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SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 1915.

NOW FOR THE ACCESSORIES.

The jury in Mercer County having convicted Alphonse Fiorilli of murder in the first degree for killing his wife, attention should now be given to the half dozen men who were arrested as accessories to the murder, their crimes consisting in concealing Fiorilli after the murder had been committed and of assisting him in his attempt to escape.

For years the city and county authorities have been hampered in their efforts to arrest offenders by the interference of sympathetic friends and relatives. The law provides punishment for these accessories, and if the practice is to be stopped it must be through the enforcement of that law, and the present is a good time to begin.

Woman—last at the cross and first at the grave.—Barrett.

COUNTY TAX BOARDS.

Former Governor Fort has his short comings but he is not to be charged with the responsibility for the county boards of taxation that have cost the state about \$120,000 yearly for the past nine years. His administration received them as a legacy, and despite his efforts to have them abolished he was compelled to bequeath them to his successor.

Just as a memory-refresher for those who are attempting to unload the responsibility, these quotations are made from the Fort messages to the Legislature: In 1908—"The county boards of taxation, if they ever had a useful purpose, have now served that purpose and should be abolished." In 1909—"Their further continuance can only be justified upon the low and absolutely indefensible ground that places are provided for eighty-four persons to draw salaries from the public treasury which are not earned."

In recommending the repeal of the acts creating county tax boards and fixing a maximum tax rate, Governor Fort told the Legislature in his message in 1910: "The people of the state favor the abolition of the county boards of taxation. Their existence is without excuse and always has been. Their object and purpose was solely to secure an increase of taxable values so that the average tax rate on railway property might be reduced."

That proves an alibi for Governor Fort. The seven years that have passed since he first urged the repeal of the Acts law have served only to strengthen the reasons for their abolition. Their retention can only be "justified upon the low and absolutely indefensible ground that places are provided for eighty-four persons to draw salaries from the public treasury which are not earned."

That seems to be a good enough reason for the ten Democratic and one Republican Senator, who refused to even consent to a reduction in the cost of keeping them.

It is as easy to call back a stone thrown from the hand as to call back the word that is spoken.—Mendenhall.

ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS.

In the House on Thursday it was necessary to invoke the "fifteen rule" in order to compel the Judiciary Committee to report the Hennessy resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution dividing into Assembly districts all counties that elect more than one member. The proposed amendment had the almost unanimous approval of both branches of the Legislature, and undoubtedly is desired by a large majority of the voters of the state.

Evidently the Judiciary Committee believe it to be a popular change, as otherwise there could be no hesitation in reporting and again adopting it, giving to the people the opportunity to decide. And it should be passed. Both parties have repeatedly declared in their platforms in its favor; the Democrats last year, and the Republicans in 1912 and 1913, though the Republican platform adopted last year contains no reference to the subject.

The declaration in 1913 was: "We pledge ourselves to submit to the people for the election of Assemblymen by districts and the holding of state and municipal elections in alternate years." To now attempt by trickery to evade that pledge is a violation of faith that ought to be condemned. The proposed amendment contains the very essence of "home town" politics if adopted it will allow each branch of the large counties to

choose a representative from its own locality.

That there should be opposition to the amendment now on the part of the majority is no doubt due to the belief of some of the Republican leaders that they will fare better by keeping to the county plan of choosing members, which is probably true; but there is no good reason why the great Republican minority of 20,000 voters in Hudson, and the Democratic minorities of 25,000 in Essex and 7,500 in Passaic should not be represented in the popular branch of the Legislature.

Having succeeded in forcing the Hennessy resolution out of committee the people will be given an opportunity to find out which of their representatives are in favor of repudiating their pledges. The amendment should be readopted and referred to the people, along with the other proposed changes, at the special election to be held in September next.

The world is God's epistle to mankind. His thoughts are flashing from every direction.—Plato.

GRAFT IN FIRE HOSE.

