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## Dictaphun

Dicta Editorial Board

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# Dictaphun

## WE DO OUR PART—FREE DEFINITIONS

In its issue of September 23 last *The Colorado Graphic*, through its Editor, requests Dictaphun to state what one is if one is a mugwump. The answer is found in Webster's Unabridged Dictionary to be this:

"Mugwump (-wump). n. (Algonquian *mugquomp*, a chief.) Orig. a bolter from the Republican Party in the national election of 1884; hence, an independent in politics. *Mugwump* seems to have been occasionally used colloquially as equivalent to 'a big man,' usually with a semi-ironical implication, prior to the campaign of 1884. The bolters of the Republican nomination in that year were charged with regarding themselves as superior to their party in character and intelligence, and were called *mugwumps* and, synonymously *pharisees*. They adopted the name quite generally. *Polit. Cant, U. S.*"

But Lord (as Pepys would say) who doesn't consider himself superior to the Republican Party? We're all mugwumps by that definition.

We are also pleased to inform the *Graphic's* Editor that the acts and views of mugwumps are termed either mugwumpery or mugwumpism.

The same Editor in the same issue describes Dictaphun as "That sprightly department." Sprightly is right. We bound hither and back, carefree as a butterfly.

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## THANK YOU, MR. ELLIS

"B. C. Hilliard, Jr., Esq.,

"Attorney at Law (Thank you, Mr. Samson),

"Midland Savings Bldg.,

"Denver, Colorado.

"Dear Clark:

"Erl Ellis calls my attention to the fact that in the first session laws of the Territory of Colorado the first *private* act of that legislature was to decree a change of name for one Longbotoom.

"Need I say more?

"Sincerely,

"ROY O. SAMSON, *Editor-in-Chief.*"

OUR CROSS-EXAMINATION COURSE CONTINUED

A mother, testifying on behalf of her son, swore that he "worked on a farm ever since he was born." Triumphantlly the opposing lawyer leaned toward her and thundered: "You tell this court and jury that your son worked on a farm ever since he was born?"

"I do."

"What did he do the first year?"

"He milked," she answered.

ONE FROM JUDGE PICKEN'S COURT

Judge: I'll let you off with a fine this time, but another day I'll send you to jail.

Driver: Sort of a weather forecast, eh, Judge?

Judge: What do you mean?

Driver: Fine today—cooler tomorrow.

BLESSED LAND BEYOND THE SEA

In what a Denver morning newspaper sometimes calls a Denver afternoon newspaper was found this one-line column filler:

"Mongolia has not a single mile of railroad."

Neither has it an Interstate Commerce Commission, a Federal Railroad Coordinator, a Public Utilities Commission, a set of railroad bankers, or a Pecora Senate committee to investigate the same.

THANK YOU, MR. SECOR

Gray Secor, Esq., of Longmont, has traced to its source the famous remark of Judge Hallett, found in his preface to 1 Colorado. You will recall that the judge assumed to report that volume and in the preface aforesaid remarked that "When the bench was not full the fact is noted."

Mr. Secor tells of the mate who objected because the captain made notation of the fact in the ship's log whenever the former was intoxicated. The captain justified the entries and said they should stand because of their truth. So the mate retaliated by entering in the log, "Captain Smith was sober today," and said the entry should stand because it was true.

BY-LINE, BY-LINE, WHO GET'S THE BY-LINE?

In X DICTA 340, is a heading "Secret Sorrows" and under it is a by-line, "(By Omar E. Garwood)." And under that is a quotation from a decision written by Chief Justice Adams in *Buchalter v. Meyers*, 85 Colo. 419, 439. Why not "By Chief Justice Adams"?

We could have sworn we used that quotation in Dictaphun at a point in the past, but research discloses we did not. Anyway, we commend it to you.