AMERICAN SENTINEL

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The Republican Paper of Carroll County

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POSTAL INCONSISTENCY

The regulations of the United States Post Office Department are, in some respects, so utterly inconsistent that it is somewhat surprising that public attention has not been frequently called to the fact. It places its ban upon the circulation of newspapers through the mails in which there may be hints of the results of games of chance of all sorts, but leaves them wide open to carry stories of events infinitely more immoral and corrupting than much that is excluded. Newspapers, if they are to be received and carried to their patrons by the mails, must not tell that a merchant has offered a prize to the person who guesses nearest the number of seeds in a pumpkin, the number of pennies, or of beans or some other things, of about equal size, in glass jars. Stories of the raffling of a quilt, a piece of bric a brac, or some other thing of comparatively small value, which it is desired to dispose of at its full value and more, for the benefit of some indigent persons, the relief to be gained in that manner, come under this prohibitory regulation of the department, which covers all games of chance. And the regulation is perfectly right. The department can consistently make no distinction in the matter. In all these things the principle of gambling is invoked, and, however seemingly innocent any action dependent upon that may be, must be debarred.

But there are other things transcendently more hurtful against which the department makes no objection. Perhaps the most flagrant of these is prize fighting, which is a crime under the laws of most, and perhaps all, of the States of this Union. It can hardly be denied that some of the features of this species of exhibiting physical prowess, are brutal and demoralizing. That a prize fight calls together, as witnesses of such an immoral and brutalizinig event, the lowest elements of gambling and kindred vices to be found in the country. A few weeks ago an exhibition of this sort was made in Havana, Cuba, because the laws of this country did not permit it to take place on American soil. But American newspapers, with few exceptions, under big scare lines, gave columns upon columns of details of the disgusting mill, and filled other columns with a description of the victor, his manner of life &c.

Yet the Post office Department made no protest against the circulation of these newspapers, although one of the principals of the bout is a negro of unsavory reputation. It is probably true that the story of this prize fight was read by millions of men and boys, white and black, and to a limited extent by women, but, as a rule, only by women of a low order. In contrast with the much less harmful games of chance, to publish accounts of which excludes newspapers from the mails, this Havana exhibition was like a mountain to a molehill. Is it not flagrantly inconsistent on the part of the department to permit United States service in one case, while placing the ban on the other?

Perhaps it may be argued that very many of the people want the story of an event, however objectionable it may be, because it has a certain national character, and hence should not be deprived of that privilege. There is less logic in that argument than there would be in stating that a few people want to hear the result of a raffle, of large or small interest.

It is to be said, too, that about half of those who read accounts of prize fights, would turn away in disgust from a prize ring. They read the stories on account of an innate interest in exhibitions of physical strength, and without really taking in a sense of the brutality and immorality of the exhibition. But, it may be well said that they are not benefitted morally by the knowledge.

PUSHING CIVIL SERVICE TO THE LIMIT

President Wilson has issued an executive order barring men over 35 years old from taking a Civil Service examination to make them eligible for appointment as secretaries and clerks in the diplomatic service. The Civil Service rules are, at best, entirely too drastic in limiting the age at which an examination may be taken for appointments generally, to 45 or 50 years. Many men are at their strongest capability after they have passed a half century and can do their best work for twenty, or even thirty years, after having arrived at that age. But the government must be deprived of their services because a set of men who may, perhaps, have only a theoretical knowledge of the service, constitute a Commission to control it, and who adopt rules calculated to ascertain only the extent of an applicant's education in books, without inquiring into his fitness for the station to which he may aspire. The whole system is un-American and needs to be thoroughly revised. If a technical examination is desirable let it be made in addition to a practical one only, and not as a bar to appointment; and away with the age limit entirely. This order of President Wilson is pushing the age question to the limit, and may be only a step in a policy to make all Civil Service examinations more drastic. Some of the most efficient and capable officers of the government, before the introduction of this Civil Service fad, were men who could not have passed an examination for the offices they held and the duties of which they discharged with efficiency, to their own credit, and to the benefit of the government. Some of these men were retained because of especial fitness, and have grown gray in the service.

The masses of the American people are not partial to the present system, but the politicians of both parties are either afraid to tackle it, or are glad to have it as an excuse to escape the importunities of office seekers, and so, time after time, it has been endorsed by the national platforms. Of course the great army of officeholders whom it protects would be a unit against its repeal or revision, and the politicians fear their influence, while, many a time, gritting their teeth because it lies in the way of their landing an appointment for some henchman.

