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EDITORIAL AND OTHERWISE

Crisp Current Comment on the News. Bits of Fun and Sentiment in Prose and Verse.

FAILURES.

It is now conceded at Washington that the ship subsidy bill cannot get through the house at this session of congress. Hann and Frye together managed to drive it through the senate, but it stops in the pigeonhole of the house committee. The same force does not operate at that end of the capitol. Indeed, this measure, which has for its object the settlement of Hanna's old obligations for the McKinley campaign of 1896, is regarded with some ting akin to terror by republican congressmen who want to be re-elected this fall. They do not dare to face their constituents after voting for it. The only ray of hope for Hanna is that after the November elections, when congress reassembles, there will be a more reckless feeling among the congressmen, of which he can avail himself. At present the ship subsidy job stands as a failure.

Another case is that of the Root-Corbin army reorganization bill. The secretary of war finds it impossible, as yet, to procure a favorable report from the senate committee on military affairs. The plain facts stated by General Miles before that committee cannot be set aside, in spite of efforts of the war department bureaucrats to discredit them. Even that self-sufficient warrior, General Hawley, chairman of the committee, is in strong opposition. The intimation is sent out from Washington that the president will get rid of General Miles by retiring him, as he has the authority to do, in a few days. But even that rough-riding action cannot abate the force of his objections to the bill. The army bill may also be added to the list of probable failures for this season.

A VEGETARIAN PROSPECT.

The outlook is for a decided decrease in the habit of meat eating among our people. There is no other way of facing the advance in the price of this article of diet which the beef trust has decreased and which will soon be felt here in all its force. Aniff our people find they cannot earn enough to buy meat for their tables at the prices set by the Chicago monopoly, the only thing to do is to cultivate the appetite for vegetable food.

There are some things on which it is possible to compromise. A man may cut down on his smoking, he may have his old boots patched instead of buying a new pair, and thus escape paying tribute to this same beef trust through the tariff tax on hides. But he must eat in order to keep going. He must take in so many "calories," so many units of energy in the shape of assimilable food every day, or the human machine will not work as it ought to work.

Perhaps it is just as well that the vegetarian experiment should be forced upon our people. We eat too much meat, the doctors tell us. Those who have made the experiment of a vegetable diet often become enthusiasts on the subject, not to say faddists. But the carnivorous appetite is so strong in most of us that some degree of compulsion is necessary to overcome it. Perhaps the beef trust may unintentionally be the means of starting a great dietary reform.

Not all the famous speculative plums in New York are garnered on the stock exchange these days. One of the latest stories of success tells of audacity, foresight and credit. Two young men a year ago, on the payment of \$1,000, secured an option for one year for the purchase of a piece of property uptown at \$1,000,000 in round numbers, and were able recently, on the day before the expiration of that option, to take deeds for this property and pay the \$1,000,000 and to give deeds for three-fifths of it, for which they took \$1,250,000 in round numbers, making by the venture \$250,000 and two-fifths of the land.

With test trials for all the new torpedo boats and torpedo boat destroyers ordered by the navy department during the next few months, we shall be able to judge better of the practical worth of these craft. It is hoped for one thing that such tests may not develop as many disastrous occurrences as has been the case in England.

The British tobacco people apparently have failed to understand that when an American goes into a fight he is willing to spend about all he has on hand to win.

Why One Tax Is a Failure

By EDWARD LAUTERBACH, New York Lawyer



THE facility with which personalty can be removed either to another county or another state renders it a very unsatisfactory subject for taxation.

I AM OPPOSED TO TAXATION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY FOR THE REASON THAT IT ENABLES THE VERY RICH TO EVADE THE PAYMENT OF THEIR JUST SHARE OF THE REVENUE OF THE CITY OR STATE IN WHICH THEY RESIDE, WHILE ESTATES AND LEGATEES AND THE COMPARATIVELY POOR MUST BEAR THE BURDEN.

