

WHY WASHINGTON SHOULD HAVE THE PUBLIC DOCK IS DISCUSSED BY WM. BRAGAW

Calls Upon Voters to Get Out of Cross Roads Class and Be Somewhere—Not Be Simply a Spot on the Map.

To the Editor:

The municipal ownership of dock facilities for the development of its water-borne traffic is as essential to the building up of a community as is the paving of streets, and as a matter of equity, in so far as Washington is concerned, it is more to be urged than the acquiring of most any other public utility. You other utilities are luxuries, so to speak, things which could be done without—but since our water traffic has become so large that the surplus dockage will not accommodate it—it then becomes an imperative necessity that the community shall take care of the proposition that the burden shall fall upon all property alike. Means must be provided to accommodate this traffic so that the natural inclination of all shippers will be "Take it to Washington, as they show by providing free docks that they want the business."

Ten or fifteen years ago when the river packets came in once a week laden with produce which they sold to one or two concerns, and from which they bought all their wares, there was no need for any other docking facilities than the one or two concerns owned. The price of the produce was fixed by these few concerns, and there was no competition. Today by reason of the growth of our back country and the increase in the number of buyers of produce here, this traffic has increased and instead of that packet loading only from the store of the concern at whose dock it lies, its freight is drawn from probably a dozen. The matter resolves itself into this proposition: that the water front merchant in addition to providing docking facilities for his own customers must also provide docking facilities for his competitor who has none—he is paying taxes on the other fellow's utility and the other fellow puts that tax in his pocket. Free, municipal-owned docks would equalize the burden of taxation and place all the merchants on an even footing.

It is no more equitable or reasonable to tax the water front property owner exclusively to provide a public utility in the shape of docks than it would be to tax the Main street property owners, exclusively, to provide a public utility in the way of electric lights, or the other property owners, exclusively, to provide water works.

It would be better, perhaps (if it were not impossible) not to encumber the future to provide these necessities, rather waiting till the community shall have saved enough to buy and pay cash; but things are not built that way. And this dock is a permanent benefit which will grow in value and ought to be paid for by future beneficiaries. Every once in awhile a plea is put to Congress to deepen and widen the channels of our rivers and by the engineers is sought the information as to the tonnage borne on those waters, and if the present need and future promise isn't there the report is against the appropriation. The most powerful argument any community can array in favor of these appropriations is their evidence of faith through the local effort to foster and build up the trade using water-courses to their market.

Those live, progressive cities to the North and South of us have long since realized the necessity of public docks. They have realized also the necessity of keeping alive the water-borne traffic as a measure of competition with the railroads, and they have spent millions for public docks and while we are not just now, apparently, ready for the water competition to the railroads—it may come soon. There is one other thing to which our immediate attention may be drawn and give us pause for sober thought—Washington is not a manufacturing town strictly speaking; but it is essentially an agricultural center and large part of this produce is water-borne and, too, it needs to be encouraged to continue to come our way. All trade needs to be encouraged. Should

some other near-by town establish the precedent of free, adequate docks the trade of Washington would suffer by it and suffer seriously.

Every obstacle you place in the way of your customers getting what they want and when they want it invites competition which does not now exist; offers inducements for them to trade elsewhere; encourages the building up of communities which have no such obstacles.

The "Dock Tax" will not be near so great as the "No dock Tax," just as the "Good Roads Tax" is not near so heavy as the "Mud Roads Tax."

You must also face this feature of the case: Isn't it the better business policy to acquire the property now, bond the debt and pay taxes on it on present cost than to wait till you are more fiercely driven to provide the facilities and then have to buy at a higher price (for that is a habit Washington Real Estate has, you know—of always rising in value)? You will pay more in the end for your dock than the present cost, plus the taxes for all the time, and still have to pay ultimately the tax on that higher future cost, if you do not buy now.

It is cheaper and better business to buy now and pay the taxes on this present price, than to buy later at a much higher price and then pay taxes on that higher price. Get out of the Cross Roads Class! Don't be a spot on the map. Be somewhere!

WILLIAM BRAGAW

SORTING OUT JOB SEEKERS.

Senator Works Suggests Federal Commission to Do the Work.

Washington.—Federal appointments were the subject of a speech in the senate by Senator Works of California on his bill to provide for a commission appointed by the president to receive and pass upon all applications and recommendations for appointment to federal offices. The measure would forbid members of congress to recommend applicants or aid in obtaining positions.