The truth, however, is that the real objections to the system are the age limit and the technical character of the examinations. There can be no reasonable objection to ascertaining the real fitness of an applicant for appointment, the examination to be carried on in books and outside of them. The American people should protest against this new order of the President.

DEMOCRATIC BOSSISM AND CORRUPTION

The Democratic press is gloating over the exposure of Republican bossism in New York, officially made public by the Barnes-Roosevelt libel case, which nobody ever denied, but in which corruption in violation of the State's financial interests does not appear. There is, however, a marked contrast between the sort of bossism practiced by the Republican leaders and that perpetually in evidence against the other side, and Democrats have no cause to be jubilant over the revelations in this proceeding between Barnes and Roosevelt. Democratic bossism in New York is as corrupt as sin. Some of it was exposed by Governor Whitman when he prosecuted to the death the gunmen who had committed murder to protect officials in the interests of Tammany, who were growing rich on the assessments made upon keepers of brothels and other infamous dives. The Republicans can show a clean sheet in comparison with the blackened record of Tammany. Tammany bosses, without other occupations than as politicians, have grown rich in a few years. How did Croker make the large fortune that enables him to live abroad in lordly style?

But the Democratic party of New York is not alone in maintaining that sort of bossism. Democrats of Maryland can come nearer home and find some of their leaders, without ostensible business occupations, whose wealth is rated well up to a million. How was it acquired? They can find bosses who are out for authority and not for money, among whose supporters are violators of the liquor and gambling laws of the State, but who in some mysterious way enjoy immunity from prosecution. They can find bosses whose word can hinder or help legislation. They can find little bosses who are charged with procuring the illegal registration of voters. Now all this is different from the sort of bossism that has been exposed in the trial at Syracuse, or is practiced by the Republicans in this locality.

There seems to be no cure for bossism as a controlling influence in nominations for and appointments to office, and even in shapinig legislation. It is an inevitable consequence of organization and is an evil that must be endured. When it becomes too flagrant, sometimes, the people take a hand in the business and exchange one set for another, even when only the milder form of dictating nominations and appointments to office, as stated, is pursued.

But that is not the kind of bossism that marks the Democratic organization of Tammany in New York, and to some extent, that of Baltimore City and at least one other locality in this State.

Wherefore, Democrats in this country, and particularly in the localities mentioned, should keep silence, knowing that their own party is reeking with such bossism as isn't always of the innocent sort.

HOW IT IS SEEN BY OTHERS ALSO

The Sentinel, in an editorial in last week's issue, on the "Sort of Business That is Booming," pointed out the fact that it is mainly, in this country, in the exportation of war material and that there is no great increase in other branches of traffic. It is gratifying to find that a similar view of the business situation is held by many others and especially by men of prominence, who have abundant opportunities to ascertain the facts and who are close observers of passing events; men of conservative temperament and whose judgment is not warped by political prejudice; men who are real statesmen and not of the pinchback stamp. There are few who will not admit that Ex-President Taft is a man of that character and agree that his views on any public question are worth considering.

In an opinion expressed in an interview at New Haven, Conn., a few days ago, he is quoted as having said "that the present stimulus in business in the United States is artifical. The war in Europe has caused it. Manufacturers are busy turning out material for the belligerents. No man can say for certain, but a sudden end of the war might throw the country back into a condition as bad, if not worse, than it was before hostilities began."

He discussed other questions freely, but the aforegoing is the gist of what he said on this subject. And, as an evidence that political prejudice had no part in influencing his judgment, he unrequivocally endorsed the course of President Wilson in relation to the question of American neutrality. He was not, however, of the same mind concerning the President's Mexican policy. "The Wilson administration," he said, "has bungled affairs in Mexico," though he let it be understood that he is thoroughly opposed to intervention.

But this is a digression from the purpose of this article, which is to show that the views expressed by the Sentinel on this subject, in its last week's editorial, are held by the best informed citizens of the country, of whom William H. Taft stands at the head.

