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POLITICS OF THE DAY

Good Democratic Doctrine.
The steady but rapid spread of the referendum principle forebodes evil to the party of protection and plunder and good, and nothing but good to the party which stands for "equal rights to all and special privileges to none," and which believes in, and is not afraid to trust, the common people. Missouri is the fifth State to vote on the adoption of this system. The vote will be taken at the next general election. The other four States that have adopted it are South Dakota, in 1898; Utah, in 1900; Oregon and Illinois in 1902.

By this system of direct legislation the people are really getting back that control over legislation with which they never should have parted, and which they never "intentionally" gave up. By it they are simply reasserting the power of the majority to rule and the right of the people to veto legislation which does not suit them and to initiate, if their representatives fail to do so, measures which they wish to become laws.

It would be absurd for the people to give their representatives supreme control over legislation as it would be for a man to give his lawyer an irrevocable power of attorney to do as he pleased with the client's property. Every representative should have, and in theory has, a string to him which, when he becomes a misrepresentative, his constituents can pull. The optional referendum is such a string.

It is the system of optional referendum and initiative which is now finding favor in many cities and States. Under it, if a certain percentage (5 or 10), of the voters ask that certain important measures be voted upon, a vote must be taken. If the chosen representatives of the people are faithful, no vote will be necessary, and the referendum law makes no trouble or expense to the State. It should not, however, be assumed that it is ever inoperative or ineffective. Experience in this and other countries proves that it is wonderfully effective, even when it exists only potentially. Legislators are not likely to pass bad laws when the people have the power to veto them. In fact, legislators will not be bribed to pass bad laws which always confer special privileges upon somebody or some corporation—when the people hold this veto power. On this point Governor Charles N. Herrell of South Dakota says:

"Since this referendum law has been a part of our constitution we have had no charter-mongers or railway speculators, no wild-cat schemes submitted to our legislature. Formerly our time was occupied by speculative schemes of one kind or another, but since the referendum has been a part of the constitution, these people do not press their schemes on the legislature, and hence there is no necessity for having recourse to the referendum."

It was the Democrats, aided by the Populists, who inaugurated this most excellent system in South Dakota and Utah. It is a Democratic system, and the Democratic party everywhere should make this plank in its last national platform mean as much as possible. If it stays close to the people they will yet come close to it. They cannot be fooled all of the time. The referendum is the deadly enemy of the trusts and monopolies; it is an anti-trust weapon in the hands of the people. It will do away with corruption and stop booting and bribery. It will greatly improve our representative system of government and, incidentally, will result in putting more honorable men in office. It will make big campaign funds unnecessary and all but impossible, and will give a poor man a chance to seek and obtain political preferment. It will, in short, take away the power of the monopolists and corruptionists and return it to the sovereign people.—Byron W. Holt.

Tariff Revision Urged.
The National Association of Manufacturers have been holding a convention, and amongst the resolutions reported for consideration was one "urging tariff revision on general lines." Last year at their convention at Detroit a similar resolution was adopted, but the Republican Congress paid no attention to such demands. Manufacturers have discovered that the tariff tax pinches them as well as the consumers and by advancing the cost of living forces increased wages. They have also discovered that the tariff fosters trusts and that the trusts obliterate competition and advance prices, thus still more increasing the cost of living and wages. The manufacturers of farm machinery are paying enormous prices for their lumber and iron, both highly protected, and this comes out of the farmers in increased cost of farm machinery.

The boot and shoe manufacturers find that the duty on hides makes dear boots. The paper manufacturers complain that the duty on wood pulp increases the cost of paper, and the list might be continued to include all kinds of raw material. Most of these manufacturers have felt the pinch of the increased duties demanded by foreign countries on goods they sell for export; for all the European countries except England are trying in this way to keep out our goods as our protective tariff keeps out most of theirs. There

is where the farmer is again interested, for most of these countries are increasing their duties on American agricultural products to protect their own agriculturalists. If Europe should have good crops—which has not been the case for three or four years and this country should be fortunate in having another favorable season—the price of some farm products will drop to those of ten years since, and our farmers will have a hard time to make both ends meet again.

When Europe has short crops they are compelled to buy of us, or of other countries who raise a surplus, but they purchase these necessities where they can buy them cheapest, tariff or no tariff.

