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All quiet for the moment in the park department. The policy of watchful waiting is plainly not all it is cracked up to be.

The way to treat blackmailers is to defy them, and fight them to a finish. Huerta says he will continue indefinitely as head of the Federal League.

Cleveland's \$12,000,000 imposition on John D. suggests a triumph for the single tax. The Senator Gore case also recalls the popular little melodrama, "The Blindness of Virtue."

Poor little February is doing its best to make up the shortcomings of the other winter months. Well, Colonel Goethals has visited New York without being kidnapped by the mayor for that police job.

If that grand opera had to go to smash, Omaha is fortunate in having the smash-up occur in Denver. The grand jury now sitting has an opportunity which no other Douglas county grand jury ever had.

The Water board cannot hold landlords responsible for their tenants' meter bills—not if the court knows it. That latest train robbery story reads as if a new Jesse James gang had come to life up in the Puget Sound country.

Try to imagine what the last preceding democratic president would have done to meet such circumstances in Mexico. Considering the prevailing high cost of living, that fellow with two stomachs is in a position to appreciate the irony of fate.

"Character is founded on self-respect." At least we may feel sure that the man without self-respect has a questionable character. "The snow nuisance" they call it in Philadelphia. A little more of the nuisance would help some of our western wheat fields.

The enjoining of an election by the street railway company is a new way of doing it, but any port in a storm for the shrewd attorney. The general consensus of opinion was that the Auditorium at \$225,000 was a good buy for the city; at \$200,000 it must be a much better buy.

It is the eloquence emanating from Jimmie Lewis' pink 'uns that makes the pillars quake, just as they fell for the mighty whiskers of Samson of old. One of the new dream books goes by the querulous name of "What to Do 'Till the Devil Comes." We would suggest the diplomatic expedient of "watchful waiting."

General Pershing says Moro would make short shrift of local Filipino government. And Pershing has spent some years on the ground. Is a word to the wise enough? That news item from Gay Paree, quoting a "critique" as saying that the new skirts are "floppy," is correctly printed, we take it; that is, an "F" was not used for an "A."

Incidentally, it may be well to recall that Uncle Sam would have had no war with Spain had not the explosion of the Maine in Havana harbor taken place at the precise psychological moment.

The Mexican Situation.

Two points in our relation to Mexico seem clear—first, that the president has no definite policy, and second, that he is resolved not to let the slaughter of American citizens force us to adopt one.

When President Wilson made his original demand upon Huerta to resign he warned all Americans to leave Mexico or take the consequences. It is evident in the murder of 150 and the rapine and plunder of many more that he felt the sufficiency of that warning as discharging the government's duty to protect its own citizens. If, therefore, we are driven from our listless waiting to take a definite stand, manifestly it must be by the force of foreign nations, to whom our responsibility now turns. Even though willing to ignore the mistreatment of our own people, we may be compelled to permit the application of some sort of international compulsion, for Mexico will not be allowed indefinitely to "wallow in this sty of corruption and cruelty," as a London paper puts it.

Another British journal reminds the president that he has gone too far not to go farther. It has in mind, aside from our stress of the Monroe doctrine, his removal of the embargo on arms, whose only effect thus far has been to embolden murderous bandits and increase the area of slaughter. Interminable anarchy and warfare is intolerable and unthinkable, especially when it constantly involves the lives and property of all foreigners in Mexico. The president may have, as many believe, determined never to jeopardize the life of a single American soldier in the turmoil in Mexico, but even so, something else is called for than the "watchful waiting," and the other temporizing expedients that have proved futile.

Competition in Charity.

If there is any place where competition is wholly vicious, it is in the dispensation of charity. True charity aims to alleviate distress or to provide for the helpless in such a way as to accomplish the result without permanently pauperizing the victim of misfortune. Defectives or dependents must be taken care of, but without stifling the desire and effort for self-help.

Competition in charity produces just the evils sought to be avoided; its almost inevitable result is to overload the beneficiary. Authentic cases are known right here in Omaha where a half dozen charity agencies, each without knowing what the other is doing, have rushed to the relief of some poor family, which, however worthy, is thus given help that ought to be distributed to a number of families. Obviously, this sort of competition is also needlessly wasteful in cost of duplicated machinery and cumulative effort of the different charity societies when a community supports two such institutions to do work which either one could readily perform.

