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WASHINGTON LETTER.

From our Regular Correspondent.

Washington, June 5th.—Nothing so well illustrates the esteem in which President Taft is held by the whole country regardless of section and of party, as the sentiments expressed by Mr. Henry Watterson in his Memorial Day address. Mr. Watterson said:

"Today it is Lincoln's example which moves a clam, enlightened and patriotic occupant of the Presidential office—like himself a life-long Republican partisan—to reach forth his arms as if to clasp in their embrace the whole people, seeking to win the good opinion, yearning for the approval, of each and every one of them.

"Whether they give it in detail, or divide upon the incidental issues of time, they will not withhold it in the aggregate; and since a vigorous opposition is indispensable to good government, his wise moderation and transparent integrity give us the promise of an opposition based upon principle rather than faction, self-respecting and respectful, upright, clean, and kind.

"From such partyism nothing is to be feared, because it leaves us free, when dangers come, to forget that we are Republicans, to forget that we are Democrats, remembering only that we are Americans."

Without any desire to unduly emphasize the good judgment displayed by Mr. Taft thus far during his administration, it can be said that his judicial temperance and deliberate action will undoubtedly result in fewer mistakes than has been the lot of any President since Lincoln.

Not only is the President endeavoring himself to all the people, but Vice-President Sherman, as well, seems to be growing more popular every day. There are various little acts which appeal to the sentiment of the people—unassuming and unostentatious in themselves, but which reach the people through the newspapers. On Sunday, May 30th, Decoration Day, Mr. and Mrs. Sherman first went to worship at Christ Church in Alexandria, known as Washington's church, and after the service proceeded on to Mount Vernon, where they placed wreaths on the graves of George and Martha Washington. This is the first time in our history that a President or Vice-President of the United States has done such an act, and while it was performed without any ceremony whatever and was a simple tribute, yet it became known to the Washington papers and hence to the papers of the country.

It begins to look as if Mr. Taft is not going to be able to leave the White House for his summer vacation as early as he had wished. The tariff debate goes on seemingly without end and very slow progress is being made. It does not seem possible now that the bill can be put out of the Senate before July 1st, and it is not known how many weeks will be spent in Conference. Although the country is becoming impatient at the delay, and it is estimated that millions daily are being lost to the business interests of the country yet it is only fair to state that the progress of the bill is quite as rapid as has been the case in previous tariff making. To be sure, it is recognized that the bill as reported to the Senate will be passed substantially as reported by a majority of from ten to twenty, no matter how long the debate or how earnest may be the so-called progressives or insurgents and yet after all it seems better that there should be a full discussion upon every item, so that there can be no claim made after the bill is passed that it was rushed through without proper consideration. It is hoped that the bill that will be passed this summer will not have to be changed again for at least a decade, and for that reason it seems best that it should have the most careful consideration and be finally accepted by the people as the wisdom of the majority in both Houses of Congress as well as the President.

It is not believed that any im-

portant industries of the country will be adversely affected and there is every sign that an unusual degree of prosperity will follow the enactment of the law. Already without waiting for the final passage of the bill many mills which have been idle are being started up all over the country, and with the good crops which are expected there will be an unprecedented fall business, which will result in the reemployment of the many men now idle, with wages at the highest point we have ever known. This will mean new business next year and with the expected prosperity should come added confidence in the wisdom and legislation of the Republican party as well as the confidence reposed in the President, which should result in an increased Republican majority in the next House to be elected in the fall of 1910, all Democratic predictions to the contrary notwithstanding.

President Taft and the Consuls.

Chicago Record-Herald.

The long fight to give the country a better consular service by substituting merit for the spoils idea in the making of appointments reached a good measure of success under President Roosevelt's administration. Congress was willing to do very little the way of legislation toward this end, but it passed a "half loaf" bill, and then President Roosevelt and Secretary Root did the rest.

It is already evident that during President Taft's term, Secretary Know at the head of the State Department, there is to be no let-down in the efforts to improve the service. A long list of appointments to consular positions was made public the other day, and it appeared that all of the more important places had been filled by the promotion of men with experience in consular work. The new men appointed to minor places were likewise chosen on a merit basis, and they in turn will be in line for later promotion on their records.