A member of the Bayonne Common Council, who is chairman of the Fire Committee, sent to Mayor Daly \$400 in cash which had been paid to him as a commission or rebate on two thousand feet of fire hose recently purchased by the city; and in a letter he says that representatives of different fire hose concerns had offered him from twenty to thirty-five cents per foot commission, and one agent informed him that he had "never sold a foot of fire hose to a city without 'handing up cash' to the chairman of the Fire Committee."

That reads like a chapter out of Trenton's old book when grafting was under full headway; and the statement of the garrulous agent suggests that in a great many municipalities the practice of bribing Councilmen and purchasing agents still continues. Erbery it is, pure and simple, and is so regarded by the salesmen. In the Bayonne case \$200 was delivered in a cigar box, and \$200 more handed to the chairman after the agent had taken him into a private room.

The incident will explain the high prices charged to municipalities for fire hose, and how it comes about that certain manufacturers are always preferred is indicated by the range of from twenty to thirty-five cents per foot allowed in "commissions." Mayor Daly says "tremendous sums of money are actually stolen from property owners by the contracting grafters and their political allies."

Other municipalities will be put upon their guard by the revelations made at Bayonne, to which city this particular grafting practice is not confined.

What greater calamity can fall upon a nation than the loss of worship.—Carlyle.

TRENTON PROTECTED.

After considerable tinkering the Dalrymple repealer of the preferential voting law in commission-governed cities seems to have been ticked into shape so that it will not interfere with the elections in Trenton, New Brunswick and Bayonne for the purpose of helping a political faction in Passaic.

Preferential voting should be retained. Even if it has not resulted in the choice of officials by majorities, it has proved to be economical, saving several thousand dollars to every large city operating under the Walsh act, because it does away with the elimination primary, for which the election officers must be paid their per diem.

There is no certainty that the Senate will pass the Dalrymple bill, but the authorities in at least three cities will rest easier now that they know their affairs are not to be thrown into confusion by a sudden changing of the law on the eve of an election.

A BLACK GUARDSMAN.

Prejudice against the negro is by no means so strong in Europe as it is in this country. James Slim, a black man and a native of Jamaica, has just been enlisted as a private in the Coldstream Guard, the most famous and exclusive of England's crack regiments, and by special permission from Lord Kitchener.

Slim was in France when the German war broke out, and joined the French Foreign Legion. He was wounded in battle and sent to a hospital, where he expressed a desire to join Kitchener's new army. Word of this was sent to Lord Kitchener, who consented to his joining the Coldstream Guard, and the colored man is now training with the reserve battalion at Windsor.

SUSPICION JUSTIFIED.

The bill providing for women watchers at the polls when the vote on the equal suffrage amendment is taken was up in the Senate on Wednesday, and before it was passed Senator Read and others deprecated the distrust of the men that was shown by the women. Other Senators held to the same opinion, that the bill was a reflection on the men.

Suppose it was, is not the reflection justified? Two years ago the suffrage amendment was "lost" under circumstances that excited the suspicion of the suffragists, and the suspicion was revived when, a few weeks ago, their legislative committee was warned that there was danger that the amendment might fail because

somebody had changed the punctuation.

It is not long ago that a score of men were indicted for falsifying the returns of the primary election held in Hudson County last September; there was a recount of the vote in a part of the Sixth Congressional District because Dr. Prince believed that he had been defrauded by the male election officers, and even now a recount is being made by a House committee because a Republican thinks he was counted out of a seat in the House.

The women have a right to be suspicious, and to demand that they be given the opportunity to watch the balloting and the counting of the votes next September. They will need to watch closely to prevent themselves from being cheated in some of the voting districts.

AT THE SAME OLD STAND.

The proposition to abolish the county tax boards, defeated in the Senate yesterday by the vote of Senator White and the solid Democratic vote, disposes of one of the economy and efficiency features of the Republican platform and incidentally continues forty-four Democrats in office.—Newark Star.

The Sweet Singer

BY WALT MASON.

