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#### PLAGUE OF LEGISLATORS.

Why Some of the States Once Had Two Capitals.

Baton Rouge freely translated means red stick. That is the limit of my understanding of the name, however. It is a quaint old town, consisting chiefly of river. When I studied geography several decades ago, I knew that Louisiana had two capitals, one at New Orleans and the other at Baton Rouge. They have got tired of entertaining legislators at New Orleans of late years and have unloaded the whole job upon the smaller and more nearly defensible city.

Looking back to those old days, I recall that Louisiana was one of the very few states which required two seats for their legislatures. Connecticut was one, with Hartford and New Haven as capitals, and Rhode Island, the smallest of states, was another, with Providence and Newport. Of late years there has been a sort of centralization of capitals. The fashion of having one at every enterprising city in a state has fallen into disuse. You might tramp all over any of the states nowadays and not run the risk of blundering into a legislature in full blast where it might have been least expected. I asked the Pocatello man what he thought was the reason for the wealth of capitals in earlier times.

"In those days," he said, "the states were young and tender and had not fully developed their muscle and their power of resisting great assaults. It was therefore to distribute the evil of a legislature sitting over a great deal of country so as not to give any particular city the worst of it. As time went on and a town showed especial hardihood and ability to stand great calamity the legislature was switched upon it as a perpetual and permanent institution. New Orleans and Newport and other towns which in other days were capitals had the good luck to draw two axes and to win out, sending the legislature in the one instance to Baton Rouge and in the other to Providence. It takes a game town to stand a persistent plague of legislature."—Chicago Record.

#### COLOR IN FLAGS.

Red Predominates Largely In the Standards of the Chief Nations.

Though the policy of military authorities in using less glaring colors in uniforms has been very marked of late years red remains the most popular color for national standards. Of 23 countries 19 have flags with red in them, the list including the United States, England, France, Germany, Austria, Italy, Spain, Denmark, Belgium, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Mexico, Chile, Portugal, Venezuela and Cuba.

The countries which have blue as an element of their flags are the United States, Russia, France, England, Holland, Ecuador, Sweden, Chile, Venezuela, Portugal and Cuba. Three countries have black as one of the elements of their flags, Germany, Belgium and China, but Germany is the only one of three which has black and white together.

There are five countries (excluding from consideration Ireland, the familiar flag of which is not officially recognized among the national standards) which have green as a color; Brazil, the flag of which is green chiefly; Mexico, Egypt, Italy and Persia. There are nine countries in which the flag is partly of yellow. These countries are Austria, Spain, Belgium, Egypt, Sweden, China, Persia, Brazil and Venezuela. Countries with flags partly white are the United States, France, Germany, Russia, Austria and Italy, six of the seven chief powers.

There is no white in the national standard of England, but the British naval flag has a white background. Other countries having white in their flags are Switzerland, Turkey, Persia, Japan, Mexico, Holland, Denmark, Portugal, Cuba, Chile and Ecuador, the flag of which is nearer white than any other country, being made up of two parallel white columns, between which is a column of blue, upon which are white stars.—New York Sun.

#### Made Sure of It.

Some time ago I was at a small village in Somersetshire fitting up a steam dairy.

As is well known, water is a most essential thing in a dairy. So, being unable to obtain a sufficient supply from a well already sunk, it was suggested to open a disused well near and try the water there.

Instructions were given to the men to be careful on opening the well, as it might be unsafe to descend on account of foul air.

They were told to light a candle and let it down, and if it continued to burn they would then know that there was no danger in descending.

On the following day, on asking if it was safe to go down, one of the men replied: "Yes, that's safe enough. I took the candle down with me, and it burnt beautifully."—London Globe.

There are about 1,500 American students in Paris, most of them in art, and about 900 in Berlin, most of them in music, philosophy and the sciences. In France the degrees and diplomas are granted by the national government and not by the universities.

#### Thousands are Trying It.

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