In a word, multiplicity of charities does not necessarily mean that the philanthropic activities are well done or economically carried on. On the contrary, the concentration of the work and strict division of the field between a few strong and ably managed charity societies and institutions, co-operating thoroughly with one another, is the ideal that the modern community should aim at.

Sex in Politics.

The intimation of an imported suffrage talker that when women vote they will band themselves together and run things their own way regardless of the men, promptly brought out a disclaimer on behalf of the local suffrage associations.

If anyone took seriously the promise of a sex political party, we believe they are unduly alarmed, for there is no more chance of all the women agreeing on political questions, and working in unison, than there is for all the men. At any rate, the experience in suffrage states everywhere has been that the women with votes align themselves just like the men under varied political banners, and only occasionally on some non-party issue are rallied preponderantly to favor one side.

The nearest we have come to drawing party lines on physical or class distinctions in this country grew out of the freeing of the slaves. The negroes became republicans en masse because the democrats were their implacable enemies openly determined to deprive them of their newly acquired rights. Efforts to build up labor parties and farmer parties in this country have repeatedly and invariably failed because the interests of labor or of the farmer correspond in most things to the interests of other members of the community. The massing of labor votes has also proved wholly impracticable, barring contests waged on purely local issues.

A woman's political party, assuming that all the women would join it, and all the men excluded and compelled to form a men's political party, would measure control by the census enumeration. There is no danger, however, for a political

Washington's Charmed Life.

That Washington possessed a charmed life was a common belief in his day. No battle more forcibly sustains this notion than Fort Duquesne. Here his comrades, both provincials and British regulars, fell all about him, nearly to the effacement of the army. From under General Braddock five horses were shot and the general was finally killed. Two horses were slain from under Washington and four bullets pierced his coat, so he wrote his mother. It was after this famous engagement that an Indian chief told the intrepid young Virginia colonel that when his sharpshooters failed of repeated attempts to hit him, they concluded that some Manitou guarded his life and that he could not be killed. That Washington, himself, felt the force of this is evident from a letter to his brother, John Augustine, in which he said:

"By the all-powerful dispensations of Providence, I have been protected beyond all human probability or expectation. Death leveled my companions on every side. But we need go no further than this very battle for another more natural element in the life of Washington ennobling and endearing him to all normal admiration and affection. Here he showed that wonderful quality of resourcefulness, in which the faculty to read and rule men loomed large, to amazing advantage. Though but a provincial colonel of 23, he completely dominated the situation as far as sheer powers went, and might have reversed results had his very antithesis in character and temperament, the august General Braddock, not blindly held sway. "What, a provincial colonel tell a British general how to fight!" exclaimed Braddock on Washington's advice to fight the Indians by their own tactics. But Braddock—of whom Washington wrote to William Fairfax, "He is incapable of arguing without warmth, or giving up any point he asserts, be it ever so incompatible with reason or common sense"—was only of a piece with the stupid old king and others who learned their lessons from the maturer Washington some years later. So we say that while the element of a charmed life that denotes the man of destiny is conspicuous throughout Washington's career, his innate superior qualities would have raised him to pre-eminence in any age.

Sober Speech and Influence.

A ministerial association the other day withheld a proposed public endorsement for fear it might have exactly the opposite effect. It was a melancholy confession of the preacher's lack of influence and, for all we know, may have overshot the mark. But as to this matter of the public influence of the minister there comes to our attention an address by the Rev. Newell Dwight Hillis, D. D., the noted Brooklyn preacher, in which he is reported as saying to the City club of New York:

