

MARDI GRAS AT NEW ORLEANS IS UNIQUE CARNIVAL

Institution Introduced in 1827
by Young Frenchmen—Con-
ducted by Secret Societies
at Great Cost.

By Frederick J. Haskin.

Washington, Feb. 8.—The New Orleans carnival, which will end tonight, is the oldest institution of the kind in the United States. That of Havana is probably older, and similar celebrations in other parts of Latin America may claim still greater priority, but they are all of different character. They share the popular, spontaneous, unorganized bent of the Latin festivities on the day preceding Lent, whereas New Orleans' carnival is French by origin, and resembles—if it resembles anything—that of Paris. The observance of Mardi Gras was introduced into the Crescent City in 1827, by some young Louisianians on their return from the French capital, where they had been sent to complete their education.

Was Private Affair.

They organized a street procession of maskers, somewhat primitive no doubt, but sufficient of novelty in those early days of the city to prove a great success. Every year thereafter the experiment was repeated, and each time grew in popularity. But the celebration was then quite different from what it is now. The maskers provided their own costumes, there was no preliminary organization, the participants were, for the most part, on foot, and music, if there were such, was hired by private subscription on the part of each little company of paraders. Generally, the festivities came to an end with a ball at the St. Louis hotel or the Salle d'Orleans, at which only the elite of the aristocratic old city was present.

From these beginnings the evolution of the New Orleans carnival may be traced along two well defined lines, quite distinct one from the other, though related in their common object. The first is the development of the open-air pageantry, which is the chief attraction of the carnival for visitors to the city; and the other is the perfecting of the unique system of masked balls which is the main feature of the carnival for the people of New Orleans. The idea of the parades was first worked out in Mobile, Ala., in 1831, and was thence transplanted to New Orleans in 1839. In the latter year an immense cock, over six feet high, rode in a carriage at the head of the maskers, and delighted the crowd with stentorian crooning. Nothing more ambitious seems to have been attempted till 1857, when the carnival, as New Orleans knows it today, came into existence with the organization of the Mystic Krewe of Comus.

Societies Entertain.

Comus, which still exists, the oldest and probably the most important, societally of the New Orleans carnival societies, selected as the subject of its first pageant Milton's "Paradise Lost." After the parade the organization gave a ball at the Varieties theatre, in conjunction with which a series of tableaux was presented illustrating such subjects as "The Diabolic Powers" and "The Expulsion from Paradise." The second of the carnival organizations was the Twelfth Night Revelers, which came into existence in 1870. It gives an annual ball at the French opera house. Two other important carnival organizations are the Knights of Momus and the Krewe of Proteus, the former organized in 1872, the latter in 1882. They, with the Krewe of Comus, always appear on the streets of New Orleans by night, and after the parade entertain on a lavish scale at the inevitable ball at the French opera house.

The day time pageant of the New Orleans carnival is provided by the Rex organization. This society is essentially the "popular" carnival organization. It has the largest membership, spends the most money, and claims a certain pre-eminence in carnival affairs. Its "king" is king of the carnival; its "queen" is queen of the carnival. Rex was organized in 1872. The maskers who had filled the streets at Mardi Gras with their gaudy costumes, were in that year assembled in one organization for the entertainment of the Russian Grand Duke Alexis, then a visitor to New Orleans; and the bond of union thus formed was sufficiently strong to hold the members in the federation which came eventually to be the most picturesque of the whole carnival.

Mask Ball Societies.

In addition to these societies there are some six or eight important organizations which make no street display, but limit their efforts to giving an annual ball at the French opera house. Of these, allusion has been made to the oldest, the Twelfth Night Revelers. The others, listed in order of seniority, are Atlanteans, Oberon, Nereus, Myrthus, Falstaffians and Olympians. At these balls the members of the organizations appear in mask, and the first four dances are reserved for them and for their partners exclusively; after which the floor is open to the other guests. To be asked to share in the maskers' dances kings and queens, made abroad and cost-

DIRECT PRIMARY RIDES POLITICS OF TAINT

Austin T. Buxton, Master of Oregon State Grange, Replying to M. C. George, Also Declares New System Came as a Protest of People Against Rottenness of Old Plan.

By Austin T. Buxton, Master of the Oregon State Grange.

