

GREAT SEAL OF THE CONFEDERACY

Secret of Its Disappearance Has Just Been Told.

BOUGHT BY VIRGINIANS.

Relic of Civil War Traced From Colonel Pickett to Rear Admiral Selfridge. Traditions Revived by Its Purchase For \$3,000.

The great seal of the Confederacy, after being lost for forty years, has at last been found.

Rear Admiral Thomas O. Selfridge, U. S. N., retired, came into possession of the historic silver disk in 1872, when he acted as the representative of the United States government in a transaction by which the government obtained various Confederate state papers and other mementoes for \$75,000.

Acting as agent for the government, Rear Admiral Selfridge, then a young lieutenant, went to Canada and got the Confederate souvenirs from Colonel John T. Pickett, who was a souvenir hunter, and in connection with his law practice here made a business of buying and selling papers and documents connected with the Confederacy.

From the time of its disappearance the seal was not heard from until recently traced to the possession of Rear Admiral Selfridge. This deduction was made by Gaillard Hunt, chief of the division of manuscript in the library of congress. In looking over the Pickett papers he noted the absence of the great seal. Inquiry was made of Colonel Pickett's son, and it was learned that the seal had been presented by his father to Rear Admiral Selfridge. The rear admiral said that the seal was in a safe at his residence, 1807 Kalorama road, in Washington.

Said to Have Been Buried.

The state of South Carolina has a tradition that the great seal was buried in a well in Abbeville following the last meeting of the Confederate cabinet.

James Jones, formerly bodyguard of Jefferson Davis, who is now living in Washington, at the age of ninety, is confident that he buried the seal in Georgia, having received it from the hand of President Davis. At that time the injunction of secrecy was laid upon him by Mr. Davis, said Jones.

For fifty years the people of the south have speculated over what had become of the seal after the evacuation of Richmond by the Confederacy. Its disappearance and the mystery surrounding it have been subjects of enrapturing interest at all gatherings of the gray veterans, and many theories of its whereabouts have been put forward and had their share of believers. At the last general reunion, in Macon, Ga., it was suggested that the seal had been buried in the cornerstone of the Confederate monument in that city. There was even talk of removing the stone.

Little Doubt as to Genuineness.

There is little doubt of the genuineness of the seal that now reposes in a vault of the Jefferson hotel in Richmond, Va., having been purchased from Rear Admiral Selfridge for \$3,000 by Epps Hunt, Jr.; William H. White and Thomas P. Bryan, all of Virginia. It will be sent to the English firm of engravers who originally made the seal to have its genuineness verified. The contract of sale contains a provision that if it is not pronounced real it may be returned.

Whether any credence is to be placed in the gossip that the great seal left Richmond in 1865 hidden in the bustle of Mrs. Walter J. Bromwell, wife of an officeholder of the Confederate state department, it has had an interesting history.

Following the fall of the Confederacy the seal, with a number of state papers and other documents, was removed from Richmond by Walter J. Bromwell, a clerk in the state department under Judah P. Benjamin. The seal, according to tradition, had been entrusted to Mrs. Bromwell.

In looking through the archives of the library of congress in connection with the researches for material to be used in a history of the civil government of the Confederacy Judge Walter A. Montague, formerly a member of the supreme court of North Carolina, discovered that the seal had come into Admiral Selfridge's possession.

RECORD FOR TELEGRAPHING.

Western Union Transmitted 715,000 Words on Day Carpathia Arrived.

The flood of telegrams received at and sent from New York on April 18, the day of the arrival of the Carpathia with the survivors of the Titanic, represented a total of 715,000 words, a new record for telegraphic communication for the Western Union Telegraph company. The total transmissions included private messages, official communications, news dispatches and other communications.

The highest record for one day's transmission previously made was during the Republican convention in 1908, when the total reached 423,000. Of the 715,000 words transmitted on April 18, 45,000 were sent to Europe.

England Burns Chalk. In England there is a chalk which is very cheap and can be burned in a grate with coal.

Odd Facts of National Political Conventions

That of 1880, the Noisiest on Record, Failed to Nominate Grant.