In the end the farmers and the workman pay the tariff tax and the latter gets but a small advantage by the increase of wages for his living expenses are advanced in proportion. The farmer who has to sell in competition with the whole world bears the greatest burden, for he also has to pay more for what he buys and has no protection on what he sells.

With the manufacturers demanding revision of the tariff to suit them, it should not be difficult for the people who pay the greater portion of the taxes it imposes from enlarging the revision to relieve them of the greater burden.

Political Potpourri.
It is said that the War Department is still feeding the troops in the Philippines on embalmed beef, though Gen. Miles recommends that beef on the hoof be supplied, but there would be no profit for the beef trust in that way of doing it.

Postmaster General Payne certainly has a tough lot of employees around him, if the numerous charges made against them are any ways near true, yet only one has so far been called to account.

Alaska is the latest scene of peculations by army officers and Secretary Root has been obliged to order court-martial proceedings, but perhaps the matter will be hushed up as the smuggling cases were in Porto Rico.

Favorite sons are springing up in several States to compete with Teddy for the presidential nomination. Senator Elkins is the last one to be groomed and will, it is said, open a big barrel for the occasion. What a good time those Southern delegates will have next year.

The Railroad Merger Company does not so much care what the courts decide, if it is only allowed to continue the exorbitant freight and passenger rates and thus pay big dividends.

The Union Veterans' Union are not satisfied with a treatment the old soldiers are receiving at the hands of the last Congress and Commander Pettys is so excited about it that he says: "Every bill introduced favorable to veterans was killed in one house or the other, and we find a great majority of those who have worked and voted in favor of the veterans were representatives of the Democratic party." Hoop it up, Brother Pettys, and tell the truth, whoever it hurts.

If President Roosevelt would investigate the civil service as closely as he has the wild animals in the Yellowstone Park, he will find that some of his appointees to office are tougher subjects than bears or mountain lions and require similar treatment. Turn the rascals out.

Senator Hanna is trying to snuggle up close to organized labor and is giving them lots of taffy these days, but then Brother Hanna is up for a reelection for United States Senator and is a prospective candidate for President and the laboring men have lots of votes.

The pious Baer takes the ground that he controls a monopoly of the anthracite coal fields through his ancient character from the State of Pennsylvania and that no law can be invoked to prevent the coal trust from charging the public whatever Brother Baer and his associates may demand.

It is hardly likely that any of the big fish will suffer by the stirring up of the mud in the Postoffice Department; some of the small fry will be caught in the net and exhibited to the public to show the skill of the administration.

Publicity is one of the strong cards of President Roosevelt, though so far he has not told an anxious country how to make the trusts let up in their depredations on the public purse, though he is talking every day on the subject. His cabinet officers, however, seem to shrink from publishing the facts about the scandals in their departments, especially Secretaries Payne and Root. When the President can spare time enough to look into the scandals perhaps he may take the people into his confidence and reorganize these rotten departments.

Tariff Reform by Its Friends.
The plan for letting the tariff be reformed by its "friends," which means by the beneficiaries of governmental co-partnership and special privilege—is about as reasonable as it would be to appoint a committee of foxes to devise plans or the relief and greater security of the geese.—Albany Argus.

Teodor Machuow, a Russian, is 8 feet 8 inches tall, and is still growing.

PRIEST SET FREE.
Coroner's Jury Acquits Him of Murder of Miss Reichlin.
Rev. Ferdinand Walsch, who was arrested in connection with the murder of Agatha Reichlin at Lorain, Ohio, was discharged from custody after a coroner's inquest had determined that "Agatha Reichlin came to her death from wounds inflicted by a stone in the hands of a person unknown."

Immediately after being released Father Walsch was congratulated by the large crowd that had assembled in the Mayor's office during the hearing. Father Reichlin, the brother of the murdered girl, was the first to shake hands with the man whom he has defended staunchly since the arrest.

The inquest, which was held at Elyria before Coroner French, developed testimony in support of the theory that a burglar or some other desperate man committed the crime. Captain Ketchum



MISS AGATHA REICHLIN.

of the police force testified that the bloodhounds used to trail the murderer did not pay any more attention to Father Walsch's bed than they did to other beds in the house.