"Every time you double the population in this country, the feeble-minded children are multiplied by four and the insane by three. Multiply that a few times and you will have more crazy people than sane. In Italy the principal building is the cathedral. In this country the typical building in all the states, from New York City to the Rio Grande, is the lunatic asylum hospital, 1500 feet long—to take care of the defective and the insane. How can anybody expect to maintain a sober, helpful influence on such talk? The preacher's potential influence is too great and good to be frittered away in that fashion—too much needed. He, above all others, ought to be careful of "vain speaking," as well too much empty protesting. Dr. Hillis was dilating upon "the deterioration of the American physique," something not alarming anyone—yet he boldly asserted that we as a nation have lost the power of reproduction and are going to pieces through carelessness. To a man who thinks that insane asylums are the principal buildings in America, that seems a very rational conclusion, but not so to anyone who looks at things as they are and is not in the business of flamboyant speech-making. As a matter of fact, it is doubtful if this or any other nation ever gave so much attention to the welfare of the body, as well as the mind, as we are doing today. Defects and faults exist, of course, but exaggerating them beyond all semblance of fact or reality is not going to cure them.

The Flag Centenary.

Baltimore will celebrate what it calls the "National Star-Spangled Banner Centennial" in September of this year. Obviously, it is commemorative of our victory at the end of the war of 1812-14 with England, when our independence, as the sponsors of this movement affirm, first became effective and our flag respected on the high seas. Prior to that, although the declaration was thirty-eight years in the past, our independence was not secured; at least, not sufficiently to command the respect of England, to say nothing of other nations, else

The Miracle of the Auto.

It is hard to realize that it is scarcely fifteen years since the first autos were seen upon our streets. What was then most generally looked upon as a toy, useless except for the exhilaration of reckless daredevils, and as proving the possibilities of mechanical genius, has in that short time become an essential factor in every phase of our industrial and social life. The permanency of the automobile, and the certainty of its steadily enlarged use, are commonplace acceptances—in fact, never questioned. So no miracle play ever put on the boards in entitled to command more attention than the miracle portrayed in the modern auto show, such as Omaha is to be treated to this week. Each succeeding year brings progress toward more complete perfection, and demonstrates more forcibly the enterprising and up-to-date character of the men who have made the auto industry what it is.

Deader Than a Doornail.

One of the counts in the purity indictment brought against the police department officers of Lincoln last week is that they have failed to enforce the law on the Nebraska statute books prohibiting the sale of cigarettes.

Ordinarily, it would be to laugh. If there is a town, village or county in the state in which the sale of cigarettes has been stopped by this law, it has not been charted by the geographers. Assuming that the cigarette habit acquired too young is an evil, we have sympathy with the effort to give legal protection to innocents who might be misled into bad ways. But making cigarette selling a criminal offense in this state was foredoomed to failure. The law has been deader than a door-nail almost from the start, and as sales to minors are now in the same category as sales to majors, the viciousness of the law is only slightly less than its uselessness.

We wonder whether any legislator will ever be courageous enough to cut away the dead wood by repealing this misguided experiment at reform.

Next—Wireless On Land.

If the wireless is effective in preventing disaster at sea, why not also on land? If it can be flashed ahead to intercept approaching ships and help them avoid collisions, why not on railroads with reference to trains? Many wrecks occur because dispatchers allow—either from a lapse of the mind or some other strange reason—two trains going in opposite directions to proceed to their doom, realizing the mistake only after it is too late to avert the catastrophe. With the wireless, messages could reach the trains en route and save the day. What hinders the adoption of this device, particularly as it has already undergone successful experiments? Of course, not only dispatchers, but all others having to do with the operation of trains, could make use of it.

It has taken a long pull, and a strong pull, to land every government headquarters, supply station or other activity centered in Omaha, and no less effort should be exerted to retain them when their loss is threatened, as at present, with reference to the Indian supply warehouse.

The Hon. Bill Sapp will run for senator in Kansas, according to the Kansas City Star. We have not the honor of Bill's acquaintance, but, assuming that his head believes his name, he ought to land anything he goes after in Kansas.

Wonder if the president of the local Bar association is still soothing himself with the delicious dream that all this talk about crooked lawyers is the baseless and malicious invention of the editor of The Bee.

The immortal George, as the father of his country, ought to have been thoughtful enough to have let us know on which day he preferred to have us celebrate his birthday when it falls on Sunday.

Secretaries McAadoo and Houston returned from their swing around the circle enthusiastic over business prospects. Note that Nebraska was included in their itinerary.

