

THE OBSERVER

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NO PATRONAGE.

Abolition of patronage is suggested by President Taft in his message to congress on economy and efficiency. The president has gone a long way in making a suggestion because patronage has become a confirmed institution in connection with the administration of the government; a confirmed nuisance in some respects because frequently it sacrifices efficiency to political expediency. Certainly, the president's idea of placing all administrative officers of the government under civil service would promote efficiency and economy. The extension of the merit system would give better results than the extension of the patronage system although such a change might prove rather unpopular with the politicians.

Patronage is the chain that links the ward leader to the county leader and the county leader to the state leader and so on to the top of the political tree. It is the main-spring in political organization and the prime motive in the political activities of a majority of the workers. It is not that the individuals are looking for patronage but they want the plums controlled and distributed by the organization of which they are a part. Federal patronage has more to do with the opinions of the delegates to the national conventions of the parties than any other factor. The judicious

use of patronage has nominated candidates for the presidency and has produced organizations which have assisted materially in the election of the candidate. Patronage is a tremendous power. From the political standpoint it is a large asset in the hands of the president or any other officer. From the business standpoint—well, who ever talks of business in connection with the administration of the government.

The believers in the patronage system need have little apprehension as to the action of congress in regard to the president's recommendation. The abolition of patronage reads well in a message and looks good on paper millions every year in the administration of government affairs rather tickles the ear, but there will be considerable hesitation before congress relinquishes the patronage. Efforts to curtail expenditures in other ways will be hailed with manifestations of pleasure and the people's representatives will vote for the continuation of the economy and efficiency commission so long as the motive power in political organization is left in their hands. There should not be any misunderstanding in respect to the uses of patronage. It is not peculiar to one political party but is a part of all of them. Personal popularity may build some organizations but patronage control raises a dozen others. It is likely that the president and members of congress will continue to "devote to matters of patronage time which they should devote to questions of policy and administration."

Suspension for six months of the tariff duty of 2 cents a bushel on potatoes is proposed in a bill introduced by Representative Ayers of New York. The bill stated that "the scarcity of potatoes in the markets of the United States has raised the prices to a point almost prohibitive to the consumers."

A Chicago newspaper devotes nearly a column to the announcement of matrimonial engagements. Evidently the Chicago girls know what year this is.

Dynamite was exploded in a Pueblo, Col., laundry recently. Probably some patron was trying to blast the bosom of a shirt loose from the back.

Owing to the high price of butter, it is all right to look around for a less aristocratic lubricant, but one should draw the line at axle grease.

"THIS IS MY 62ND BIRTHDAY," General Michel.

Gen. Victor Constant Michel, who has the reputation of being the ablest commander of the French army, was born at Auteuil, France, January 30, 1850. He was graduated from the famous military college of St. Cyr at the age of 17 and was severely wounded at the siege of Paris a few years later. He won his promotion to the rank of captain at the early age of 24, and was a full-fledged colonel at 33. One of several important posts that he held in his early career was that of secretary to Gen. Billot when the latter was minister of war. A year ago General Michel was appointed vice president of the superior council of war at Paris, which is the highest military post within the gift of the republic, as the presidency of the council is always held by the minister of war himself.

Congratulations to:—
Rose Melville ("Sis Hopkins", well known American actress, 39 years old today.
Jacob M. Dickinson, former secretary of war, 61 years old today.
Rev. Dr. Charles W. Smith, bishop

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THIS DATE IN HISTORY. January 30.

- 1649—King Charles I beheaded at Whitehall.
1790—A lifeboat invented by Henry Greathead, an Englishman, first put to sea.
1797—John Fairfield, United States senator from Maine and twice governor of that state, born. Died there Dec. 24, 1847.
1847—Lord Elgin reached Montreal and took the oath of office as governor of Canada.
1849—Wisconsin State Historical society organized at Madison.
1862—United States iron clad ship Monitor, the first turreted war vessel, launched at Brooklyn.
1879—Jules Grevy elected president of France.
1888—Asa Grey, celebrated botanist, died in Cambridge, Mass. Born in Paris, N. Y., Nov. 18, 1810.
1891—Charles Bradlaugh, famous English radical, died. Born Sept. 28, 1833.
1895—North German Lloyd liner Elbe wrecked in the English channel with loss of 330 lives.
1902—Anglo-Japanese treaty of alliance signed in London.

AN AMERICAN ARCADIA.

(J. D. Gillilan, D. D. I suppose every country holds its land Elysian, famed or unfamed. Shady slopes kissed by the soft sephyras of the sunny southland, or the riotous regions where the stiffer breezes blow in the rigorous northland, each and all make their seductive beck and call to the tired traveler seeking the trying-plate of Rest. Our own never-so-loved and beautiful America has such love-spots by the multiplied thousands; some are "most exceedingly fair." If of forest, field or fell; the sea, the shore or the steeps; the mountain, the main, or the meadow; there are enchanting places of com-

manding beauty compelling the attention of the most careless traveler.

