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## THE HOBOES FEAST

Attended By All Kinds and Conditions of Men.

MANY STRANGE STORIES TOLD

Tramp Banquet a Huge Success Despite Several Drawbacks—Toastmaster Is Driven Out of Town by Police; Unable to Attend.

CHICAGO, May 21.—The hobo banquet, given by the Brotherhood Welfare Association at the Windsor Clifton Hotel, last night, was a huge success despite several little drawbacks, such as the non-attendance of Washington Flat, the toastmaster, who was driven out of town early in the afternoon by the police, and the departure of Philadelphia Jack and the Dancing Kid of San Francisco. They explained that they had to catch the 11:15 "Freight."

Dr. Ben Eitman and his aides in the new organization had searched the highways and byways of the city for a representative gathering of hoboes, bums and beggars and they found them. There were more than a hundred present—some of the Bridewell, others from the Municipal Lodging House, Hogan's Flop, the New York House and the Barrel Houses of West Madison Street.

Several incidents marred the occasion but no one minded. Fred the Bum who was down for a speech on "Why I Hang Around Barrel Houses," picked up too many drinks before he came to the banquet and was found under the table when his name was called. "Shoestring Chase," a panhandler, scandalized his fellows when he was found improving the golden occasion by passing his hat during a lull in the banquet.

The crowd of hoboes created a great deal of amusement and talk in the hotel lobby. Crowds followed them into the cafe in the basement and stood around to see them eat. Some of the bums had collars and good clothes, while others came just as they lived in the lodging houses.

After a dinner as good as a group of bankers or merchants could want, the long program began. Bum Mitt Casey interspersed the courses with big chews of tobacco, and Fred the Bum insisted on singing "Where is My Wandering Boy Tonight."

The regular program began with a poem entitled "The Face on the Bar-Room Floor" by Chicago Tommy. It was a long poem, recited with deep gravity, and was the story of a hobo. Oester Joe, who told a crowd of saloon loafers how he had fallen, illustrating his story by drawing the face of his lost angel wife in chalk on the floor and then falling dead. It had a mighty effect.

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**"Butter Loaf and Table Queen Bread"**

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## A NEW UNIVERSITY

Efforts to Establish a National University.

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S IDEA

Following the First President's Idea the Work Has Now Been Undertaken by The George Washington University

WASHINGTON, May 20.—Vice President Fairbanks this week deserted his Presidential aspirations incubator long enough to write a remarkable letter. Not to be outdone, Speaker Cannon, who is commonly believed to be operating a Presidential hatchery himself, laid down his cigar and did likewise. The only remarkable thing, in fact, about these letters is that neither man is given to endorsing visionary schemes or to laudation in any form, as seekers after certain legislation know only too well.

With other members of the administration, Vice President Fairbanks and "Uncle Joe" have watched with much interest the efforts under way to carry out the scheme laid down by the First President for the establishment of a national university. Work to bring this about is being undertaken by the George Washington University, which was established in 1821 and which believes it has all the qualifications necessary to meet the demands on a great institution of learning. Already a fund of \$200,000 practically has been subscribed by local citizens, and plans are afoot to appeal to the alumni of the University and to patriotic citizens generally for subscriptions to an endowment fund which will permit the institution to acquire and maintain the importance it will desire.

Both letters were addressed to Dr. Richard D. Harlan, who is actively engaged in the field in preparing for a national campaign for subscriptions. The letter of Vice President Fairbanks reads:

I most heartily wish you success in securing an ample endowment for the George Washington University. It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of the work in which you are engaged. I am a firm believer in the establishment of such a University as this in the national capital. There will assemble young men of ability from all portions of the country, to enjoy facilities for education which will be unequalled anywhere. They will not alone be able to enjoy the advantages afforded by the great libraries and be permitted to study at close hand the mechanism of the government, but they will be brought into intimate touch and association with young men from portions of the republic, who will become factors in all of the professional, business, political, literary and scientific walks of life. I most heartily wish you success in the great work in which you are engaged.

The letter of "Uncle Joe" Cannon is not quite so lengthy as that of the Vice President, but as an unsolicited endorsement, it is one of the most unique documents that the Speaker has ever penned. The Czar of the House did not earn his sobriquet of "Watch Dog of the Treasury" without reason, and since his elevation to handler of the gavel, he has been even more chary of recommending anything or becoming identified with any movement. So it was with surprise that Dr. Harlan found in his mail at the University this week the following letter, bearing the cramped signature of the Speaker:

"I have been informed that you have undertaken to help in the work of securing the necessary means for the enlargement and extension of the George Washington University. The nation's capital is fast becoming the center of literary and scientific activity, and, with the advantages it enjoys, it should not be behind in educational work. I see no reason why this George Washington University should not become one of the foremost institutions of learning in the world. I hope your efforts in procuring proper endowment by voluntary subscriptions from the people of the United States may be crowned with success."

