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A Message From the King



Timothy Poore, 84, and his wife, 83, of Acton, England, have been married 60 years. Here they are reading King George's message of congratulation.

Just Folks

by Edgar A. Guest

DRESS

Sometimes I wear my dinner clothes, sometimes I don the evening coat. Again I'll wear my very best to meet and talk with men of note. Then when the Spring returns once more and for my care the garden calls, I don my oldest pair of shoes and robe myself in overalls; but whether I be richly dressed or shabby garb adorns my fame, the man I am is altered not—that which is I remains the same.

Last night my friend wore evening dress, this morning should we chance to meet, And were he garbed in dirty rags with shabby shoes upon his feet, I still should hail him as my friend, should stop and talk with him awhile.

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THE PLAGUE OF POLITICS

"THE democrats," said Henry Cabot Lodge in an address to the republican members of the Massachusetts legislature, "by every artifice of delay and time-wasting have done their best to make this congress a do-nothing body." This is claptrap, and Senator Lodge of course knows that it is claptrap. When the sixty-seventh congress met in special session, there were, according to the congressional directory, only 131 democrats in the house to 300 republicans and only thirty-seven democrats in the senate to fifty-nine republicans. The republicans are in an overwhelming majority in both branches of congress, with complete control over all committees and all rules. No matter how eager the democrats may be to obstruct, they are incapable of obstruction and the Lodge alibi lacks every element that makes for plausibility.

Equally absurd is his assertion that "no congress in time of peace has ever shown such an amount of important, effective and remedial legislation as has been enacted by the present congress." If Senator Lodge has hypnotized himself into believing that this is true, let him go out in the street and ask the first man he meets what he thinks of congress. The reply will not be flattering to the vanity of the Massachusetts statesman.

It may be doubted if any other congress in so short a space of time proved so disappointing to the country. Financiers, business men, farmers, laboring men—hardly anybody has a kind word for it. There has never been another period in American history when to the average man government seemed so dissociated from the facts of everyday existence, so blind, so detached, so stupid, so indifferent to all the real problems of the country. It has become a huge tax-collecting and tax-expending machine whose cost is out of all relation to the benefits conferred.

Senator Lodge is a type of the office-holding class. His party is in power, and when his party is in power everything is perfect. When his party is out of power everything goes from bad to worse. The voter is supposed to have no opinions, no understanding, of his own in regard to quality of government, but to swallow anything that the politicians of his party tell him.

There was a time when he was as credulous as even the Lodges could desire, but he is rapidly losing his capacity to believe. If the American people could have their way, if they knew how to translate their desires into action, they would probably retire the professional office-holding class of both parties, republicans and democrats alike, and begin anew with men who had not yet been poisoned by the atmosphere of Washington. They might not get much statesmanship out of the change but they would rid themselves temporarily of the plague of politics that is preventing an intelligent settlement of any question that relates to their welfare.

Government as a game between the ins and the outs no longer appeals to the country. Both parties are discredited because neither is willing to be honest with itself or with its principles or with its responsibilities. There is no leadership in congress or in the white house and there is no convincing appeal anywhere to public confidence. In a great democracy this is a highly dangerous state of affairs, and day after day the gentlemen in Washington are ploughing and harrowing the field for a new crop of demagogues. They will be painfully astonished when it springs up and will never suspect that they themselves prepared the ground for the sowing, but it will be their work and it will all have come about because of their folly and incapacity.

When government affected the daily lives of people very little a panegyric to congress such as that delivered by Senator Lodge was convincing to all eager partisans; but eager partisans, except those that hold office, are getting fewer and fewer, while the exactions of government are greater and greater, and it is with the exactions as well as the failures of government that the country is chiefly concerned. Senator Lodge may not know it, but he and his associates are living in a political world that has ceased to exist for everybody else.—New York World.

Irvin Cobb is seriously ill in Boston; no doubt when he recovers he will be able to tell a very humorous story of how it feels to be fed on Boston beans.

There are many people who believe northwest wheat prices would be better if there could be more competition among exporters.

In regard to the Grant county road the question of a good grade is more important than the width of the road.

CATTLE MARKET STEADY. PORTLAND, Feb. 20.—(U. P.)—Cattle are steady. Hogs are steady to 25 cents higher, prime light \$11.50 to \$12. Sheep are steady to 10 cents higher, east of the mountain lambs, \$10 to \$10.75. Eggs are two cents lower, buying prices 23 to 27 cents. Butcher is steady.	LOOT IS ESTIMATED ALAMOSA, Colo., Feb. 20.—(U. P.)—The American Railway Express officials today estimated the loot secured by the bandits who held up the express car of the Denver Rio Grande near here Saturday night amounted to \$1,500, \$4,000 in cash and the remainder in bonds.
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HAVEN FOR THOUSANDS OF WILD BIRDS IS REVEALED WHEN SPORTSMAN FINDS TAG ATTACHED TO DUCK HE KILLED

NEWBERN, N. C., Feb. 21.—(A.P.)—A tag bearing a number of verses from the Scriptures and the name of James Miner, Kingsville, Ontario, found tied to the leg of a wild duck killed recently by Clyde Keener of Trenton, Jones county, near here, has brought to light the existence of a haven for wild fowl on the north shore of Lake Erie to which the feathered tribes flock in huge numbers. Keener wrote Miner advising him of the finding of the tag.

The latter in answering the letter stated that wild-ducks and geese stop at his farm during the course of their migratory journeys and that he and the birds are the best of friends. He said he had built a pond for the feathered tourists and that he feeds them 500 bushels of corn each year during their two months stay at his place.

Mr. Miner's letter, in part, follows: "Thanks for having reported finding the tag. I now have tags returned to me off wild geese and ducks from North Carolina to Hudson Bay. In several instances the tags have been found by Indians in the Far North after shooting the birds and they have taken them to Hudson Bay agents, who forwarded them to me.

"I have had tags returned from 23 different states and provinces the farthest south being Guyana, Louisiana, and the farthest west being Englefield, Saskatchewan.

"I try to tag all the birds that spend some time at my place. Forty per cent of those that I tag in the fall return to me the following spring. Others stay here all the time, in spite of the fact that the weather grows very cold. As I am writing you there are about 75 wild geese and 40 wild ducks feeding within 50 feet of me. They are keeping a small hole open in the pond and they are depending on me for food.

"I took me several years to get the birds coming. At last, however, small flocks came and these flocks told others, until their little flock grew into a small cloud. In fact, I have seen the wild geese rise up so thick that you could scarcely see through them, and their honking could be heard over a mile away.

"During the last six or seven years I have fed them in the months of March and April 500 bushels of corn. When the birds stop off here they seem to leave all fear behind them. Even strange birds, visiting my place for the first time, let me come within a few feet of them. They evidently

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THE NEW TWEED SUITS are finding favor with the younger set. A few new ones came in and the prices are reasonable.



Picture Review
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