A flood of music rushes from robins and from thrushes, from nightingale and wren, high vocal triumphs—tackling—but I prefer the cackling of my Leghorn hen. All trills and warbles scorning, she cackles in the morning, and does it all by ear; and evermore her singing to me fresh joy is bringing—I know an egg is near. The nightingale and robin have voices sweet and "robbin", but that is all you get; while my old hen, whose carol emerges from a barrel, provides an omelet. My phonograph, on winding, good music will keep grinding, as sweet as that of wrens; it reproduces voices in which the world rejoices—but won't lay eggs like hens. My Leghorn hen is raising a song of humble phrasing, that Melba'd never dare; and shortly I will wander out to the stable yonder, and find some henfruit there. The skylark is a dinger, the robin, as a singer, high recognition begs; but by old Leghorn's trilling my breast with rapture's filling, because it means more eggs.

Who's Who in War

Aristide Briand, former Premier of France and now Minister of Justice in the Viviani war cabinet of the republic, will be 53 years old tomorrow, having been born at Nantes on March 28, 1862. He began his political career as a Socialist, was elected to the Chamber of Deputies in the Clemenceau cabinet he was Minister of Justice and Public Worship. In 1909 he became premier and as head of the French government acquired a world-wide reputation for statesmanship. As the leader in the movement for the separation of church and state he offended the Catholics, but he handled the difficult question with such tact that he was long ago forgiven. M. Briand has made several visits to the battle front, and asserts that his personal knowledge of affairs at the front has left the firm conviction that the Allies will prove brilliantly victorious. He is one of the ablest public speakers in France and has twice held the post of Premier, first in 1909 and again at the beginning of President Poincare's administration.

First Things

The first Japanese Ambassador to set foot on American soil reached San Francisco fifty-five years ago today, when a party of the leading American statesmen of Nippon, the United States to ratify the treaty made a few years before by Commodore Perry. It was this treaty which marked the beginning of the commercial and diplomatic relations of Japan with the outside world, and transformed the ancient Asiatic kingdom into a modern world-power. The embassy visited New York, Washington and other cities before returning to Japan. In 1862 a Japanese embassy visited England, France, Prussia, Holland and other European countries. In 1872 another embassy composed of distinguished Japanese visited Washington and London, and regular diplomatic relations were established. The treaty affected by Perry provided for the opening of certain ports to American ships, but only for effecting repairs and obtaining supplies. The treaty was the opening wedge for the subsequent agreements by which Japan was opened to free commerce with the world.

ABE MARTIN

The country is full o' money, but th' trouble is t' git it away from th' farmers. There seems t' be considerable fear in some quarters an' on some corners that wider skirts means th' return o' th' cotton stockin'.

What Is Business Afraid Of?

In his Philadelphia speech Elihu Root declared that "the men who control the Government today are the men who have been fighting the tariff and the trusts and the railroads so long that when they come to administer the Government they cannot rid themselves of an undying hostility to American enterprise."

Is this true, or is it mere assertion? So far as the tariff is concerned, the Democratic revision of 1913 was about what the Republican revision of 1908 was expected to be. It was not radical. It was not a more radical revision than the Republicans themselves had promised in the 1908 campaign. Nor did it indicate hostility to business, for the agricultural schedules were reduced in greater degree than the manufacturing schedules.

There was no hostility to business in this revision of the tariff unless every revision that reduces rates of duty must be interpreted as hostile to business.

As for the trusts, there has been no adverse legislation against them under the Wilson administration. The only legislation enacted was adopted at the request of the business interests themselves to clarify the law. There has been less trust prosecution than under the Taft Administration. There has been less political agitation against trusts and corporations since Mr. Wilson became President than at any time since the Sherman law was enacted in 1890.

As to railroads, all the restricted legislation now on the Federal statute books was adopted by Republican Congresses. The only important action affecting railroads which has been taken since Mr. Wilson became President was the granting of permission to increase their freight and passenger rates. The ruling of the Interstate Commerce Commission in this instance was favored not only by the Administration but by the American people as a whole.

As to finance, the only constructive measure enacted by the United States Government since the Civil War is the new Banking and Currency Law, under which the United States has been able to weather the financial storms of the most disastrous war in history without the shadow of a panic. Even Mr. Bryan, who led the free-silver crusade in 1896, used all his influence to put this great measure on the statute books.

