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EDITORIAL BRIEFS

Next year is the "off year" in politics, but it probably will be of the "shove-off" variety.

Mr. Wilson left Bermuda Friday and Mr. Bryan left Florida Friday. Wilson can't "checker" Bryan.

All the Democratic politicians who have not made connection with the pie counter are now envying "little Jack Horner."

It is presumed that the Governor of South Carolina has no skeleton hid in his closet. It appears that he has shown everything.

The press dispatches state that the Governor of Arkansas pardoned 360 convicts in one day. That is almost equal to the pace set by Governor Blease of South Carolina.

A dispatch from Trenton, N. J., announces that Wilson will fight the reactionaries in his party. Which means he will have a continuous fight during his administration.

Many writers are already talking of Christmas egg-nogg. They have probably forgotten that this is a prohibition State and that even the supply of eggs has almost gone dry.

A dispatch announces that President Wilson has his ear to the ground. However, it isn't at all necessary to get in such a stooped position to hear the rumblings from the split in his party.

A Democratic exchange says that Wilson will probably enter the White House free from obligations to the pernicious interests. The "pernicious interests" are probably the ones that refused to give Wilson their support.

President-elect Wilson says that two-thirds of his mail is from applicants for office, and has refused to see any of them in person. President Wilson may yet decide not to keep open house when he gets to Washington.

When the members of the Governors' Conference rebuked Governor Blease for consigning the Constitution to the lower regions, he promptly informed them they could go there too. However, as yet, none of the Governors have accepted the warm invitation.

The Washington correspondent of the Greensboro News says that manufacturers show no alarm over a Democratic tariff law. Then, it is evident that the manufacturers do not expect the Democrats to carry out their platform pledges.

The Durham Herald thinks Governor Wilson's experience at Trenton will be of considerable benefit to him in Washington. Can't see how the Herald figures it out, as Mr. Wilson did not revise the tariff nor prosecute the trusts while acting as Governor at Trenton.

Some days ago a friend of a grass widower in Buncombe County spread the news that said grass widower was dead. The news was spread with hopes of making the wife return to her husband, and this she did, though she may have returned for the purpose of looking up the life insurance policies.

One or two Republicans and some Democrats are trying to push a bill through Congress providing for a constitutional amendment to restrict Presidential tenure to two terms of four years. The bill is probably intended to keep Colonel Roosevelt from being President again, but their bill, even if passed, would never touch him.

Democrats are getting tab on all the available offices in the State and a complete list was published in Tuesday's News and Observer, even giving the date that each office will be open for bids. But, should the Observer decide to publish the names of all the Democratic applicants for said jobs it will be necessary to get a special edition of the paper.

WHITELAW REID DIES IN LONDON.

America's Ambassador at Court of St. James Since 1905—Had Been Ill Several Days, But His Death Was Unexpected.

London, Dec. 15.—Whitelaw Reid, the American Ambassador to Great Britain since 1905, died at his London residence, Dorchester House, shortly after noon to-day from pulmonary oedema. The end was quite peaceful. Mrs. Reid and their daughter, Mrs. John Hubert Ward, were at the bedside.

The Ambassador had been unconscious since 9 o'clock in the morning and at intervals during the previous twenty-four hours he had been slightly delirious as a result of the drugs administered to induce sleep.

Dr. Thomas Bartow, physician to the King, who was called in last week after Mr. Reid's illness became acute and his regular physician, Dr. William Hale White, issued the following bulletin as to the cause of death:

Statement of Physicians.

"A fortnight ago the American Ambassador had a slight bronchial attack similar to others which he had suffered at considerable intervals. On Wednesday asthma supervened and the asthmatic paroxysms became very severe, leading to extreme exhaustion."

The King sent his equerry, Sir Harry Legge, to express the condolences of himself and the Queen. During the afternoon messages conveying the warmest sympathy were received from the Queen Mother Alexandra and other members of the royal family, court officials, members of the Governments and of the various embassies and legations.

