

DAILY RECORD-UNION

ISSUED BY THE SACRAMENTO PUBLISHING COMPANY. Office, Third Street, between J and K.

THE DAILY RECORD-UNION. For one year, \$6 00. For six months, \$3 00. For three months, \$1 50.

THE WEEKLY UNION. Is the cheapest and most desirable Home, News and Literary Journal published on the Pacific Coast.

Weather Forecast. Forecast for the ensuing twenty-four hours: For Northern California—Light rains, except fair in the southeast portions; generally cooler, except stationary temperature on the upper coast.

A STOCKTON CRITICISM OF SACRAMENTO.

The Stockton Mail says that Sacramento is in disgrace before the whole State because of the election day tragedy, and that it and similar outrages are "clearly traceable to the practice which has prevailed in the capital of our commonwealth of importing fighters and ruffians from San Francisco to terrorize decent people when a political contest is in progress."

The Mail then adds: The rest of the State is asking why this has been allowed. Is there not an unbecoming morality in that nursery and abiding-place of variegated crime sufficiently strong to put a stop to the outrageous proceeding? Has the local press no power to effect the much-needed reform? Have the newspapers become tainted with the prevalent corruption or been in the midst of it, so long that they are inured to it and have grown indifferent to its presence?

Let the Mail be corrected. Sacramento has enough to answer for, but it is not greatly worse than other cities of equal importance in which party politics are interwoven with municipal government. Sacramento, with all the Mail may say of the methods of its political bosses, is a community of many virtues, of good homes, of churches, schools, and high ambitions. But it is in the grip of bossism and all the supporting and vicious elements of that power. A local press cannot do all that may be expected of it. It can expose, protest, advise, urge. But public conscience and sensibility must be quick with purpose and receptive of truth in order to command reforms. This condition is brought about more rapidly in some places than in others.

Speaking for itself the Record-Union has nothing with which to reproach itself. It has at no time feared or failed to denounce local evils, and its war upon the bossism of which is born the venality and corruption of which there is complaint, is a matter of common history. The press, we apprehend, does its duty quite as well in Sacramento as in Stockton, and has as high hopes of local reforms to be accomplished; but as the Mail admits "the process must be necessarily slow." Nevertheless it has been entered upon, and the people await the first trial in the cleansing of the Police Department.

Our Stockton contemporary proceeds further with its criticism and speaks so much to the point that, despite its vituperation and adjectival excess, we quote in full its further reference to Sacramento:

The trouble over there is with the officers of the law. We cannot think that the sentiment of the people against the rascals, thieves and crimes are countenanced as something from which the community has derived a pecuniary benefit, as for example the open and above-board gambling and miscellaneous salacious salvervy that has become a session of the Legislature.

The perennial moral blight which has made the name of the city a synonym of lawlessness and debauchery is the result of "letting everything go" during the sessions mentioned. It fills the city with the scum of the State, some of which finds permanent lodgment there to be ready for business at each recurring harvest time for the vicious.

The whole proceeding is against the law, but those who are sworn to uphold it never think of such a thing as doing their duty in the premises. They get right into the muck and flounder around with the most demoralized.

Here is the secret of the whole trouble. If a Grand Jury should indict a Sheriff once in a while things would soon be mended. The Sheriff is the man to look after. No matter what the Chief of Police may do or fail to do, the Sheriff has jurisdiction of the enforcement of the State laws against crime. A Sheriff of Sacramento County built on the plans of the Sheriff of San Joaquin is all they want. No Big Neck Smiths ever lord it over decent people in Stockton. They don't come here at election time or on any other occasion. Our Sheriff has no use for them. He knows them and they know him, and the understanding is perfect. Such a Sheriff would be worth \$100,000 a year to the city of Sacramento alone, not to speak of the benefit he would be to the county.

This being clearly the solution of the situation over there, and being so close at hand to prove it, we should like to hear from the Record-Union on the subject.

We agree with the Stockton Mail that "the trouble is with the officers of the law," and in doing so we but echo the constant and uniform expression of the Record-Union. It has said at all times, it says now, and it will continue to preach it, the one great need in Sacramento is a corps of officers who will enforce the law as they find it; officers with backbone, conscience, self-respect and courage. These officers we want from Sheriff down to Poundmaster. But we cannot, will not get them, and have no hope of witnessing their advent, so long as party politics and municipal government are married; not so long as party favor, party patronage, boss desire and cringing subservience to boss methods are by the people permitted to rise superior to community interest and common concern.

oaths: so long a City Treasurership is made and kept a bone of contention as to who shall enjoy the spoils of its free use; so long as a Mayor is such in name only and is devoid of power to enforce the simplest law, or command a duty to be done or forbid its neglect; so long as the executive and legislative departments are one and the same, and there is no chief authority in existence to supervise any branch of the city government; so long as city patronage is peddled out as upstart bosses and political dictators decree, there will be misrule in this or any other city where such are the conditions.

THE SUPPOSED DEFECT IN THE ELECTION LAW.

The San Francisco Bulletin, in referring to the successful operation of the new election law, as manifested at the recent election in this city, demands the repeal of the section regarding illiterates, and under which one unable to read his ticket is entitled to the aid of one of the Election Board to assist him in marking the ballot. It pronounces the section a "villainous one," one calculated to defeat the ends of the law.

The San Francisco Chronicle, which has been the consistent opponent of the reform ballot system, quotes the Record-Union, in response to our contemporary, the Bee, as saying that no section of the law can be safely stricken out, and that its success is due to the detailed and explicit character of the law. It then quotes the denunciation of the illiterate voter section by the Bulletin and the demand of that journal for its repeal, and adds that there is thus illustrated "an irrepressible conflict between the friends and admirers of the ballot law," and declares that it (the Chronicle) pointed out, when the bill was before the Legislature, the danger of the illiterate-voter section.