THE unexpected actually occurred at the Chicago convention of 1880 that nominated Garfield and Arthur. This was a remarkable convention in every way. The demonstration for Grant—the third term candidate of 200 unwavering delegates—was never equaled in determination. Several times since the outburst following a nomination, noticeably that of Bryan and of Roosevelt, consumed more time, but the test of human endurance for shouting, singing and all devices for creating noise by lung power was that started by the speech of Roscoe Conkling, in which Grant was placed before the convention.

Nevertheless, in spite of the roar, the nomination of the presidential candidate went to a man for whom no nominating speech was made, and when Arthur was offered as a candidate for nomination for second place the delegates of the middle west and the northwest asked who he was. He was not known outside of New York and adjacent states. He was nominated. Both nominees of one convention became president.

Only two permanent chairmen of national conventions were ever nominated for president—Seymour and McKinley. The first was named in the convention over which he was presiding in New York city. He vacated the chair while the ballot was being taken, but returned to decline the honor which was later thrust upon him. That was in 1858. He was also the permanent chairman of the convention that nominated McClellan and Pendleton in Chicago in 1864.

Pendleton was a delegate to that convention, and when he received the nomination as vice presidential candidate he accepted from the platform.

McKinley was permanent chairman of the convention that nominated Harrison and Reid in Minneapolis in 1892. Four years later McKinley won the presidential nomination at the St. Louis convention.

Lodge's Distinction.

The only Republican United States senator now living who was permanent chairman of his party's convention is Senator Lodge of Massachusetts. The way he adjourned the convention that nominated McKinley and Roosevelt is a story in itself. The only hurrah in that Philadelphia convention followed the naming of Theodore Roosevelt. The work of the convention was over. Chairman Lodge was standing at his desk waiting for the "amen" motion. Delegates were scrambling to get out of the hall; the crowd had gone. Senator Platt of New York had fallen asleep in his chair in the front row. Representative Sereeno Payne was trying to restore him to waking consciousness. Chairman Lodge looked down upon the scene and immediately took the cue.

"On motion of Representative Payne, which is seconded, the convention stands adjourned," said Senator Lodge. He struck the table with his gavel, picked up his hat and left the platform.

The only ex-Confederate who ever presided over a national convention was Donelson Caffrey of Louisiana. The convention was that of the sound money Democrats, who nominated Palmer and Buckner in Indianapolis in 1896.

The Longest Session.

It is the custom to select as permanent chairman of a national convention a man who is in office at the time. The Democratic conventions have observed this custom less frequently than the Republicans. In the convention which nominated Cleveland and Hendricks at Chicago in July, 1884, W. F. Vilas was presiding officer. In the convention which nominated Cleveland at St. Louis in June, 1888, P. A. Collins

TRIES LEFT HANDED TUITION.

School Head Seeks Cause For Failure of Left Handed Pupils.

George L. Farley, superintendent of schools of Brockton, Mass., is investigating the cause for the failure of the left handed students to measure up to the standard of their right handed classmates, for that there is such a failure at least in Brockton appears to be the fact.

Mr. Farley was induced to take up the problem because the first five in a class of seven boys who failed to attain the mental mark of their fellow pupils are left handed.

"The question arose in my mind," he said, "that the boys' deficiency might be due to their being left handed, as all instruction, especially in drawing and manual training, is with the right hand."

"My first step to determine the true cause was to have the teachers instruct the left handed pupils in a left handed way—that is, drawing and using tools with the left hand. The pupils immediately showed signs of improvement, and it may be shown that they are not deficient, but have been handicapped by present methods of instruction."

National Conventions

When Four Candidates Were Placed in Nomination In 77 Words.

of Boston, who had never held any important elective office, was permanent chairman.

It is a common political error to refer to the Chicago convention which nominated Garfield and Arthur as that which had the longest session. That convention was in session seven days. The Charleston convention of 1860, in which the Democrats met, was in session in that city ten days. Caleb Cushing of Massachusetts was permanent chairman. As is known to political students, that convention failed to nominate and adjourned to meet at Baltimore two months later, on June 18. There it nominated Douglas and Johnson, the latter of Georgia. But there was another Democratic convention held by the seceders from the Charleston convention, which also met at Baltimore a few days later, on June 23, and nominated Breckinridge and Lane.