Our most up-to-date railroad announces that it has added nursing bottles to its de luxe train equipment. Electric warming pads for the beds are next in order.



FEBRUARY 22. Thirty Years Ago—The cotton of the German club, which has succeeded the Pleasant Hours, assembled the cream of our dancing society. In the figures those who led were Messrs. Remington, Peck, Thayer and Saxe and Miss Bishop, Mrs. Peck, Miss Gostem and Miss Lyons. Others present were: Mr. and Mrs. McCord, Mr. Robert Carlisle and Miss McCord of St. Joseph, J. T. Clarke and Miss Doane, Newton Barkalow and Miss Wakeley, Lisle Dickey and Miss Lake, James Ross and Miss Hanshaw, A. S. Patrick and Miss Carter, of St. Joseph, Will McMillan and Miss Chambers, R. T. Morris and Miss Richardson, Ed S. Hart and Miss Balcombe, David Wells and Miss Tomkins, C. E. Deuel and Miss Dolle McCormick, Mr. Boggs and Miss Nora Boyd, A. S. Brock and Miss Berlin, Nada Cray and Miss Geageth, C. F. Beach and Miss Carrie James, J. Letimer and Miss Shears, Mr. and Mrs. Kirkendall, W. E. Annin and Miss Phillips Morgan, Will Cray and Miss Cole of Des Moines, Remington and Miss Anna Bishop of Denver.

A private Leap Year party was given about forty couples at Falconer's hall under the direction of a committee composed by Ella Ray, Katie Murphy and Sarah Brady.

Complaint is made because no celebration of Washington's birthday was arranged for in the public schools. The pink and white sociable at the Presbyterian church was largely attended and a musical program rendered, participated in by Miss Alice Rogers, Miss Lida Wilson, Mrs. S. F. Woodbridge, Miss Lizzie Sharpe, Miss Minnie Maul, Messrs. R. W. Breckenridge, H. A. Doud and Dr. Frank Wilson.

Mrs. Andy Borden has gone to New Orleans to take in the Mardi Gras. Chancellor Manatt of the state university called at The Bee office while visiting in Omaha.

Twenty Years Ago—

Mrs. Freda Rothschild, 46 South Twenty-fourth avenue, had a terrible experience with a tramp whom she refused to feed. He threw kerosene over her and set her clothing afire. The fiend then escaped and left her to meet a horrible fate, but she had presence of mind enough to get out in the yard, where her screams aroused neighbors, who saved her.

A rousing Washington birthday celebration took place at the First Baptist church, men of various walks of life joining hands in doing honor to the father of his country. Dr. S. D. Mercer presided. Rev. W. K. Beans, Rev. J. M. Patterson, Charles E. Winter and W. F. Gurley were the principal speakers. The temple quartet sang, Thurston Rifles occupied seats on the platform and the Musical Union orchestra furnished selections.

Flags were presented to the Dodge and Central schools in token of Washington's birthday. Rev. Frank Crane made the presentation at Central, Rev. S. W. Butler at Dodge.

J. E. Buckingham, chief rate clerk in the Burlington passenger department, was laid up with injuries sustained by a fall from the horizontal bars at the Young Men's Christian association. Buck was some boy on the bars.

Maurice Abelson was taken to a hospital for injuries sustained while coasting down the Hill on St. Mary's avenue.

Ten Years Ago—

Father S. A. Blackmore, lecturing on the "Religion of Shakespeare" at Creighton university, said the bard of Avon was a Catholic; that he lived at the apex of two great religious epochs and that his father and mother both were Catholics.

Mrs. George A. Hoagland threw open her spacious home at Sixteenth and Howard streets for the annual birthday anniversary of the Young Nurses association and it was made a memorable occasion, attended by some of the leading women of the city.

E. R. Gurney of Fremont was the chief speaker at the Omaha club's Washington's birthday banquet, where President E. F. Peck presided.

Emil Cermak, 132 South Thirteenth street, had an exciting experience with a footed whom he encountered on South Tenth street. It was night. The thief demanded money. At this Cermak bolted and that, seemed to scare the footed, who likewise bolted and both found themselves to be some sprinters, Cermak getting into a friendly port without harm.

