be doubt was whether the man was sane or insane at the time; and on that point the so-called alienists disagreed radically, thus leaving the jurors in doubt. However, it is likely that there will be another trial of the notorious case.

THE FIRE WALL PROTECTS.

It is nothing unusual in any city to have illustrations of the value of the firewall between buildings in closely built districts, and so clear is the advantage of this form of protection that it is a wonder that prospective builders ever fail to construct the walls. A good example of the value of the added protection was shown in Springfield, Mass., on Monday evening when a fire burned the interior of a furniture store and burned so vigorously that the heat was intense, yet the flames did not break through the firewall on either side of the doomed structure and the only damage to the neighboring buildings was from smoke. Had there been ordinary walls separating the buildings, there is little doubt that at least the two adjacent structures would have been damaged to a large extent and perhaps the flames would have spread beyond them. The precaution of building the firewall is oftentimes overlooked in small cities like Barre, to the detriment of the community and individuals later on. It costs a little more, but is worth far more than the outlay, in the sense of security which comes to the owner or occupant even though the wall may never be put to the test by fire. Property owners should realize too that buildings so equipped are far more readily rented and bring better prices than the buildings with ordinary walls.

WOMEN IN OFFICIAL LIFE IN 1913.

The growth of the idea of admitting women to phases of public life, from which they heretofore have been barred more by custom than by anything else, is one of greatest manifestations of the year which has just come to a close. We do not mean by this the admission of women to the right of voting, which, it is agreed, is a province in which the women have made considerable progress in the United States, much more, really, than the women of the British Isles have made with all their spectacular methods; but we mean rather in those branches of civic life which have to do with solving some of the perplexing problems of present-day living. In some of the larger cities women have been taken on boards and committees which have to do with the correcting of the evil life of the people of the community, more largely perhaps with the women engaged in that evil life; and it must be agreed that women are better adapted to handle those cases than are the men. More and more, too, women have been admitted to school boards which have to deal with the management and administration of the public school systems; and for our part we know of no persons better fitted to conduct a certain portion of the work which devolves upon school boards than are the mothers of any community, for in the general run they are far closer to the school problem than are the fathers, albeit the latter may be more closely acquainted with the financial end of such administration. And another indication of the changed attitude toward women is the admission of them to municipal positions, the duties of which have to deal with matters pertaining to the improvement of public health, better housing and more satisfactory care of children. For instance, we note that the mayor of Somerville, Mass., has just appointed a woman to what is known as the city planning board, whose work is largely the solving of various municipal problems which do not properly come under other municipal departments. Given the right women, and the plan is admirable, just the same as given the right men, and the plan is all right. All through the United States there has been a disposition during the year to enlist the active services of the women of a community, and while the time is still too brief to sum up the results we are confident that those communities so venturing will find themselves the better off for having secured the co-operation of the women in civic matters. Here in Barre it would seem that there are chances enough to enlist the active interest of the women of Barre by selecting some of their numbers for certain commissions like the park commission, for instance, where their work in co-operation with the men would be most invaluable.

If it be not against the charter and ordinances, The Times moves that the experiment be tried at some early opportunity; and if it be against the charter and ordinances let us wipe out the prohibition by changing the charter and ordinances.

CURRENT COMMENT

"A Man Wanted" by Massachusetts Republicans.

Capt. Gardner's formal announcement that he will not be a candidate for governor next year accords with the advice which The Herald and many other sincere friends of his have freely given him. The field is now open, as it ought to be. A "new man" should be drafted for the task of bearing the party standard. Something in the atmosphere calls for a "new deal."

It is highly important that the man who undertakes the difficult task of revitalizing Republicanism in Massachusetts should be wisely chosen. Strategy should be used in his selection. It is not enough that the man seeking the office with the longest reach and the fattest purse and the most push should carry off the prize. And yet to just this risk an unmodified popular primary has subjected us.

The Progressives of Illinois are handling a similar situation in the right way. They have "got together" in conference and decided who should be their candidate for the senatorial nomination in the popular primaries next year. In this way they have found a good man. The Republicans of Masachusetts should take counsel together in the same way. Perhaps it might be well not to call the gathering a convention—since the word is under a cloud just now—but a "conference" or a "talkfest." The name of this assemblage does not matter so long as it is made up on about the same representative basis as were the old conventions. The delegates, who were elected to the Republican state convention last autumn, even though their service was then perfunctory, might be summoned in the spring for the real task of deciding whom the party ought to nominate for the pivotal contest of 1914.—Boston Herald.

Banks and the New System.

There are nearly 7,500 national banks in the United States. Of these about 600 had up to the close of business Monday applied for admission to the new system. The remaining ninety-two per cent. of these banks are probably hesitating as to their policy until they learn the number and limits of the reserve regions and the personnel of that administrative board which is intended to have supreme direction of the finances of the United States. A great deal depends on the location of the regional reserve banks and on the composition of the federal reserve board. If those advocates of currency reform who are rallying to "curb the influence of New York" have their way the banks of that city may take time to decide whether they will give up their charters and become trust companies or continue in "the system," to demonstrate that money, like water, will find its level. Efforts to turn the course of the money currents by administrative regulations are likely only to prove the folly of those who undertake them. There may be good local reasons for setting up a reserve bank at Cleveland or Cincinnati, but the belief of the Ohio congressmen that thereby Chicago in one direction and New York in the other can be deprived of their present power in the finances of the two great sections for which they stand is worthy of that flatism which never learns that the law of supply and demand cannot be repealed by executive regulations.