Senator Works explained that his bill was intended to relieve the president and members of congress from the



SENATOR WORKS.

burden of recommending and appointing thousands of officers throughout the country, to bring about the appointment of more competent men and women and to relieve the public service from the "odious of the present pernicious system of patronage."

In 1910, the senator said, the government employees, exclusive of those under civil service and the army and navy, numbered 148,719, of whom 10,530 are appointed by the president. These appointments, he said, had steadily risen since the number of postmasters to be appointed by the president having been increased by 433.

President Wilson, he said, had felt the necessity of some such help as this bill would afford but his effort to transfer the making of appointments to his hands of departments had proved a failure.

A German mathematician figured that a man sixty years old has spent three years buttoning his collar. This cannot be true, for at this rate his wife will have spent twice as many years as he is old putting on her hat.

MRS. BLOUNT WAS HOSTESS TO BOOK CLUB

Charmingly Entertained the O. Henry Club at Her Home Yesterday Afternoon.

Yesterday afternoon Mrs. John C. Blount delightfully entertained the members of the O. Henry Book Club, a spite of the bitter cold weather without all was warm and cheery within and abloom with spring flowers. The meeting was very graciously presided over by the vice president, Mrs. H. W. Carter. In response to the roll call by the secretary, Miss Laughinghouse, items of interest were read and discussed. A most interesting paper, prepared for the afternoon program was read by Mrs. Louis Mann on the life and works of Ralph Waldo Emerson; this followed by a selection of persons, charmingly read by Mrs. Carter. After the literary program was completed a social hour followed, when Mrs. Blount assisted by her attractive little daughter, Leonard, served a sweet appetizing salad course. Each member was presented with a little Valentine souvenir. The meeting held with Mrs. Blount was very much enjoyed by all. The next meeting of the club will be with Mrs. J. B. Moore on West Second street.

A GOOD CONTROVERSIALIST CAN DEFEND ANYTHING

There is a saying that nobody loves a fat man, and up to the present it was believed that nobody loved a wasp; but an interesting young writer has come forward with a book in defense of this aggressive agency. The writer claims that a wasp is among the most industrious of workers, that he is a builder of ability and a provider for his family. The wasp also is familiar with the science of anatomy, and when it is preparing to store a supply of food for its maturing grubs it selects a particular nerve in a spider, which it stings, and which produces paralysis in the insect without producing death. In this way the wasp stores up live food as a fresh meat supply for its young. Which all goes to show that a good controversialist can defend most anything.

PEACE CONFERENCE MAY MAKE TROUBLE.

NEW YORK, Feb. 13.—European differences will militate against the possibilities of another convention at The Hague, it is feared, and delegates to the former convention, will hold a meeting here today to discuss ways and means of effecting another. Many of the delegates think the irritation engendered by the Balkan wars and Alsatian incidents would cause the nations concerned to look on a peace conference at the present time as more likely to cause friction than to alleviate it. Among those at the meeting will be Admiral Mahan and Andrew D. White, delegates to the first conference at The Hague, in 1899; Charles Henry Butler, delegate to the second conference in 1907; Judge George Gray, of Delaware, and Oscar S. Straus, of the permanent court. A national citizens' committee has been chosen.

SATURDAY LAST DAY TO PAY YOUR LIGHT AND WATER BILLS

Superintendent H. B. Charles announces that tomorrow is the last day in which patrons of both lights and water will have to settle their accounts for past month. Those who fail to comply with this request will be cut-off Monday. The work of disconnecting those consumers in arrears will begin promptly at eight A. M.

SPECIAL MEETING CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO NIGHT AT 8 O'CLOCK

There will be a special meeting of the Chamber of Commerce at their rooms in the Bangham building this evening at eight o'clock called by the president for the purpose of discussing the proposed Bond Issue for a Public Dock. All the members and all others interested are urged to be present.



The Stirring Climax Act 3, "Bought and Paid For." New Theater Thursday, February 19th.

NEW NAVY RADIO STATION.

Plant Near San Diego to Communicate With Hawaii.

Washington.—A great navy radio station capable of carrying on communication with Panama, Hawaii and the Atlantic coast will be built by the navy department near San Diego, Cal.

The erection of the station was authorized by congress in 1912. In September last a special board of naval officers investigated sites on the Pacific coast, chiefly around Los Angeles and San Diego. Finally a site on La Jolla heights, about four miles east of San Diego, and eleven miles from the coast, was selected. It embraces seventy-three and one-half acres and has an elevation of about 450 feet.

