

**TALKING OF SENATOR GORMAN.**

**His Friends in Washington Still Think He Has a Chance**

**For the Democratic Nomination for President.**

Washington, July 15.—Senator Gorman's friends in Washington look with much interest upon the visit of Judge Parker to the South. From all that they can learn they do not believe that the prestige of the Maryland statesman was injured any by the trip of the New Yorker, and they believe that when the time comes for the nomination of a Democratic Presidential candidate next year Senator Gorman will have very strong support from the Southern States.

Nothing like a brass band campaign is being conducted for Senator Gorman. The Senator himself would not permit anything of the kind. He has not put himself in the position of seeking the Presidential nomination and his European trip this summer has doubtless had the effect of cutting off a great deal of talk that would have been indulged in had he remained in this country.

There will be plenty of time for the discussion of the merits of all prospective candidates before the National Convention meets next summer. During most of this time Mr. Gorman will be in the limelight. He is the only man prominently mentioned in connection with the Democratic nomination who will take a prominent part in national affairs between the present time and the date of the nomination. Upon his return to the Senate at the beginning of the extra session in November Mr. Gorman will at once assume a prominent place in the party councils. During his absence from the Senate other Democrats have developed in prominence, but no man has quite taken his place as the party leader. He will be welcomed back by his party associates and will be looked to for advice by both Senators and Representatives.

This condition of affairs, while it will undoubtedly be of advantage in many ways to the advocates of Senators Gorman's nomination, will also add to the difficulties in his path. He will be recognized by the Republican leaders as a formidable candidate for the Democratic nomination and the astute leaders of the Republican side of the Senate can be counted upon to place every possible obstacle in his path and to endeavor to entrap him into utterances that would injure his candidacy. The Maryland Senator, however, can be counted upon as a match for any of his Senatorial opponents, and if the Republicans rely for campaign material upon the hope that he will make mistakes on the floor of the Senate, they will probably be woefully disappointed. If any Republican campaign material is based on Democratic mistakes made during the extra session of Congress or the regular session it will probably be supplied by some one other than Senator Gorman. At the same time his supporters realize that he will be the target for Republican attacks and for misrepresentation and abuse in proportion as he becomes more prominent as a candidate for the Democratic nomination, and that his very prominence may thus be a disadvantage to a certain extent as compared with men who will not be so prominently before the people. The advocates of the nomination of the Maryland Senator do not fear the ordeal through which he must pass before the meeting of the National Convention. They know that he has the confidence of the party leaders and of the conservative business element in the party, and out of it to an extent enjoyed by but few men, and they believe that Republican criticism of any of his acts or of the acts of his party in Congress will not diminish in any degree the confidence of the party leaders or of the people in his wisdom and integrity.

**P. M. Arthur Drops Dead.**

Winnipeg, Man., July 17.—P. M. Arthur, grand chief engineer of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, dropped dead at midnight while speaking at the banquet closing the annual convention of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers which has been in session for the past few days.

Mr. Arthur had just arisen to respond to a toast and repeated the words: "It may be my parting words to many of you," when he fell backward and expired a few minutes afterwards.

London, July 15.—At house dinner of the National Liberal club tonight, Earl Carrington presiding, Bourke Cockran was the guest of honor and delivered a speech denouncing Colonial Secretary Chamberlain's fiscal proposals. The action of the committee of the club in inviting Mr. Cockran is the subject of protests by numerous members of the club, because of his anti-British and pro-Boer speeches.

Pittsburg, July 15.—Hudson Samson, known in Methodist Episcopal Church circles throughout the United States for his charity and philanthropy and as the builder of a score or more churches throughout Pennsylvania and the middle and far west, died at his home in this city last night of acute indigestion. He built the first public crematory in the United States in Pittsburg 20 years ago, and many prominent persons have been cremated in the establishment.

Society Hill, July 15.—There was a shooting scrape at a negro baseball picnic near here on Saturday last. Several negroes began disputing over a trivial matter when one whose name is unknown shot James Young and was immediately shot by Carey Young, a brother of James Young. He is thought to be fatally wounded. The other negro has only a flesh wound in the arm.

Tucson, Ariz., July 14.—A special to The Star from Wilson, Ariz., says: A fight has occurred between the men of I and M troops on one side and E troop on the other, all of the Fourteenth United States Cavalry at Bonita, three miles from Fort Grant. Corporal Seidensticker of Troop M was fatally wounded in the groin and Trumpeter Davis, also of Troop M was shot through both thighs. The men who did the shooting are unknown at present. One hundred shots were fired and a house wrecked. About 50 men are implicated.