Washington Shocked at the News.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 15.—News of the death in London to-day of Ambassador Reid came as a shock to official Washington, for it had not been generally realized that Mr. Reid's illness was of a serious nature.

President Taft paid an unusual tribute to the late Ambassador and expressed his grief in a cable reply to a message of sorrow from King George of Great Britain, which reached the White House to-day. President Taft also sent his sympathy to Mrs. Reid.

President Taft Will Appoint a Successor.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 15.—The American Ambassadorship at London will not long be left vacant. Although President Taft was said to-night not to have decided at this time upon a successor to Mr. Reid, it is understood that he will fill the place in a few weeks. The President regards the diplomatic problems, in which this country and Great Britain are at present entangled, as too important to leave the United States unrepresented, even for a few months at the Court of St. James.

MAY MEAN CHEAPER COAL.

United States Supreme Court Decides Against the Railroad Owned Coal Companies in Pennsylvania—Violated Anti-Trust Law.

Washington dispatch, December 16th says:

"The Supreme Court of the United States to-day cancelled as violative of the Sherman anti-trust law the contracts by which railroad owned coal companies in the Pennsylvania anthracite fields had purchased the output for all time of 'independent' mines."

"Attorney General Wickersham to-night expressed the belief that the decision will so completely destroy the combination which now controls the price of anthracite that it must result in a distinct measure of relief to the public."

"The court also ordered dissolution of railroad control of the Temple Iron Company, by which the principal railroads and their coal companies were found to have strangled a project to build a competing road into the anthracite fields in 1898 and by which monopolizing schemes could be put into operation in the future. The Government failed, the court held, to show 'general combination' to apportion the amount of coal to be put upon the market annually by the various roads. The Government's other charges as to a general combination were characterized as 'indefinite.'"

An Expensive Shot.

(Cleveland Star.)

One day last week Mr. Erie Blanton, the son of Monroe Blanton of the Sharon section, killed a bird in the field below the barn and was walking back to the house when his gun accidentally discharged and killed a fine mule standing in the yard. The mule was the finest Mr. Blanton owned.

PATRONAGE QUESTION

Is Now Uppermost in the Minds of Democratic Congressmen and Senators

HOLDING UP OF NOMINATIONS

Their Views About the Civil Service Have Undergone a Great Change Since the Election—Cheap Farm Credit—Why Should the Government Loan Farmers Money From the Postal Savings Banks at a Cheap Rate of Interest—Farm "Doctor" Needed in Every County—Roosevelt's Great Idea Bearing Fruit.

(Special to The Caucasian.)

Washington, D. C., Dec. 17, 1912.

Since the assembling of this Congress the Democratic members at both ends of the Capitol have discussed the question of patronage more than any other subject. It is astonishing how their views about the civil service have changed since the election, and they see visions of the pie-counter. If they were not afraid of a revulsion of public sentiment, we think it safe to say that the next Democratic Congress would wipe out the whole civil service system. Indeed, there has been much serious discussion of how to evade or nullify the civil service laws in order to secure more appointments.

The Holding Up of Nominations.

This spirit has also been manifested in the determination of the Democrats in the Senate to refuse to confirm appointments sent in by President Taft and to hold the same up until the fourth of March so that vacancies can be filled by Democrats.

So earnest and serious have the Democratic Senators and Congressmen become over this matter that a caucus was held to take action. The caucus determined that all political appointments should be held up and that only those whose appointments were regulated by law or whose terms expired at the pleasure of the President should be confirmed, like foreign ambassadors or ministers, who can be recalled at any time. It was also decided to let army and navy confirmations go through, inasmuch as they were promotions under the law.

Here we have a striking illustration of one of the defects of a government run by parties. There seems, however, to be no remedy under a government like ours for such conditions as long as human nature remains as it is.

Cheap Farm Credit.