H. C. Peters & Co., reported the consummation of a deal for 25,000 acres of land in the wheat belt of Kansas, one of the biggest realty transactions made by a footed, concern for some time. The firm contemplated a colonization scheme. Brigadier General Wint, new commander of the Department of the Missouri, coming from the Philippines, reached Omaha.

Constructive Talent.

The employment of an American executive by the Great Eastern Railway company of England to bring his system thoroughly up to date is an interesting experiment. If it succeeds some of our own railroads might follow the example to advantage.

Worth and Value.

George Washington's medicine chest, which he carried with him, was sold for \$1,000. The dealer said an historic weapon is the less it's worth, apparently.

Stenographers as Sculptors.

Borglum declares that unknown artists received more assistance for making the statues in Statuary hall, to which other stenographers signed their names. At that most of them were overpaid.

CYNICAL REMARKS.

When the fool killer wants a little practice he looks for the man who knows it all. Charity begins at home, and is often kept right in the family. Many a fellow is under a cloud who never stole an umbrella in his life. Most of us are apt to make light of the fellow who has money to burn. Fair play is all a man wants, provided he can be the judge of its fairness. Take care of the pennies and the dollars will take care-of your heirs. A black cat may bring good luck, but you can't make a mouse believe it. The man who would rather be right than be president is very often neither. Many a man puts off mending his ways until they are completely shattered. Success is merely a matter of selling your experience for more than you paid for it. The trouble about taking a chance is that you can't always put it back where you found it. The hustler generally gets more results than the fellow who was born under a lucky star. Any man can tell you what he would do if he were in your place, only he probably wouldn't do any such thing.—New York Times.

MUFFLED KNOCKS.

Half the world has an awful time trying to find out how the other half lives. There are a whole lot of times in life when safety pins are a whole lot more useful than culture. The old-fashioned man who used to get down on his knees to propose to a girl now has a son who takes the girl on his knees. The old-fashioned woman who knew all about babies and nothing about sex problems seemed to get along all right, somehow or other. Love may be blind. But if there are two suitors and one is poor and the other wealthy, a girl never gropes her way toward the poor man. A girl who has three pairs of expensive silk stockings doesn't care a hang how careless the street cleaning department is with its work. As soon as a man gets the idea into his head that the firm can't get along without him the firm attempts the experiment and finds that it can. When a girl tells you not to spend your money on theater tickets and candy for her, you might as well go down and see what the installment furniture man will fix you up a flat for.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

People and Events

From the lakes to the Atlantic seaboard the repute of the groundhog as a weather prophet is away above the reach of scoffers. There are now 24,527 publications in the United States, making some job for the fellows eager to show the editors how to run the papers. All the conveniences of life are so deftly linked together in Wisconsin that a sure cure for sneezing goes with eugenic marriage certificates. Reform has reached such a flood level in an Ohio town as to threaten the perpetuity of bridge whist. So far vocal dams have failed to check the deluge. Marvellous is the magic of the pension. Canada called out 25,000 troops to quell the Fenian invasions of 1866 and 1870 and 30,000 men have applied for a share of the bounty recently provided by the government. The slip of a girl who married the aged Cassius Clay of Kentucky and wore his widow weeds piled up a score of four additional marriages before she herself turned to clay at the age of 30. The pace was a shade too swift for a longevity record. A Brooklyn man convicted of manslaughter for running down and killing a child was sentenced to ten days' imprisonment and to pay a fine of \$50. By a great effort the court refrained from slapping the unfortunate man on the sleeve. The business uplift at the marriage license bureau of Chicago since equal suffrage became a settled condition convinced officials and ministers that it is less year all the time in the city. A 15 per cent raise in license since the first of the year is traced to proposals by women. "I have evidence," says one minister, "that many women are proposing, especially widows. I think as soon as people come to believe that it is woman's right to choose and make known her choice, women generally will propose." Now go to it.

SECULAR SHOTS AT PULPIT.

