

WOULD CUT OFF TIPS

Measure By Murphy is Aimed at Hotel and Restaurant Waiters.

CUSTOM LONG ESTABLISHED

Waiters in Best Hotels Get Not Over \$30 Monthly from the Management—Satisfied With Revenue from Tips.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—"Tip? No Tip!" Washington waiters and hotel-keepers are excited, while the public is curiously interested in the fate of the measure introduced by Representative Murphy, of Missouri, prohibiting the giving or taking of tips in hotels or restaurants. For the benefit of their patrons the proprietors of hotels say they favor such a measure, but for the benefit of their waiters they oppose it. Why a hotel proprietor should favor such a measure is not clear. When one sees a smooth-faced, cleanly white waiter, deftly attending to his wants, he instinctively compliments the hotel proprietor for employing such excellent help and regards the "tip" as a token of appreciation for specially attentive service. It does not occur to the guest, as a general rule, that he pays at the desk for this service and then pays the waiter. The rate of pay for the highest class waiters in Washington is \$30 per month. In other words the proprietor pays \$1 per day as a sort of retaining fee, to insure the presence of the waiter and to recompense him for such small services as he may perform for the hotel itself, such as removing soiled dishes and table linen. But for whatever the waiter does for the guest the latter is expected by the hotel proprietor and the waiter, to pay out of his own pocket, in addition to settling a bill which is always high enough to include first class service. The tariff is usually ten per cent of the bill, on large checks, but on small checks, say from one to two dollars, it is twenty five cents. If the check is less than a dollar the guest is expected to give the change to the waiter. The interests of the hotel proprietors and the waiters are thus identical, for as the tip is generally regulated by the size of the check, the larger the bill the larger the tip. No complaint has been heard recently of the practice which formerly prevailed to some extent, under which the waiter made a false addition in lead pencil and thus cheated the guest in addition to getting a tip. So much complaint was made of this custom that it was practically abandoned and is no longer practiced in first class places. Nor is it customary for waiters in Washington to pay the hotel proprietors for the privilege of waiting on their customers in return for tips, as is the case in some places. They are confined to the gentle practice of frowning on the modest tipster and of smiling on the more generous.

The writer fails to remember in the course of a long experience with Washington hotels, a case where a man paid a bill at the table without tipping the waiter, so he can not say what happens under such circumstances.

At the so-called family hotels where the patronage is largely confined to permanent guests the tariff for tips is two dollars per week for the men and one dollar per week for each member of the family. Thus, where a family has a table at which sits a man, wife and two daughters, the waiter is expected to receive a weekly honorarium of five dollars. Of this the head waiter collects from 20 to 40 per cent. This rate varies from about half as much to double, according to the standing of the hotel. Then there is the weekly tip to the chambermaid, of from one to two dollars per room or bed. The head porter gets his every time a piece of baggage is moved, and the porter moving the baggage is duly rewarded. Tips to the head porter average one dollar, and the active porter receives 25 to 50 cents per large piece.

There is no cut and dried system of feeling the bell boys. Permanent guests in the smaller hotels try to get one or two boys on their staff and fee them by the week. Transients have to take their chances and fee all the time. The schedule runs like this: Bringing in bag and carrying to room, 25 cents; same on departure; pitcher ice water, 10 cents; drinks in rooms, 10 to 25 cents; brushing coats, 10 cents; stationery, 10 cents; other services in proportion. The usual tip to "pages" is 10 cents. They call the visitor's cards. Pages who open the door to the telephone booths get 5 to 10 cents. Elevator boys in family hotels expect 25 cents to 50 cents per week from each

guest or family. In the large European hotels they seldom receive anything. The custom of "tipping" the cook does not prevail here, although after a dinner party is considered "au fait" to remember him or her. As the cook does not come in contact with the guests she or he depends on the hotel proprietors for their wages together from what they rake off from the waiters. It is also considered fashionable to tip the head waiter. Nothing less than a dollar goes and if given only occasionally it should be five. In addition he gets a per centage of the waiters tips, and in most cases, at least, receives something from the proprietor.

