

THE EVENING STAR, With Sunday Morning Edition. WASHINGTON, D. C. THURSDAY, June 9, 1921. THEODORE W. NOYES, Editor

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The Republican Committee.

The new chairman of the republican national committee takes office with an experience which insures full appreciation of its responsibilities. As vice chairman he became acquainted with the duties of the chairmanship, and his promotion is a reward for faithful services in the subordinate post.

Moreover, he will have the benefit, as will the committee, of the advice of Mr. Hays, who, although occupied with the affairs of the Post Office Department, will yet keep up interest in his party, and be available for advice in organization matters.

Mr. Hays in his valedictory said some very sensible things. The past is very fine, and secure. But the future needs to be carefully looked to. Because the country went republican in 1918, and smashing so last year, is no warrant in itself for believing that the performance will be repeated next year. The next campaign will have to be planned and conducted on conditions that then exist.

Those conditions will not be made, cannot be made, by the national committee. In large measure they will be made by the administration and by Congress. If the President's policies and the legislation enacted by Congress redeem the promises of the Chicago platform and inure to the country's benefit, the committee's work will be easy. Another republican victory will certainly be achieved. Otherwise, the efforts of the committee, no matter how energetically made, will be likely to go for nothing.

As usual, the republicans are getting a good start. The committee is united, and early on the job, and evidently correctly appraises the job's size.

Conferences.

Conference committees seem to be scheduled for much important work. The navy bill has gone to conference with House and Senate wide apart. The general tariff bill is certain to need conference shaping in its more difficult features, while it will be a miracle if the tax-revision problem does not make a heavy draft on the harmonizing capacity of the men appointed to bring the two houses together on that. The peace problem may not prove so tough. Mr. Knox, the author of the Senate plan, is talking in a conservative key, and the House in conference may respond in like spirit.

Such committees, as all know, do not admit the public to their meetings. Their agreements are secretly arrived at. Likewise their disagreements. The confabulations are sometimes of a very spirited character, and especially where disagreements result. Some details get through the doors, but never enough to satisfy the public's curiosity.

A saving arrangement, however, is found in the disposition of conference reports. They can be openly discussed when made, and in that way the public advised as to the gist of the committee's sessions.

Let us hope that such may be the case this time: that all conference reports may be discussed with due appreciation of their importance. The country is greatly interested in the Navy and the Army, the tariff problem, and details as to the action Congress takes on them cannot be too full.

If Berlin undertakes to set the styles the Hohenzollerns will be willing, no doubt, to sacrifice a prince or two for service as fashion models.

Summer hotels are now preparing to contribute a few items to the list of housing problems.

The Patent Office.

In the bill just introduced by Senator King for a compulsory merger of the street railway companies is a provision for straightening the lines on G and H streets between 7th and 8th which bears upon the question of the proper placement of public buildings in this city. At present the structure long known as the patent office, formerly the headquarters of the Interior Department, so fully occupies the space allotted that it virtually obscures upon the street. The street lines are jogged out in consequence and correspondingly the car lines are turned out of their regular course. When the building was erected there was no street congestion in Washington. There were no car lines. No body thought of car lines then. As the building was designed it should have had at least thirty feet more space all around. Had it been planned with a lower main floor, with the principal entrance practically at the street level, there would have been barely room enough. But the elaborate southern portico, with its broad approach steps, made an invasion of the street necessary, and the other entrance steps ran close to the street lines. The simple fact is that the site chosen was inadequate for the building.

That was not an unusual fault in those days, and, unfortunately, it has been repeated in modern times. It was repeated when the Post Office Department building was planned and located, with a flush street setting. Also when the new Interior Department

was placed, with practically no margin between street and wall. It was, in a measure, avoided when the Municipal building was given a park-front setting, though the east, south and west walls were brought to the street lines.

In the construction of government buildings in Washington henceforth precaution should be taken to avoid this fault, to give each structure a park setting that will at the least not encroach upon the street lines, unless, as in the case of the patent office, a double square is taken and a street is closed for a block. To insure such emplacements the plan was long ago urged that the government take the entire "Mall-Avenue triangle," lying between the Botanic Garden and the Ellipse, and, treating it as a whole, locate of a series of city blocks, instead of the needed public buildings upon it with reference to their immediate and possible future requirements. The government has already bought the western strip of squares and holds them in tenancy; that section would make a suitable setting for one, possibly two buildings, but not for the three that were originally contemplated for the location.