The national Republican convention of the same year met at Chicago in May and nominated Lincoln and Hamlin. George Ashman of Massachusetts was permanent chairman of that body, and Horace Greeley appeared as a delegate from Oregon.

Another Republican convention preceded the Lincoln and Hamlin convention four years. It met in Philadelphia in June, 1856, and nominated Fremont and Dayton. Henry S. Lane of Indiana was permanent chairman. This was the first Republican national convention to nominate candidates for the offices of president and vice president, although it was a continuation of a preliminary convention held at Pittsburgh in February of the same year, where, strictly speaking, the Republican party first met in national convention.

Other Conventions.

The national Republican convention which renominated Grant and selected Wilson for vice presidential candidate met at Philadelphia in June, 1872. Thomas Settle of North Carolina was presiding officer.

In the next Republican national convention, which met at Cincinnati, Hayes and Wheeler were the nominees. Edward McPherson of Pennsylvania was permanent chairman.

John B. Henderson was permanent chairman of the convention which nominated Blaine and Logan at Chicago in 1854.

Morris M. Estes was permanent chairman of the convention which nominated Harrison and Morton at Chicago in 1858.

In the Democratic national convention which nominated Cleveland and Stevenson at Chicago in 1892 W. L. Wilson was permanent chairman.

In the convention which nominated Bryan and Sewall at Chicago in 1896 Senator White of California was permanent chairman. Bryan was the second Democrat present in convention to receive the nomination for first place, the other being Seymour.

Some interesting facts are grouped in recollections of two national Democratic conventions. In the convention that nominated Franklin Pierce and W. R. King at Baltimore in June, 1852, of which John W. Davis of Indiana was permanent chairman, Jefferson Davis received eleven votes from the Illinois delegation for vice president. It is a curious bit of political history that the later president of the Confederacy should have received such a vote from a northern state.

In the convention which nominated Buchanan and Breckinridge at Cincinnati in June, 1856, four candidates were placed in nomination—Buchanan, Cass, Pierce and Douglas—in the shortest nominating speeches ever delivered. The four speeches made exactly seventy-seven words. Breckinridge, who was present when he was nominated for vice president, declined in a speech and later accepted. The permanent chairman of this convention was John E. Ward of Georgia.

PLANTING TREES FOR TIES.

Pennsylvania's System Works a Conservation Scheme For Its Own Use.

The growing scarcity of timber suitable for manufacture into railroad ties, which has been responsible for a rapid increase in the cost of ties in recent years, has led the Pennsylvania railroad to adopt a conservation scheme which includes the production of trees for its own use.

More than four and a half million trees have been planted by the Pennsylvania in the past ten years. Last year alone 515,703 trees were transferred from the company's nursery at Morrisville, Pa., to permanent places on railroad property. In 1909 1,000,000 young trees were set out.

At the nursery the Pennsylvania has in operation thirty-six acres, which are kept up to practically maximum production. In 1911 483,148 forest trees were shipped from the nursery for company use, while an additional 46,558 ornamental trees and shrubs were used by the various divisions. The present stock on hand at the nursery is 2,206,833, of which 2,072,166 are forest trees and 224,667 ornamental plants.

RAPID RISE OF SIR RUFUS ISAACS

English Attorney General Took Up Law at Twenty-six.

JUST MADE CABINET MINISTER

He Once Failed as a Broker—The Whitaker Wright and Other Famous Cases Which He Prosecuted—Wife His Constant Adviser.

The career of Sir Rufus Isaacs, the English attorney general, whose appointment to the British cabinet has just been announced, disproves the idea that remarkable and rapid rises in fortune can occur in America alone. When a boy Rufus Isaacs ran away from home and joined a ship's company for Rio de Janeiro. At twenty-five, although a member of the London Stock Exchange, he was already marked as a financial failure, and yet ten years after he had been admitted to the bar of the Middle Temple, for which he began studying when twenty-six years old, he had been created a king's counsel and had the largest practice of any barrister in England.