**PRESIDENT MAY RENIG.**

**He is Hunting an Excuse to Get Out of Sending Jews' Petition to Russia.**

Oyster Bay, L. I., July 14.—An important conference was held at Sagamore Hill today between the president and representative Jewish citizens of the society of the B'Nai B'Rith regarding the petition to the Russian government on the Kischineff outrages. Besides the president the parties to the conference were Simon Wolf of Washington, Oscar Strauss and Leon N. Levi of New York.

The administration has been embarrassed by the delay of the representatives of the B'Nai B'Rith society in presenting the petition. A draft of the document was handed to President Roosevelt several weeks ago by Mr. Wolf, but it was decided after some consideration to modify the text of the petition before presenting it formally to this government for transmittal to Russia. This was desired too to obtain to the petition the signatures of representative citizens of the United States of all the religious faiths. As a result the document was not placed in the hands of the president until today.

The result of the conference at Sagamore Hill has not been disclosed but a strong intimation is given that the petition may not be forwarded to the Russian government. The desire of both the president and Secretary Hay is that the Kischineff incident should be closed as soon as possible, as further delay in its consideration might prove embarrassing to this government in other negotiations with Russia.

Inasmuch as the Russian government has indicated by the adoption of severe measures a genuine disposition to punish adequately the perpetrators of the Kischineff murders and in addition those who instigated them, it is a problem for the president and Secretary Hay to solve whether representations concerning the incident now are either desirable or necessary. Members of the Jewish committee together with Dr. Albert Shaw, editor of the Review of Reviews, and his friend from England, Maurice Amos, were the guests of the president at luncheon.

**RUSSIA SHOWS HER HAND.**

**Denies Authority of China in Manchuria.**

Port Arthur, Manchuria, July 15.—The conference of prominent Russian officials has ended and the last special train departed for Moscow yesterday.

Most of the visiting officials have gone. Exultation over Russia's increasing power in Manchuria was the dominant note in the gathering. The possibility of taking any backward steps is scoffed at if mentioned by outsiders.

The evidence of the increase of warlike preparations since the arrival of Gen. Kurapatkin, the minister of war, and of the intention to bring more troops to Manchuria is abundant.

The officials explained that Russia's objection to opening Manchurian towns to foreigners was not based upon opposition to foreigners whose trade is desired, but to consuls accredited to the Chinese Government in towns which are practically under Russian control, which would give the subjects of countries so represented the enjoyment of extra territorial rights. They asserted that such an arrangement would be certain to result in great friction, such as occurred in New Chwang.

**HAY STILL NEGOTIATING.**

Washington, July 15.—At the State department today it developed that the conference between Secretary Hay and Theodore Hansen yesterday regarding the Manchurian situation as one of the most satisfactory nature. The result is that the Secretary will further advise the American treaty commissioners at Peking of what transpired yesterday, and it is hoped these additional instructions will pave the way for an early settlement of the question of ports in Manchuria, which is the one point in the controversy.

The Japanese minister, Kagora Takahira, who was compelled to forego his trip to Japan because of the continued delay of the departure from Washington of Count Cassini, called at the State department today to inquire regarding the conference yesterday between the Secretary and Mr. Hansen. The Japanese minister has been given to understand that Mr. Hay's policy in Manchuria is solely to secure open ports of the world.

**That Kischineff Petition.**

Washington, D. C., July 15.—The Jewish petition laid before the President yesterday by the B'Nai B'Rith committee, has been received, and Secretary Hay has communicated by cable with Mr. Riddle, the American charge d'affaires, at St. Petersburg, respecting the means to be employed in bringing it to the attention of the Czar. It is believed that Mr. Riddle's instructions are to notify the Russian Government of the existence of the petition and ascertain whether it is willing to receive it. No further announcement will be made until Mr. Riddle has been heard from.

**St. Louis Boodler Convicted.**

St. Louis, July 15.—The jury in the case of Julius Lehmann, former member of the House of Delegates, charged with bribery in connection with the passage of the city lighting bill, returned a verdict this afternoon, finding the defendant guilty. His punishment was fixed at seven years in the penitentiary, the maximum punishment under the law for the crime of which he was convicted. It took the jury just seven minutes in which to reach its verdict.