If the vast powers of the federal reserve board are to be wielded by a number of politicians, or "discoverers," if its membership does not inspire confidence, we may see still further hesitation among the banks to accept the invitation to come in. In fact those charged with the organization of the new system are only beginning to realize the time-consuming nature of their task. The field in which they are required to work quickly, covers the finances of the United States. They are instructed to gather in institutions from all quarters of this great area, for the invitation to come within the operations of the new law is extended to state banks and trust companies as well as to national banks. The public is accustomed to think of state banks as occupying a very insignificant place among business agencies, since they issue no circulating notes. Herein the public falls into an error, for there are in the union more than 14,000 state banks and trust companies doing purely commercial business, which at the date of the latest report had aggregate capital of $483,103,779, and total resources of $4,143,052,802. In number the state banks have been growing recently. To adjust the state banks to the new system, should a great many of them elect to enter it, will be, of itself, no light labor.—Boston Transcript.

First Aid to Immigrants.

Immigration courts the metaphor of digestion. These newcomers are the food which is poured into the body politic. Unless it is assimilated it does not become the blood and bone of national health. Symptoms of ill-feeding have appeared—too much food, the wrong kind, and imperfect digestion of it. Thus certain kinds of immigrants are kept out; other kinds are admitted only on certain conditions, yet there has remained the tendency of them to herd in cities whereas they were most needed and best conditioned in small towns and the country. Again the metaphor of digestion: They were swallowed in a lump without chewing and the mass lay heavily and distressed.

All this has been threshed through times enough; but now the Y. M. C. A. has put to work that desideratum of the age—"something practical." In the steerage of every large passenger steamship that enters our port is a human ballast of immigrants. To speak of them contemptuously as "offscourings" betrays an ignorance of the alarm of foreign governments at the loss of their sturdiest yeomanry and peasantry. By the fact of their courage and initiative they are often the pick of the laboring population in the lands from which they come. But they approach our shores as an undiscovered country. The Y. M. C. A. has sent voyaging secretaries into the steerage to "show them the ropes." Thus the program: A stereopticon lecture on the process of getting through the immigration inspection at Ellis island; railroad maps as guides to destinations; talks on American industries, what they are, where they are, the prospects in each and how reached: warning against the shore sharks that forever nibble about steamship piers and hunt the immigrant across the continent; chartering the Young Men's Christian associations all over the country in order that the immigrant may know where to find a responsible and trustworthy friend. The association now takes the immigrant by the hand as soon as he arrives in a foreign port—Liverpool, Bristol, Southampton, Plymouth, Glasgow, Rotterdam, Naples, Copenhagen, Antwerp, Hango, Libau, Havre and Gothenburg—teaches him on the way across; meets him at the dock, and watches him until he arrives at his destination. If after that, he wishes to continue the acquaintance he can do so, and last year 193,000 of the immigrants did—nearly 20 per cent. The association helped in the search for employment, traced out the addresses of friends, cashed checks, found reputable boarding places, and established acquaintanceships with upright people in order that the first aid to the immigrant should not come from the shyster and the ward boss. This is what might be called being on the job.

Our immigration is a vast and vital problem. Even when the number admitted each year is halved, as should be done immediately, those who are passed constitute a large responsibility. It will not do to expose the immigrant to fraud, allow him to live in unspeakable slums for lack of a better place to go, enslave him in unfair industrial conditions and allow his woes to breed crime and revolt, and then clamor for wholesale deportation. Ours is the task and ours the responsibility. Restrict the number and tend a helping hand to those admitted—that is the only wise immigration policy. We must come to it sooner or later and the sooner the better.—Boston Transcript.

Boys Who Blow in Their Money

may have fun now, but can never make a deposit with the money which was blown. A saving habit in early life is necessary for independence in age. Endowments, survivorships, deferred annuities, etc. National Life Ins. Co. of Vt. (Mutual.) S. S. Ballard, general agent, Lawrence building, Montpelier, Vt.

TAYLOR'S VALEDICTORY.

How One Journalistic Effort in Barre Ended.

The most readable column in the Chicago Tribune is headed "A Lino-type-or-Two," its author being Bert L. Taylor, who at one time published a small paper in Barre. In a recent issue of The Tribune, Mr. Taylor refers to this experience and how it ended. This is what he says:

"The valedictory of the editor of the Laramie Boomerang recalls an early experience of our own in Vermont. We got the notion that the town of Barre yearned for a live weekly paper; therefore, we started one, and began with a good subscription list and a tin box filled with advertising contracts. But our pride was our undoing.

"A strike developed in the industry which supported the town. The merchants did less and less business, and when we presented our weekly bill they would complain bitterly of their folly in contracting for advertising. After two or three weeks of this we called on each advertiser, and presented his contract to him, neatly torn in two. Then we went back to the shop, wrote a valedictory, got out the paper, mailed the edition, sent the office key and the rent to the landlord, and left Barre, never to return.

"We were given to understand that it was quelque valedictory. Copies of it were framed, and as we did not save a file of the Barre Town News we would give five dollars for a copy of our swan song. All we remember is the quotation which began it:

"'I hear a voice you cannot hear
Which says I must not stay;
I see a hand you cannot see
Which beckons me away.'"

JINGLES AND JESTS

Getting Ahead.

The man is selling cabbages,
His income is quite slim;
But he will not get mad if I
Should get a head of him.
—Cincinnati Inquirer.

No Contributions.

"Sir," said the trembling young man to the girl's father, "I love your daughter and she loves me, and I have come to ask you for her. I am sober and industrious, but poor. Will you give assent?"

"Not a durn cent!" growled the old man.—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Why?

He (teasing)—You married women are great matchmakers.

She (demurely)—Yes. "Misery loves company."—Judge.