It is now proposed in the King bill to move the sidewalk line on G street back to the north line of the portico, in order to straighten the car lines, and in the event of a remodeling of the exterior of the building and the removal of the south portico steps a similar shifting of the F street sidewalk and tracks is contemplated. This would involve a further crowding of the building itself by the street, a fault which should in no circumstances be repeated in any future public structure emplacement and design.

See Trade and Traders. In London Tuesday Rear Admiral Sims and Sir Owen Phillips were among those who delivered addresses at a luncheon of the English-speaking union. This is taken from a press cable.

Sir Owen Phillips, president of the British chamber of shipping, who presided, said he was not one who looked with a critical eye at the evolution of the American merchant marine. He declared that British shipping men should seek to work in harmony with "our comrades across the sea."

There is some expectation on both sides of the water—Sir Owen evidently knows of it on his side—that the development of a strong American merchant marine will not make for good feeling between England and America, that, on the contrary, it may lead to trade bickerings of a dangerous character.

This need not be. There is room enough on the waters for the merchant fleets of both countries. And why not trade even when the world of trade gets going again for the profitable operation of both?

Business is business—sea business as well as all other kinds—and in its conduct call is made for vigilance, industry, and staying power. But why should it mean war, or even bad feeling, for two nations to compete up to the hilt for business in a field open to both, and cultivatable by both to the extent of their respective abilities?

England is the older trader, and has done notable things in the sea-carrying line. We were good at sea-carrying at one time ourselves, and shall try again for a leading place. But our means will be legitimate business means, and strictly on the live-and-let-live order. We shall strive with all our might, and in the belief that all our competitors are doing likewise.

Back on the Job at Eighty-Four. Washington A. Roebing, aged eighty-four, was the other day elected president of the engineering and construction company with which his family name has been prominently identified for seventy-five years and notable since his father, John A. Roebing, built the Brooklyn bridge. The newly elected president had retired from active duty, but the recent death of a nephew necessitated his return to the head of the company. There is something particularly impressive in this spectacle of a veteran stepping into the breach caused by the death of a junior. The Roebings have been remarkable people. The elder, John, did what was by some engineers believed to be impossible when he spanned the East river with a suspension bridge. For many years it was one of the wonders of the western world. Other big undertakings have been achieved by this family. Now the eldest of them all goes back to daily duty, despite his nearly eight and a half decades. This case is a rebuke to the pessimists who aver that modern business men are, by their stresses and strains, lowering the average of human life.

A self-censorship may be devised to protect the motion pictures from people who seek to utilize scandalous publicity as a means of breaking in.

The tradition that a man from Missouri frankly demands "to be shown" may compel the Einstein theory to skip a number of towns.

There are doubts whether Lenin can continue to make his soviet history interesting unless he succeeds in locating financial backing.

American dye manufacturers "see red" whenever renewed German competition is mentioned.

Justice Holds Up Her Finger. Sometimes the law works peculiarly. While justice is in theory no respecter of persons—is supposed, indeed, to be blind—she occasionally peeks at the personality of the man at the bar and takes note of his social standing, to his advantage. There is the case of Babe Ruth, for instance, the mighty home-run hitter, the hero of base ball. He has a disposition to drive his motor car as fast as he drives the ball out of bounds. The other day he was arrested for the second time for speeding. The court had to be severe with him because he had had one distinct warning. So a jail sentence was necessary in addition to a fine. It was a most terrible ordeal. It was for one whole day. As a matter of fact, it only lasted six hours. But think of spending six hours in jail! To be sure, the "jail" consisted of a comfortable

anteroom near the courtroom; but then, the ball game was in progress during part of the time. Opportunities to accumulate four-base hits were passing with the ticks of the clock. At 4 o'clock the "day" ended, and then the "prisoner" was released, and he was a special police escort to see that he was not arrested again, he went to the ball park, presumably within the speed limits, and got there in time to play a few innings.

Suppose this had been a common or garden variety of citizen who had transgressed a second time, not a "hero" or a public character of the homer-hitting kind. At least a week would have been his portion and the jail would have been a regular escort or squad of honor at the expiration of the term.