FORCE NEGRO TO QUIT.

Rural Mail Carrier Near Gallatin, Tenn., Threatened with Death.

The Postoffice Department is facing another case similar to that in Indianola, Miss. John C. Allgood, a colored rural free delivery letter carrier, whose route is near Gallatin, Tenn., has been warned by armed and masked men to resign his position immediately, under pain of death. The same threat was made to the substitute carrier, who is also colored. Pending settlement of the case the government will suspend service on the route. Postmaster Swaney of Gallatin and W. E. Conger, special agent in charge of the rural free delivery service, state that the carrier was stopped on his route and ordered to resign, but to assign some other reason for his action and not to mention the threats of death. Postmaster General Payne has ordered Agent Conger to make a full investigation of the affair, and meanwhile to suspend service on the route.

The Gallatin route was opened March 1. Five men applied for the civil service examination, and the three highest were negroes, Allen F. Dillard having the best markings and getting the appointment. About three weeks ago he resigned, and Allgood, the next man on the list, was appointed.

This case is regarded as more serious than the Indianola affair, because it involves the serious crime of holding up the mails and precipitates anew the race problem in the South.

JURY CONVICTS AMES.

Ex-Mayor of Minneapolis Is Found Guilty of Accepting Bribe.

Dr. Albert Ames, four times Mayor of Minneapolis and central figure in the system of "graft" that held sway in that city during 1901 and 1902, was found guilty of accepting a bribe of \$800.

The former Mayor rests under eight other indictments involving bribery and conspiracy and decisions have yet to be rendered in other cases now pending.

Four of Dr. Ames' satellites have been convicted. Two former detectives, "Norm" King and C. C. Norbeck, are serving sentences in the State penitentiary. Dr. Ames' brother, former Chief of Police Fred W. Ames, is awaiting the action of the Supreme Court upon his appeal from the sentence of six and a half years in the penitentiary. Irvin A. Gardner, formerly a special policeman, the man who is said to have managed the "graft" under the direct orders of the Mayor, has been granted a new trial by the Supreme Court. He was sentenced to six and a half years in prison.

Former Detective C. L. Brackett, who fled before his case was called for trial, is believed to be in Manila. Other members of the police force who were closely identified with the game of "graft" are fugitives from justice. Indictments have been found against them and they probably will be brought to Minneapolis to stand trial.



"That's my visitin' card."—Philadelphia Record.

Thomas M. Likins and G. D. Wilkerson, of Lawrenceburg, Mo., undertook to get on First 33, a west-bound freight at the grade, one mile east of Olivet, Kan. Likins fell under the train and had both feet crushed. He is a single man, aged 28. Both limbs were amputated between the knee and ankle.

Deputy Sheriff John Johnson was shot from ambush in the mountains near Middleboro, Ky., by unknown parties. The guilty persons are believed to be relatives of a gang of mountaineers who had been arrested.

WASHINGTON GOSSIP

Some time ago an investigation showed that there were 2,393 colored persons in the various executive departments in Washington who enjoyed an annual compensation of \$1,370,623.08. Certain offices of prominence under the government like the registrar of the treasury, recorder of deeds, ministers to Hayti and Liberia and others drawing good salaries have been occupied by colored men almost continuously since the emancipation. The policy of all of the Presidents from Grant's time has been to appoint colored men to postoffices in the villages throughout the South, where most of the patrons of the office are colored. It has also been customary to recognize the negro leaders by giving them prominent offices in Southern cities. A recent enumeration shows that Mr. Cleveland appointed four negroes to prominent offices, Harrison eight, McKinley fifty-two and Roosevelt fifteen, eight of whom were reappointments to the same offices held under McKinley.

There is to be an investigation of the Chicago postoffice and of all first-class offices the annual receipts of which exceed \$500,000. Announcement of this far-reaching extension of the postal inquiry was made by Postmaster General Payne. "After an extended conference last year with Representative Loud we came to a conclusion that a general examination of the larger offices should be made," said Mr. Payne. "We thought it well to look especially into the matter of the purchases of supplies. The miscellaneous fund was increased in the last appropriation bill from \$1,000 to \$6,000 to facilitate this examination, and it will be made entirely independent of the present investigation of departmental affairs. The investigation of the city postoffices will proceed without regard to the findings of the present investigation, but just how the examination will be made at the different cities has not been determined."

