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to the convention, with a recommendation that it be made a part of the new constitution.

Here is an interesting story that comes from Midland, Texas, and is carried by the Associated Press: "Judge, you are a liar."

Bang! went the gavel. "This court stands adjourned till I whip the man who just called me a liar," exclaimed the judge. Immediately proceedings halted and Judge J. H. Knowles, presiding in commissioner's court withdrew with Commissioner Jules Driver.

"This is undignified (smash), but entirely (bing), manly according to my (bing) view, commissioner," declared Judge Knowles as he soundly beat his accuser.

Commissioner Driver belied his name, spectators declare, and in a few minutes Judge Knowles appeared to have felt that he had made the punishment fit the crime.

The object lesson completed, Judge Knowles reconvened court, fined himself for fighting, and then the interrupted proceedings were resumed. The dispute arose when Commissioner Driver questioned in harsh terms an assertion by Judge Knowles concerning the court's action at a previous session.

The Georgia republican convention which met at Atlanta has adopted resolutions indorsing the Taft administration and elected delegates to the Chicago convention instructed to vote for Mr. Taft's renomination.

A Phoenix, Ariz., dispatch follows: With western simplicity George W. H. Hunt was inaugurated first governor of Arizona. A few hours earlier word came from Washington that Taft had signed the proclamation. The inauguration was conspicuous by the absence of military, the new governor being averse to ostentation. There was meagre display of silk even. Accompanied by the new state officials Governor Hunt, who began life as a waiter in a mining camp restaurant at Globe, walked to the capital where the oath was administered by Chief Justice Edward Kent of the territorial supreme court. Governor Hunt's address was short and succinct and while breathing the spirit of "progressive" democracy, referred only to two things in the prospective legislation program. The first state legislature, the governor declared must replace in the constitution the provision for recall of judges, and in an anti-lobbyist measure. He said in part: "As my administration, so far as my conduct can insure it will be progressive, so will it be democratic—not in the narrow partisan sense, but in the Jeffersonian sense, denoting equality, simplicity, unostentation and economy. The office of the governor will be open every working hour, every working day in the year and many hours besides. The dollar will not be placed above manhood, nor wealth above humanity. I will, if possible, avoid laying off a charge against me of being a dreamer or a visionary, but neither the fear of that nor the dread of an accusation of socialism shall keep me from striving to better the condition of the people of our state and by example at least, to uplift humanity. No fear of ridicule shall keep me from applying common sense remedies to intolerable, if long suffered, conditions—remedies which will make for the elevation of social, moral and physical standards, for the alleviation of class hatred, for the growth of that charity, one for another, which should permeate all mankind. I am confident that Arizona's experience under a constitution so advanced that it has not failed to draw the fire of every foe of equality and progress, will amply vindicate the claims of its champions

and be as a beacon light to those states and lands and peoples where the seed of popular government has been sown, but has as yet brought forth no fruit. And I adjure the loyal, patriotic citizens of Arizona who have been chosen as legislators to faithfully, wisely and expeditiously discharge the constitution's mandates not forgetting that at the head of the list is that mandate of the people whose spirit rides the air—whose existence not expressed in documentary form, but as a party pledge, is known to all—the mandate to restore to the constitution popular right to recall unfaithful, dishonest and corrupt judicial officers."

INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM A POLITICAL QUESTION

Following is an Associated Press dispatch: Washington, Feb. 19.—Only congress and not the supreme court of the United States may object to the initiative and referendum method of legislation in the states, the court itself decided today.

That tribunal held that the question of whether a state still retained a republican form of government, guaranteed by the federal constitution after it adopted the initiative and referendum method was a political problem for congress and not a judicial one for the court.

The decision was based on the claim of the Pacific States Telephone and Telegraph company that a tax upon it, imposed by the initiative and referendum method in Oregon, was unconstitutional. The initiative and referendum provisions in Missouri, California, Arkansas, Colorado, South Dakota, Utah, Montana, Oklahoma, Maine and Arizona, hung in the balance. An adverse decision would have affected proposed legislation of that character in many other states.