GERMANY'S WONDERFUL RESOURCEFULNESS

In the early days of the war in Europe it was a common occurrence to hear the opinion expressed that Germany must be successful in a short time or be defeated in the end. It soon became necessary to revise that notion, and now that more than eight months time of the war has passed, the outcome does not seem so very certain. Apparently this Teutonic country seems capable of continuing the conflict indefinitely. Her resourcefulness is something wonderful in the history of nations. If the war were being carried on according to the old international rules which governed warfare, this would not be so apparent. But these rules are being violated by all the belligerents and can no longer be considered in force. Neutral nations, if they would avoid being drawn into the strife, must accept that condition and content themselves with protests when their own rights are invaded. But it is between the Germans and their enemies that they display the most amazing capacity for the invention of destructive agents of warfare and their effective use. The use of shells, for instance, loaded with noxious and suffocating gasses, which are released when the shells explode, in or about the trenches of the Allies, and force their defenders to flee or suffer asphyxiation, is a new agent in fighting that only the ingenious German mind could have conceived. The ability to manufacture war material within her own territory is another evidence of her far reaching ability. Immense guns and the motive power to move them, are constantly being manufactured. The supply of shot, shells and powder for an inconceivable amount of artillery of every known capacity, seems to be inexhaustible and the manufacture of destructive floating mines, and the more dangerous and destructive submarines, is going on without cessation, to say nothing of the immense Zeppelins, of which the English people seem to be so much afraid.

And all this has to be accomplished within her own limits and without recourse to any assistance from the outside. It was reasonable to suppose that there would long ago have come a collapse in the struggle to keep up these amazing conditions, but at present, at least, there is no sign of such a catastrophe to the German arms. All this is something which can be said with truthfulness, however much one may be prejudiced against the German side in the conflict, and has to be considered in looking forward to the end of the dreadful warfare and the awful carnage that attends it. As yet there is no sign of a German overthrow.

ITALY MAY BE TRICKED

Allusion has more than once been made in these columns to the apparently vacillating course of the Italian government, which one day is announced as about to enter the war, and the next proclaims permanent neutrality. This can be fully understood when it is seen that the government at Rome is playing for the recovery of the provinces long ago wrested from Italy by Austria, and that negotiations to that end have been carried on, with frequent interruptions, since early in the war. Italy naturally desires to accomplish this by diplomacy and without being obliged to take up arms for the purpose. Austria fights shy of agreeing to any abandonment of her sovereignty over the disputed provinces, but the wily German government has continued to hold out the prospect of a settlement of the question satisfactory to Italy.

Three days ago it was declared that the Italian government had definitely decided to join the Allies and declare war against Austria. But at the same time it was said that German statesmen were then on their way to Rome for further conference with the King and the Italian premier. What the result of that conference may be cannot, at this writing, be stated, but it will probably end in further procrastinations. Italian diplomats are no match for the Germans, and if Italy will make sure of regaining her provinces she must insist upon at once occupying them and maintaining therein a military establishment strong enough to hold them after the end of the existing war. The Allies want and badly need her assistance to make certain their triumph in the war with the Teutons; but if they can accomplish that without her they will hardly be generous enough to give her the coveted territory; and if they fail in overcoming the allied German and Austrian empires the latter will, of course, retain the provinces now so eagerly sought by the Italian government and people. If Italy can at once gain her old provinces, well. If not, she must fight for them or abandon the hope of their repossession. "A bird in the hand" is worth a good many more than "two in the bush."

A CRITICAL SITUATION

The Standard Oil American steamer Gulflight was torpedoed on Saturday, off the Scilly Islands, near Land's End, England, by a German submarine, and three of her crew perished. Two of the men jumped overboard and were drowned, and the captain of the steamer died of heart failure caused by shock. The wrecked ship was towed into Crow Sound and beached. The Gulflight sailed from Port Arthur, Texas, for Romen, France, April 10, with a cargo of oil. The loss of life caused by her destruction complicates the situation and calls for something more than a formal protest. Germany is to be held responsible for the outrage. But how? The destruction of an American ship, on a peaceful voyage, would have been bad enough, but when American citizens are killed, reprisal, of some sort, is demanded and prompt compensation to the families of the men who perished. The Administration is considering the character of the representation to be made to Germany concerning the attitude of this government on the subject, and the nature of the demand to be made upon the Kaiser's government for redress. Will a demand for an apology and for compensation cover the sort of claim that arises under the unprovoked attack upon an American ship?

