

**ADMIRAL MELVILLE**

The death of Rear Admiral George Wallace Melville removes a remarkable character from the life of Philadelphia and the wider theatre of national—and particularly naval—affairs.

Melville's career linked the two eras of our naval history and witnessed the transition from the wooden fleets of the civil war to the steel-clad ships of the encounter with Spain. As chief of the bureau of steam engineering and chief engineer of the navy his hand and brain led the way to the acceptance and installation of radical improvements—he was never one of those to whom "it gives pain to receive a new idea." The heroic temper of his soul was shown again and again, from the time he rammed the Florida off the coast of Brazil till he found De Long and his shipmates on the Arctic shores of Siberia. The melancholy story of the Jeannette expedition is illumined by the resourceful courage of Melville, who never gave up, who tolled uncomplainingly with superhuman vigor, and accomplished a journey of 2,200 miles in 100 days, hauling a laden sledge like a beast of burden, in the teeth of every adverse condition of cold, hunger, disease and open mutiny. The indomitable will of the man had no such word as fail in its lexicon.

Though his post of duty was the engine-room and not the bridge, while he was in active service, who shall say that the duty of the engineer is any less precarious than that of the commander? If the ship goes down, his chance of escape is the slenderest. Melville knew what he was doing when he said he would run the engines of the Florida alone, after they told him the boilers would crush and scald him to death in the engine-room. He was never a man of craven mindfulness of his own safety. It is fitting that when death came it found him, not in comfortable retirement, but meditating the continuance of his labors.—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

**STUDY THE JURY**

Findlay, Ohio, March 16, 1912.—Editor The Commoner: As you are well aware, there are progressives in both parties in congress who are making heroic efforts to prevent the American bankers association, the concrete form of the currency trust, from putting through the Aldrich scheme of national reserve association, a sort of Shylock's snug harbor.

If you will study the history of the American bankers' association you will come to the same conclusion I have that before there is any more investigation by congress or any committee of congress, or any banking or currency legislation, that we must find means to determine how many members of this trust occupy seats in the jury box.

Every few minutes I hear one. I wrote you about Vreeland, the most influential republican on the banking committee and vice chairman of the monetary commission. Now I see in La Follette's current issue that Hanna of North Dakota (Fargo) is president of a bank.

I tell you this American bankers' association comes within every pervue of a trust within the letter and spirit of anti-trust legislation. No member of it has any business to sit in judgment on matters affecting the interests of bankers as against the people.

At least we must make an effort to develop and make public the status of the congressmen and enlighten the people. If we can not do this in congress we must do it outside.

I hope you will help agitate this matter of getting at the private interest of congressmen in banks and banking, so that if we are eaten up by this money trust we will know the

personal motive of the men who are responsible for our undoing.

I am trying to get La Follette's and other progressive papers to help this cause on. Yours truly.

GEORGE H. PHELPS.

**GOOD OLD REPUBLICAN HARMONY**

Popular Bluff, Mo., March 19.—After an hour of riot and uproar Taft supporters withdrew from the fourteenth congressional district convention here today, leaving the Roosevelt adherents in possession. Each faction named delegates to the republican national convention.

Roosevelt men were in a majority and could have controlled the situation by force of numbers. At the afternoon session members of the Cape Girardeau delegation participated and cast twenty-three votes for the Taft delegates. Then they withdrew.

Resolutions indorsing Colonel Roosevelt as the greatest living statesman, the statesmanship of President Taft and the administration of Governor Hadley were passed.

The morning session was a continual uproar, with two sets of officers trying to transact the business of the two factions. Before the convention the ten Roosevelt men on the district committee ousted Chairman B. L. Guffy and Secretary Harry Hatter and elected Fred E. Kies chairman and Luther Conrad secretary.

The Taft faction indorsed President Taft for renomination and soon after adjourned to the sidewalk, where it was announced that its delegates to the national convention are George L. Greene of Naylor and Byrd Duncan of Popular Bluff. The Roosevelt delegates named in the convention are Samuel Ulen of Dexter and John C. Harlan of Gainesville.

The Roosevelt faction claimed 112 delegates to the congressional convention and the Taft followers 89.

**IS A "HOG DENTIST"**

Probably no officer of the government receives more freak letters than does the postmaster general. Recently Mr. Hitchcock received a letter from a Nebraska citizen who proclaims that he can cure all hog

diseases through fixing their teeth. The Department of Agriculture has been wondering, he says, what has been killing the hogs and he has the correct answer. Every disease known to swine, he says, is due to bad teeth, and his remedy is good for well hogs as well as sick hogs. He gives as reference the Union Stock Yards of Omaha, where he has worked doctoring the swine population before the slaughter. "I am," he concludes, "the only hog dentist in the world."—Ex.

**WORKING AT HIS TRADE**

Colonel John P. Irish, who stumped the state against equal suffrage, is now advocating unlimited Japanese labor for California. He will probably next appear in favor of making the United States an unlimited monarchy.—Los Angeles Tribune.

"Why does that old maid use so much paint on her face?"  
"She's making up for lost time."  
—Brooklyn Life.

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