A short time ago I wrote for the Grange Bulletin an article regarding the proposed assembly project for the purpose of indicating to members of the grange the principles which, in my judgment, should govern them as members of the order in this matter.

It seems, however, that it was given wider publicity through the columns of The Journal and, naturally, there are some who do not agree with me. Among these appears to be Honorable M. C. George, a gentleman who from my boyhood I was taught to honor, partly because he stood high in the councils of the Republican party, but chiefly because he occupied important official position.

As to George's Attitude.

Mr. George undertakes, in the first place that the primary law was not intended to interfere with the holding of party conventions and that, therefore, it has not superseded the convention system, as I had suggested. Without discussing the technical points he mentions in support of this contention I will merely call attention to the existing fact that we have not been called upon to witness the same character of political events since the adoption of the direct primary than we did before.

No man knows better than Mr. George the political history and political methods in our state under the convention system. He knows that we have had practically but one great party in the state for many years. He knows that the one party has been so far in the minority that there has been no real contest for principle between the parties, but that it has always narrowed down to a fractional party strife for the spoils of office.

Demoralized by Strife.

Mr. George knows that this condition had caused the Republican party to be rent by factions and demoralized by internal strife long before the direct primary was thought of and that this not infrequently resulted in the election of a candidate of the opposite party. As Judge McGinnis has said, the direct primary "causes us to us the protest of the people against the rottenness of the old plan, old politics and old leaders of the state without regard to faction," and that "No one could name a convention that was not corrupt and not controlled for the selfish interests of some man or set of men."

It is no severe tax to the memory to recall the fact that under the old political methods the sinister shadow of the United States senatorial contest was cast athwart the threshold of practically every convention hall in the state and whenever men assembled to consider political matters of high or low degree, of great or of little importance, it was difficult to eliminate this influence from their deliberations.

Present System Better.

Mr. George knows that we have had none of these things under the present system. Possibly I was in error in saying that the direct primary had "superseded the convention." I do pretend to comprehend the full legal interpretation

is one of the proudest honors of the society women in New Orleans.

At these balls one member of the organization is always selected to preside as "king." The throne is shared by some young woman, usually a debutante, called the "queen." To win the imperial crown of the Atlanteans, or of Myrthus, or some other of the minor societies, is an important event in the life of any young woman in New Orleans; while to be "queen" of Comus, Proteus or Momus, is to score a triumph of dazzling brilliancy. All these distinctions, however, pale before the honor of the "queen of the carnival," the occupant of Rex's throne and the recipient of the homage of all New Orleans.

Generally, queen and maids are chosen from the families of members of the organization. This rule has been occasionally violated, as, for instance, when Winnie Davis, "The Daughter of the Confederacy," was chosen to preside over one of the carnival balls. Miss Davis has no relatives in the carnival organization which made her "queen," but her case is not looked upon as establishing a precedent.

Jewels Given to Honored Ones.

The "king" is always some member of the organization who has been long in service. His identity is made known to the whole membership. In the case of all the organizations save Rex, only on the night of the entertainment. Rex, which gives two pageants, one today and one tomorrow, has two kings, whose identity is revealed to the members just before the pageants start. "The King of the Carnival" is the monarch who will preside over the Rex festivities tomorrow. His name is eventually made public by the New Orleans newspapers, and is the only one in connection with the carnival which is thus revealed, all the other "kings" remaining unknown so far as the public in general is concerned. The beautiful jewels worn by the carnival

of all the words of the English language. But I submit that it is not a question of law, but just a matter of plain fact that the direct primary has knocked a lot of the rottenness and corruption out of politics and this is the simple reason why many of us plain farmer folk believe that it should be retained.

Mr. George pretends to be inspired by the same spirit of friendship for the direct primary that others are professing who, at the same time, are plotting its overthrow and, in one of his friendly moods undertakes to show that the adoption of his assembly idea would be no menace to it.

If the direct primary did not supersede the convention, if the convention is not now legally out of commission, and if a restoration of the convention, disguised though it may be under the name of "Assembly," is not expected to restore it, then why? Dare Mr. George to answer honestly? Can it be denied, as I charged before, and as Mr. George has inadvertently admitted, that they expect machine influence to again control the convention and, through the convention, to dominate and control, and to virtually annul the primary?