Architects throughout the country are to be given an opportunity to compete under the Tarsney act in furnishing designs for the smaller government buildings. At present the competition is restricted to the large edifices, but the supervising architect for the treasury has decided to relieve his bureau of much routine work and to secure a variety of designs by inviting architects to furnish plans in competition for all public buildings. A large number of structures are to be erected by the Treasury Department, and the supervising architect, when he is ready for designs for the different buildings, will send invitations to a number of architects, most of them in the immediate neighborhood where the building is to be put up, asking them to compete.

An automobile lawn mower, driven by electricity, is now used to cut the grass on the Capitol Park. Until this season about thirty men have been employed with small hand mowers, scythes and sickles, but the automobile machine can do the same amount of work in the same time and makes a great deal better lawn. The machine looks like an ordinary street roller, having a swath of about six feet. There are seats for two men in front, one of whom handles the motor and the other regulates the revolving blades, which are in sets, so that a portion can be lifted from the ground when an obstacle is reached. This is said to be the only machine of the kind in the country.

All Chinese arriving in Canada with the United States as their destination will be transported by the Canadian railroads, under an important arrangement just entered into with the Treasury Department, to one of four detention camps, which will be established by the immigration bureau, that at Malone, N. Y., being the most important. To further prevent smuggling of Chinese, the immigration bureau has purchased ten Bertillon outfits, such as the police now use, by which a complete record will be kept of all Chinese coming into the country. These outfits will be distributed among the several ports of entry.

Gen. Miles, in a report of his recent inspection of the army in the Philippines, has renewed the recommendation he made at the time of the embalmed beef scandal, that instead of using refrigerated beef the army should be supplied with beef on the hoof. He has also criticized the employment of soldiers in labor on roads in Mindanao to an extent that has prompted Major Gen. Davis to send a letter to the War Department stating that the work was necessary to the military service.

Messrs. Hanna, Jenkins and Conant, compose the commission which will represent the United States at the International Monetary Commission in London. After a stay in London the commission will visit Berlin, Paris, St. Petersburg and The Hague, where conferences will be held with the officials who have to do with the colonial possessions of the several governments. The commission hopes to be able to return to the United States not later than Oct. 1.

Application of the Monroe doctrine to the Chinese situation is urged by Civil Service Commissioner Proctor, who has been giving the question study. He believes that this government must assume its responsibility as a world power and preserve its markets for surplus products by declaring in the strongest diplomatic language that any attempt by European nations to dismember the Chinese empire is dangerous to our peace and safety, and as such an unfriendly act.

The men in Uncle Sam's navy have vigorous appetites. The estimates for supplies for the ensuing year include nearly 4,000,000 pounds of meat. Among the interesting items are 220,000 pounds of frankfurters and 141,000 pounds of sauerkraut. Beef holds pre-eminence, 1,500,000 pounds being required. This is the stuff of which heroes are made, though when war comes they may be called upon to exist on salt horse.

Twenty-two persons were frozen to death in recent storms in Silesia.

INDIANA INCIDENTS.

RECORD OF EVENTS OF THE PAST WEEK.

Bankruptcy Proceedings Against Owners of Bank—Costly Fire at Sulphur Springs—Preacher's Invention May Bring Him \$1,000,000.

Creditors of the Dekalb Bank of Waterloo have filed suit against Elizabeth McClellan, former Mayor Don A. Garwood, Charles McClellan, Isaac Hagne and Giles T. Abbey to throw them into bankruptcy. The first four are owners of the McClellan Bank, of which the Dekalb Bank is a branch. Mr. Abbey is cashier of the Dekalb Bank. Creditors have employed attorneys to push the charge of attempt to defraud creditors out of \$125,000. The Auburn bank had \$61,000 deposited and the Waterloo bank \$90,000 deposits with \$127,000 overdrafts in the hands of the McClellan family.

Bucket Brigade Checks Fire.
Fire springs wiped out the town of Sulphur Springs, a number of stores being damaged. A bucket line, in which nearly every man, woman and child in the town assisted, saved the rest of the business center. The damage was as follows: Thompson's business block, \$2,000; Thompson's general store and stock, \$6,000; Isaac Cory's residence, \$2,400; Cory's business block, \$800; Charles Fately's stock of merchandise, \$2,000; Fately's millinery stock, \$400; Masonic Lodge paraphernalia, \$700; E. M. Berry, general stock, \$100.