These cases are not calculated to increase respect for the law. New York is killing people by the hundreds in the streets. Speeders are taking toll of life at a shocking rate. But there will be no improvement in conditions so long as second-offense scoffers are treated differentially, according to their status in the public eye.

Admiral Sims' Indiscretion. Admiral Sims is paying the penalty of popularity. In England he is a welcome figure. During the war he made naval forces. Whenever he appears at a public function in that country he is cheered and encouraged to speak. He speaks fluently and effectively. But he is not always discreet. His speech at London the other day at a luncheon was quite the reverse of discretion. It was, indeed, if it has been correctly reported, decidedly improper for a person wearing the uniform of the United States and holding an official position. Regardless of the matter or the sentiments, it was a bad break. Now the admiral has been called upon for an explanation. Unless the reports of the speech are incorrect he is due for an unpleasant experience.

No man can speak with entire freedom so long as he is in any degree represents a government. Whatever his relations with the public organization, while there is a relation he must curb his speech to conform to the public policies. Admiral Sims' present offense of indiscretion is not his first. He has transgressed the strict rules of official propriety heretofore. Such utterances might very gravely compromise the government, but the promptness with which they have been challenged will in this case remove all political consequences.

The latest world figure to be called to account by his physician is Lloyd George. The affairs of nations have called for almost superhuman effort on the part of men upon whom have devolved extraordinary responsibilities for thought and action. Lloyd George is one of these men, and the surprise is that the complete rest now demanded for him should not have been required sooner.

Pueblo is already preparing for reconstruction and will get to work as soon as any differences of opinion among the architects and engineers have been disposed of.

The civilian guards of Bavaria have decided to disarm. The action must be regarded by thoughtful Germans as a triumph of common sense.

Dictionary talent is again required to aid discrimination as to whether the word "lobbyist" is to be used as a descriptive noun or an epithet.

The league of nations has enough material in hand to insure an abundant amount of discussion at every meeting.

SHOOTING STARS. BY PHILANDER JOHNSON. A Momentous Question. What can we do to change life's plan? And rest the tired business man? The stage is filled with dancers gay whose costumes make a strange display. With comic pictures by the bale we seek to lure his features pale. Unto a momentary laugh. We put jazz on the phonograph; The world is cutting capers queer. In order to afford him cheer. But private yachts and motor cars. Luxurious food and good cigars. Are not sufficient to dispel. This fierce fatigue of which they tell. Oh, ye who make the questionnaires, Let this great problem claim your cares. Whose answer is so much desired? Why are all business men so tired?

Fixing Attention. "Are you going fishing because you need a rest?" "No," replied Senator Borah. "A man in my line needs a certain amount of publicity. I find that my constituents frequently neglect to pay attention to my most thoughtful speeches, but when I go fishing all the papers comment on the fact."

Jud Tunkins says the reason a speaker is long-winded is that after he has got a few auditors going he is afraid to let them get away and think things over.

Unsportsmanlike. The proffiter we must proclaim. Attempts, remorseless sinner. To make his own rules in life's game. And be a sure-things winner.

Classics. "Are you an admirer of the classics?" "Yes," replied Miss Cayenne; "although I can't help regarding it as unfortunate that they are so much easier to dance than they are to read."

Past and Present. "When I first started in life," said Mr. Dustin Star, "I had to borrow money to pay my railroad fare." "Well," replied the cynical friend, "history repeats itself. If you succeed in boosting rates as far as you like you'll have everybody else doing the same thing."

Men should insist upon a clause in the marriage ceremony whereby the bride agrees not to seek alimony.—Knoxville Journal and Tribune.

"Every normal boy of the 80's wished to be a pirate," says a writer. The record of war protesting indicates that many of them achieved the ambition.—Rochester Times-Union.

Editorial Digest. The Answer to Tulsa. Out of a mass of newspaper comment generalizing on the "barbarity of civilization" of the Tulsa race riot four points stand out: First, a demand for organized education, federal if necessary, that will counteract race-hatred; second, a call for more vigorous law enforcement and better policing, and stern prosecution of the guilty. The same editorial stand of the "Tribune" (democratic) has apparently done much to temper what might have been harsh criticism in the press. If this attempt "to atone" had not been visible in the words and deeds of the citizens of the "disgraced" city. The "Tribune" (independent) calls attention to the fact that the republican party in its national platform "urged" Congress to consider the most effective means to end "lynching," and this declaration, it believes, is broad enough to include a "fresh survey" of the situation. An "educative process" applied with patience, courage and organization, it is enough to create an overwhelming public sentiment against lynching, the Baltimore American (republican) thinks is the only thing that will stop it. With this opinion the Jersey City Journal (independent) is in sympathy, and the Milwaukee Journal (independent republican) also feels that the fundamental education of Americans away from mob mind and action is the solution. To bring this about the New York Call (socialist) summons the "whole working-class movement of the United States" to "take the initiative," while the Baltimore Sun (independent democratic) insists that "the remedy" be backed up by a fixed and steady determination on the part of the people to master the race problem on the basis of reason and understanding.