Thereupon the San Francisco Examiner takes up the matter of the reported evasion of the law under the section referred to, and very properly suggests that this weak point is not new. Aid to illiterate voters, it says, was provided in England, Italy and New Zealand long before the reform-ballot system was introduced here. Massachusetts put it into her reform-ballot system, and retains it after full debate and trial, while some of the States even permit a friend from the outside to be brought into the booth by the incompetent voter. The Examiner adds:

The permission to bring a "friend" is more liable to abuse than the California system, but the latter could be improved by providing that one officer of each party represented should assist the illiterate. The provision will probably be found to give less opportunity for fraud than is feared, even in its present condition. To use it for insuring the delivery of purchased votes requires the corrupt politician to have a trusted agent on the election board. The agent must violate his oath and the corrupt voter must commit perjury, and both must take considerably greater chances of going to jail than under the old system.

If the abuse is found to be very extensive it can be corrected by dropping all provision for illiterates. In this day of universal education it would probably interfere with few elections. If it is not thought necessary to go as far as this the voter might be allowed to take a sample ballot (an unofficial paper) into the booth. With this, already marked by his friends as a guide, even a man who could not read would be able to mark his ballot without assistance, and without giving any one a chance to make certain how he voted.

The section that creates all this debate reads: "1208. Any elector who declares, under oath, to the presiding election officer that he cannot read, and that by reason thereof, he is unable to mark his ballot shall, upon request, receive the assistance of any one of the officers of election that he may choose in the marking thereof," etc.

Now, we reiterate, we would not have any section of the law stricken out; certainly not that above quoted. So long as illiterates are electors they must not be deprived of the right to vote by indirection. Any effort to do so, under the organic law as it stands, would be unconstitutional. But we favor the adoption next fall by the voters of the proposition to be then submitted to advise the amendment of the Constitution, that those who cannot read or write (excepting the blind) shall not be deemed electors.

But the elector who is without arms, who is blind, who is paralyzed, who is otherwise physically unable to prepare his ballot, and is not an idiot, insane or incapacitated by drunkenness, should be entitled to assistance in the booth in making his ballot. To the Bulletin let us say that the section it pronounces as "villainous," does not one whit enlarge the opportunity the vote-buyer enjoyed under the old law, but cripples it by requiring an oath, thus interposing the menace of punishment for perjury. To the Chronicle let it be replied also, that the promoters of the law before the Legislature did not lose sight of its objections to the sections, but, with the Constitution as it is, could see no way of avoiding them without doing injury to some innocent voters.

To the Examiner also, let it be suggested, that a sample ballot is, under the law as it is, furnished to every voter, and there is nothing to prevent him taking it into the booth as a guide, nor to the employment of any other device. He is in the booth alone, and it is a matter resting solely with himself as to the means he may employ to refresh his memory or guide his hand or his intelligence.

What the Examiner says is entirely true, the supposed evil of the section is greatly magnified, and by none more than by the enemies of the law, who are frantic in the endeavor to open the joints of its armor. No law can be devised to prevent an election officer violating his oath of office. Honesty cannot be legislated into the hearts of men. All that laws can do is to direct what shall be done, and forbid that which shall not be done, and attach penalties for violation of the law.

sacredness of the elective franchise, and as a result very close watch will presently be kept upon the polling-places to detect false swearing under the "illiterate clause," and the people will very soon demand that perjury under that section shall be severely punished.

San Francisco election tricksters who were in this city on the 8th inst., watching the workings of the law, went away declaring that it "can be beaten" under the section under consideration. But that conclusion must be arrived at upon the supposition that enough voters can be rallied to swear falsely that they cannot read, or cannot see, or are paralyzed, etc., to change an election to meet the desires of the manipulators.

But there are two sides to all questions, and a number of them to most elections. Friends of the law and opponents of the tricksters, and there must be some in each precinct, else the latter would have no need of employing fraudulent devices, have but to openly keep a record of every case of appeal to the "illiterate section," and, our word for it, there will be very little perjury committed. Men will not, however vile, save here and there one, for the beggarly price of a vote, challenge the chances of conviction for perjury; for the fact that one can read it is difficult, if not impossible, to constantly conceal. Two or three convictions for perjury and illegal voting under the law will terrorize the vote-sellers generally, until the Constitution is amended, as it certainly will be.

If there is any law in Oregon by which the wretches can be punished who put up two boys to hammer each other for the amusement of the bystanders, and in which conflict one of the boys was killed, beaten to death, that law ought to be rigidly applied to the case. If there is no such law, the need for it should be speedily supplied. These slogging matches, which are not boxing or sparring contests in any sense, are brutalizing the people. By familiarity with them the conscience of the public is becoming insensible to their enormity and degrading and demoralizing influence. They are so common just now that a newspaper without the report of one or more every morning is looked upon as wanting in enterprise. The appetite for them is increasing, and we are rapidly acquiring a taste for blood that promises to shame the era of the gladiatorial arena.

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BOARD OF THANKS.—We, the undersigned, desire to return our sincere thanks to the many kind friends who assisted us at the death of our beloved husband and father, also to the Plasterers' Union, 1st Mrs. F. BRANNIGAN AND FAMILY.

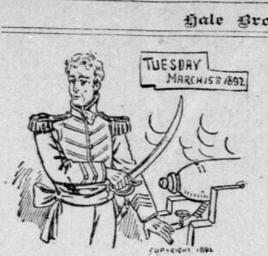
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The attacking party lost its leader, Sir Edward Packenham, and three thousand men. Jackson was as striking a figure in the United States Senate as on the battle field.

When striking figures are under discussion it will scarcely do to ignore those we are quoting.

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