It is not only an easy matter for great capitalists to convert their holdings of personalty into government or city bonds, even though it be only temporarily, or other nontaxable assets, such as the stock of corporations, but they can with equal facility set up over against the enormous earnings in their business enterprises actual or even contingent debts, which so shrink their holdings as to make them practically untaxable. Or they can swear that their country homes in other states or even in other counties of the state are their actual legal residences and thus evade taxation. Recently in the settlement of a modest estate a widow was given by will a ten thousand dollar mortgage without the power of converting it into money. She has to pay her 2 per cent tax out of the 4 1/2 per cent the money earns, leaving her but a trifle for her interest in the property. This is by no means an isolated case.

WASHINGTON LETTER

[Special Correspondence.]

H. Clay Evans, whose probable retirement as commissioner of pensions has been foreshadowed, had a long talk on pension affairs with the president the other day. There is no longer any doubt that Mr. Evans will, within the next few months at the latest, sever his connection with the pension bureau to accept from the president a position which will be a substantial promotion, but which has not yet been definitely selected. It is well known that Mr. Evans has the entire confidence of the president, and the latter will not consider the question of his retirement until a position entirely satisfactory to the commissioner has been provided. No decision has yet been reached concerning a successor to Mr. Evans, nor will any action be taken until the president is thoroughly convinced that he has found a man of the same high character and sterling worth possessed by the present commissioner in so high a degree.

It is understood that the subject of retirement has not been discussed between the president and Mr. Evans. The matter of a change has been brought to the front by the action of the pension committee of the G. A. R. in asking that a change be made in the pension office.

Mr. Cooper's Latest Story.

Chairman Cooper of the house committee on insular affairs is a lawyer. He is frequently called upon by constituents to defend them in court when at his home in Wisconsin. A voter came to him last summer and asked him to go to court for him in an assault case. The other man was badly beaten. The complainant explained that the defendant had beaten him. He exhibited his bruises and contusions.

"What did you beat this man so unmercifully for?" asked the judge. "Your honor, I'll tell you," explained the defendant. "He and I were playing seven up. I was six, and he was two. I dealt, and he begged. I gave him a point. I played the three spot for low. He played the two. I played the king for high, and he took it with an ace. Then he came back at me with the queen and caught my jack. Right there friendship ceased."

"I'll dismiss this case," declared the judge, "for the reason that any man who would beg with such a hand is not honest and should be licked."

Cushman and the Scientist.

Mr. Cushman of Washington state confounded a scientist the other day before the committee on coinage, weights and measures. The scientist came from the State University of Pennsylvania and was discoursing on the advisability of the metric system as the standard for weights and measures in the United States. The discussion grew finer and finer till it touched on instruments for measuring by wave lengths of light.

The legislator from the faroff coast looked on in amazement at the scientist's remarkable explanations, but suddenly his stolid form quickened with a desire for intelligence.

"I would like to ask the gentleman whether or not, in his opinion, with these fine instruments of measuring by the wave lengths of light, it will be possible to take the little end of nothing and whittle it down to a fine point and push the pith out of a mouse's hair and utilize the cavity thereby created?"

The scientist stood aghast at this poser, paused a moment and replied: "That would be coarse work."

How Beidler Distributes Seeds.

Representative Beidler of Ohio has hit upon a new way of distributing seeds to his constituents. Although from Cleveland, there is also some rural territory within his district. The quota of seeds has now been increased to 14,000 packages, and members have plenty to go around. Therefore Mr. Beidler bethought himself of sending a lot of seeds and little trees to the schoolteachers in his district. They were requested to hand the same over to their pupils to plant, and it is expected that that congressional district when July and August are ushered in and the campaign warms up will be one eternal bloom of flower gardens.

Some way has further suggested that Beidler day be observed out there in the future with the planting of vegetable and flower seeds and likewise the rooting of numerous little Beidler trees.

Allotment of Indian Lands. M. H. Silverheels, Lester Bishop and W. L. Parker, three Seneca Indians of western New York, called upon the president the other day to talk about the bill pending in congress to allot in severalty the lands of these Indians. They have a reservation of 56,000 acres in western New York. The bill provides that three commissioners shall be appointed by the president to carry out the law, one of them being selected by the Indians themselves. The three Indians who called wanted to tell the president that they did not care to select one of the commissioners. They would be satisfied with his having the naming of all three men. All they would ask would be that the three commissioners should be disinterested people.