The other day the Governors who had been attending the "House of Governors" in annual session at Richmond, Va., came on to Washington and had a conference with the President and also with a number of the members of Congress about some of the more important subjects discussed at their Richmond meeting.

One of these questions was to devise a scheme for establishing a system of farm credits, by which the farmers of the country could borrow money at as low a rate of interest as could business enterprises.

There are a number of systems of this kind now in operation in Europe. The one in operation in France is probably the most successful.

In short, the plan is one by which the farmers can invest their money in what might be called a farmer's bank or depository, for the purpose of being loaned to each other at a low rate of interest on farm land for security, but the same to be operated under Government supervision. Some countries go further and provide that a part of the nation's surplus funds in the National Treasury shall also be loaned under the same system.

Clearly, this should be done in the United States, because we have already established the precedent of lending the Government's money to Wall Street whenever Wall Street gamblers manufacture a panic or call for Government deposits on one specious plea or another. If there is no other way to give to the farmers of the country sufficient capital at a low rate of interest, then it is the duty of the Government to provide funds for that purpose and a banking institution for making the loan. This should be done by the Government even if it were necessary to sell bonds to raise the money.

But now since the postal savings bank system is established and the people are depositing their funds in these banks all over the country and the Government is paying them only 2 per cent interest, why should not the Government lend this same money to the farmers at two and one-half per cent, or three per cent at the outside, which is much less than half the average rate that farmers are forced to pay to-day?

One of the greatest questions that confronts the statesmen of America to-day is to stop the tendency of farm boys from leaving the farms and going to the cities. This tendency has been going on in this country at such a rapid rate that to-day about half of the people in the United States live in towns where they do not create wealth but where they must be supported by those who produce.

No one can blame the farmer's son from going to town if he can there better his condition. The problem is for the Government to use its every effort to make conditions on the farm attractive, not only for the pleasure and comfort of farm life, but also in its profit, so that a majority of the farm boys will be induced to remain on the farm.

Agricultural Extension Departments.

In this connection, there is now pending another interesting proposition before Congress. A bill has passed the House and has been favorably reported already in the Senate providing for an appropriation from the National Treasury to be apportioned among the States where the State Legislatures will pass laws in harmony with the Government scheme and make supplemental appropriations thereto for the purpose of having high-class "farm doctors" stationed in every county in the United States who can tell each farmer how to make his land more productive.

Mr. Wilson, the Secretary of Agriculture, in a statement in support of this proposition, said that every community had its doctor who looked after the health of the people of his neighborhood; that that doctor's duty was to find out what was the matter with each person when not in prime health, and then to apply the remedy or show the patient how to apply it. He said that that was exactly what this bill meant for the farmers of the country. It meant that we should have at least one "farm doctor" in each county, who would be competent to look at every man's farm, at its different soils and conditions, and tell the farmer what was necessary by way of drainage, of fertilization, and of adapting the right crop to the right soil, to enable the farmer with the same amount of work and effort to produce twice the amount of produce.

This is truly a great scheme and one which the Government should at once undertake. The present bill carries an appropriation of only three million dollars, but of course when the system is inaugurated the appropriation should and would become much larger each year.

To-day not more than 1 per cent of the vast sums of money appropriated by our Government is used to help the farmer who must feed and clothe the whole nation. There are but few people who stop to think that if the farmers of this nation should go on a strike on the first day of next January that before the end of six months every bank in the United States would close and every railroad would stop running.

Roosevelt's Great Idea Bearing Fruit.

In this connection, it is proper to remember that it was Colonel Roosevelt, when President of the United States, who inaugurated the movement for the improvement of the farms and the uplift of country life that has already brought forth both of the important movements mentioned above.

A number of the stand-pat and monopoly organs attempted to ridicule President Roosevelt when he invited all the Governors of the United States to meet at the White House to consider these and every other problem that would make country life more attractive to the young man by making the soil more productive and by making general conditions of country life more pleasant and attractive in every way.

