

North Shore News-Letter.

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EDITORIALS

POSTAL SAVINGS BANK LAW

For a long time thoughtful citizens have been demanding some law whereby not only children but all classes whose earnings were small could be encouraged to deposit their trifling sums. Just before adjourning, congress responded to the demand and enacted a law of which the following are the salient features. A Board of Trustees was created consisting of the Postmaster General, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Attorney General. This board selects the post-offices which are to serve as depositories for savings. Any person over ten years of age may open an account at any one of these selected places. He or she may deposit one dollar or multiples of a dollar but cannot deposit more than one hundred dollars in any one calendar month, and the account must be limited to five hundred dollars. Smaller sums than one dollar may be saved by purchasing special ten-cent stamps which will be received for deposit when such stamps amount to one dollar. The government allows ten per cent interest or if the depositor wishes he may surrender his deposit in sums of twenty dollars or any multiple of twenty dollars and accept in here a Government bond bearing two and one half per cent interest. Deposits can be made at only such offices as the Board of Trustees have selected.

IS PROHIBITION A MORAL QUESTION?

The Missouri Synod of the Presbyterian church, by a vote of 37 to 27, after a discussion of three hours duration, refused to pass a resolution indorsing the demand for a right to vote on a constitutional amendment in favor of State-wide prohibition. It was ably argued by Mr. G. P. B. Jackson, who for twenty years has been general attorney for the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway, that this was a political and not a moral question, and this seems to have prevailed.

Every attempt to secure political action is politics in the broader meaning of the word, and the professional politicians generally manage to get their fingers into every pie. No matter how far a question may be removed from the controversies on which the political parties are based, the Bosses usually contrive to make it a question of partisan politics. If it was a question of securing effective legislation against any other popular advice. It would be made a "political question" as soon as the movement in favor of it became strong enough to threaten the existence of that vice.

But while the church needs to keep out of "politics" it is absurd to maintain that it cannot even condemn vice, and demand on behalf of the people that they shall have the right to vote for the banishment of vice.

As for the assertion that banishment of saloons is not a moral question there are few who would say, that crime is not fostered by liquor, or not that the saloons are not a continual temptation. Is it not good morals for the church to work to eradicate temptation while it prays that it be not led into temptation?—Witness.

VALUE OF POSTAL SAVINGS BANKS.

If a large army of American citizens from the thoroughly intelligent, clear-headed and patriotic class were disappointed in the matter of revision of the tariff law, they have cause for congratulations over the passage of the Postal Savings Bill. There was in the minds of the public, reason to fear it to, would prove disappointing and perhaps be smothered altogether. Doubtless it will not please everybody, but it is a long step in the right direction.

Our local banks did a good thing for the people, especially the younger members of society—and we hope for themselves as well—when the little penny savings bank scheme was adopted. We believe it will prove a still greater educator and cultivator of thrift when Uncle Sam takes up the business.

HOW ONE GREAT FORTUNE WAS ACQUIRED

The Nebraska State Journal describes the process, which are no secret, by which T. B. Walker acquired timber land in northern California, already worth inestimable millions and certain to appreciate enormously in value. It is like this: One Minnesota lumberman, T. B. Walker, now has investments of about \$10,000,000 in timber land in north-eastern California. It is interesting to know how an empire of enormously valuable pine lands passed out of public into private ownership. The Government gave the title to actual settlers for nominal charge. For many years it was the practice of people of all classes to file on these lands comply technically with the requirements of residence and then turn the property over to Mr. Walker's agents. It is not claimed that Mr. Walker engaged these people to secure title to the land. He merely let it be understood through his numerous purchases that he was willing to pay enough for such claims to make them worth securing. Settler after settler took title, sold to the lumber king, and passed on. Others learned of the easy way of picking up a few hundred dollars and came in and performed the same service. The result of a campaign of a few years is the ownership by one man of a great area of fine timber that will add tens of millions to his fortune. The Government has received only a pittance for its property, and the people, who once owned it all, will pay in enhanced prices for lumber for the carelessness of their law-makers in allowing these great resources to slip through the public fingers.

Mr. Walker is not to blame. He merely picked up what was lying around loose for any man to appropriate. The blame lies on the diligent Government that left its property out doors for the first comer to appropriate by the easy process of putting up a nominal price. In fact, the process was so easy and so profitable that even people less scrupulous than Mr. Walker hired companies of roustabouts to make pretense of settlement on the lands.—San Francisco Call.

