

This Date In History—March 19.

- 1702—William III. (William of Orange) died at Kensington; born 1650.
1734—Thomas McKean, "signer," born in New London, Pa.; died 1817.
1748—Elias Hicks, founder of the Hickite Quakers, born in Hempstead, N. Y.; died 1820.
1801—Commodore William D. Whiting, U. S. N., retired, died in New York city; born 1823.
1829—General Maximó Gomez, Cuban liberator, given a public reception at Havana.
1901—Mlle. Sophie Croisette, formerly noted on the French stage, died in Paris. General Botha's rejection of peace terms announced in the house of commons.



Thos. McKean.

President Roosevelt never knew before that the sugar beet was such a "rooter" for protection pie.

About all the wind has been taken out of the Geer political balloon by the Simon collapse. Geer and Simon are a pair of Siamese twins politically.

The ship subsidy bill has passed the senate. Those in whose favor the bill is written are fully prepared to grab the fruits of their toil in the interest of this job.

Of twenty-seven commanders in the Union army during the civil war only two survive. These are General O. O. Howard and General Schofield. It would seem that the soldiers outlive the generals, if one should judge from the pension rolls.

The street sprinkling matter is too important to be ignored or neglected. The council should "get together" on this one matter at once. The city was to sprinkle the streets this season and it is about time that work was begun to carry out the promise.

England is still buying horses in our neighborhood for use in the South African war. If the Boers can hold out a while longer it will be necessary for the British government to purchase soldiers outside her own domains to carry on hostilities with the Dutch farmers.

Spring has come and with it a deplorable condition of our thoroughfares which serves as a forcible reminder to our citizens that Pendleton is rapidly outgrowing her swaddling clothes and should begin to put on a more metropolitan garb in the shape of better streets and pavements. Now is an appropriate time to start the work.

If children were taught in the public schools how to breathe and how to hold themselves when walking and sitting it would do them more good in after life than a continual stuffing of the mental cavity with material that they may or may not find use for. The bodies of children are just about as important as their minds and just about as necessary in this earthly life.

The Czar of Russia is to prevent Uncle Sam from making the Sultan of Turkey return the money paid to the brigands for Miss Stone's ransom. The Czar should not get too big a kink in his neck or it might be disagreeable to have it removed by his Uncle Samuel. But, probably, the Czar is falsely reported, and he has no intention of putting any barriers in the way of making the Sultan return the money his subjects extort.

When is the work of improving Webb street to be completed? It was started about one year ago and left uncompleted all winter. It is now time to complete the improvements, as property owners along the street have been damaged enough already by the condition the street was left in. The condition of the railroad track from Main street to the scouring mills making it almost impossible to cross the street with loaded teams. The tracks should be planked as was done for years, up to the time the so-called improvement was commenced.

A Hamburg school teacher recently undertook to find out how much his pupils knew about common things. Out of 120 children between the ages of 10 and 16, 58 had never seen a flock of sheep, 70 had never seen a violet growing, 9 had never heard a nightingale, 89 had never seen the sun rise

and 33 had never seen it set, 49 had never seen a man plow. He asserts that while city children may know about theaters and concerts, exhibitions, museums and stores hundreds of the simplest things in life are mere words to them that convey no coherent idea.

It is due to Speaker Henderson and Representative Payne to say that they are now forcing the fight in favor of 20 per cent reciprocity with Cuba, but they are doing their duty with so little enthusiasm that their efforts are ineffectual. These gentlemen have taken the ground that rebate schemes of every description were unconstitutional. They are standing for a straight reduction and apparently, they are gradually compelling the acceptance of such a reduction by the opposition. The time of its operation may be limited, but if it extends through two seasons only they will be sufficient to demonstrate the fallacy as well as the selfishness of the beet sugar men's claims. The beet sugar industry is one of the "infants" of the protection theory that desires to grow up on the milk supplied gratuitously by the people who consume sugar.

DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM.

Below will be found a platform recently adopted by the democratic convention of Johnstown, Pa. As it deals with questions which are likely to come up in all parts of the country, and clearly and explicitly applies democratic principles to the questions dealt with.

Warren Worth Bailey, editor and proprietor of the Johnstown Democrat, is gaining quite a reputation as a platform writer. His style is strong, his principles are democratic and his sympathies are on the side of the people in their struggle to secure just government. The platform reads:

We hereby pledge the ticket hereby nominated for the February election to the following:
First—To the support of the principle of equal taxation of all property subject to taxation. We especially denounce the taxation of homes and industry higher than unimproved property held out to use for speculative purposes. There should be no fines upon industry or upon the building of homes.

Second—To the advancement of the principles that franchises are to be considered as real estate values and taxed for local purposes as such. We denounce the granting of free franchises for any period, long or short, and no franchise should be granted for a period longer than 21 years.

Third—To the principle of local option in taxation. We hold that each community should be permitted to raise its public revenues in its own way; and we point to the fact that this principle received the endorsement of the national tax conference held at Buffalo last May.

Fourth—To the economic and efficient administration of city affairs. We especially condemn the wanton ripping up of streets and pledge ourselves to stop it.

Fifth—To the protection of the rights of the public in its own property. We denounce river stealings and pledge ourselves to support all efforts to prevent encroachments of this kind.

Sixth—To the improvement of the public grounds. We believe the Point should be made the beauty spot of the city and we commend the suggestion that the city should acquire a suitable location for a public park adequate to the needs of a growing city.

