

The Washington Times

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THE LAST ARGUMENT.

Mr. Henry Lane Wilson, lately minister from the United States to Mexico, is out in a statement that it would be all wrong for this country to take down the bars which now prevent importation of arms by the Mexican constitutionalists.

THE PRESIDENT AND TAMMANY.

Perhaps President Wilson waited till two days after the election to send his telegram of congratulations to John Purroy Mitchel in order to give emphasis to it.

The President was for Mitchel and against Tammany all the way. He knows Tammany; he knows how desperately it opposed him for the nomination last year.

HONORARY DEGREE FOR SOTHERN.

England is ahead of us in honoring its actors, perhaps for the reason that in the bestowal of titles she has a convenient means of recognizing the deserts of those who exemplify the best traditions of the stage.

George Washington University, it is well merited. Apart from his studies, Sothern has stood year after year for the interpretation of the classic in stage art in accordance with its best traditions.

A LEGISLATIVE PARALLEL.

Close observers of the currency situation in Congress cannot fail to perceive the remarkable parallel between this situation and the one of 1910 when the Taft Administration attempted to force enactment of a comprehensive program of railroad legislation.

At that time the commerce court bill, carrying many amendments to the interstate commerce law, was framed in White House conferences.

The bill passed the House, changed in some respects, but still the Administration bill. It went to the Senate.

What happened? The Senate, which in recent years has been the real progressive body of Congress, tore it to pieces, reconstructed it, eliminated weak and vicious provisions, and made out of it a great, progressive, constructive piece of legislation.

Note this year's parallel. A currency bill is framed in secret White House conferences, in secret caucuses of the Democratic members of the House Banking and Currency Committee, and in secret caucuses of the Democratic membership of the House.

The bill is then sent to the Senate and to the Senate Banking and Currency Committee. The word has gone out that the bill is a great measure for the public benefit, a measure to rescue the people from the "money trust," and that all who oppose it will wear the brand "reactionary."

The Senate Banking and Currency Committee takes the bill, which admittedly proposes a regional system of bankers' banks, to be owned by the banks, so far as the regional institutions themselves are concerned, not controlled by the public, and amends it so as to make it much more radical and progressive. The committee declares for public ownership instead of bank ownership, for public control of the regional banks instead of bank control, and is even showing a tendency to make the proposed system

something other than a bankers' banking system, and inject into it an element of competition between it and the banks.

The Administration is thus put in the attitude, if it persists in obstinately fighting such amendments as are being made by the Senate committee, of insisting on a bill which, compared to the reconstructed measure, is inadequate.

The question is, will the parallel continue? Will the Senate go forward and in the end pass a great, constructive piece of currency legislation which will be abreast of the progressive thought of the times? Or will narrow partisanship and pride of opinion have its way and a bill be enacted which will be a disappointment to the country and which will be no sooner passed than it will demand overhauling?

STREET CAR CONGESTION.

It is one of the anomalies of Washington's haphazard development of public utilities, that, although there is no possible excuse for congestion of traffic, we have it at some points in an aggravated form. There is no such density of population as to justify it.

The executive committee of the Citizen's Conference has called attention anew to these bad conditions. Exactly who or what the Citizens' Conference represents we don't know; but if there were a Tooley street in Washington boasting of three tailor shops, its sartorial convention would have as much right to proclaim in behalf of "the people of Washington" as anybody else has.

The conference wants the congestion of car tracks and cars in the region bounded by Fourteenth, Fifteenth, G, and H streets, to be relieved in some effective manner. The underlying trouble about relieving it, as people familiar with the traction problem will not overlook, is that there are two street car systems in the town. Broadly, they must parallel each other in order to get where the centers of business are.

Those things would all be possible if there were substantial unification of street-car interests. It would be brought about either by the enforcement of a universal transfer system, with an incidental simplification and increased efficiency of the trackage plans, or by an actual consolidation of the street car systems.

It is all wrong for the F street and the Pennsylvania avenue lines to be competitors of each other; they ought to be the complements of each other. That is true in many other places.

These are big and fundamental aspects of the street car situation in Washington. Universal transfers will help, but it will give its full measure of improvement only if it is supplemented by a generous rearrangement of tracks and routes, such as is necessary to provide the town with one system working for the town, not with two systems fighting each other for the town's business.

A WOMAN WHO DARED.

When a street car conductor, his mind filled with thoughts of his best girl or of the man who tried to get off the car backward at the last corner, misses a passenger in his round of collecting fares, the grief of the passenger is usually not acute. He is apt to develop suddenly what is sometimes called a convenient memory and do a little forgetting himself.

Who can doubt that the world is growing better when we read of this luminous example? We do not know whether the community of Middletown is in the habit of honoring worth by public recognition, but if it is so disposed it should not withhold a statue from a woman whose deed even Joan of Arc, if she lived in these times, might not have the heroism to perform.

