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# THE SEATTLE REPUBLICAN

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Single Copies, 10 Cents.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 1909

Volume XVI, Number 5.  
H. R. CAYTON, Publisher

## DO CLUSTER LIGHTS PAY?

Much has been said for and against the city of Seattle putting in the cluster light system. A great many of the heaviest tax payers do not favor it and are decidedly opposed to the further extension of it. Discussing well lighted streets and the effect thereof, the Illuminating Engineer of New York has the following to say on the subject:

"A corner lot on Broadway is worth more than a lot in the latest subdivision on Long Island, simply and solely because a greater number of people pass the Broadway corner during the day. It not infrequently happens that opposite sides of a street on the same block have considerably different values, due to the same cause. Anything which adds to the traffic of a given street, must therefore, add to the value of the abutting property. While conditions of accessibility to necessary utilities, such as railway stations, hotels, banks, public buildings, etc., have doubtless a preponderating influence in determining the traffic of a street, it is equally true that no subsidiary condition has such a vital effect as the lighting. Cincinnati has a long open square in the center of its business section, which naturally affords a prominent location for business. It happens that one side of this square has been brilliantly lighted-up, mostly by private enterprise. As a result nine-tenths of the pedestrians in the evening take that side of the square, with the result that it is far more valuable as a business location than the opposite side. The merchants on one of Newark's main business streets saw that the bulk of traffic failed to pass them in a natural course of business; they installed a brilliant system of street-lighting, and forthwith their street became the center of attraction, and similar instances can be cited in numerous other cities. It would, of course be absurd to expect to create a popular business street out of a thoroughfare lying far beyond the natural limits of traffic, but there is no question that any street directly tributary to a business thoroughfare can be fully doubled in value by the installation of spectacular lighting.

In a more general way, lighting the entire business section of a city up to the standards of modern illumination does for the city as a whole what the lighting of a particular street does for that section; it increases values by increasing the traffic, not only from the city itself, but from the surrounding country and nearby towns. That good light increases the value of residential streets by making them more desirable needs no argument. Good street lighting, more than other things, gives to the city an air of progressiveness and prosperity. Nothing succeeds like success; to appear prosperous is the first step to being prosperous.

Lighting, of course, is a business asset from even a broader point of view than this. It is for instance, an efficient measure of public safety and even of sanitation. Before the days of systematic street lighting only those ventured out at night who had urgent business or ample body guard. City streets have become safe just to the extent that they have been well lighted. To quote further:

"It is true that light alone would be insufficient protection, but it is equally true that police alone, in any reasonable numbers, cannot afford ample protection. While this fact is generally recognized, there is one phase of the matter on which more public education is needed. It is the practice in many cities, especially the smaller, to extinguish a considerable portion of the street lights at midnight or thereabouts, thus leaving them without the important protection for half the night. To be sure many streets are little frequented during this period; but a single breach of public order resulting in robbery or murder would more than offset the additional expense involved. A city in these days can certainly afford, and the citizens reasonably expect to have the fullest degree of protection every hour of the day. The midnight schedule is a piece of petty economy entirely out of keeping with the wealth and civilization of our country at the present time.

What is called a moonlight schedule is even a greater fallacy, if literally carried out. Moonlight is far too uncertain a quantity to be reckoned with in so vital a thing as street lighting. To consider the phases of the moon in a public lighting contract is as much behind the times as regulating the planting of crops or the prediction of the weather on this basis. A city should not only be lighted up adequately in every part, but should be kept lighted up during the entire twenty-four hours when sunlight is not available.



Medical Lake Insane Asylum, which the committee said was imposed upon by the board of control

It would doubtless be stretching the argument to claim that better street lighting would directly add to the healthfulness of the street. The power of suggestion in influencing action, however, is no mere fancy; there is no denying the fact that one improvement suggests another. Asphalt pavement has produced clean streets, not merely because it is easier in itself to clean than cobblestones, but because of its much more elegant appearance; it shows strikingly the offensiveness of filth and neglect. The same reasoning applies with greater force to the lighting of a street. Not only will well lighted streets be kept cleaner as a matter of mere inclination, but will be less littered and abused. There is extremely little wanton destruction or injury to property of any kind. Such cases arise mostly from thoughtlessness or association, and not only will good street lighting be an incentive to keeping the streets clean and sanitary, but will further react upon the residents themselves with a wholesome influence to cleanliness."

