AMERICAN SENTINEL

WESTMINSTER MARYLAND

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OLD OFFICEHOLDERS AFTER BALTIMORE POSTMASTERSHIP

Among letters to the editor of the Baltimore Sun, published in Monday's issue of that paper, is one signed C. Sprague, complaining bitterly that the applicants for the postmastership of Baltimore to succeed the present incumbent, J. Hall Harris, whose term expired sometime ago, and who is anxious, to retire from the responsibility, are almost to a man chronic officeholders. Mr. Sprague does not mince words in his criticism of these gentlemen. He calls Mr. J. Barry Mahool, who was four years in the city council and four years mayor of it, "a spineless mayor." Col. Sherlock Swann, who was chairman of the Burnt District Commission and also of the Police Board, he says "has a present income of about $40,000 a year," and asks, "Isn't that enough?"

Of Mr. Lloyd Jackson he says "Well he is after every job—enough said." On Mr. George N. Nemsen his comment is "been holding office too long, public tired of what he has not done."

His allusion to Mr. Sterett McKim is, "Gee, will he never be satisfied. He has held office and never made an impression." He winds up these criticisms by saying of Col. Louis M. Rawlings, "well, I hope the President inquires of the Postoffice employes before seriously considering him. He had better try to hold what he has."

It does seem a little remarkable that only men who have heretofore held office of some sort should be urged for this appointment, but Mr. Sprague's comments upon some of them are hardly fair. Notably, this is true of his allusion to Ex-Mayor Mahool who, while not a great man is at least a thoroughly honest one and who, as mayor of Baltimore, gave that city a clean administration and protected it against the job-seeking propensities of the Mahons, Kelleys and other ringsters, whose animosity he incurred and through whom his renomination for the office was prevented.

Col. Swann made a good record in the public positions he has held, but it must be confessed it is a little singular that, with such an income as $40,000 a year, he is willing to burden himself with the cares of the Baltimore postoffice, which is no sinecure if the duties of postmaster are faithfully discharged. The other men named have not been sufficiently sonspicuous, except Mr. Numsen, to name them in the same class with Mahool and Swann.

NEGLECTED LESSONS

Several weeks ago, among a number of pithy and pertinent sentences sent to the Sentinel for publication, by a friend, was that old, old saying, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." In giving it a place among the other selections the Sentinel added the comment: "Trite but True."

This ancient aphorism is particularly applicable to the recent flood conditions in Ohio and Indiana. It contains a lesson which has been neglected, or partially so at least, year after year for a decade or more, neglect that has just cost hundreds and perhaps thousands of lives and the destruction of many millions of dollars of property.

Running through Ohio are two canals, the Miami and Erie, from Toledo to Cincinnati, 263 miles, and the Ohio from Cleveland to Portsmouth, 370 miles, both with lateral branches. The New York Commercial, in a description of these water ways, explains that these canals have immense storage reservoirs constructed about three quarters of a century ago and which have become weakened by the lapse of many years. This condition has been known to the authorities of Ohio for a decade or more and as far back as Governor Herrick's time, 8 or 10 years ago, considerable work was done to strengthen the reservoirs but not sufficient to make them absolutely secure because of lack of funds.

Herrick, Harris and other Governors since them have urged, but without success, apppropriations to complete the work, and this failure of the Ohio Legislature to provide the means to protect the people along the Miami and Scioto rivers and their tributaries, is responsible for the harvest of death and the immense destruction of property, rendering hundreds of thousands of people homeless, which have just fallen upon so large an area in that State and the eastern section of Indiana. For it was by the breaking of some of these [illegible] reservoirs that flo[illegible]ed [illegible]time roll[illegible]d

Appalling as has been the consequences they are inconsequential in comparison with what would have ensued if some or all of the larger reservoirs had collapsed under the pressure of the accumulated waters. One of these has a capacity of 44,500,000,000 gallons and another of 600,000,000 gallons. But enough of them gave way to carry havoc, death and destruction to many towns and cities and to a large area of rural territory.

And this was not without a previous warning. The Sentinel well remembers the fright of 1906 at Dayton, when the Miami river threatened to overflow and sweep away the dyke which protected the city from inundation. Residents of Dayton then, in reply to anxious inquiries said, "there is no danger. The dyke will stand against all the pressure of waters that can come upon it." It is within the range of possibility that it might, if properly strngthened, have justified that confidence. But very evidently that was not done. And lo! the harrowing result of the neglect of the lesson then taught the State of Ohio, if not of the city of Dayton and other cities along the banks of the Miami river.