Dr. Mitchell Carroll, chairman of the building and endowment committee of the University, this week reports that the work has progressed so far that the sites for the new "greater university" will be decided upon at a very early date. The trustees are now engaged in making a careful selection of a number of sites that have been offered, and the plans for some of the buildings already have been determined upon. These buildings will be

erected with an especial view to conforming with the general plan of the "Washington Beautiful" board.

### SILK TRADE GOOD.

Unless Raw Material Cheapens the Finished Material Will Advance.

NEW YORK, May 21.—According to the annual report of the Silk Association of America, just issued, the consumption of raw silk by Europe and the United States aggregates 40,000,000 pounds annually of which the United States consumes 15,000,000 pounds.

Frank Allen, the secretary, reviews the silk trade for last year and asserts that present conditions were never more favorable. There is one disturbing feature, however, and that is the high price of raw silk. Not since 1893 has the price been so high, and Mr. Allen predicts that unless there is a decline in the raw material the price of finished silk will go higher.

## AN EXAMINATION FOR MIDSHIPMAN

EXAMINATION TO BE HELD IN PUBLIC LIBRARY AT PORTLAND, JUNE 6, 1907—APPOINTMENT TO BE MADE BY SENATOR BOURNE.

There will be held in the public library in Portland on June 6, 1907, a competitive examination for the appointment of a midshipman to the Annapolis Naval Academy by Senator Bourne. This examination will be conducted by Dr. C. H. Chapman of the "Oregonian" staff, and will embrace a list of applicants' attainments in reading, writing, spelling, punctuation and capitalization, grammar, geography, United States history, world's history, arithmetic, algebra and geometry. The applicants will be required to show what would constitute about 95 per cent grades in the grammar and high school studies embraced in this list, and they will have to be of sound constitution, in perfect health, each of the five senses unimpaired and from 16 to 20 years of age. Those of 16 years shall be not less than 5 feet 2 inches in height and at least 105 pounds weight; and at least 5 feet 4 inches and not less than 125 pounds weight of 20 years old. The applicants will have to bear all their own expenses of both examinations including railroad fares, and be prepared to incur an additional expense of about \$265 for the required outfit of personal effects in case the Portland examination is passed and an appointment received. One candidate and three alternates will be certified by Dr. Chapman to the examining board in the order of their respective standings in the examination. Senator Bourne will appoint the highest man to the position of midshipman and if he shall fail to pass the physical or mental examination to be held at Annapolis on June 18th, then the appointment will fall to the next highest man and so on until one is found or all fail. This examination is open to every boy in Oregon who can afford to take it, and the first appointment will go to him who shall prove to be the best equipped physically and mentally, a position of final distinction in the United States navy.

It is to be hoped our high schools and colleges may prove themselves worthy of the money the taxpayers are spending on them by showing that there are numerous young Oregonians qualified to pass the examinations.

### IRISH CONVENTION.

Turn Down Plan For Limited Irish Council Unanimously.

DUBLIN, May 21.—The largest, most representative and harmonious convention which ever assembled in Ireland, today, repudiated the plan for a limited Irish council which was all the Liberal government had to offer in the fulfillment of its campaign promises. This action killed the hope of the home rule campaign by the present parliament, creating a serious split in the government's forces and may have far-reaching results. The temper of the convention was plain from the beginning, no one had a word to offer in behalf of the bill. Home rule or nothing was the unanimous sentiment and the resolution proposed by John E. Redmond, rejecting the measure, commanded every vote.

### ALBERT KEEP WILL FILED.

CHICAGO, May 21.—The will of Albert Keep, filed for probate yesterday, disposed of \$4,500,000 in personal property and \$700,000 in realty. Charitable institutions are given \$150,000. The remainder goes to relatives.

The chief heir eventually will be Albert Keep Isham, grandson of the decedent, who, when he is 32 years old, will get one-half of the residue of the estate.

## HAGUE CONFERENCE

List of Russian Delegates Now Complete.

LIMITATIONS OF ARMAMENTS

Is the Important Question Before the Conference In Which Countries Take Sides—Russia In With Germany and Austria.

ST. PETERSBURG, May 21.—The list of Russia's delegates to the Hague Peace Conference was completed yesterday. Major General Yermoloff, the military attaché at London, and Colonel Michelson the military attaché at Berlin, were named at the last moment as experts on the Drago doctrine, upon which they have collaborated in a treaty. Their nomination indicates that Russia will not maintain an attitude of reserve in the matter of the consideration of this question, although she still sides with Austria and Germany against any discussion of the question of the limitation of armaments.

Diplomats here evince great interest in the Anglo American negotiations regarding the presentation of this latter question. No information concerning the attitude of the United States has been received through official channels, but the report that Secretary Root was not willing to abandon the discussion of the subject of reducing the expenditures for armaments, has been received with surprise as well as disappointment by those diplomats who were of the opinion that only the acquiescence of Great Britain was necessary to shelve the entire matter by having Great Britain present it in such a modified form that the conference could avoid its discussion without placing any of the powers in the embarrassing position of opposing the proposal or abstaining from the debate. Negotiations to this end are still in progress and the hope is still held that before the meeting of the conference there will be found some basis of settlement which will prevent a split of the delegates into two hostile camps.