Mr. George undertakes to make much capital out of the statement that the assembly will not make the nominations but only make suggestions and the nominations will finally depend "upon the secret ballots of the people." To be sure, it is at last a question of getting the votes. The assembly candidate for any office will get all the votes the assembly influence in every district is able to throw to him.

Is Assembly a Menace?

The independent candidates for the same office will divide the remaining votes among themselves, according to the amount of personal effort they may be able to put into the campaign. It will always be a divided field of individuals against the organized force of the machine.

I repeat the question, who is the candidate who would be foolhardy enough to try to get a nomination by any other means than the convention, after it has once been fully restored to power? Then what is the further use of the direct primary? Is the assembly a menace? Thinking people will pause and consider.

Mr. George concedes that the assembly candidate will always get the votes "if good assembly work is done." And, permit me to suggest, the influences that control the assembly will see that "good work is done," not only in the assembly but afterward, throughout the primary campaign, if there is one. They always did it; why are they so anxious now if they do not expect to do it again?

Well all of Mr. George's display of fine legal points which he pretends to believe will obviate all causes of friction between the two methods, I am still persuaded that if the people wish to retain control of their political affairs they will insist on the direct primary remaining. If they wish to turn the nominations over to the same influences that controlled them before, they will consent to the restoration of the convention or the assembly.

It is no severe tax to the memory to recall the fact that under the old political methods the sinister shadow of the United States senatorial contest was cast athwart the threshold of practically every convention hall in the state and whenever men assembled to consider political matters of high or low degree, of great or of little importance, it was difficult to eliminate this influence from their deliberations.

ing \$400 or \$500 per set, become the personal property of the wearers, the gift of the organizations.

Balls Are Exclusive.

In order to understand what the carnival balls are, two points must be borne in mind. The first is, the essentially private character of these entertainments. The societies consider that the parades are for the public, but the balls are for themselves. Invitations are therefore hard to procure and are highly valued. The other point is, that these carnival balls are the descendants of the old "king parties" popular in colonial Louisiana, and still enjoyed in the rural parts of the state. In these scattered communities, where the week-end dance is the main amusement, it is customary to crown some young man "king" who is thereby put under obligation to entertain at a similar ball within a specified time. These continue until the advent of Lent puts an end to such galas.

The average carnival society has between 250 and 400 members, and the dues range from \$25 to \$100. There are probably less than 300 members whose time, money and brains make and pay for the New Orleans carnival. They represent the most exclusive circles in the city. Who they are is a matter of speculation, as the names of the members are jealously guarded. In fact, everything about the carnival is kept a profound secret, partly because it is necessary to make the pageants effective; but also because the mystery whets the enjoyment of the participants. The maskers upon the cars in the carnival processions are the rich prominent and exclusive citizens of New Orleans. It is sometimes hard for the visitor to understand that elderly business men, bankers, brokers, noted lawyer and judges should be willing to don the mask and costume and undergo the fatigue of a carnival parade, but such is the fact.

Expensive Entertainment.

On the carnival parades and the balls of the six or eight minor societies, New Orleans spends from \$150,000 to \$175,000. The average pageant costs from \$13,000 to \$20,000. These sums are drawn almost exclusively from the pockets of the members. In addition to the dues, every member appearing in mask at the opera house balls is expected to present flowers and souvenirs to the young ladies with whom he dances, which, together with the expense of carriages and suppers, seldom amount to less than \$100 for the evening's entertainment.

Floats Work of Art.

For many years the chief carnival pageants were designed by B. A. Wikstrom, the New Orleans artist, who died in New York last year while at work on the Hudson river pageant. The finest floats are made by one firm, a father and his son. In their huge workshops on the outskirts of New Orleans the work goes on rapidly throughout the year, two or three cars being completed every week, so that within eight months the Comus, Rex and Morris cars are all completed. It is a fact that nowhere else in the world can workmen equally ingenious be found to undertake this sort of labor, that makes the New Orleans carnival unique. In fact, the failure of attempt after attempt to imitate these pageants has led to the curious practice of other cities buying the cars after they have been used in New Orleans. Rex gets back some of the money it spends this way, but the other large organizations do not sell their cars, nor make any attempt to carry over from year to year anything of importance. Vast throngs flock to New Orleans to see the

SUGAR KING'S DAUGHTER WEDS RAILROAD MAN

Wealth and Fashion of New York Attend Wedding of Miss Electra Havemeyer and J. Watson Webb.

