

The Richmond Palladium
and Sun-Telegram
Published and owned by the
PALLADIUM PRINTING CO.

Entered 7 days each week, evenings and
Sunday morning.
Office—Corner North 9th and A streets
Home Phone 1121.

RICHMOND, INDIANA.

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Entered at Richmond, Indiana, post office as second class mail matter.

The Association of American Advertisers (New York City) has examined and certified to the circulation of this publication. Only the figures of circulation contained in its report are guaranteed by the Association.

100,000
Subscribers

Items Gathered in From Far and Near

The Homicide Sport.

From the Jacksonville Times Union. The old practice of dueling in German universities was a harmless amusement compared with foot ball as it is played today, and a great many people are now asking the question: Are the colleges and universities of the land countenancing murder?

If they are, the state should not do it. The game should be stopped until those who play it eliminate homicide from it. There is nothing gained by way of compensation for the weekly toll of victims unless the enjoyment of those who wish to engage in brutal sport and of the crowds that wish to witness it are considered a gain.

At any rate, if we can't stop the homicide of football, we can quit talking about the brutalizing effects of bull fights, unless we value the life of a Mexican bull higher than that of an American college boy.

George Washington Memorial.
From the Springfield Union.

The project to erect a George Washington memorial building in the National Capital has the backing of numerous national organizations and men of note, and an attempt will be made to raise \$2,500,000 for the purpose before February 22 next. It is designed that the building shall be used as an auditorium and headquarters for all educational, literary, patriotic and scientific organizations of national extent. The dimes and dollars of the people will be solicited in every part of the country. Whether the honor paid to the Father of his Country would be enhanced by the provision of such a building may be questioned, but it is quite likely that the idea will hit the favor of the public and be the means of adding another beautiful building to the number that already adorn Washington.

Epithets.

From Columbus, Ohio, State Journal. Two men were talking together. One said of a third person, "He's a dirty dog." It is quite common for people to speak in this epithetical way of others and to ascribe to them some low qualities that usually fit animals, scoundrels or devils. It is a very poor habit and reflects more upon the men who are guilty of the habit than upon those against whom the bad names are directed.

If one would go to the bottom of this habit and see what it really means he would, for his own sake, endeavor to extricate himself from it. He would easily see that it was an expression of prejudice, spite, ill will, hatred, and not of candor, good will or justice. It must not be implied from this that a man must not hold a bad opinion of another. It simply means, if there is room for a good opinion, take that, and if there is not disparage and denounce the offense which calling a man names does not do.

TWINKLES

(By Philander Johnson.)

Destination.
"So Bligging is going to take a trip in his own airplane?"

"Yes," answered the man who is habitually dolorous.

"Do you know where he will land?"

"No. I fear that depends more or less on the kind of a life he has led on this earth."

Limited Thankfulness.
Your gratitude men will remember. With feelings of doubt and of fear, If you're thankful one day in November And kicking the rest of the year.

A Convert to the Classics.
"So you like classical music?" "Well," answered Mr. Cumrox. "I'm beginning to be won over. When some one goes to the piano it's a satisfaction to know that you're not going to hear the kind of words they put to the average popular song."

A Retort.
"Why do you allow bull fighting to go on in your country?"

"Well," answered the distinguished

COMMISSION GOVERNMENT — VII — CONCLUSION.

We have already outlined the principal points in the Des Moines Charter; the manner of election, the advantages of a commission, the increased efficiency, the power of the people in removing officers and the referendum and initiative.

What are the objections? What changes, if any, are necessary? The objections which are usually raised should be discussed.

The objection most frequently made is that the system throws too much power into the hands of five men. We are accustomed to a "balanced government" which does not give an official enough power to do harm or good.

The answer is that the city is a really business corporation, concentration of power and not a weak government is needed to transact business—that is, for the administrative part of the government.

On the law making side the commission having abolished the ward system, acts with regard to the whole city rather than for one section. Indeed this objection to concentration may apply to the situation in Galveston where there is no provision for recall, etc., but the recall, the initiative and the referendum have the effect of giving all the power into the hands of the people—thus destroying the only real objection to government by commission.

City government is a far different problem than national and state governments which makes the union of all the power in the council, a different situation.

The objectors may insist that the ward is essential to representation government. The effect is that under the Des Moines Plan the people do not need representation because they may assert their own voice without any representation. The town meeting of our forefathers where every man in the town might vote and represent himself is the exact model of the present Des Moines Plan.

The citizen who thinks the councilman or mayor knows his own opinion better than he does himself will be the only man who will miss "representative government"—the rest will rejoice.