The hotels in Washington have another pleasant custom, which appeals strongly to the guests. The regular price for a telephone call from a pay station is five cents. In most cities the hotels supply telephones in the rooms as an accommodation to the guests but in Washington they are made a source of considerable revenue. In coming to Washington the visitor is advised to allow at least ten, and preferably twenty, per cent of what he calculates on spending, for tips.

Mr. Murphy's bill has been favorably recommended by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, who, under Congress and the President, rule the District. It would be a good reform to try here and if successful will doubtless lead to a general movement throughout the country.

W. H. Barr, the Chicago railroad expert, is of the opinion that the short-

age of cars and the delay in handling traffic is due not so much to carelessness or inefficiency of the railroad men as to the actual inability to handle the traffic. In discussing the subject Mr. Barr advanced the idea that the principal trouble was that prosperity came on the country faster than the railroads could care for it. The absence of double tracks and sufficient terminals has made the movement of freight slow. He also pointed out that many shippers used the cars as warehouses as far as they could, especially before the regular demurrage charge was instituted. In brief, he takes the ground that the shippers as well as the railroads are responsible for the situation.

CRACKSMEN AT FOREST GROVE.

Set Off Charge Under Postoffice Safe by Curious Method.

FOREST GROVE, Ore., Feb. 18.—Safe-crackers who followed a unique system got into the Forest Grove post-office last night and blew open the safe, getting away with what stamps there were and with a small quantity of change, but failing to get a larger sum which had been sent away yesterday in remittances.

The cracksmen entered probably by the back door, through which they bored by a 3-4-inch hole about six inches from the bottom. Through this hole they passed a clothesline rope 90 feet long. In some way they attached this rope to their explosive apparatus, went outside, closed the door, took the free end of the rope to its full length and it is presumed by a jerk exploded

the cap and set off the charge. Conrad McNamar, Carey Porter and Mrs. John Anderson, who live distances of from a block and a half to two blocks, heard the noise. The safe door was shattered, but the safe not moved. The sheriff at Hillsboro and the United States mail inspector were notified. There is apparently no clew.

WORK AT CULEBRA.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Secretary Taft received the following dispatch to day from Chief Engineer Stevens at Culebra:

"February, with 23 working days, will probably see 600,000 cubic yards of excavation in Culebra, and March will show 800,000 cubic yards excavation."

RISE FROM THE GRAVE.

A prominent manufacturer, Wm. A. Fertilizer, of Lucama, N. C., relates a most remarkable experience. He says: "After taking less than three bottles of Electric Bitters, I feel like one rising from the grave. My trouble is Bright's disease, in the Diabetes stage. I fully believe Electric Bitters will cure permanently, for it has already stopped the liver and bladder complications which have troubled me for years." Guaranteed at Chas. Rogers', druggist. Price only 50c.

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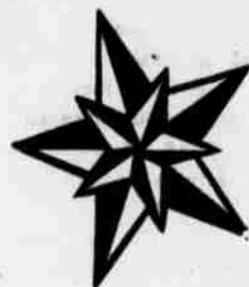


Everybody Boost!

The big ball has been started to rolling and now let every man woman and child in Astoria get in and boost.

Get interested in our good old town and stand by her. If a rich man starts a project encourage him; if a poor man, help him. Don't be afraid to stick your hand in your pocket. If you have means invest in something that will give employment to people. Do not kick on every proposed improvement simply because it is not at your door. Do all you can to beautify our town. Be friendly to everybody and courteous to strangers and never forget that you are part of the town and that your own department does its share in giving Astoria its character. Stand by, all enterprising citizens, and be ready to do something yourself and don't grumble or spend your time in prophesying failures, in short BOOST AND KEEP BOOSTING and you will be surprised to see how quick good things will come.

We propose to do two things—SELL REAL ESTATE AND BOOST. If you want to sell your property list it with us and we will sell it for you which means quick sales. Have now several good investments that are bringing from 10 to 15 per cent on the investment, also several good speculations. Come look over our list.



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