



EMBALMED GRAFT

Searching for Alleged Lost Art at the City Hall Occupies Attention of Expert Sense of Smell.

The Battle for Delegates, Committeeships and Other Big Plums Taking Up Attention of Local Statesmen.

Wet and Dry Question Will Cut a Big Figure in Next Year's Battle Throughout the State of Illinois.

Factions in Both the Big Parties Are Making a Hard Fight for the Control of the Managing Committees.

The Old City Hall Graft Leaders are roaring loudly. They want the mayor and aldermen to stop their kidding and attend to something else besides unearthing graft. They are afraid if the ill feeling keeps up that it is going to show the taxpayers how their money was squandered and how much of it was stolen. This will never do. The people love to be robbed. Hence the grafters are roaring over the sad fight between the mayor and aldermen, which is producing such consternation in the long cultivated field of graft.

The City Hall Past is being delved into by the City Hall Present. Three employees of the board of local improvements were ordered suspended by the civil service commission because it is alleged that they are moving spirits in a paving ring which has cost the city \$250,000 a year. The members suspended are John Hittell, 5917 Winthrop avenue, chief street engineer; Julius G. Gabelman, 1427 Leland avenue, assistant chief street engineer, and James J. Norton, 1412 South Kostner avenue, paving brick tester.

News of the suspension caused a sensation in the city hall. Capt. Percy B. Coffin, president of the commission, after a conference with Mayor Thompson, called Michael J. Faherty, president of the board of local improvements, to the commission's rooms and requested him to suspend the three men.

Capt. Coffin's letter to Mr. Faherty follows: "For over a month the civil service commission has been making diligent inquiry into the relations existing between a number of responsible employees of your department and certain unscrupulous material contractors and business agents of labor unions.

"From the evidence that we have obtained we are prepared to make the statement without fear of successful contradiction that these elements, together with a portion of the small army of inspectors working for the city, composed the moving spirits in the paving ring and that their operations are entailing upon the taxpayers of Chicago a direct loss of over \$250,000 a year.

"In order that the truth or falsity of these accusations shall be determined, it is necessary that an investigation be held under the provisions of the civil service act, and to that end we respectfully suggest that you immediately cause the suspension of the following named employees pending the filing of written charges."

The letter then names the three men, giving their salaries as follows: Hittell, \$3,600; Gabelman, \$2,700, and Norton, \$1,500 a year.

"I have no connection with any paving work," said Mr. Gabelman when apprised of his suspension. "I

have heard rumors that such a ring existed, but I have had nothing to do with it, and I will prove that before the commission."

THOMPSON STANDS PAT

Mayor Says His Cards Are on the Table and He Will Fight to Finish.

Mayor Thompson declares that he will not be bulldozed by the City Council. He is quoted as saying: "My cards are on the table. I expect to go the limit. If the City Council, for political or personal reasons, cares to flourish, that is the business personally of the aldermen involved.

"My appointees have been personal in every respect," he continued. "They have been instructed to do what is practical, honest, and efficient. I can safely direct attention to the street cleaning work as carried out by Superintendent of Streets Miller as an example.

"Undoubtedly toes have been trampled upon in the nominations for the school board. I stand by every man I have named for office.

"So far as the City Council is concerned, I deplore its inactivity. If a majority of the aldermen prefer to spend hours in matters that do not concern them, rather than to do the city's business, that is a matter they must settle with their constituents. All patronage opposition that has reached a council vote could have been gavelled down had I cared to recognize points of order, but my friends in the council were advised that the so-called opposition should be permitted to go as far as it liked.

"So far as I am concerned I shall stand pat and the objecting aldermen may act as they please."

SEAT ALL OR NO FARE

William L. O'Connell, Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission, Promulgates Order on Traction Company.

Chairman William L. O'Connell promulgated the order of the Board of Public Utilities on the Chicago traction lines compelling them to provide seats for all passengers and to install trailers whenever necessary to carry this order out.

The traction company refused to obey this order and appear to be aided and abetted in their apparent determination to discommodate the public, by certain members of the city administration.

The following extract from the official proceedings of the Public Utilities Commission and the City Council Committee may enlighten the public to some extent as to the attitude of the traction companies.

Before the State Public Utilities Commission:

Commissioner Walter A. Shaw—You believe, Mr. Busby, as a practical railroad man, that, in view of the development and improvement effected in cars, it would be a practical proposition to operate trailers?"

President Leonard A. Busby, of the Chicago Surface Lines—Yes, and I think it would be a help.

To the City Council: We wish to call your attention to the fact that the State Public Utility Commission's order is not only in direct conflict with important provisions of the traction ordinances, but purports to assume jurisdiction of the Commission over the street railways to the exclusion of control by the city. The conflict of authority presented by this order presents some serious problems with reference to which we should be advised as to the city's views and positions.

L. A. BUSBY, President. Before the Council Transportation Committee:

W. W. Gurley, Chief Counsel for the Chicago Surface Lines—The Surface Lines will follow the provisions of the 1907 ordinance which forbid the use of trailers.