Baltimore American: Nearly 40,000,000 people are enrolled in the churches of this country. Were the members of this mighty army strictly true to their standards there would never be raised the question whether the world is getting better. And, of course, it is, in tango to the contrary notwithstanding. Boston Transcript: The value of Mr. Carnegie's last gift to the cause of peace, \$2,000,000, to be employed by the Church Peace union, depends upon the amount of moderation exercised by the clergy, who are to preach universal arbitration. Some of the best intentioned friends of peace have been guilty of grave indiscretions in the past to the detriment of the cause. St. Louis Republic: Southern Illinois is wrestling with a recrudescence of demagoguery. At least two counties in that section find themselves battling with a murderous religious fanaticism as brutal as the inquisition and as ignorant as the witchcraft of old Salem. Down in Jackson county members of the Holiness sect brought in from the Ozark foothills are lying in the Murphysboro jail waiting trial for brutally beating and trampling an epileptic in an attempt to "drive the devils out of him." Over in Jasper county other benighted members of this sect have been fined \$50 each for tying and beating two little boys "to whip sin and the devil out of them." The ignorant pastor of the congregation helped as the children during the services in his "church" and is charged with using one of the sticks on the backs of the children. PASSING PLEASANTIES. "You and your wife never argue?" "Never," replied Mr. Meekton. "When an ideal state?" "Perhaps it isn't so ideal. I sometimes fancy Henrietta hasn't enough respect for my opinions to bother about arguing with me."—Washington Star. His—They say a flea can jump over a thousand times his own length. Fancy if a human could do that! "Did a pale fellow know a man who jumped his ball in New York and landed in Liverpool, 3,000 miles away.—Boston Transcript. Madam, do not recommend to your friends to talk temperance to their husbands and gash each other's faces as the pastor of the congregation helped as the children during the services in his "church" and is charged with using one of the sticks on the backs of the children. "What an utterly foolish thing it is for those European students to fight duels and gash each other's faces as the pastor of the congregation helped as the children during the services in his "church" and is charged with using one of the sticks on the backs of the children. "The custom is not at all foolish. It's excellent discipline to enable a man to use a razor without flinching."—Chicago Post. "You go to hear music that you don't understand?" "Yes," admitted Mr. Cumroo. "And pay good money for it?" "Well, I know a fellow who got an income tax that I don't understand, either."—Washington Star. "I'd like to know what the police have to do with our scrubbing." "What on earth do you mean, my dear?" "The paper here says the police are going to scrub up all the bucket shops."—Baltimore American. Old Fashioned Individual—Well, little man, building a castle? Fin-de-Siecle Infant—Nope. This is a hotel; there's no money in castles.—Harper's Magazine. "Your friend stuttered terribly," said the thin man. "I know he does," replied the fat man. "Is he a foreigner?" asked the thin man. "No, Why?" said the fat man. "He speaks broken English," replied the thin man.—Cincinnati Inquirer. "What's the matter with this coal bill?" demanded the indignant consumer. "Why have you raised the price a dollar a ton?" "Why, haven't you heard?" asked the coal man. "Heard what?" asked the consumer. "A government expert announces that our supply of coal will not last more than 5,000 years," replied the coal man.—Cincinnati Enquirer. A very peculiar effect was produced by the following announcement contained in the advertisements of a country fair: "Among the other attractive features of this great fair, there will be highly amusing monkey-races and pie-eating contests. Competition in these two races open to citizens of the county only."—National Monthly. A TOAST TO WASHINGTON. Minna Irving, in Leslie's. Stand up, ye heirs of Freedom's soil, From Maine to Puerto Rico, In wine or water pledge a cup To Washington today. Though he is dead and gone to dust Yet through the mists of time, His living spirit leads us still To starry heights sublime. His courage thrills the nation yet, And glories of his fame Each patriotic heart enshrines An altar to his name; And when the land of liberty Has battles to be won, God send us in the hour of need Another Washington!

FLORIDA, NEW ORLEANS, CUBA, PANAMA AND ALL PRINCIPAL POINTS IN THE SOUTH. Reached quickly by the excellent train service of the ILLINOIS CENTRAL. Solid steel up-to-date equipment on all trains. WINTER TOURIST TICKETS ON SALE DAILY. Information and tickets at City Ticket Office, 407 South 16th St., City National Bank Building. Tel. Douglas 264.

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