New York, Feb. 8.—St. Bartholomew's church was crowded with the wealth and fashion of New York this afternoon at the wedding of Miss Electra Havemeyer, daughter of Mrs. Henry O. Havemeyer, and James Watson Webb, eldest son of Dr. and Mrs. W. Seward Webb. The ceremony was performed by the rector of the church, the Rev. Dr. Leighton Parks, who was assisted by Dr. Heber Newton and Dr. Peabody of Croton.

Miss Louise Jackson, a cousin of the bride, was the maid of honor, and the four bridesmaids were the Misses Anita Peabody, Margaret Dix, Ethel Cowdin and Katherine Atterbury. The groom was attended by his brother, W. Seward Webb Jr., who acted as best man and met the bride at the chancel steps. The usher was Messrs. Vanderbilt Webb, Robert Bacon Jr., Joseph Burden, John Higgins Jr., George Whitney, Howard Roome, Whitney Kernochan, Ernest Tracey and Gordon Abbott.

The bride wore a French gown of white satin with long train and covered with point lace. Her veil was of old point lace, and she carried a bouquet of bride roses and lilies of the valley. After the ceremony the bridal party and intimate friends were taken in carriages to the Havemeyer residence in East Sixty-sixth street, where an elaborate wedding breakfast was served.

The bride is well known in society. She made her debut three years ago, but has not been out since the death of her father two years ago. When she attained her twenty-first year last fall she came into possession of a large share of the millions left by her father, who was the head of the great sugar refinery of Havemeyer and Elder.

J. Watson Webb, the bridegroom, is a namesake of his grandfather, the late General J. Watson Webb. He also is a grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. William H. Vanderbilt, his mother having been Miss Lila Vanderbilt. Mr. Webb was graduated from Yale in 1907, and soon afterward went to Milwaukee to gain a practical knowledge of the railroading in the offices and shops of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad.

carnival pageants. The number is conservatively estimated at 100,000, and the money left in the city by this army of sightseers aggregates an immense sum—probably over \$1,500,000.

Tomorrow—Meeting of Clay Workers.

International Water Power Plans.

Toronto, Ont., Feb. 8.—The International Waterways Commission held an important meeting today at the Queen's hotel in this city. The applications of the St. Lawrence Power company, Limited, and the Long Sault Development company to construct works in the St. Lawrence river, near Barnhardt Island, for water power and other purposes were the principal matters considered at the meeting.

No Mardi Gras at Paris.

Paris, Feb. 8.—For the first time within a generation there was no Mardi Gras carnival in the French metropolis today. In all the churches Shrove Tuesday was observed with special services of thanksgiving, but all of the carnival parades and festivities customary in the past were by popular consent abandoned because of the recent flood disasters.

Well for artesian water at Echo is down over 600 feet, and will be bore. Well water is secured, if possible.

LIFE OF A PIMPLE

Complexions Are Cleared and Pimples Disappear Overnight Without Trouble.

The dispensers of poslam, a new skin discovery, ask that notice be given that no one is urged to purchase it without first obtaining an experimental package. Everyone who has tried it knows that the 50 cent box, on sale at the Skidmore Drug Co., the Woodward, Clarke & Co. and all drug stores, is sufficient to cure the worst cases of acne, where the surface affected is not too large. The itching ceases on first application. It will also cure acne, tetter, blotches, scaly scalp, hives, barber's and every other form of itch, including itching feet. Being flesh colored and containing no grease, the presence of poslam on exposed surfaces, such as the face and hands, is not perceptible. Water and soap cannot be used in connection with it, as these irritate and prolong skin troubles, sometimes even causing them.

As to the experimental package of poslam, it can be had free of charge by mail from the Emergency Laboratories, 22 West Twenty-fifth street, New York. It alone is sufficient to clear the complexion overnight, and to rid the face of pimples in 24 hours.



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A Sensational Silk Sale Genuine Rajah Rough Pongee Silks at an Extraordinarily Low Price



It's an unprecedented silk purchase by our New York buyer from an overstocked jobber at less than regular wholesale cost. These silks could not be bought from the manufacturer at anywhere near the price at which we offer them to you, and no woman within reach of this store can afford to overlook this splendid saving opportunity. The assortment includes:

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