Popular Priced Poker. A certain representative, who was once in the advertising business, gave a little poker party at his house one night recently. He went to a job printer and had this invitation set up in type and printed:

POKER AT POPULAR PRICES. Hammering Down the Price of Celluloid. Blue chips marked down to..... 25 cents Red chips, as long as they last..... 10 cents White chips, a bargain at..... 5 cents JOHN JONES, Washington. Sale Opens March 22, 8 P. M. Come Early and Avoid the Rush. CARL SCHOFIELD.

THE FASHIONS. Moire band trimming is used on many of the new spring suits. Homespun, which was so popular during the past season, will be much worn this spring. Little turnover lace or embroidered collars are popular for wear over satin or silk neck ribbons. Short tan covert jackets or full length taffeta coats are to be the popular things in coats for spring. Black and white still retains a decided vogue and is effectively combined in many handsome models of the spring millinery. Collars of real Bruges gulleure lace in white and ecru are wide and extend over the shoulders and part way down the back. They can be worn with evening gowns or reception dresses. A new finish for waists consists of a white lace collar, edged with finely plaited black chiffon, which is in turn bordered with a narrow chiffon pompadour ruching. It has the effect of a bertha and gives the desired width at the shoulders.

How to Cure Neuralgia. A towel folded several times and dipped in hot water and quickly wrung and applied over the toothache or neuralgia will generally afford prompt relief. This treatment in colic works like magic. There is nothing that so promptly cuts short a congestion of the lungs, sore throat or rheumatism as hot water when applied promptly and thoroughly.

How to Reduce Your Weight. To reduce one's weight cut off one meal a day, breakfast preferable. Take a cup of clear coffee, sipping it slowly. Live largely on lean meat. Take plenty of exercise. Avoid sugars and starchy foods.

The new five dollar national banknotes bear the vignette of Benjamin Harrison and the new ten dollar notes that of William McKinley. To the acquisitive taste the latter are the more attractive.

There seems to be a prevailing disposition in Beer circles to cripple our infant milk industry.

TRY IT



Women suffering from female troubles and weakness, and from irregular or painful menses, ought not to lose hope if doctors cannot help them. Physicians are so busy with other diseases that they do not understand fully the peculiar ailments and the delicate organism of woman. What the sufferer ought to do is to give a fair trial to

BRADFIELD'S Female Regulator

which is the true cure provided by Nature for all female troubles. It is the formula of a physician of the highest standing, who devoted his whole life to the study of the distinct ailments peculiar to our mothers, wives and daughters. It is made of soothing, healing, strengthening herbs and vegetables, which have been provided by a kindly Nature to cure irregularity in the menses, Leucorrhoea, Falling of the Womb, Nervousness, Headache and Backache. In fairness to herself and to Bradfield's Female Regulator, every suffering woman ought to give it a trial. A large \$1 bottle will do a wonderful amount of good. Sold by druggists.

Send for a nicely illustrated free book on the subject. The Bradfield Regulator Co., Atlanta, Ga.

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W. D. POLLOCK, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, KINSTON, N. C.

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H. DUNN'S DRUG STORE KINSTON, N. C.

Stevenson Property! By order of court we will on the 28th day of April, 1900, offer for sale at the court house door in Kinston, N. C., at the hour of 12 o'clock noon, to the highest bidder for cash, all of that property situated on the north corner of Queen and Gordon streets in the town of Kinston, N. C., better known as the John H. Stevenson property.

Norfolk Oysters Received Daily AT J. T. SKINNER'S Restaurant, KINSTON, N. C.

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THE FREE PRESS has a large circulation among people you want to get trade from.

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I can save you 25 to 50 per cent. if you buy from me. Here are a few prices: Shoes from 50c up, Overalls at 80c per suit, Shirts that were \$1, now 75c, Shirts that were 50c, now 38c, Pants from 50c up, Pants Cloth worth 40c, now 25c, Corsets from 18c to 41c each, Hats that were \$1.50, now \$1.00. Men's Undershirts 20c and 25c. Every article at cost.

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