Seventh—To promote the abolition of all toll bridges within the city and to oppose the erection of any other. All bridges should be absolutely free to the public.

Eighth—To the better protection of human life. We pledge ourselves to do all that can be done to abolish grade crossings and otherwise to safeguard the public.

Ninth—To the principle of the state's reserved right to regulate the tolls of public service monopolies. Under the law it is within the power of the municipality thus to protect its citizens from extortion.

The democracy of Johnstown believes in equal rights to all and special privileges to none and it hereby pledges itself to the people to do all in its power to promote good government along the lines of equal freedom. And it invites the co-operation of all citizens to the advancement of these common interests through the election of its candidates.

PROPOSED POSTAL CURRENCY.

A unique feature in congressional legislation this winter is presented in the promotion of a postal currency. The system was devised, perfected and patented by a private citizen who offers the result of his efforts to the government free of cost. The system has the approval of many officials and is endorsed by a long list of manufacturers and business houses throughout the country. Publishers and farmers are especially interested, in that the new currency promises an easy

way for a man in the country to promptly send remittance for his favorite publication. Under the present inconvenient money order system the individual desiring to send a small sum of money through the mail is met by the necessity for a time-killing journey to the postoffice to obtain safe money. This sets up a barrier to the prompt transaction of business and results in much loss from the fact that many people never carry out their original intention to subscribe or purchase. The need is for money in the hands of the people that can be safely and instantly sent by letter.

The provisions of the "post check" currency bill, now before congress, introduced in the senate by Mr. McMillan, and in the house by Mr. Gardner, of Michigan, provides for printing the one, two and five dollar bills in the future with blank spaces on the face. These bills, of course, pass from hand to hand before the blanks are filled. When it is desired to send one in the mail the blanks are filled in with the name of the payee, his city and state, a 2-cent postage stamp is placed in another blank space and canceled with the initials of the sender in ink, the name of the sender is signed on the back, and presto! his money has suddenly ceased to exist as currency and has been transformed into a check on the United States government, having all the safety of any bank check and ready for inclosure in his letter. When the payee receives this check, he treats it just as he would any other check—indorses it, goes to the nearest bank or postoffice and deposits it or has it cashed.

The paid check finally reaches the treasury department, when it is replaced by a new one with the spaces unfilled. This keeps the circulation at par. No change whatever is made in the financial policy of the government, the only change being in the character of the printing on the bills of five dollars and under. The bill also provides for the issue of \$75,000,000 of fractional currency, with blank spaces similar to the larger denominations, presumably twenty and fifty-dollar bills. The provision under a new system for a continual reissue insures clean money both in the fractional currency and in the larger bills. The government fee on the 5, 10, 15, 25 and 50 cent pieces is to be 1 cent each.

Perhaps in no better way can the reader come to understand the pressing need for postal currency than to recall the times without number when he himself has been desirous of sending a small sum of money through the mails with safety. Always in such cases comes up the barrier and only the persistent one will carry out his purpose by using stamps, coin placed in holes in pieces of pasteboard, or risking loose money. The average person will not expend the valuable time required for the journey to the postoffice for a money order. Only the pressure of necessity in the absence of a simple convenient system brings to the money order system its present patronage. Statistics show that from 10 to 20 times the number of letters received by business houses, publishers, and others who do a large business through the mails, contain stamps, loose money or some other representative of money, than contain money orders, a clear enough mark of the disapproval of the public.

While it is not thought that, if adopted, the proposed system would entirely supersede the money order system, because for amounts over \$50 the money order would be slightly cheaper, it is thought by the advocates of the pending bills that such a system of post checks would prove a great convenience to those desiring to send small amounts of money through the mails, and would result in gain to merchants, publishers and business firms who now receive such remittances in the form of stamps (often torn or mutilated), drafts on small banks, or loose coin in letters—always a temptation to postal employees. All of these forms of remittance entail some loss, in many cases to the receiver, and to that extent, perhaps, a creditor is unjustly defrauded, innocently it may be, by the debtor. Under the new system these troublesome and unfair methods of making remittances would be done away with, owing to the simplicity and convenience of the post checks, and the cost of sending the remittance would be placed where it properly belongs—with the sending debtor or the person making the purchase.

The main difficulty with the present money order system is that less than half the postoffices in the country are money order offices, and even at these such evidences of money can only be obtained at the expenditure of much time and trouble and during

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certain specified hours. With a post check note in his possession one has but to fill in the blank spaces for the purpose, attach a postage stamp, cancel it, inclose in an envelope, place in a mail box and the transaction is finished.

Unquestionable the intent of the postal authorities is to extend and increase the usefulness and popularity of the rural free delivery service. The adoption of the post check notes will afford a most convenient and safe money for the agricultural communities, to whom banks, with their facilities and safeguards, can not be utilized with convenience. It is claimed by those who have investigated the subject, that the revenues of the postoffice department would be very materially increased by the adoption of the post check system.

A somewhat unusual feature of the post check proposition is the fact that the inventor is a successful business man, who has for years realized the urgent necessity for a simpler way of making small remittances in the mails, and who has devoted a great deal of his time and means to the perfection of the idea, and offers, in case of its adoption, to turn the patents and all rights under them, over to the government. He considers that should the system be adopted the consciousness of having accomplished a reform of such importance to the general public would cause men will more than compensate him for his time and trouble.

So many men are continually going to the dogs, it is no wonder they howl.

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