Satisfactory as it is to have the consular service handled in this way, it is nevertheless still desirable that Congress establish the merit system legally, so as to put it beyond the power of any future president to abandon it.

Passion for Speed.

Omaha Bee.

This has been called an age of labor-saving machinery. It might more properly be called a time-saving age. The many inventions which save labor have for their object greater speed fully as much, if not more, than the saving of labor. The railroads spend millions in equipment to reduce the running time. Large sums are expended to build ocean steamers to clip a few hours from the number required in crossing the ocean and people pay handsomely for the privilege of riding on the faster boats. Buildings which formerly required years to erect are now completed and occupied in months.

In all lines of human endeavor this speed goal is manifest. It is not alone the man whose business is urgent who takes the fast trains and the fast boats. They are sought just as eagerly by those on pleasure bent, with whom time is no object except the consuming desire for speed.

Can the pace be continuously quickened? The question is not new, but rather as old as the time when man trained the dumb beasts to his use or hoisted a sail to expedite the slower oars. The developments of speed have been more rapid in recent years than ever before and the speed limit must some time be reached, but just at present there are no signs of more than temporary let up.

A Chicago woman is seeking a divorce on the plea that it takes all of her husband's income to pay his three previous wives' alimony. Can you beat it? Not in this world.

It is a little early for short sleeves and peek-a-boo waists, but some of the women are venturesome

SAYINGS OF MRS. SOLOMON.

Being the Confessions of the Seven Hundredth Wife—Translated Helen Rowland.

Washington Herald.

Hearken, my daughter, for there is a sound in the air! Yea, it is the sound of weeping and wailing. For the high priests in the pulpits of Chicago, even the clergymen, are crying, "Help! Help!" Lo, they have sent out a hurry call for chaperones!

For, behold the women have come down upon them to devour them. Yea, they have come in curling locks and straight front corsets in Doucet gowns and flower-pot hats. And they are a temptation! For how can a young and handsome pastor keep his heart upon the Lord and upon a "work of evil" in a violet toque at the same time?

Then, why doth a woman sigh in prayer meeting, yet not for her sins? Why doth she present crocheted slippers as a burnt offering upon the altar of her religion and regard embroidered dressing gowns as a sign of faith?

Why doth she consider a hand-painted book-mark pleasing in the sight of Heaven and yearn for "spiritual advice" when she maketh aprons for the heathen?

For I have seen those things.

Then let every unprotected clergyman take unto himself a wife. For a wife is not a temptation, but a visitation. Lo! she cometh not in curling locks and straight-front corsets, but in soiled kimonos and run-down slippers. And she distracteth not her husband's thoughts from heaven. Nay, she cannot distract them even from his evening newspaper, or his meals, or the pencil which he whitteth. For, once a man hath married a woman he thinketh no more about her than of the newspaper he hath finished reading or the dinner which he hath finished eating.

Yet a married clergyman shall mend his own altar cloths and water the flowers upon his pulpit. Yea, he shall go about in slippers that tremble with old age and in dressing gowns that have seen better days. And upon Easter he shall hire the janitor to decorate his church. Lo! his Sunday school teachers shall cease to need spiritual enlightenment and shall go unto the curate for advice.

Then heed the cry of the high priests in the pulpits of Chicago, for it is pitiful! And their terror shall not abate so long as woman continue to confuse the love of religion with the love of the pastor. Selah!

PAYING POLITICAL DEBTS.

Charlotte Observer.

Charity and Children expresses its views upon political debt-paying with obvious reference to North Carolina conditions:

"It is all right for a man to be true to his friends and, all other things being equal, to give them the preference in his appointments; but when other things are not equal it is wrong to fist upon the people a man for the sole and simple reason that he has been useful in carrying out the political plans of the administration. This thing of paying political debts with public office, without the least regard to the fitness of the applicant, has become a trifle too common. Of course, it is the way to build up a machine, but the people are not particularly interested in political machines. Public office is a public trust and not a personal and private snap. Take the late management of the penitentiary for example. It demonstrated its fitness by putting the State's business on a paying basis, changing it from a burden to a revenue-producer. Under the new administration these faithful public servants are put out of office and a new management is established. It remains to be seen how they will conduct the business, but it is a fearful risk to change an efficient management, who have proved their fine service to the State, and entrust the instruction to new

men who may or may not show themselves capable of managing it. All this for what? Why, because the old officials saw fit to exercise the privilege of voting in the primary as they pleased. Here is the State, that must foot the bill in case of failure, helpless to remedy the matter in which it alone is the responsible party. This debt-paying business on the part of the administration is carried a trifle too far. It is time to call a halt. The people may go hang, but the friends of the Governor must be rewarded. It is a matter that ought to engage the attention of the public a little."