The property will cost the government about \$2,000. The selection has been approved by the navy department, and the purchase will be made forthwith.

OLD HOUND RETURNS TO KENNEL SHOW

Derelict on City's Streets Sits to Be Judged Again.

Green Bay, Wis.—Cap, a big deer-hound that had been about the streets of this town for years and who despite his bedraggled and old appearance was at one time a prize winner at kennel shows throughout the country, came into his own again. He had that "day" which all dogs are said to be entitled to when, ownerless and unheeded, he "entered" the show of the Northwestern Wisconsin Poultry and Pigeon Stock association and refused on any account to get out.

When the champions in the various classes were being judged, Cap, passing in the cold outside of Turner hall pattered up to the awning main door and nudged it with his nose.

Inside was a familiar sight. There were rows and rows of benches on which were squatted dogs he would have scorned to notice in his old days. Hardly had his nose been noticed when it disappeared and reappeared as he threw his weight against the door and dashed into the building. Anxious owners tried to shoo him and attendants flicked him with whips as he walked along the benches and looked over each contestant.

Once in awhile he turned quickly, but he did not snarl, and when he reached a vacant bench he hopped nimbly on to it. There he lost his temper and, with teeth showing, refused to be judged.

Spectators became interested and finally entered him formally, and in an all day with a regal air, eating good food and making the best show possible for a very tired old hound.

FREAK POSSUM TO WILSON.

Texas Send President White Animal With Pink Eyes.

Washington.—An albino possum, white with pink eyes, was received by President Wilson; the gloves being Scudder Wilson and Keimard Marshall of Rockdale, Tex.

"There hasn't no such animal," declared a Virginia Democrat, who happened to be in the executive offices when the possum arrived by express, but although he was not from Missouri he was shown.

President Wilson is rather partial to "possum" an "inters," but was disinclined to take any chances on the Texas albino, so he had the little animal sent to the national zoo.

Several southern admirers of the president have contributed numerous albino possums to the White House commissary department and the animal never reached the zoo.

Presbyterian Society to Observe Week of Prayer

A week of prayer from February 15 to 21 is to be observed by the ladies' missionary society of the First Presbyterian Church as ordered by the General Assembly. There will be services every afternoon at 3:30 o'clock at the homes of different members of the society in the following order: Monday at home of Mrs. S. R. Fowle; Tuesday at home of Mrs. Isaac Buck; Wednesday at home of Mrs. J. B. Sparrow; Thursday at home of Mrs. E. T. Stewart; Friday at home of Mrs. H. B. Seagrigh; Saturday at home of Mrs. G. E. Buckman. All the ladies of this church are earnestly requested to attend; members of other churches interested in missions or the coming of Christ's Kingdom in all the earth are cordially invited to meet with them and unite in prayer for this greatest of all enterprises.

BULLDOG BALKS BURGLARS.

Broke Even in Hospital Handling, Court Rules in Beaver Inquest.

Worcester, Mass.—That the ribs of Charles E. Seaver of Cambridge, who died in the Worcester State hospital on Dec. 31 from internal injuries caused by eleven broken ribs, were so brittle that they were fractured in the necessary handling of the patient, was the decision handed down by Judge Utley in the district court on an inquiry he held on Seaver's death.

Seaver died under such conditions that members of his family called for an inquiry. The finding of the court was: "There was no evidence of improper treatment, and I find that no unlawful act of any person contributed to his death."

A GOOD COW IS SOPHIE.

She Has Produced More Milk Than Any One Living or Dead.

Boston.—The greatest dairy cow living or dead is Sophie XIX, the pride of a farm near Lowell, according to her owner. Ever since this cow produced her first calf five years ago she has had a yearly authenticated test.

With her last and fifth calf she has made 17,537 pounds 12 ounces of milk (more than 8,100 quarts) and 1,177 pounds 7 ounces of butter. In her whole milking life of five years she has made 64,253 pounds 2 ounces of milk and 4,428 pounds 2 ounces of butter, an average of nearly 900 pounds of butter a year.

A young New Yorker tells of committing a murder for \$2. In view of the safety of murderers in New York the price seems almost exorbitant.

Keith's Vaudeville Circuit Is Secured by New Theatre Mgr.

Starting on Monday the management of the New Theater announces that they have secured the "Keiths circuit" to furnish Vaudeville for this popular play house. Realizing that Washington patrons appreciate and are entitled to the very best that can be secured in the way of entertainment, the management of this house has gone to the heavy expense of securing this well known high class Vaudeville for their patrons. But in putting on this class

SILVER TEA A SUCCESS

Given for Ladies Aid Society of Baptist Church at Home of Mrs. S. P. Willis.