Although there is scarcely three weeks before the convocation of the conference, the proposals which Russia is to submit as a basis of discussion are still in process of elaboration. M. Nelidoff, Professor de Martens and the foreign officials and experts are holding daily conferences to prepare a synopsis of this petition which is to be presented to the Emperor next week. Definite information as to the character and scope of the proposals is being withheld until the approval of his majesty has been secured.

### SUBWAY INNOVATION.

Fire Exits With Illuminated Signs Installed.

NEW YORK, May 21.—An innovation that may save many lives has just been made in the subway. Fire exits have which have been put in position point out the places through which, in case of a block or a blaze passengers may escape without groping their way to the stations. All plans for future subways are being made to provide for the same contingencies.

Signs marking the points by which escape may be made are five feet long and a foot high and bear the word "Exit" in white on a ground of blue enamel. Shaded electric lights are placed over them. Near the illuminated legend is a door which opens in the air chambers at the side of the tracks. An iron ladder with a rail leads to the top of the pit which is covered with gratings. One section of the grating immediately above the ladder may be lifted up, for it is hinged only by a small pin.

### ASTORIA RATES REDUCED.

Oregon Railroad Commission Announced New Agreement.

PORTLAND, May 21.—An Oregonian special from Salem says: "The Oregon Railroad Commission today announced that an agreement had been reached with the Astoria & Columbia River Road by which the passenger rate from Astoria to Seaside will be reduced from 75 cents to 50 cents and other rates between the various non-competing points will be reduced so as to make an average of about three cents a mile on the road."

### MEXICAN MINISTER WITHDRAWS.

MEXICO CITY, May 21.—According to advices received here tonight Minister Gamboa left Guatemala City late today on the gunboat Tampico. The Minister went to Acjutla, Salvador.

## GAS COMPANY INSTALL NEW PLANT

MR. COOLIDGE, OF THE ASTORIA GAS COMPANY, SPEAKS OF THE PROPOSED ADAMS FRANCHISE

At the gas works yesterday afternoon a car containing a quantity of new gas manufacturing paraphernalia was being unloaded. This included generators, purifiers, scrubbers and washers, to be used in the new plant which the company is installing. They are about to adopt a new process to manufacture gas from oil. This is the improved Lowe Process which has been in extensive use all over California. The recent cut which the company made in the price of gas necessitated a more economical method of manufacture than that hitherto is employed, but which had served its purpose under the old rate. By the new process of manufacturing from oil they will be enabled to contend with the new rate and to even up with the cut.

In discussing the proposed franchise to Adams et al Mr. Coolidge of the gas company said that if Adams actually has the process which he claims, it is absurd for him to be trafficking with small and unimportant towns, such as those with which he has already dealt. There are at least three large companies, namely the Western Gas Construction Company, the United Gas Improvement Company, and the Gas Machinery Company which would gladly pay him a very handsome figure for the cost of the process by which Adams says he can manufacture gas at the rate of 10 cents per thousand.

It appears from the statements of Mr. Coolidge and others that Adams has already carried on negotiations with several other towns in this neighborhood notably St. Johns and possibly Portland none of which negotiations have come to anything. However, it may be that in the case of Astoria all will be well and that the citizens will get their 75-cent gas and 35-cent meters within the next two years. Time will show!

## CHARTER AMENDMENTS VALID

OREGON SUPREME COURT DECIDED THAT ASTORIA CHARTER AMENDMENT HOLDS GOOD.

SALEM, Or., May 21.—In deciding the validity of the Astoria city charter amendment today, the Oregon Supreme Court gave full force and effect to the latest initiative and referendum amendment relating to local and special legislation. It held that without any general act from the legislature putting the constitutional amendment into operation the people of the city could amend their charter and enact city ordinances under it. The case decided today was that of the Acme Grocery & Dairy Co., appellant, against the City of Astoria and August Hillstrom, respondents.

### STREETCAR SITUATION.

Carmen's Union Claim Boycott Is Proving Effective.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 21.—A general improvement in the streetcar conditions was reported today. The Fillmore street and Masonic avenue lines were put in operation. Fewer cases of insults to passengers were noted. The carmen's union expresses itself satisfied with the situation and claims that the boycott against the United Railways is proving effective.

### ANGLO-JAP ALLIANCE.

ST. PETERSBURG, May 21.—Agreements with Great Britain and Japan, according to the Stovo are about to be concluded. It is expected that the agreement will be signed simultaneously within two or three weeks.

### CLEARANCE SALE.

For the next 10 days I will sell my entire stock of high-grade hats at one-half reduced price. This is the best opportunity in the city to procure an up-to-date stylish hat. Call and look at the stock. Mrs. M. Petersen, Star Theater Bldg., Eleventh and Commercial streets.

**CASTORIA**  
For Infants and Children.

The Kind You Have Always Bought  
Bears the Signature of J. C. Watson