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Not with the slightest intent to intimate that Highland Park has any "City Bosses," but with the hope that we may influence all our citizens, especially our young men to become more interested in and familiar with the work being done the program being made in bettering municipal conditions throughout the country, we call attention to two excellent recent works which we feel sure would prove profitable reading.

Commission Government in City

"The Dethronement of the City Boss" is the title of a well-written description of the Des Moines system of municipal government by John J. Hamilton, who for years has been closely identified with the movement for clear politics and more efficient administration in his home city. Students of municipal affairs will welcome this volume of 285 pages because it gives in concise form and clear language the facts about the adoption and the operation of the charter, which has attracted so much attention that 50,000 copies of it have been distributed in pamphlet form.

Mr. Hamilton gives an analysis of the population of Des Moines and some of the pertinent facts about the city, although he omits the basis of suffrage; he describes the initiative of members of the Iowa bar in introducing the commission form of municipal government into that state, and gives a good account of the two elections so far held under the system.

In an appendix are given the text of the charter and of the amendments to the recall provision, the ordinance under which the first administration was organized, the full text of the charter that was defeated, and the opinion of the court upholding the constitutionality of the law.

Objection to the plan are considered and answered and the modifications of the student, yet sufficiently for the average reader. In his account of the growth of interest in "Commission Government" Mr. Hamilton points out (page 21) that "in April, 1904, when the National Municipal League assembled in Chicago, knowledge of the successful operation had become general," and that by 1907 six Texas cities had fallen into line. Since then the growth of interest has been phenomenally large, and at least eighty cities have some form of commission government, although the mistake must not be made that all so-called commission governments are by any means alike. There are almost as many modifications as cities, although there are certain general features which the author points out.

Mr. Hamilton writes as a strong believer in home rule in municipal affairs. "Whatever may be the capacity of our

great, heterogeneous urban population for self-government it cannot be developed to its highest possibilities" he points out "so long as there is no basis for the self-respect and self-reliance which, in communities as in individuals, go with a reasonable degree of control over their own destinies." Moreover, he writes as a democrat and a philosopher: "And these few simple powers are ample so far as establishing and maintaining a democratic regime are concerned. They make the people as fully dominant in the city as Rockefeller, Harman, or Morgan ever was in a private corporation" (page 71).

And again "the highest that can be truthfully given to the Des Moines plan is that it renders it easier for the people to secure the services of faithful and capable men, and for those so chosen to make a good record of service. It is not a political cure-which once obtained protects the possessor from all future aches and pains" (page 79).

The book is a good one, and will unquestionably help forward the cause of democracy and efficiency in the government of our cities because of its sanity and clarity. It is published by the Funk and Wagnalls Company, New York, at \$1.30, net.

Another new book on this subject has just been published by the H. W. Wilson Company, of Minneapolis, in its Debarers Hand Book Series, under the title of "Commission Plan of Municipal Government." It is compiled by E. Clyde Robbins, of the University of Iowa, who received honorarium for his essay for the Baldwin prize offered by the National Municipal League. It consists of a series of articles describing the various phases of commission government, and a fairly complete bibliography arranged under these heads: General Discussion, Affirmative Discussion and Negative Discussion. It contains a number of articles from the proceedings of the National Municipal League, which are reprinted in full.

The handbook will unquestionably serve a useful purpose to those wishing to debate the subject, but it is not sufficiently full nor is the bibliography, for the student or politician, and there are a number of inaccuracies in references that are unfortunate in any volume, and especially in one like this.

STATE HAPPENINGS

Rock Island.—Maj. W. C. Hawes, head clerk of the Modern Woodmen of America, stated that in view of the charges filed against officers of the society before State's Attorney Wayman, at Chicago, he proposed this week, when the executive council meets in monthly session, to demand that the state insurance department be asked to make an investigation of the society's affairs.

Hawes pointed out that while the directors are charged with exacting commissions for themselves from banks as the means of depositing the money, they have charge, no reflection had been made on the management of the society's affairs.

EXPLORE IN A SUIT

PEARY-COOK TROUBLE IS INVOLVED IN TRIAL NOW ON IN GERMANY.