## AMERICANS AND EXCITEMENT

All America is always interested in the outcome of an exciting game of chance and the powers of endurance on the part of the human family is just as productive of intense excitement among them as the hope of winning something for nothing. Men and women by the thousands will gather at the ring side and seem to enjoy watching two men battle for the championship of what they are pleased to pronounce the "manly art." They will not only congregate from the immediate locality where the event takes place, but will travel by trains and boats hundreds of miles to witness a contest that lasts but a few minutes and at best not to exceed a couple of hours. The cost to see such a contest may to each individual be almost fabulous, but none of them seem to regret the outlay if the contestants give them a square deal. The auto race across the continent which started from New York the opening day of the Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition ended in Seattle last Wednesday during the noon hour, and the announcement that the two leading cars were nearing the city was the signal for many thousands of persons to leave their homes, their work and their affairs in general, to watch the two machines go flying through the city like streaks of lightning. For more than an hour the good-natured crowd, which extended from the South end of Second avenue to the exposition grounds, watched and waited for the flash to go by, and when it did young and old America was not slow in letting the "boys," who had made the hard trip almost at the risk of their lives, know how they appreciated their manly struggle and their powers of endurance. Men would have simply lost their positions rather than miss that one exciting moment's pleasure, seeing those two cars go by. It is simply the nature as the true American to feast and fatten on adventures and excitement. While they are not of a war like nature, yet war appeals to them because it gives them excitement, the thing they love most. The Ford cars won the trophy, which means millions for the concern that build them in the way of sales.

## THE EXTRA LEGISLATURE

From the minute the speaker's gavel fell at the extra session of the Washington state legislature there were things doing, and in the language of the street philosopher, the house of representatives was a warm baby. After a determined fight on the part of the Slayden adherents the Meigs advocates continued in the control of the organization. The methods of so doing were pronounced high handed and tyrannical by the Slayden men and after being grilled almost to an English brown by the leaders of the Slayden forces Speaker Meigs, to the surprise of even his own advocates, voluntarily resigned as speaker and refused to be a candidate to succeed himself. After a hot fight, in which E. B. Palmer, of King county, seems to have been the leading spirit, the house refused to accept the resignation of Meigs and of course things were then in statu quo and Meigs again took up the gavel. This fight meant practically nothing and neither side have accomplished a thing by having made it. So far as the general public is concerned it would as soon have seen Slayden speaker as Meigs, and vice versa. What the public is mostly interested in is the alledged stealing that has been going on in official circles. The general public wants the extra session of the legislature to clean out the rottenness that seems to have fastened itself on to almost every department of the state government and it is not interested whether it be the representatives of the "drys" or the "wets" in the legislature that does that, but unless it is done the entire Republican party in the state of Washington will be cleared out and will be cleaned out by the Republicans themselves.

## ORGANIZED LABOR REBUKED

The rather despicable effort on the part of the labor unions to prevent the city from building the Welcome Arch, because forsooth, organized labor was not employed in its construction, shows to what an extent these anarchists will take a thing in order to win their point. It is always a game of rule or ruin with them. You will give organized labor your work or you will not have any work is their policy, which is so thoroughly un-American that the American people could not be blamed, if at some of these demonstrations on the part of the anarchistic labor unions, they would rise up in their might and exterminate the whole dirty bunch. The Welcome Arch is a most commendable piece of work and one that every honorable citizen should take pride in seeing erected for the entertainment of the visitors to the exposition and Judge Ronald is to be congratulated in not truckling to the vulgar sentiment of organized labor and stop the city from its purpose. In years past even J. T. Ronald, now one of the superior court judges of King county, showed considerable sympathy for organized labor and frequently fought and won their battles for them, but when they undertook to prevent the city from doing so commendable thing as building of the Welcome Arch for the benefit and edification of the visitors to the exposition he must have become completely exasperated with every mother's son of them, and doubtless said way down in his heart, "I will wipe my hands clean of every one of them." This much talked of Welcome Arch will be erected at the corner of Second avenue and Marion street and will be handsomely built and artistically lighted, and unless some unforeseen trouble arises will be ready within the next three weeks.