This great conception and bold action on the part of Colonel Roosevelt put the whole country to thinking, and already we see the important fruits resulting therefrom. It is a wonderful thing for a great country like this to have had a great constructive statesman like Roosevelt in the White House, and as time goes on his invaluable work for the uplift of the people of this country in every direction will be more and more appreciated.

Fish Sold at Beaufort at One Cent a Pound.

A dispatch from Beaufort, N. C., December 14, says:

"Fish at one cent a pound was plentiful here to-day when power fishermen came into port after one of the greatest catches within the memory of the oldest inhabitants. The vessels, as well as their holds, were loaded. Six hundred thousand pounds of fish, it is estimated, composed the haul. The market was glutted and as there is no cold storage plant here the sea food was sold at a cent a pound and then all was not disposed of by the fishermen."

DEMOCRACY IS SPLIT.

The Progressive and Reactionary Democrats in Senate Engaged in Struggle for Control

TWO FACTIONS HAVE LINED UP

Before the Fight is Ended President Wilson Will Be Forced to Choose Between One Wing or the Other—Progressive Democrats Are Booming Hoke Smith and Luke Lea for Leaders—The Fight Among Democrats in the Senate is the First Sign of the Break in the Party.

(Special to The Caucasian.)

Washington, D. C., 17.—The first split in the victorious Democracy has taken place.

The progressive and reactionary Democrats of the United States Senate are engaged in a struggle for control of that body which is exciting extreme bitterness.

The two factions have lined up over the question of the continuance of Senator Marshall, of Virginia, a friend of Thomas F. Ryan, the Wall Street magnate, as the leader of the Democrats in the Senate.

It is a situation pregnant with the most important political consequences. Before the fight is ended President Wilson will be forced to choose between one wing or the other. He cannot ride two horses tugging in opposite directions at the same time. He may try it at first, but if he should cast in his fortunes later with the forces of reaction he will suffer the same criticism that has been leveled at President Taft.

Oppose Rule of Conservatives.

The progressive Democrats in the Senate have been moved to act because of the necessity, in their view, of preventing the control of Congress by the conservatives.

The two great questions of the Wilson administration, as Mr. Wilson has pointed out, will be the tariff and the "money trust." The Ways and Means Committee, presided over by Mr. Underwood, will fortunate the tariff bills.

The curbing of the "money trust" will be confided, as it is at present, to the Banking and Currency Committee, the chairman of which will be Representative Carter Glass, of Virginia. Mr. Glass is not ranked as a progressive Democrat.

Both of these matters are considered by the Finance Committee of the Senate. If Mr. Martin should be named as Senate leader his appointment of Simmons as the head of the Finance Committee will mean that a protective tariff Democrat will have control of tariff revision in the Upper House and a conservative on Banking and Currency Reform will have charge of the legislation leveled against the money combination.

Progressives Likely to Win.

The progressives have twenty-two votes pledged against Martin up to date. They need only three more to assure a majority. It is evident, therefore, that Martin will be beaten, that he will not secure the Chairmanship of the Appropriations Committee, that Simmons will not be appointed Chairman of the Finance Committee, Bankhead Chairman of the Postoffice Committee, and men of the same conservative character chairmen of any of the important subordinate bodies of the Senate.

The movement of the progressives is not for any one man as leader. It is against Martin. The two men prominently mentioned for the Democratic leadership are Hoke Smith, of Georgia, and Luke Lea, of Tennessee. The former served in Cleveland's cabinet and was Governor of his State before he came to Washington. He is a progressive. Lea is a young, forceful, active statesman, who knows politics. He was one of the Wilson floor managers at the Baltimore convention.

First Sign of Party Break.

It is not too much to say the fight among the Democrats in the Senate is the first sign of the break in the party. The conservatives, in urging the progressives to accept Martin, are telling them that harmony is essential and the disruption of the party will be on their heads if they antagonize the established order. The progressive Democrats are responding by saying that if the Senate is controlled by the reactionaries the Democratic administration's doom is foregone.