The propensity of human beings to "take the chances" is forcibly illustrated by the harrowing results of this neglect. The people of the city of Messina, destroyed a few years ago by a fearful earthquake, in a month's time were rebuilding their homes on the ground which in its throes had shaken their houses to heaps of ruins. Our own San Francisco is an example of the same sort of confidence in a kind of theory that what happens once will not happen again. That lightning will never strike twice in the same spot.

It is to be hoped that Ohio will take these lessons to heart and not longer neglect the duty of making absolutely secure the sources from which the danger to the lives and property of hundreds of thousands of its citizens arises.

WHAT CONSTITUTES A POLITICAL BOSS?

One of the things most inveighed against in this country, at this time, is political bossism, and justly so. The righteous principle in Republican government is the rule of the people and when that is usurped by an individual, or a ring of individuals, such a government becomes the very antipodes of republicanism. It is not to be wondered at therefore, that genuine patriotism prompts to strenuous hostility to the usurpation of the rights of the people by individuals or cliques—in other words to bossism.

But what constitutes a political boss? The question is pertinent, because there is a marked difference between leadership and bossism. It may be answered briefly by saying that whoever, by use of the power of patronage, the influence of office, or the control, in any manner, of men who make politics a trade, seeks to enforce his own schemes and to thwart the will of the people, is justly amenable to the charge of political bossism. This is a brief definition, to be sure, and does not fully cover the entire range of the subject, but it is sufficient for the purposes of this article.

Now, the question arises, is that to be a distinctive feature of the administration that has just come into power? Some of its first acts are calculated to suggest an affirmative answer to the query and notably that of Presidential interference in the selection of candidates for the United States Senate. That President Wilson has assumed that role is no longer questionable. He is behind the candidacy of Mr. Marbury which, it can hardly be doubted, was intigated by him. He is also, it has been said and not denied, in favor of the election of Mr. Blair Lee.

It is not necessary to assume a purpose on his part to dispense the patronage at his command to those only who may act in accordance with his wishes in this respect. The influence of the power in his hands is just as effective as if he were to say, in terms, that no man should receive an appointment of any sort, important, or trifling, who fails to coincide with his views on the senatorial question. He may, or may not, entertain such a purpose. Perhaps he does not, but his public career fairly justifies the opinion that he is inclined to play the boss in politics. Denouncing bossism himself he becomes a conspicuous exemplar of the boss system.

And so, bosses may come and bosses may go, but the bosses go on forever.

The National Wholesale Liquor Dealers Association has sent to the Sentinel a number of newspaper clippings condemning prohibitory liquor laws. One of these clippings says "the prohibition states have been the most lucrative fields for the liquor interests, particularly the distillers of whisky." The question upon this statement if it be true, naturally arises, why then are the liquor interests fighting prohibition? Isn't that course illogical? The help of the Sentinel is requested in the solution of the liquor problem in securing the "regulation, licensing and strict control of the business." Just now the Sentinel is not advocating either prohibition or the license system. But it does believe the people have th natural right to determine the question and that the Legislature of Maryland should pass a law to make right effective.

MR. TUMULTY ANSWERS FOR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. William S. Bryan, a former attorney general of Maryland, who aspires to become a United States Senator from the State, wrote a long letter to President Wilson, on the 25th of March, the purpose of which, it is said, was a respectful protest against Mr. Wilson's entrance into active participation in the senatorial fight now becoming acute.

Having written the letter Mr. Bryan awaited, with what patiece he could command, a reply thereto. After four or five days delay he received it, but not from the President. It was from Mr. J. P. Tumulty, his secretary and was brief and not over courteous. It said:

"March 29, 1913.

For the President, I beg to acknowledge the receipt of you very interesting letter of the 25th of March, I will take pleasure in calling it to his attention just so soon as possible.

"Yours very truly,
(Signed) F. P. Tumulty,
"Secretary to the President."

That looks like a snub, pure and simple, not from the President but a secretary, who decides, with or without authority, to say what communications to the Executive may be seen by him. " So soon as possible" is an undefinite period and may never arrive. It looks as if the head of the Nation were inaccessible to the people, both in their persons and in their communications. His secretary would hardly assume to shut them out without his authority. If this thing keeps up it will probably start a tumult (y) among the Democrats.

If reports from Washington are to be believed the committee composed of Democratic Congressman having under consideration tariff revision, is in a quandry over the question of putting sugar upon the free list and has put the matter up to the President agreeing to be governed by his decision. Action by Congress upon that particular subject will be a test of Democratic sincerity in relation to a protective tariff, which the party platform alleges to be unconstitutional. The Republican party has maintained a tariff on sugar for the purpose of protecting and fostering the cane and beet sugar industries of the country. It is believed they will suffer without this protection. Sugar, like coffee, is an article of large consumption in the United States, but coffee does not come into competition with an American product and was many years ago placed upon the free list. Sugar would have been there long ago if none of it were produced in this country. If the Democrats retain a duty upon it that action will mean that the American article needs and will continue to receive protection. If it be put on the free list and the American product frozen out the people of the United States will be compelled to pay what ever foreign producers may demand. And there you are Mr. President.