Chief Justice White announced the decision of the court. None of the justices dissented. The court also gave a similar decision in reference to an ordinance in Portland, Ore., for the construction of a bridge.

The chief justice said that a "singular misapprehension" had existed on both sides of the case, but that the "mists and confusion" were dispelled by the decision of Chief Justice Taney years ago in which he disposed of the Door's rebellion question. That was the case of Luther against Borden, he said, and decided that the enforcement of the guaranty of a republican form of government to the states belonged to the political department of the government, and came up, for instance, on the admission of senators and members of the house to their respective bodies. The chief justice called attention to Chief Justice Fuller following Luther against Borden in the controversy over the Kentucky government in the case of Taylor against Beckham.

Referring to the doctrine as laid down in these two cases Chief Justice White said:

"It is indeed a singular misconception of the nature and character of our constitutional system of government to suggest that the settled distinction which the doctrine just stated points out between judicial authority over justiciable controversies and legislative power as to purely political questions, tends to destroy the duty of the judiciary in proper cases to enforce the constitution. The suggestion results from failing to distinguish between things which are widely different, that is, the legislative duty to determine the political questions involved in deciding whether a state government, republican in form, exists and the judicial power's ever present duty whenever it becomes necessary in a controversy properly submitted to enforce and uphold the applicable provisions of the constitution as each

and every exercise of governmental power.

"How better can the broad lines which distinguish these two subjects be pointed out than by considering the character of the defense in this very case? The defendant company does not contend here that it could not have been required to pay a license tax. It does not assert that it was denied an opportunity to be heard as to the amount for which it was taxed, or that there was anything inhering in the tax or involved intrinsically in the law which violated any of its constitutional rights.

"If such questions had been raised they would have been justiciable and therefore would have required the calling into operation of judicial power. Instead, however, of doing any of these things, the attack on the statute here made is of a wholly different character."

THE UNITED STATES OF CHINA

Dr. Ng Poon Chew is making an eloquent appeal for American sympathy in behalf of the Chinese republic. He says the American republic is the only nation to which the Chinese can look for aid in their effort to establish free government.

No encouragement can be expected from Europe. Every one of the strong European nations has taken advantage of China's weakness to steal good harbors and valuable territory. Every one has exploited China. Naturally, the monarchies of Europe do not want a powerful republic dominating Asia and not only teaching the Asiatics how to govern themselves, but protecting them from European encroachment.

Japan naturally regards with disfavor the progress of China to free republican institutions. It is a menace to the Japanese monarchy and Japanese domination of Asia.

The irony of Dr. Ng cuts like a knife when he tells how China has been taught by Christian nations that might is right and has been forced to study the arts of war in order to protect her resources from the bandit nations of Christian civilization. China has learned under the tutelage of the followers of the Prince of Peace that the best nation is that which can kill the most people in the shortest time, with the least expense.

The United States has not robbed China. We alone have played the part of a friend and have refused to join the European plunderbund which seeks to crush and dismember the ancient empire. Now is the time to prove our friendship and demonstrate the sincerity of our devotion to the principles of free government. We should encourage the aspirations of the Chinese. We should give them effective sympathy and cooperation. At the earliest possible moment we should recognize the Republic of China. The Manchu dynasty is a thing of the past and the time is ripe for the acceptance of the republic.

The future of Asia belongs to China. That populous country organized into a powerful nation will dominate the continent. We should hail with joy the prospect that the dominant nation of Asia will enjoy and exemplify the blessings of liberty and will nourish democracy. The dream of Dr. Ng that the United States of America and the United States of China, bound together in amity, will insure peace and progress in the Orient may become a reality. —St. Louis Post Dispatch.

NIFTY

"How does this noted healer, who cures his patients by touching them, differ from a regular physician?" "Why, he touches them before he cures them."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.