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**MUNICIPAL FRANCHISES.**

**Cities Should Own and Operate Their Public Utilities.**

By Prof. E. W. Bemis, Superintendent of Waterworks, Cleveland, O.

By the franchise question in cities is meant the relation that cities bear, or should bear, to street railways, lighting, water, telephones and other companies that receive rights from the city to lay pipes and conduits under the streets, or to occupy right of way upon them or over them. It is recognized that these enterprises are vital to the development of the modern city, and the welfare of its citizens. The health as well as the comfort of a community depends upon the extent to which cheap and convenient transportation is furnished to suburbs, and an abundance of light, pure water, etc., are supplied to the streets and buildings. The larger the city grows the larger even the per capita use of such public utilities, that are in their nature monopolies. The fact that they must look to the city for rights in the streets, and that in cities of much size they are able to earn a much larger return on the cost of their physical property than is the case in other business involving similar slight risk, places these monopolies in most intimate relations with the city governments and taxing bodies. The owners may be our best, as they are often our ablest citizens, but they have a tremendously larger temptation to secure weak and inefficient city governments than have physicians, merchants, manufacturers, wage-earners, or other social classes. No other business, unless it be saloons, or school textbooks, is at once so profitable and so dependent upon the favor of all city governments as are public utilities.

Everyone is familiar with the scandals that have attended these enterprises in nearly all our large cities, although in few cases has so much publicity attended them as in the recent cases of St. Louis and Philadelphia. But it is more important to consider some ways of improving the situation than to further unfold the grewsome tale of existing demoralization, that the fault of this condition has not always lain in the management of these companies, but often with unscrupulous city councils. The fault seems to be rather in the nature of the case than in any particular badness of character in the men in charge of these public necessities.

Turning to remedies, there is much to learn from the recommendations on this subject of the National Municipal League, in its famous municipal programme, or model charter and proposals of necessary State legislation. It was there proposed that the State should have very little control of the subject outside of a limitation of the life of the franchise to 20 or 25 years, but should throw the responsibility upon the communities concerned. They should have the right entirely untrammelled by State legislation to either own and operate or lease any of these utilities, and in case of a lease to fix such terms as they may wish and be able to secure from the operating companies.

Carrying out this thought somewhat further than the league has done, the writer would urge that all cities should arrange as soon as possible to have all their franchises of a certain type, such as street railways, expire at the same time, and should therefore refuse to grant any franchises for any definite term, but should provide that at any time, or soon as State legislation should be secured rendering it legal, cities might have the right to buy these enterprises on paying the structural value plus some fair percentage, perhaps 15 per cent., to cover net monopoly values, but not such value as might accrue to such business merely from its being a "going concern." Such power of purchase, however, and such leases and renewals, should always be referred to popular vote by the council, or should be subject to such a vote whenever 10 or 15 per cent. of the voters might sign a petition demanding such a referendum.

It is not here meant that all cities should at once proceed to the ownership and operation of such public necessities; in fact, it is believed that the time is not yet ripe for this, in many places, and that the people would not vote for it. A somewhat general belief in civil service reform, or the merit system, and the ability of the people to own their own government, and not submit it to be "boss ridden," is the prime requisite for any large success in municipal ownership. All that is here contended is that every community should have the right to determine its own policy in these matters, and in taxes for local purposes of such public necessities. When communities once possess the right it will not be important in many cases to actually exercise it, as it now appears to be. When Nashville thus secured the right to issue \$600,000 of bonds to construct a gas plant in 1892 the price of gas at once fell from \$2.10 to \$1.50 and has subsequently been reduced to a much lower figure. A similar decline took place in Baltimore within the past three years. A company that declared that it could not sell street arc lights in that city for even as low a price as \$125 per year per light without loss, found it entirely possible to sell at a profit for less than \$100 as soon as the city had secured the right to issue bonds for a municipal plant.

The so-called Massachusetts method of dealing with city monopolies is not as effective as this would be likely to be. In Massachusetts no franchises are granted to public utilities, yet it is practically impossible for a city to take any action of any kind in dealing with them, without the approval of the State board, which is very conservative in its regard for several interests, while the State legislature often shows still greater conservatism. Where franchises are not to expire at a certain definite date in the near future, but at different times on lines, as is especially the case with street railways in many cities, and where valuable routes for new lines have not yet been secured by the old company or companies, it would often be possible to do what Mayor Johnson has undertaken to do in Cleveland, viz: secure by competitive bidding some new company to bid for the unoccupied streets where street railway facilities are desired, and bid under specifications which call for public purchase at 10 or 15 per cent. advance over the

physical value whenever a vote of the people shall call for it. Such a company is then in position to take over existing, expiring grants of the old companies, as their franchises run out, and to do so under favorable terms to the city. Municipalities having successful waterworks plants could well afford to establish municipal electric lighting plants in connection therewith for both street and arc lighting. In such cases it would be fair to buy out the old companies at their fair physical value plus 10 or 15 per cent. if they care to sell.