This appeared before Governor Kitchen had filled the vacancy on the State Supreme Court bench. The Governor's appointee is well qualified in every way for the place; so were other lawyers in the State whose names had been proposed as Judge Connor's successor, yet it was the fairly general opinion that from among the lawyers whose friends were urging their appointment and who were qualified to fill the office acceptably Governor Kitchen would choose the one whom he owed the greatest political obligation. While the Governor's action in this case calls for no adverse criticism from any one, it is not altogether wholesome that under conditions brought about by State politics the public should assume as an almost foregone conclusion the appointment of Mr. Manning.

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IS THE WORLD GETTING BETTER?

Mr. Editor:—As I was walking up the street Sunday morning, watching the hurrying throng as they passed going to the various churches and Sunday schools the thought struck me, is the world getting better? As I was thus musing I saw a gentleman and his wife who live near the church of his own faith, going to a church of a different denomination some distance from their home, and why? Just because he does not like the minister of his own church. Will a man deny his faith and refuse to lend his presence and influence to his brother members, just because of some misunderstanding, or fancied wrong that has crept in between him and his pastor, and still remain a Christian. Does a man go to church to worship the Lord, or his pastor, if to worship his Master, does it matter whether he likes his pastor personally or not, and yet a man of this kind will want to fight you if you suggest to him that he is weakening in his Christianity, and as I thus mused another thought struck me. Four of the largest denominations in Burlington are engaged in a lively struggle as to which will have the largest Sunday school and each denomination claiming the supremacy, then there is another denomination issuing trading tickets to its scholars as an inducement to secure a large and regular attendance, but the question is, will they not cease attending when the pay stops. Then I am told that two prominent church men attend the same church regularly but neither take communion because of the other, they became enemies on account of politics, then I mused that the Lord cares nothing for politics, will either, or both get to Heaven, if they keep this up. Noting the mode, method and rivalry, I could not help but muse. Is the world getting better.

CRITIC.

It is said that Washington could house with ease a hundred times the number of the office-seekers now in the city. But probably the President hopes it will offer no special inducements in the way of reducing charges.

DEPENDS UPON ALDRICH.

Taft Realizes That "Organization" Dominates Tariff Work of Senate.

Washington Dispatch to New York Tribune.

The tariff debate has now made sufficient progress to demonstrate the complete chaos which would have resulted in the Senate headed by Senator Aldrich, been everthrown, and events have answered the oft-repeated question, "Why does not President Taft exert his powerful influence to disrupt the Republican organization and destroy the power of the 'Aldrich clique'?" President Taft is a firm advocate of revision of the tariff downward, but he realizes the necessity of dealing with this great question through the organization, and he has all along appreciated the menace, not only to tariff bill and to the party, but to the business interests of the country, which the overthrow of the organization in the Senate would constitute.

The inconsistency of a majority composed of the progressive Republicans and the Democrats has been manifested in numerous instances but in none more so than in the case of iron ore. Years ago there was a strong demand for revision of the steel schedule, so strong that in 1902 the late Representative Babcock of Wisconsin introduced a bill in the House putting ore on the free list and greatly reducing the tariff on steel and manufactures thereof. The President has all along advocated free iron ore, and the House bill makes it free. The finance committee made the duty 25 cents a ton. It was supposed that, of course, the Democrats would join with the progressive Republicans to defeat the committee's amendment, but, on the contrary, a majority of the minority voted for the duty of 25 cents, and, judging by their expressions, would have imposed an even higher duty had they been in control of the situation.