The "Silver Tea" given for the Ladies Aid Society of the First Baptist Church last evening at the home of Mrs. S. P. Willis proved to be a social event of unusual interest. The spacious parlors were artistically decorated with ferns and blooming flowers, while the genial warmth made delightful contrast with the chill of the winter night. There was a veritable feast of music. At frequent intervals there were vocal duets, piano duets and selections from the orchestra of the First Baptist Church. It was hard to decide whether the audience was more charmed by the sweetness of the music or the beaming faces of the fair young performers. There were also delightful recitations by Mrs. S. F. Allgood and Mr. W. C. Miller. Delicious refreshments closed an evening of unalloyed enjoyment and the guests departed breathing blessings upon their charming entertainers. There was no "punch bowl" but another bowl which by a voluntary offering, was well filled with silver coin, for the benefit of the Ladies Aid Society of the First Baptist Church.

MRS. FRANK H. SHORT WINS READING LAMP GIVEN AWAY BY CITY

Mrs. Frank H. Short held the lucky number yesterday in the monthly drawing contest at the City Hall. The prizes was an adjustable reading lamp and was the sixth prize which Superintendent H. B. Charles of the electric and water plant has offered. Those only paying their water and light bills by the tenth of each and every month are entitled to enter. Superintendent Charles announces that another handsome prize will be awarded next month.

HIS RIBS FATALLY BRITTLE.

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LIST OF LETTERS

Remaining uncalled for in this Post-office for the week ending February 7th, 1914. Names. Gentleman—Burry, Andrew; Davis, James; Lee, C. C.; Murrey, Clarence; Morris, Thos.; Osmond, John; Partree, Geo.; Palmer, Buffalo; Roth, Crisanto; Smith & Bank; Smith, W. N. (2); Windley, A. T.; Wilson, Luke; White, Clyde. Ladies—Best, Miss Lavania; Chase, Mrs. Laura; Cooper, Mrs. Loree; Grieb, Miss Ella; Jarman, Miss Mark; Ruffin, Miss Sally; Smith, Mrs. Willie; Tumbleson, Mrs. Lucy A.

FIRST SNOW OF SEASON VISITS HERE

Mercury Takes a Decided Drop Registering 18 This Morning. Coldest Weather of Year.

WEATHER FORECAST. Snow and not so cold tonight. Saturday fair. Rain or snow in East portion. Not quite so cold. Increasing East winds.

Washington for the first time this winter is today being visited by a snow storm. It began to fall between midnight and day and the citizens on going to their respective places of business felt the real pangs of winter. All day yesterday it was bitter cold here and while snow or rain was forecasted for last night few upon retiring, as often they do, prophesied that the weather man would be fooled again. This morning however, they realized that the weather man knew what he was talking about.

The weather bureau office at Washington, D. C., yesterday gave warning that a disturbance was preparing to sweep northeastward from Texas and that it threatened snow storms to the Middle Atlantic territory.

Cold weather is reported from different sections of the country. It was one degree below zero in N. Y. yesterday; 22 below at Schenectady; 38 below in the Adirondacks; 14 below in Boston and 22 below in Connecticut.

The mercury here this morning was down to 18. Washington is now experiencing the coldest weather of the year.

BLOUNT'S CREEK ITEMS

Tobacco, beds, tobacco barns and a general conversation concerning the cultivation of tobacco seems to be the order of the day.

Elder Duffy Toler filled his regular appointment at Macedonia, Craven county last Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Cox and children spent last Sunday at Bonneton with Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Gray.

Tom Mills of Jacksonville, N. C., was a Blount's Creeks visitor Saturday and Sunday.

Mrs. Ralph Jones visited her parents Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Fulcher of Edward Saturday night and Sunday.

W. R. Cox is erecting a new store. It will be a commodious building and is located near the present one.

Mrs. Mary B. Swindell and daughter Eleanor, were the guest of her sister Mrs. Gray of Bonneton Sunday.

Elder R. F. Daugherty preached at Smyrna last first Sunday and Saturday night before.

R. J. Fulcher of near Edward was a Blount's Creek visitor last week. J. N. Lewis, Cephas Lewis, and George Bennett made a business trip to Bragaw last Thursday.

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THE LYRIC

Entire Change of Program Today.

Admission 10c To All.