The United States is not at war with Germany, yet the destruction of the Gulflight, and the consequent loss of life, is an act of war, pure and simple. None of the belligerents is observing the international rules of warfare. Has Germany any right to hold the United States to a formal course of diplomacy. She is an aggressor against all the rules of conduct which govern nations in their intercourse with each other when not at war. Would not this country be amply justified in seizing German property to amply compensate the sufferers by this outrage? But, if that were permissible, where is the property to be found? Germany, at present has little, if any commerce, so there is no chance to seize a German ship. But, unless Germany promptly acknowledges the crime of her submarine, punishes her officers and makes ample restitution to the owner of the Gulflight, and compensation to the families of her dead, what is to hinder the United States from seizing and holding, or disposing of some of the German ships interned in American ports? That, of course, would be a violation of international law, but, as Germany has no respect for the observance of the law of nations in her dealings with this country, why should America be bound thereby?

The destruction of the Gulflight was the culmination of a series of outrages against the American people and their commerce. Col. Roosevelt calls it piracy, and, it may be added, it was piracy with murder. What then is to be done to impose a penalty for the crime? Thus far the American people have stood by the Administration in its efforts to preserve strict neutrality and peace, and to avoid dangerous complications. They will continue to do so, unless it shall display a pusillanimous spirit in dealing with this last and gravest outrage against American citizens. All will hope that the government will find a way out of the difficulty without compromising the dignity of the nation and without resorting to force to maintain it.

A woman's hat is not properly trimmed this spring unless one feather points to the noon-day sun, and the other to China.

MODERN IDEAS OF FAME

One of the interesting events of 1915 will be the ballot to be taken between July 1 and October 1, for new names for the Hall of Fame at New York University. This year Patrick Henry, Samuel Adams, John C. Calhoun, Daniel Boone, and many other famous heroes of the past will again appear in this posthumous electioneering, each with ardent partisans. New electors for the 1915 balloting are now announced.

This election is interesting as it reveals different people's ideas as to what constitutes fame. Years ago great military and naval commanders would have predominated. Today a marked change can bee seen, in that authors have a more conspicuous place than fighters.

This growing tendency to dignify the position of the writer is seen in many ways. The well-known annual volume "Who's Who" has always given a conspicuous place to authorship, not merely of books, but to distinguished magazine and newspaper writers. Many people have found places in this publication, who in their own home community are quiet and almost obscure people, yet who reach millions of people through the magnetism and sweep of the printed page.

In previous generations authors were a down trodden folk. Often they could subsist only by the charity of men of wealth, who prided themselves on supporting the fine arts.

Today the successful author can not complain of obscurity. He is highly paid and feted. So much flattery is given many bright young writers that they conceive the idea that they need only open their mouths and the world will listen. They forget that hard work is the price of continued success, and often lapse into obscurity. The number of promising literary careers of young newspaper men who are wrecked by premature social adulation is almost inconceivable. The men and women whose names will finally go into the Hall of Fame shunned popularity, and toiled and suffered for their crowns.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

This is to give notice that the subscriber has obtained from the Orphans' Court of Carroll county, Md., letters testamentary on the estate of

JOSIAH C. BANKERT,

late of Carroll county deceased. All persons having claims against the deceased are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof legally authenticated to the subscriber on or before the 10th day of December, 1915, they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of said estate.

Given under my hand this 7th day of May, 1915.

CATHERINE V. BANKERT,
5 7 5-t Executrix.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

This is to give notice that the subscriber has obtained from the Orphans' Court of Carroll county, Md., letters of administration on the estate of

MARTHA E. BUTLER,

late of Carroll county deceased. All persons having claims against the deceased are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof legally authenticated to the subscriber on or before the 10th day of December, 1915, they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of said estate.

Given under my hand this 7th day of May, 1915.

JAMES M. STONER,
5 7 5-t Administrator.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

This is to give notice that the subscriber has obtained from the Orphans' Court of Carroll county, Md., letters testamentary on the estate of

JOHN H. THOMPSON,

late of Carroll county deceased. All persons having claims against the deceased are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof legally authenticated to the subscriber on or before the 10 day of December, 1915, they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of said estate.

Given under my hand this 7th day of May, 1915.

WILLIAM T. MATTHEWS,
5 7 5-t Executor.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

This is to give notice that the subscriber has obtained from the Orphans' Court of Carroll county, Md., letters of administration on the estate of

CHARLES T. PENN,

late of Carroll county deceased. All persons having claims against the deceased are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof legally authenticated to the subscriber on or before the 19th day of November, 1915, they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of said estate.

Given under my hand this 16th day of April, 1915.

ROBERT E. PENN,
4 16 5-t Administrator.

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