Invention Worth \$1,000,000.
Rev. James Stafford, pastor of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church at Hazleton, several months ago perfected a stopper to make bottles non-refillable, and secured letters patent on his device. It is said that a distiller of Lexington, Ky., has offered him \$1,000,000 for his invention, conditioned that it is a success. It is said the stopper is a very simple device, and that it does all that is claimed, making the bottle non-refillable.

Two Youths Were Killed.
The bodies of Emmet Gwin, 18 years old, and Albert Green, 19, both of Cochran, were found alongside the B. & O. Northwestern Railway at Aurora. It is supposed that they were accidentally killed by a passing freight train.

Mother and Daughter Die From Burns.
Mrs. Alfred Long and daughter Fanny, aged 3 years, died at Frankfort from burns received by a lamp setting fire to the bed clothing. Clarence, 3 years old, was seriously burned.

State Items of Interest.
Clinton Lane of Atlanta was killed, near Columbus, by a log rolling on him. Milton Shirk, multimillionaire banker and brother of Elbert Shirk of Chicago, was stricken with paralysis at Peru.

The State convention of Modern Woodmen defeated the proposed increase in insurance rates as it applies to Indiana.

Ground was broken at French Lick for a two-story building to cost \$5,000 for a new State bank to be capitalized at \$30,000.

George W. Beck, a prominent Valparaiso resident, filed suit for divorce from Mary Beck. Beck is 85 and his wife 75. Cruel treatment is charged.

Henry T. Kuhlmeier, Adams Express agent at Vincennes, was arrested, charged with embezzlement. He is alleged to have taken \$2,122. He has a wife and five children.

Rev. Dr. Charles E. Bacon of Indianapolis received notification from Rev. E. H. Hughes of Malden, Mass., that the latter had accepted the presidency of De Pauw University.

While on their way to church at Weisbach chapel, three miles east of Shoals, Ora Melvin and Edward Ritchison, farmers boys, quarreled and Ritchison fatally cut Melvin with a knife.

One of the best known hotels in the West during the early canal days, known as the Lagro Hotel, is now without a tenant, and may be torn away. It is the first time it has been untenanted in fifty years.

The bodies of two young men were found in the Cochran yards of the Baltimore and Ohio Southwestern Railroad by the section hands. They were identified as Albert Green, 19, son of Engineer James Green, and Emmet Gwyn, 20.

A warrant has been issued against Edward S. Bingham of Montgomery for attempting to blackmail George B. Brown and the citizens of Montgomery, in writing them threatening letters, saying that unless the citizens and Brown placed \$2,500 in a given place the author would destroy the town with fire and dynamite. Mr. Bingham is a prominent young man and clerk in a store owned by his mother.

The Appellate Court of Indiana has decided that cooking oil is bad for the neighborhood, thus affirming a decision by the lower court. Campbell Bros., merchants, brought suit for an injunction against James Shoyer of New Castle and an order was issued by the Circuit Court forbidding the cooking of the oil, and from this Shoyer appealed. The question was then carried to the Appellate Court.

William Patterson, a member of one of the prominent and wealthy families of Muncie, and a brother-in-law of George F. McCulloch, president of the Union Traction Company, was shot and fatally wounded on a recent night. The tragedy is shrouded in mystery. One story is that Patterson was shot about 3 o'clock in his own home. One bullet passed through his stomach and the other through the groin. Still another story is that he was shot while on the street at an early hour. The most generally accepted report is that the shots were fired while he was in his own room, but by whom is not known.

John Schwantz, journeyman cooper, 50 years old, committed suicide in the Vandavia Railway yards at Terre Haute, by laying his head across a rail and waiting for a passing train, which decapitated him. Schwantz had accumulated \$5,000 in realty and had a bank balance.

William Lemon, a farmer, near Fulton, has been missing from his home for several days. A short time before he left home, he devised his two farms to members of his family. It was thought that he had gone to relatives in Kansas, but inquiry shows that he has not reached there.