The appointive power is objected to on the ground that all the officers should be voted for. The fact is that when the five councilmen have the appointive power and their own record depends on the work the men do, they pick out capable men. They know what is necessary and know when a man is competent and when he is loafing. By giving them the power of appointment and removal, far greater efficiency is gained.

It follows the business method again and hires men who can do the work just as a board of directors runs a corporation.

Moreover, five men are more easily watched than are sixteen. But if anything goes wrong in one department the public can soon get at the fountain head.

This is proved by the immediate removals from office of a superintendent of police, and a police judge in Des Moines, in response to popular demand. If these same offices were elective and the recall had been employed, it would have taken a much longer time to accomplish. The fear of recall acting on the head of a department for the misdemeanors of his subordinates is very effective.

In conclusion we quote Mr. Berryhill, who had much to do with the adoption and development of the Des Moines Plan:

"As I have stated, our government is based upon the democratic principle and is effective only where sustained by the opinion of the people. I have confidence that the people will act wisely when political issues are clearly defined. Continued discussion will develop truth and in the end raise the moral standards of our people."

"The men who originated the Des Moines Plan look for a marked development of public opinion as the discussion advances and hope to aid the work of evolving a system that will result in a better and nobler city. Time will demonstrate whether or not they have acted wisely."

"We are driven in the last resort to the conclusion that the success of any system must depend upon the intelligence and moral standards of the people."

Spaniard, "our public must have excitement and we're rather too mild and sympathetic to enjoy foot ball."

"When you goes lookin' fo' some one to help you decide sumpin'," said Uncle Eben, "remember dat it takes most as much smartness to pick out reliable advice as it would to make up yo' own mind."

Hot Weather in Arctic Region

The difficult conditions of traveling compelled us to shorten our next march to eight hours. Men and dogs were exhausted. Our eyes were bloodshot, highly inflamed and painful. The temperature had suddenly dropped, and when I attempted to sleep, I suffered more from the cold than at any time since leaving Annootok. The moisture from our breath froze at once into crystals upon everything it touched.

The short marches, the necessity of halting to rest the dogs, and our own weariness brought by constant back-breaking lifting of komatiks over rough, rocky places made progress slower even than had been anticipated.

But encouragement came in the increasing freshness of musk-ox signs, which gave promise that our ambition would soon be realized.

Here we encountered the hottest day of the season. The thermometer registered at one time fifty-eight degrees above zero, though later, when in camp, as I wrote my journal, I noticed that it had dropped to six degrees above. Traveling in this high temperature was exceedingly uncomfortable. Perspiration ran into my eyes already inflamed by the glare of the sun and snow, and they became very painful. Oskpuddyshuk and Tutsuh had delayed the use of smoked glasses too long, and were suffering from snow blindness.

Hares were very plentiful in the valleys which we were ascending, and so tame that we could approach within a few yards of them. I shot several for food, though they were very poor. The skins, too, were in high demand by the Eskimos for socks.—From "Hunting in the Arctic" by Harry Whitney, in the Outing Magazine for December.

FORCED INTO EXILE.

Wm. Upchurch of Glen Oak, Okla., was an exile from home. Mountain air, he thought, would cure a frightful lung-racking cough that had defied all remedies for two years. After six months he returned, death dogging his steps. "Then I began to see Dr. King's New Discovery," he writes, "and after taking six bottles I am as well as ever." It saves thousands yearly from desperate lung diseases. Infallible for Coughs and Colds, it dispels Hoarseness and Sore Throat. Cure Grip, Bronchitis, Hemorrhages, Asthma, Croup, Whooping Cough. 50c and \$1.00; trifl bottle free; guaranteed by A. G. Lukens & Co.

His Correction.
Teacher—Hi, there! Can't you see that sign, "No Fishing on These Grounds?"
Colored Fisherman—Cose I kin see signs. I'll culid, boss, but I ain't so ignorant as ter fish on no grounds. I'm fishin' in de crick.—Driftwood.

Knox's Side of Crane Case

It is the universal idea that Charles R. Crane was badly treated by Secretary of State Knox, who recalled him so summarily as he was about to sail for China. The opinion appears to be founded almost solely on Mr. Crane's own statements made before, and after he resigned.

There is another side of the case, however, and it is presented by Orville H. Stewart, a Washington newspaper correspondent who has made the state department a special field.

Mr. Stewart declares that Crane was removed out of deference to Japan, the man was so avowedly anti-Nipponess that it would have been dangerous to have him represent this country in the diplomatic danger zone. He did not evince any desire to acquaint himself with the rules and procedure of diplomacy. The writer continues, instead of taking the thirty days period of instructions, required of all new diplomats and consuls, to familiarize themselves with questions pertaining to their posts, method of procedure, correspondence, etc., he spent less than one week in Washington, altogether, and not more than two whole days at the department.