Just for an outing and to get away for the nonce from wires and wireless I took steamer one fine day at noon at a Seattle wharf and headed northward toward that glint of white crystal piercing the perfect blue, Mt. Baker.

What a land of thrilling enchantment! As the placid land-locked waterways of Possession Sound and Saratoga Inlet carry us onward we are besieged with the idea that gifted Dame Nature played prodigal with the unlimited funds at her command when she flung these ambrosial islands into these emerald seas. The isles of Whidby, Fidalgo, San Juan and others lie extended like lateral moraines of ancient, southbound glaciers, sullen giants yielding finally to the warm embraces and the wiles of the wilful sun. These Titans fought here with all the vengeance of untamable monsters. The irate Ice-king moving out to sea to meet the mightier Sun-king of the south, droppe many a huge hill into the waters from between his frozen fingers as evidenced by the great isolated boulders of gray granite he had wrenched from the sides and the shoulders of the far-away mountain.

Then Nature, peace-loving mother of things created, gently opened the doorways of the great deep and let in the floods to mollify the wounds and to hide the scars made by the footprints of the northern invader, thus making Puget Sound with all its many branching arms bathing the sides of the forest-billed islands within her spacious borders.

These blue-black gems embossing the emerald sea are devoted to the evergreen. Here are the firs of the red, white and spruce varieties; pines, yellow and white; the graceful hemlock, the blushing yew, the madrona.

the glory-crowned rhododendron; while various forms of thickety chaparral shrubbery cause the gay face of natural decoration to be largely the same in all the year.

A drive in the month of May through the northern end of Whidby Island took me over roads so well made and so well cared for that they seem to rival them of Roman days in England. Accompanied by the pastor at Oak Harbor we went to the dreaded Deception Strait where on the return of the tide from the west the frightful bore rushing unchallengable and unafraid through that narrow gorge makes it very necessary that the vessels that must go in and out at such times be strong of rounded rib and back-bone beam, and that the helmsman be no amateur.

All along the unwearisome way thither the resinous ozone from pinaceous woods and ocean adds to the salubrious luxuries on every side. In some places giant firs as yet unconquered by fire and storm, and untouched by the more fatal axe of the woodman, stand limbless a hundred feet to their tiny fronded tops; about their strongly rooted toes stand clustered dense growths of pine, hemlock, and other smaller stuff impenetrable even to the light of the noon day sun often; this is true where the deadly forest fire his not been. Here is a towering madrona whose red boll proudly carries its spraddling evergreen meaty leaf of last year's queenly crown now studded with spikes of white flowers like irradiating brilliants in a diadem of a bride. Like its cousins the manzanita and the rhododendron, it retains its leaves but annually sheds its bark.

This rhododendron (rose-tree) is the most beautiful among all the lesser growth; its sagittate leaves cluster about a whorl of petunia-like blos-

soms bursting in bashful beauty.

As if this were not enough, sumptuous nature has carpeted the earth and lined the roadsides with sweet-briar, wild rose, trailing honey-suckle, salmon berries, thimble berries, dew berries, currants and a dew raspberry and flowers common and rare. Here are the clarkia, the columbine, the lady slipper, the gorse, the cyclamen, larkspur, buttercup, squaw pink and a skunk cabbage and many others.

Occasionally a timid deer peers questioningly at one from the dense brake only to disappear noiselessly as it came. Few bear now infest these happy haunts; not many squirrels are seen; while the eagle, the quail and some species of sparrow account for most of the feathered tribes of land-fowl.

A bright young fellow came up for the cadet engineers' examination at Annapolis one day, and the judges asked him the usual questions, which he answered readily enough until one gruff old fellow frowned at him and demanded: "How do you say you proceed to get up steam?"

The cadet glibly described the process of building the fires, testing the water in the boilers and all that.

"And then?" snapped the examiner. The young fellow twisted his cap in his hands and thought up a few more details.

"And then?" rasped the examiner once more, pursing his lips and looking as if something important had been missed.

The cadet did the best he could, slyly adding such details as that he would shut the furnace doors after putting the coal in. The moment he stopped the same old question burst out: "And then?"

"And then," repeated the cadet slowly, raising his cap to his breast, and gazing at the ceiling. "and then I should look up to heaven and think I am ready to go home if the boiler front comes out."—New York Sun.



After a Cold Auto Ride

what could be more comforting or exhilarating than a nice cup of Hot Chocolate, which you will always find ready at this season of the year at our Soda counter? We give it to you pure and cheering, full of that goodness and nutriment so peculiar to the best quality of Chocolate. It is a food, drink and medicine all combined, at low cost.

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