ROOSEVELT GETS TROPHIES

Some of the Turtles Taken From Man in North Sea to Have Been Presented by Pole Finder—Francke Is Suing.

Berlin, June 15.—Charges concerning the disposition of arctic trophies left by him at Etah, which Dr. Frederick A. Cook made against Commander Robert E. Peary in the controversy over their claims to discovery of the north pole, were aired in a German court when the suit against Peary by Rudolph Francke was opened.

Francke, who was associated with Cook in polar exploration, demands \$10,000 for prize of the hunt, which he alleges Peary compelled him to surrender in consideration of bringing him back to America. The defense sets up a general denial and questions the jurisdiction of the court on the ground that the defendant is an American citizen, having no domicile in this city. After hearing the opening arguments the court adjourned to consider the point of jurisdiction.

Peary Goes Home Before Trial.

Commander Peary was served with papers in the suit when he came here recently to fill a lecture engagement. The time he said he would be unable to remain for the trial and had placed the case in the hands of the

American ambassador, Dr. Hill, subsequently Peary returned to the United States. His interests were guarded by Attorney Jablonski, a partner of Victor Schneider, a partner of American embassy, while Herr Francke represented Francke. The latter was present, but was not called to the stand.

The proceedings were before the judges of the provincial court. Opening for the plaintiff Thiel took longer than an hour, going over the whole story of the equipment of Cook's expedition, the building of the supply station at Etah, on the north-west coast of Greenland, the hunting in that vicinity, Cook's departure toward the pole, Francke's illness, the arrival of Peary and Francke's return home in the Peary relief ship Erik.

Roosevelt Received Turtles.

Attorney Thiel asserted that Peary had caused the plaintiff to turn over to him certain blue fox skins, fur seal narwhal tusks as the only condition on which he would take him from the arctic regions, where, if deserted, he believed he would die. The lawyer argued that the transaction was illegal in that it was made under stress. He said that a pair of narwhal tusks



Commander Robert E. Peary.

given up were presented later by Peary to Theodore Roosevelt, while some of the blue fox skins were given to President Taft and Mrs. Taft by Mrs. Peary. Counsel asserted that the German courts had jurisdiction because Francke, a German, was unable to obtain redress in the United States.

S. W. Strong of Pontiac, secretary of the Illinois Grain Dealers' association, said: "The best crop prospect that I ever saw is now between Pontiac and Kankakee."

At the annual meeting of the United States League of Local Building and Loan associations in Philadelphia, Secretary Cellarius reported that the membership and total assets had grown considerably in the past year, despite the general financial depression.

Rear Admiral William Thompson, United States navy, retired, who has been dangerously ill at Sunnyside, on the eastern shore of Lake Washington, for the last month, has been taken to Seattle and is at President hospital.

The General Biscuit Company, with \$6,000,000 capitalization, has filed organization papers at Hart's office. It is to be a rival of the National Biscuit Company.

Two members of a party from Illinois were killed and two badly hurt when caught by a cloud of mud in Two Mile canyon, near Boulder, Col.

Urged by his bride to kill the truth, J. L. Byrd of Memphis, Tenn., confessed to the Denver police that he had killed a man in Memphis two years ago.

Madarial Dhinagiri, Hindoo student of Lieut. Col. William Hall Curzon Wylie and Lt. Cawas Laloon in London, was convicted and sentenced to die, in less than an hour. He thanked the court.

Cornelius Shea, former head of the Teamsters' union, when sentenced to from five to twenty-five years in prison for attempting to murder Alice Wald in New York, was denounced by Judge Foster as a traitor to labor.

Mrs. Anos P. Dorrance, wife of a wealthy coal dealer of Helena, Mont., was slain in a hotel in Hot Springs, Ark., while her husband, an invalid, looked on, unable to aid her.

Max Ozzine was caught in a laundry machine at Hoboken, N. J., and literally wrung to death.

Richard Cannon, nephew of Speaker Cannon, and John Noone, a brewer of Danville, Ill., were hurt in an automobile accident at Crawfordsville, Ind. Forty workmen were buried and killed by the collapse of a building in St. Petersburg.

Col. Roosevelt and his son Kermit have taken a week off from their hunting program and are meeting social obligations at Nairobi, British East Africa, where the turf club is holding its annual events.

Advices were received in Washington that Argentine and Bolivia are endeavoring to settle their differences without going to war.

SPECIAL NOTICE
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