THIS & THAT

With Sometimes a Little of the Other

TO THE STATUES IN WASHINGTON PARKS.

"Poems to statues seldom are of serious importance."—The Literary Digest.

All well enough a verse to a cigar, A lyric done to Agnes or to Hortense,

But poems writ to statues "seldom are Of serious importance."

No, no, check that appreciative shout; That pleasantries, believe me, is not my jest;

But carefully and frankly copied out "The Literary Digest."

"Of serious importance?" Maybe not. But listen, each and every loyal statue:

Whatever say the "Digest," I have got To hurl this poem at you.

To me, sooth, its importance is immense; To me it is a poem of great achievement;

To me, to tell the truth, it represents A very ancient grievance.

"Of serious importance?" Prithce mark These lines, and fade away into the distance;

Because my grievance, statue in the park, Is—well, it's your existence.

'Tis this that makes me run around and tear My locks out by the bushful, confound you!

That ev'ry time I want to get somewhere, I have to walk around you!

London "Graphic," which gives us a pain, says that the result in New York

"is a manifestation of the nation's approval of President Wilson's spirited Mexican policy, which Huerta would do well to take to heart." The miles between New York and London, when recently measured, still were well over 3,000.

"You must not," spoke the Hon. James Bryce, at a London dinner, "take too seriously the lurid pictures of American life drawn in some organs of the European press." You must not.

Free? It Isn't Worth It.

G. S. K.: You may have this suggestion free: why not emulate Helen Rowland by having your photo printed at the head of the column?

C. E. C.

It were doubtless considerable to count on, but some day the Treasury authorities may cause the columns of their building to be cleaned all the way up, instead of 2 per cent of the way. No column of ours could be run thus.

Sensitive souls, some voters. John M. Schell, who favored "a core of prominent officials," was defeated for mayor of New Philadelphia, Ohio.

That's Nice.

(From the "Herald.") (From the "Post.") Gift for Marriage Gift to Miss Wil- of Miss Wilson son Not Yet Picked. Chosen.

"Can you picture the surprise that will be inscribed on the countenance of Miss Jessie Wilson when she receives the House's gift?"

If your caption-pronouncer isn't working today you might lumber it up on at Laurin, which is headline for Mc-Laurin.

Haply He's Subsidized.

Sir: Artist Clarence Underwood, for some reason, always sketches silk stockings, or hose, as the case may be, on ALL of his characters, whatever their life station. Just thought I'd tell you.

LAURA E. S.

Mr. Underwood, then, is invited to meet Miss Elsa Ryan, "Peg of My Heart." Miss Ryan's first entrance is as a penniless relative, shabbily attired, but her stockings are the silkiest silk.

Do You Believe in Fairies?

III.

(From the New York "Mail.")

When Klaw & Erlanger produce the new McLeelan-Caryll musical comedy at the New Amsterdam Monday the curtain will rise at 8:30 and no one will be seated thereafter until the end of the first act.

"Don't," says Ted Robinson, Cleveland pianodealer, "ask a column conductor how he manages to fill up the same amount of space and come out even every day." Don't ask this one, at any rate. Because he doesn't know.

No; Nineteen.

G. S. K.: If anybody ought to buy W. F. McCombs a wedding present it is you. Hasn't he furnished you material for about 17 columns so far?

D. F.

No one to commiserate or be sorry for, 'en though he be deposed as head of Tammany, is a man of the all-around ability of Charles F. Murphy.

Rare is the paper that does not borrow A book slept—"The Panama Canal."