The trouble with existing conditions of private ownership is that city councils and other branches of the city government are under such suspicion of undue influence that able men of high character will not accept office therein, as they will do on hospital, educational or park boards. Hence the various branches of a city government become filled up with weak, if not actually corrupt men. Such men are not only incompetent or unwilling to deal properly with monopoly questions, but are too weak to deal adequately with other problems, such as schools, streets, public buildings, parks, etc., which are in no way connected with these monopolies. The utter feebleness and amazing incapacity of many a city government is thus accounted for.

On the other hand, the tendency under public management, as often seen in the case of the waterworks, is more and more to exclude politics and enlist the sympathy of the taxpayer in economical, honest administration.

When private management prevails, as prevail it undoubtedly will in most places, and in respect to most monopolies save water and electric light, for some years to come, efficient service and low charges should be sought by the community rather than high taxes. Low charges by these monopolies improve the standard of living of the many and even increase the business of the companies to such an extent as to prevent any large fall of profits with reduction of charge. To make taxing bodies of gas and street railway companies where the alternative of reducing charges is at hand is a great social blunder. Where, however, as in many cases, there are legal difficulties in the way of public regulation of charges, it is only fair and just to assess these bodies in at least the same ratio of the market value of their securities and their net earnings as prevails in the case of city and village real estate and the estates of orphans in the probate court. Even a further and special franchise tax would be ethically and economically sound. Some State constitutions now permit this, if once public sentiment makes the demand. In most cities today, however, the tax on the average man's home is far higher than on the true value as a going concern of the lighting and railroad monopolies that go by his door.

Until the people are ready for a business or for a merit system of administration of public utilities in public hands, and until they are willing to take the time and energy away from their moneymaking in order to truly own their own government, about the best that can be hoped for is the securing for every city such home rule and such power to regulate and tax these utilities as has been above suggested. When that is done, then, to some degree at least, private companies will be on their good behavior, and will seek to deserve that continuance of public favor which would become absolutely necessary for their continued profitable enjoyment of their rights of the streets.

**RUSSIA WILL NOT RECEIVE PETITION**

**Cablegram From Mr. Riddle So Informs President Roosevelt.**

Washington, July 16.—It was learned tonight that the state department has received a reply from Russia stating that it neither would receive nor consider the matter of the Jewish petition on the subject of the Kischineff incident. This information came in the form of cablegram from Mr. Riddle, the American charge at St. Petersburg, to whom was committed the delicate task of inquiring of the Russian government as to its attitude with respect to the presentation of the petition.

It is believed that this will end the matter and that no further steps will be taken by the government to bring the views of the petitioners to the attention of Russia, although as yet no consideration has been given by the president to the course to be pursued in the light of Russia's response to our inquiry.

**REMINISCENSES**

**Jailer George W. Hancock had Something by Which to Remember the Early '60's.**

Here in Sumter there are few people more generally known than George W. Hancock keeper of the jail. Mr. Hancock is an interesting talker and tells a story well. Of war stories he has an ample store. Seen one day at his castle on Canal street, he told the following:

"I have been down in bed on account of my back several times and suffered the most intense pain right across the small of my back which felt just as if a log of wood was laying on it and crushing the life out of me and I was unable to get from under it, could not turn over without taking both hands to pull myself. The kidney secretions were very dark, full of sediment and called me out of bed every little while. I think I contracted the disease during the war, away back in 1862 and 1863 laying out in all kinds of weather, exposed to heat and cold. Since then during later years I have suffered everything a man could suffer and live. I used everything I could get hold of but nothing seemed to touch it. I finally saw Doan's Kidney Pills advertised and went to Dr. A. J. China's drug store and procured a box. They acted like a charm. I have used three boxes and all the pain in my back has left, the kidney secretions have become natural and I feel A. No. 1. Doan's Kidney Pills are the best backache remedy on earth."

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