Factories Working Over-Time.

(Mount Anny Leader.)

Every furniture factory in this city is now working over-time and some of them have ceased to ship until their stock can be brought to a normal condition. The business has been heavier this fall than ever before.

MOONSHINING IN THE SOUTH.

There is No Sign of Abatement Declares the Commissioner of Internal Revenue—Most Prevalent in the "Dry" States.

A Washington, D. C., dispatch of December 15 says:

"Moonshining" and "boot legging" continue without a sign of abatement, declares Royal E. Cabell, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, in his annual report made public to-day. During the fiscal year 1912, 2,465 illicit distilling plants were seized, about the same number as the previous year, and the Commissioner admits that the Government did not get all of the violators of the law. A great number of "moonshiners" still are operating, resulting in a large loss of revenue to the Government adds.

"Illicit distilling is most prevalent," says the Commissioner, "in the States of Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia."

"The total number of corporations in the United States during 1912 as shown by returns under the corporation tax law was 288,352 with capitalization of \$60,067,138,925 bonded indebtedness of \$32,163,537,961, and an aggregate net income of \$3,213,767,247. Capital stock increased over 1910 by more than \$2,180,708,000, and bond and other indebtedness by \$1,448,201,000, while the net income decreased by \$146,543,000.

"The corporation tax, which yielded \$28,583,259 on the 1911 returns is expected by Mr. Cabell to become a constantly increasing source of revenue to the Government.

"The Commissioner recommends the revision of the oleomargarine law because, as at present constituted, it results in evasion and fraud.

"He estimated that internal revenue receipts during the current fiscal year will reach \$326,000,000, and during the fiscal year 1914 probably \$328,000,000 breaking all previous records."

HANDCUFFED MEN ON TRAIN.

Arrested at Morganton and Placed in Jail—Two Men Claimed They Were Handcuffed and Robbed in Raleigh—Story Not Believed.

Morganton, N. C., dispatch, December 15:

"Two unknown men with handcuffs on their wrists, and who had evidently escaped from officers somewhere, were arrested here last night on the arrival of train No. 35. They had been handcuffed together but had succeeded in breaking the chain and each had one cuff on his wrist. The conductor of the train noticed the handcuffs and telegraphed to the officers here, who made the arrest. Both men are young and fairly well dressed, one being rather tall and the other about average size.

"Nothing can be learned from them as they will not talk further than state they were handcuffed together and robbed in Raleigh by a man who claimed to be a policeman and who became frightened and ran, leaving them handcuffed together after which they broke the chain with a railroad iron.

"No credit is given their story as they seem to know but little of each other, one claiming to be from Memphis, the other from Atlanta, but telegrams to these places discredit their story. They are being held in the Morganton jail until further information is received."

Congressmen Should First Turn Loose Their Graft.

Greensboro Record.]

It does not sound very well to hear Congressmen talking about cutting off graft here and there when they are engaged in the same business in the mileage grab. They are allowed twenty cents, when it costs about two cents to travel. Effort after effort has been made to cut this out, but it falls every time. Some brother handy at elucidation, explains that the purpose of the law in making it twenty cents was to enable a Congressman to take his wife with him to Washington so that she would act as a restraint on him. As a matter of fact, the mileage was made twenty cents away back before the day of railroads when it actually cost this much to travel and when precious few wives of Congressmen ever saw Washington unless they happened to live close by.

People of Oregon Voted to Hang Four Men.

Salem, Oregon, dispatch, December 13:

"Four men were hanged in the penitentiary in this city to-day despite efforts to save their lives that are unprecedented. The quartette had been under reprieve granted by Governor West for varying periods in order that the electorate of the State might have an opportunity to pronounce its verdict whether the men should hang. The verdict was given on November 5th and was in favor of hanging."