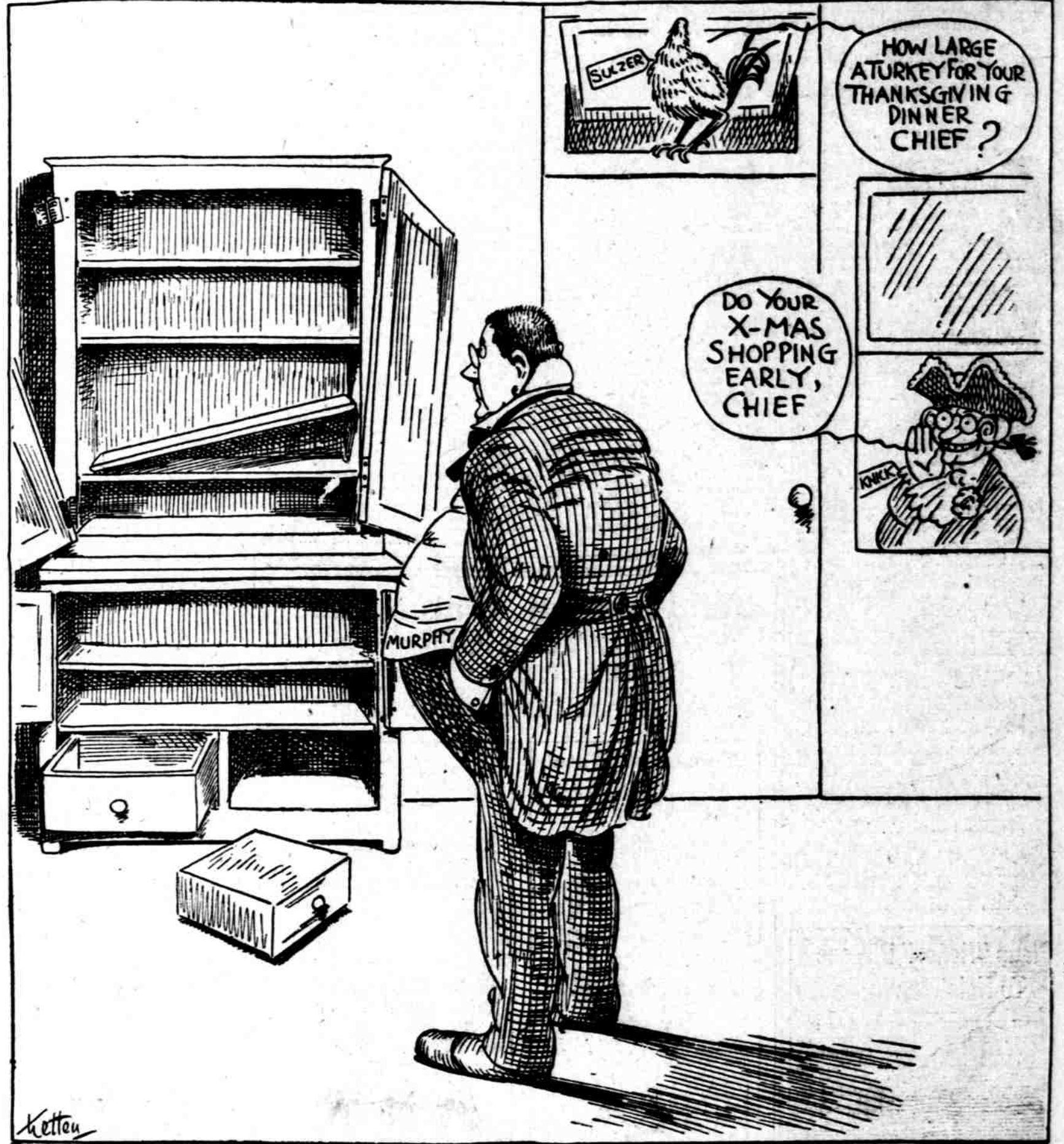
Add Futurists: The express rate out.

The International Boxing Union has declared vacant the world's heavy-weight boxing championship.

We felt certain you would be:

G. S. K.

The Tammany Cupboard By Maurice Ketten



Some Anecdotes of Old-Time Actors

By EDW. LEROY RICE.

Hope Deferred.

I HAVE been requested to tell of the occasion when "Theodora" played an engagement at one of the Stetson theaters. "A well-known society lady was the star, and business was not quite up to the Stetson standard. On such occasions this anecdote was not known as the world's most engaging conversationalist."

When Booth Was Bad.

Edwin Booth was a great actor. That is universally conceded. Mr. Booth however, never gained any laurels as a mimic, if we are to believe a story told of him many years ago in the West.

What Wesner Wanted.

Ella Wesner was the greatest male-impersonator the stage has ever known. She was the real man of real life.

Hits From Sharp Wits.

By the several commercial varieties of eggs one called "rot" by" has been added. Presumably it ranks in quality between "fresh" and "strictly fresh."

LITTLE CAUSES OF BIG WARS

By ALBERT PAYSON TERHUNE

No. 8—A Moment of Ill Temper That Led to the Conquest of Ireland.

AN English King—who, it is said, could not speak English—lost his temper one day in December, 1170, and said a number of things he did not mean. It was a way he had. And usually his fits of rage did no more lasting harm than do the lashings of a cranky kennel-man's dog whip.

The Man Who Braved a King.

In Henry's court was a gallant soldier and deep thinker. Thomas a Becket by name. He had fought in England's wars, and he had guided England's finances. Henry, to gain for himself more influence over the church, made him Archbishop of Canterbury; thus, according to a jester of the period, "turning a layman into a priest and a soldier into a saint."

The Invasion of Ireland.

Then an idea occurred to him whereby he could not only get temporarily out of reach of the Pope's censures, but give England other things to talk about than its King's crimes. He declared war on Ireland.

Good Stories

A Coming Business Man.

"M A." exclaimed young eddy, bursting into the house. "Mrs. Johnson said she would give me a penny if I told her what you said about her."

Her Age.

THE maiden lady of uncertain age became very indignant when the census taker asked her age.

What's on the Program in Washington Today

Meetings, evening: Masonic—Columbia Lodge, No. 2, and Lebanon, No. 7; Hiram Chapter, No. 19; Royal Arch; Columbia Commandery, No. 2; Knights Templar; Martha Chapter, No. 4, Order of the Eastern Star.