Where is the hostility of which Mr. Root speaks? Where, for that matter, is there any general hostility toward business, such as that which raged during the Cleveland Administration and was erected into the form of a political religion under the Roosevelt Administration? Where is there a disposition in the States or in the Nation to harass or persecute legitimate business of any kind, big or little?

What, then, is business afraid of? We do not know and we cannot even surmise. Not in twenty years has it had so little to fear from Government. Not in twenty years has it known so clearly what was expected of it under the law. What more can it ask?

The great weakness of American business at this time is the great weakness of Mr. Root himself. It refuses to trust the people. Mr. Root retired from the Senate because, as it is generally believed, he was afraid to submit his candidacy to a popular vote; yet he would have been re-elected by an overwhelming majority. Business seems to be in much the same state of mind as Mr. Root, and for the same reason. It is afraid to trust the people because it is ignorant of popular opinion and suspicious of popular good faith.

That is madness. The Government of the United States is not hostile to business. The people of the United States are not hostile to business. If business cannot see these plain, unmistakable facts, then business is blind and ignorant and weak-witted.—New York World.

NORMAN HAPGOOD, FAMOUS AS EDITOR, WILL BE 47 TOMORROW

Norman Hapgood, editor of Harper's Weekly, will be forty-seven years old tomorrow, having been born in Chicago, March 28, 1868. He was educated at Harvard, and began his journalistic career as a dramatic critic on a New York paper in 1897.

In 1903 he was made editor of Collier's Weekly, and held that position for a decade, attaining an international reputation. Last year he assumed the editorial management of Harper's Weekly and has since been at the head of that old "journal of civilization."

ONE COUNTRY IN EUROPE WHERE PEOPLE DO NOT KNOW ABOUT WAR

Strange as it may seem, there is one European country so little affected by the war that the majority of its inhabitants have scarcely heard of the great struggle now being waged. This nation is the Republic of the Valleys of Andorra, in the Pyrenees between France and Spain. The population of this tiny country, most conservative people in the world, not even excepting the Chinese. They have no newspapers, and the terrible war in which their neighbors, France and England, are engaged has little interest for them. In Andorra-la-Ville, the capital, a few of the leading men may be interested in outside affairs, but for the most part the Andorrans live to and for themselves, wholly shut off from the great world which lies beyond the peaks of the Pyrenees. The centuries come and go in this quiet land without effecting any change in the laws, customs, clothing or manners of the people. An Andorrain of Charlemagne's day would feel quite at home among his countrymen of today. Tourists are almost unknown, and the few who come are quickly informed that cameras are prohibited.

The only entrance into "the valleys and sovereignities of Andorra" is by way of a mountain pass 7,500 feet above the level of the sea. The little republic is about thirty miles long by twenty miles in width, and has a population of about 10,000. The "unwritten law" prevails entirely in Andorra, as the republic has no written laws, and its history is verbal tradition which passes down from father to son. The council of parliament is the ruling power, and it is convened by the president whenever he considers that affairs of state demand it. Military service is compulsory upon one male in each family, and he has to do his soldiering at his own expense. Offsetting is not very lucrative in this republic, for only three officials in the entire country receive any salary, and these get but a few dollars a year.

The revenues of the republic are derived from a poll tax amounting to five cents a year on each and every inhabitant, and from the government lands, and licenses from liquor dealers. There are no public schools in Andorra, and the only instruction the majority of the people receive is from the village priests and nuns, who hold classes in reading, writing and the doctrines of the church. Reading and writing receive little attention, however, being considered unnecessary accomplishments, and very few Andorrans can either read or write. For all that, they are a happy people, living a communal sort of life in a country where the extremes of poverty and of wealth are alike unknown.

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profit in that small sums are charged for pasturage and for the cutting of timber. There are no public schools in Andorra, and the only instruction the majority of the people receive is from the village priests and nuns, who hold classes in reading, writing and the doctrines of the church. Reading and writing receive little attention, however, being considered unnecessary accomplishments, and very few Andorrans can either read or write. For all that, they are a happy people, living a communal sort of life in a country where the extremes of poverty and of wealth are alike unknown.

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