When a newspaper alleges that it uses no boiler plate, yet in the same issue in which that assertion is made has at least six columns of matter of that sort, it pays a poor compliment to the intelligence of its readers. It must imagine they do not possess sufficient intelligence to tell the difference between a home-written local, a news letter and such articles as "Feed For Increased Weight," "Form For a Concrete Tank," "Live Stock Notes," "Science and Invention," "Dairy Notes," "Profits Increased by Silo," "Poultry," Poultry Notes," "Christian Endeavor," "International Sunday School Lesson," etc. Is the denial of such use veracious? The Sentinel does use some boiler plate occasionally, but expects soon to discontinue the practice almost entirely and give its readers something that will be of especial interest to old and young.

Henry E. Schoenwolf, a former saloon keeper and, it is said proprietor of a house of questionable character in Baltimore, has been appointed a doorkeeper of the United States Senate. The appointment was made [illegible] the request of Senator John W[illegible] Smith and has raised a comm[illegible] among people of religious and [illegible] inclinations. On Monday a co[illegible] of ministers attending the P[illegible] Conference of the M. E. Ch[illegible] ed upon the Senator and [illegible] against the retention of [illegible] in the position. Mr. [illegible] was that he was unac[illegible] Schoenwolf's previous [illegible] time of the appoint[illegible] since found the man [illegible] ing a new life a[illegible] justified in requ[illegible] unless he lapses [illegible] purpose. The [illegible] by him, that [illegible] be kept on [illegible] the purity [illegible] would dep[illegible] in the m[illegible] able.

Bad [illegible] be he[illegible] door[illegible] But [illegible] th[illegible] a[illegible]

Mr. Wm. H. Anderson cannot stop throwing mud at Wm. H. Taft. If you doubt it read last week's American Issue. If it could only be beaten into his cranium that this sort of thing is hurting the cause he odvocates more than it is injuring Mr. Taft, he might, possibly, be induced to refrain from it in the future.

If there is any difference in the character of the three kinds of bosses above described, the most reprehensible is that of the first. The official who has the power of patronage and holds it as a whip to drive the people into the acceptance of his plans and purposes is the worst sort of a boss, and the measure of his culpability is to be gauged by the extent of the patronage at his disposal. In this respect the President of the United States may become the greatest political boss on earth. If disposed to use such power he becomes the head boss of the country and all the little bosses who profit by his favor must obey his behests. Too much of that sort of bossism marked some of the past administrations in which the "cohesive power of public plunder" was a most powerful factor in carrying into effect the plans of the chief.

CIVIC LEAGUE LECTURE

Mr. J. Horace McFarland, president of the American Civic Association, will deliver his lecture, "The Crusade against Ugliness" at the Opera House, Thursday, April 10th, at 8 P. M. Tickets 25c and 15c.

The League has gone to a great deal of trouble and expense to secure for Westminster the best posted man in civic work in this country and it is hoped that our citizens will fill the house to hear and profit by his lecture.

The April Cosmopolitan says: "Mr. McFarland is a magnificently developed man, and is an excellent example of one who lives for his country.

Years ago he announced that American communities must cease to be a laughing stock to foreigners because of their uniform ugliness, lack of intelligent planning and neglect of the simplest means of beautifications.

He has done an enormous amount of campaigning for the City Beautiful and also a more beautiful America.

He has long been the president, and acknowledged leader of the American Civic Association. He is ever immensely active and delightfully effective. He is absolutely honest, ever sane, fearless, resourceful, tactful, yet aggressive. If you want to realize the marvelous potency of withering invective, just listen to him while he attacks the iniquitous practice of deborning or beheading trees, or while paying his respects to the offensive defacing billboard."

John Hoke, a carpenter, of Emmitsburg, was drowned in Toms Creek, near that place.

Steps were taken by the Wilmington Methodist Episcopal Conference, in session at Crisfield, to raise monty for Goucher College.

Justice Henry Bischoff, of the New York State Supreme Court, was killed by falling down an eltvator shaft in the Emigrant Savings Bank Building, New York.

Captain Amundsen, discoverer of the South Pole, who is now in San Francisco, has contracted to buy two hydroplanes, which he will take with him on his next arctic trip.

VIRGINIA HORSES

BENJAMIN DORSEY has just arrived with an extra fine load of horses and mares. This is our fourth car load and the best load we have received this year. Among them are an extra fine pair of young mules an several good leaders.

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