Although given a copy of the formal diplomatic instructions on his first visit, he apparently ignored them and violated four paragraphs of them, including one based on a Federal statute.

In his New York speech Mr. Crane said his instructions "from the president and secretary of state" were of the simplest sort. Yet in his public statement he declared he was compelled to depart with neither instructions nor credentials. He rushed away without obtaining his credentials and they were forwarded to him.

As to his charges that Mr. Wilson declined to see him, the assistant secretary had him at his home as a guest one night and part of two days. Ambassador O'Brien, who had come from Tokyo for conferences on the Far East with Mr. Crane, Ambassador Rockhill and the state department officials, was pressed by Mr. Wilson to remain over at his house for a conference. Mr. Wilson took ill with appendicitis next day and was unable to keep a second appointment.

Mr. Crane had cut short a conference with Second Assistant Ade, during Mr. Wilson's illness, when he was to receive final instructions and his credentials. On August 4 conference was held between Ambassadors O'Brien and Rockhill and Mr. Crane and E. C. Baker, acting chief of the Far Eastern division. The department had looked forward to this as of considerable importance, but Crane, impressing the others with his conviction that he could learn nothing of consequence, brought it to an abrupt end.

Duke George, in 1873, married Frau Von Heldberg, a prominent member of the Meiningen Court theater. The marriage has been one of the happiest on record in German court annals, and the old Duke has sturdily upheld the right of his consort to be recognized as his equal.

Refuses to Visit.

Despite the fact that the oldest son of the Duke, Crown Prince Bernhard, is married to Charlotte of Prussia, the oldest sister of the Kaiser, unfriendly relations have existed between the two courts ever since the Duke contracted the marriage. Matters have gone so that the Kaiser has refused from visiting Meiningen since, and Greiz and Meiningen are the only capitals in the German Empire thus neglected.

On the fourth of January next year,

the granddaughter of the Duke, Princess Feodora, is to be married to the Grand Duke Wilhelm Ernst of Saxe-Weimar, and on that occasion the Kaiser is bound to meet the Grand Duke.

Speculation is rife as to the events

that will take place then.

The chivalrous old Duke is still willing to break a lance for the honor of his consort, and the Kaiser still reluctant to go back on what he has said and done.

It is expected, however, that the Kaiser's proverbial generosity will assert itself on the occasion, more especially as the Duke is now 73 years of age, and his marriage with Fraulein Franz, the operatic singer, took place as far back as 1873.

The Kaiser is evincing his interest

in the stage again. The last time that he took any active part in the organization of the plays of the Royal theater in Berlin, was on the occasion

of the staging of the grand opera

"Salamis," which with its gorgeous

costumes, magnificent scenery and

overwhelming barbaric music, has

been the despair of all connected with it.

The Kaiser intended at that time to

give a representation of by-gone Eastern splendor, such as had never been

represented before, and was successful.

Nevertheless, it is whispered that

many a courtier would willingly undergo many and various discomforts,

rather than be compelled to sit

through the four hours of ear-splitting

and eye-bewilderment that "Salamis" imposes.

Now, however, the Kaiser's taste

has taken a quieter channel, and he is

busily superintending the rehearsals

of the late deceased Ernst von

Weldenbruch's drama, "Der Deutsche Koenig."

Franz von Weldenbruch, the widow,

subservient to all the Kaiser desires,

shortened it, omitted passages and inserted others, until the piece has assumed quite a different character to that which it originally possessed.

The other day an outbreak occurred.

The Kaiser insisted on having a

certain passage left out, "But," said

Franz von Weldenbruch, "my husband

particularly prided himself on that

part, and it ought to and must re-

main."

"If that is really so," said the Em-

peror feelingly, "then he knew more

about German kings than I do, and it

must naturally remain."

Personality Often Suggested In Signatures of Famous Men

Washington, Nov. 20.—A certain ink with a very small and poorly made "A" as middle initial.

And if making dots under a name indicates vanity in the signer is true, William A. Pinkerton, head of the detective agency, is guilty of that fault. He writes his name with a flourish and a pair of quotation marks under the abbreviated "Wm."

T. P. Gore, the blind senator from Oklahoma, writes a very legible hand and manages to keep his letters in a fairly good alignment. The general appearance of his name is somewhat cramped, as if each letter were made by itself. "Uncle Joe" Cannon's checks are signed with a small but heavy signature, and John Mitchell's chirography is almost delicate enough to be called feminine. J. Frank Hanly of Indiana, writes a fine neat hand and Phil