In a word, it has become obvious that were the organization in the Senate overthrown the majority, composed of Democrats for the most part, with a few progressive Republicans, would play ducks and drakes with the tariff bill, that they would maintain or even increase the duties on those products in which they are interested, while they mercilessly cut the tariff on the products of certain Eastern States. In the estimation of the President they would make a thoroughly inconsistent tariff bill, which the House would refuse absolute y to accept, and the result would be a session prolonged throughout the summer, an ultimate results would satisfy no one.

Some Senator said something here a few moments ago about divisions in the Republican party: I think it was my friend from Michigan who said that. I do not know that I can better close than by saying that nobody within our party can have and nobody without our party need have, any alarm for our party future; because when all is done it will be found that excesses have been reduced and justice established, all by one broad, general principle, and an equal desire among us to do exactly what is right from our different point of view. And, so when the day of battle comes, the Republican party will be found disciplined, compact, aggressive, marching forward in the future, as it has in the past, to victory for itself and to blessings for the Nation.—Senator Bevedge.

Two men were killed and two wounded in a dispute about a dividing line between two farms near Richmond, Ind., the other day. We should think it would have been cheaper to have hired a surveyor.

Thomas L. Hisgen, late Independence Party candidate for the Presidency, says he is no longer interested in the welfare of the crowd. Tom knows when he has got enough.

MRS. M. E. TEAGUE HAS PASSED AWAY.

She Was a Woman of Unusually Sweet and Lovable Character.

Columbus (Ga.) Enquirer-Sun, 1st.

Mrs. Marie Curtis Teague, wife of Mr. Maurice E. Teague, aged 29 years, died at their residence, No. 1027 Sixteenth street, at nine o'clock Sunday morning after an illness of one week of lockjaw.

The deceased was a native of Virginia. The family came to Columbus from Spencer, N. C., about three years ago, and by her sweet and womanly disposition Mrs. Teague had won a large circle of friends here. She was a devout member of the Missionary Baptist church, and in her life was reflected the beauty and sweetness of the Christian religion.

The deceased is survived by her husband and five children, as follows: Lucy Aileen, Maurice Edward, Jr., Paul Gordon, Minerva Mendenholz and Robert Hill Teague. Two sisters, Mrs. Florence Tucker of Salisbury, N. C., and Miss Gertrude Rasche, of Washington D. C., and two brothers, Mr. W. W. Rasche, of Blacksburg, Va., and Mr. A. S. Rasche, of Manila P. I., survive her.

The funeral service took place from the residence at three o'clock yesterday afternoon and the service was conducted by the Rev. A. D. Woodle, pastor of Comer Memorial Baptist church. Mrs. Clara Munn sang "Abide With Me" sweetly and tenderly. There were a great many floral offerings of rare beauty.

Interment was in Riverdale cemetery, the pallbearers being Messrs. H. R. Mullins, J. W. Lowe, C. A. Pope, W. T. Sloan, J. H. Phillips and C. W. Trussell.

Mob and the Court.

New York World.

Impressive and without precedent was the scene witnessed in Washington when six Tennesseans appeared at the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States to answer for contempt. They were the sheriff and deputies who, having in custody a convicted murderer in whose behalf the court had granted a stay of execution, permitted him to be taken from jail by a mob and lynched. After careful investigation and consideration, the court found these men guilty of contempt and ordered their arrest and appearance in Washington for sentence. Many contempts are constructive, uncertain and technical. This one was open and defiant. The court's writ directing these men hold the convict until it could pass upon his case. The sheriff and his aids disobeyed turned the man over to the mob which overruled the court. The court commanded delay. The mob insisted upon haste. The court held that the ends of justice had not been met. The mob ruled that its own frenzied will was paramount to justice lawfully administered.

Most of the lynchings which so shockingly disfigure our records are in contempt of some court which has the power of punishment in its own hands. Contempt proceedings in all such cases would not only do much to strengthen respect for courts; they would have a wholesome influence upon the lawless, they would discourage mobs and they would expose to public execration and ridicule bravados who now too often assume the role of heroes.

The Supreme Court has decided that a state may regulate the height of buildings. This will be sorry news for some of the "sky-hogs."

Even Dr. Long will admit that it does not hurt the African animals for Mr. Roosevelt's son to photograph them or for the stenographers to take dictation about them.

It has been judicially determined that one may legally import whiskey into Kentucky. Sure; one may carry coals to Newcastle—but what's the use?