To the New York Evening Post (independent) the question is "essentially one of efficient police and administration," and if the states and local officials cannot handle situations growing from "racial animosities" and "racial rivalries" then "an irresistible demand will arise for national action." The "Tribune" (democratic) states that the facts badly when it says the results of the riot are "an exhibition of one conspicuous and hideous fact. That there is an element in Tulsa that has not been taught to respect the law." The St. Joseph (Mo.) News Press (independent) attributes the trouble to "the Tulsa police" and "the Tulsa sheriff" and declares that "negligent" declares the Pittsburgh Leader (progressive republican) "there would have been no gathering at the jail, no fight, no riot, no murders, no destruction of the town by fire." With this example before them, the South Bend (Ind.) Tribune (independent republican) suggests that "every chief of police and every sheriff" new ask himself "how is my force organized to prevent a similar orgy of murder and arson?"

When "an impudent negro, a hysterical girl and a yellow journal reporter" can cause the murder of thirty people and the destruction of hundreds of homes there must be, says the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot (independent democratic), "something fundamentally wrong with the police system and with the public opinion which is back of that system." Indeed, "whenever mob violence readily gains headway," observes the Boston Transcript (independent republican), "it is the fault of our police system," and while "the ultimate remedy we can eliminate the fundamental causes of race riots," the Baltimore News (independent) considers that "we certainly ought to be able to develop pretty generally throughout the country a type of police service which not only prevent race rioting from becoming serious in most cases, but will afford us the protection we are entitled to against all kinds of lawlessness and disorder which we seem subject to."

Chicago Teins (independent republican) goes back of the officials and the system itself and lays the whole trouble on the fact that "with heartrending swiftness Tulsa has turned to repentance." This suggests to the Globe at least one remedy: "Every dollar in damage it causes should be made good and every individual guilty should be punished. As it seems to be the attitude of Tulsa citizens the Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph (republican) has faith that there will be no immediate repetition of the outbreak. That the city in some measure "can set herself aright before the world," the Harrisburg Telegraph (republican) believes, if she sees to it that "the guilty are sought out to the last man and punished." To this the Wheeling Register (democratic) agrees, and it must be done, the Cleveland Plain Dealer (independent democratic) adds, "if the city is to pay the debt 'she owes to the people of the United States.'"

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Statercraft Among Women. Instead of sounding the death knell to organizations for women, as so many predicted, gaining political rights by women seems to have given a new impetus to these organizations and to have inspired women to develop organizations of such scope as they only dreamed of formerly. A growing tendency of women to concentrate their forces at Washington is shown not only by the purchase of property opposite the Capitol building, but by the national woman's party, to be used as its permanent headquarters, but by what some constitute the "National Woman's Club" in Washington, D. C., to serve as a home for all homeless national bodies of women. This project includes a national bureau of information about everything in which women are interested, an institute of statercraft, in which almost everything a person can think of will be taught. Statercraft, as seen by women, is a much broader thing than most men ever thought of making it.—Pitt (Mich.) Journal (independent).

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Circumstantial Evidence. AN ADITORIAL. I NVENTIONS often have explained to man the functions of the organs of his body. Man used his eyes thousands of years, before he sensed their mechanism. In the sixteenth century Battista Porta invented the camera and started scientists on the right road of optical thinking. Today many of us need the actual evidence placed before us to make us realize our duty to our eyes. Don't just wonder if your eyes need attention. Let modern scientific knowledge state exactly their condition. We are here to make plain to you just what your eyes do or do not need. We invite your queries. Our expert optometrists invite your confidence and assure you sight-satisfaction. "See ETZ and See Better" O.P.T.O.M.E.T.R.I.S.T. 1317 G Street N.W.

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