Sir Rufus Daniel Isaacs is the son of Joseph M. Isaacs, a London merchant. He received his education at the University College school and in Brussels and Hanover. His parents destined him for Cambridge, but the idea of study was irksome to the spirited young man, so that while arrangements for his education were being perfected he embarked on a sailing vessel for South America as a common sailor.

He soon tired of this life and returned to London. Although he might still have gone to a university, young Isaacs preferred business and became a broker. He learned, however, that business in London was un congenial to him as the sea. At twenty-six he was face to face with financial ruin.

Meets His Future Wife.

It was at this juncture that young Isaacs met his future wife, Miss Alice Edith Cohen, who was to play an important part in his later career as his constant helpmeet and adviser. Miss Cohen was the daughter of an American merchant who had moved to London. She became engaged to the young broker and advised him to study law. Isaacs reconstituted at the hopelessness of beginning in the profession at so late a date, but the young woman insisted. Together in the evenings the two used to pore over the lawbooks. Such was their success that in 1887 Isaacs was admitted to the bar in London. The same year, although he had left the Stock Exchange absolutely penniless, he married Miss Cohen.

Whitaker Wright's Case.

When Whitaker Wright, the great English "frenzied finance" expert, who had fled to America, was brought back to London and successfully prosecuted by Isaacs his reputation was secured. It was within a few feet of his prosecutor that Wright drank poison and escaped imprisonment.

The Siever blackmail case added to Isaacs' eminence at the English bar. Bob Siever, the proprietor of a London racing paper, ran a column known as "Celebrities in Glass Houses," in which it was alleged, prominent men who had refused to accede to Siever's demands were consistently blackmailed. Finally J. B. Joel, a Londoner of great wealth, sued Siever for blackmail, and after a sensational trial Isaacs succeeded in obtaining his acquittal.

In 1904 Isaacs was returned to parliament as a Liberal from the Reading district. From then on his rise was rapid. Up to the death of Edward VII. he was a regular "fourth" at the royal bridge table, and it was jokingly said that the reason that the king, who was not a great bridge player, enjoyed playing with Sir Rufus Isaacs was that the lawyer played as badly as he did.

In 1909 Isaacs was made solicitor general, and in 1910 he was knighted and made attorney general. The following year he was created privy councillor and knight commander of the Victorian order. This year, as if honors had not come rapidly enough, the historic precedent of the British constitution was broken in order to make him a member of the cabinet, for he is the first attorney general ever to be admitted.

Aided by Lady Isaacs.

It is generally said among the friends of Sir Rufus Isaacs that Lady Isaacs has been instrumental in his phenomenal rise from financial failure. One of the many friends who call at Foxhill, the Isaacs' estate in Berwickshire, is James M. Barrie, the dramatist. Rumor has it that Barrie obtained the germ of his play, "What Every Woman Knows," in which a wife's wife led her husband to political success, from the continuous counsel of Lady Isaacs, who first impelled her husband to study law. The sad feature is that Lady Isaacs is an invalid and cannot go about with her husband nor be present when he conducts some famous inquiry, like the present one, on the Titanic disaster.

When Sir Rufus left practice to become attorney general it was said that he received not less than \$10,000 as a retainer and \$1,000 for a day's appearance in court.

LET'S RUB NOSES.

DEAR ANNABEL!

Rubbing Foreheads Also Suggested in Move to Ban Old-Time Kissing.

A Milwaukee special says: The Milwaukee Physicians' Association will prepare a bill for the next Legislature intending to stop the practice of kissing and stamping the habit as a "blot on civilization" and a "menace to health and decency." The action was decided on at a meeting at which a dozen papers were read on the subject. A substitute for the practice offered was that of rubbing noses or foreheads, this being held more decent by the physicians.

GREENTOWN.

Greentown, June 22.—Simon Fields, Sr., a well known resident of Greene township, died on Monday last week at the home of his daughter in Priceburg, Pa., aged 84 years. He is survived by his wife, four daughters and three sons. The funeral was held Wednesday at Canadensis. Mr. Fields had lived in Greene over fifty years.

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