Alderman Henry Uptatel—That means that you will refuse to install trailers?

Attorney Gurley—We will abide by the terms of the city ordinance, and would like to know what the city is going to do to protect the authority of its enactment as violation of the State Commission's orders carries with it a punishment of fine and imprisonment.

The record of the State Commission's hearings contains the following with reference to trailers:

Leonard A. Busby—"As a matter of fact the development and the perfection of equipment which has resulted in the control of the motor has made practical the operation of the trailer car and there is no question but that the operation of a trailer car on certain lines would be an advantage.

"They have these cars now so we have a brake on every car with control the same as on a single car. The difficulties that at one time existed—I will say the only difficulty—about the danger from accidents from the second car are more carefully guarded against now with the type of fender used on the improved car.

Commissioner Walter A. Shaw—"Then you believe, Mr. Busby, as a practical railroad man, that in view of the development and improvement effected in cars it would be a practical proposition to operate trailers?" President Busby—"Yes, and I think it would be a help."

From indications it would seem as though the letter sent to the city council by President Leonard A. Busby of the Surface Lines asking the city to define its position toward the state's ruling was a step in a carefully worked out plan of legal strategy by which the aldermen will be used to pull the traction magnates' chestnuts from the fire.

The plan, according to reports, is to egg the city on to an attack upon the jurisdiction of the state body over Chicago affairs, precipitating a legal battle which may drag on in the courts for years.

With the two regulative bodies locked in a jurisdictional struggle, the traction attorneys are said to have advised their clients the traction companies can continue their present methods of crowding in strap-hangers without fear of interference.

The City Council has not definitely disposed of the protest against the city paying 55 per cent of the Lord & Thomas advertising bills incurred

by the Traction Company for "educating" the aldermen and the public.

JUDGE SCULLY RULES

County Judge and Head of Election Machinery Takes Important Action on Primaries.

County Judge Thomas F. Scully is announced to have settled several vexed questions affecting next year's primaries.

Judge Scully holds that: Ward committeemen in Chicago shall be elected next April.

Women shall be entitled to vote for national convention delegates. National convention delegates shall be elected directly in the presidential primaries.

Reduced to local political terms, such decisions mean the Deneen-Thompson fight for control of the Republican party organization and the Sullivan-anti-Sullivan contest in the Democratic primaries, will be staged in April, rather than in September.

Remedy of the Chicago difficulties was considered at a conference of legislators and representatives of various citizens' organizations. The conference agreed to save more than \$1,000,000 a year to Chicago if Gov. Dunne could be induced to include a primary election amendment in the call for a second extra session.

Charles H. Sergel, city treasurer, held up the pay of City Attorney Charles R. Francis on the ground that his appointment has not been confirmed by the City Council. Mr. Sergel acted on the advice of his attorney, Willis E. Thorae.

According to Mr. Sergel, the city attorney is an officer of the city and as such must be confirmed by the City Council. Mr. Sergel pointed out that Mr. Francis' predecessor, N. L. Piotrowski, was confirmed by the council and held that Mr. Francis must be.

It is said that the City Hall forces, aided by the old Lorimer following in the 6th ward, are being up for a fight on Ald. Willis O. Nance. Nance's term expires in the spring and an effort is to be made to defeat him for renomination. Clifford Roe, now holding a position in the corporation counsel's office, has been picked to run against Nance in the primaries.

The delivery services in the Chicago post office is rotten. This is especially so in the outlying districts. The stations noted for inefficiency in this regard are:

Edgewater, Garfield Park, Station M, Ogden Avenue.

The complaints from these districts are due beyond much doubt to inefficiency at the station and not to fault of the carriers themselves. There will be a change in post office management one of these days and there will probably be a change in the management of some of these carelessly run stations.

WRIGLEY WILL WIN

The Popular Manufacturer Will Be Sent to the National Republican Convention in Ninth District.

William Wrigley Jr. is the popular choice for delegate to the Republican National Convention from the Ninth district.

William Wrigley, Jr., financier and manufacturer, one of the financial mainstays of the Roosevelt campaign in 1912, has deserted the bull moose and will be a candidate for delegate to the Republican national convention of 1916 from the Ninth congressional district.

The return of Mr. Wrigley to the republican fold is one of the hardest blows received by the progressives in the west. Three years ago he was at the forefront of the bull moose of fensive and carried with him the banner not only of a large personal following in Chicago, but also hundreds of business men in all parts of the United States who banked on his political as well as his business judgment. He contributed to the bull moose national campaign the sum of \$25,000, the largest amount subscribed by a Chicagoan.

"I am with Teddy for anything he wants from dog catcher to czar," said Mr. Wrigley, as he handed his check to Ralph Otis, treasurer of the bull moose campaign.

But now he believes that the field of activity for progressive republicans is back in the G. O. P. In order to fight for his convictions in the party councils he has decided to ask the republicans of the Ninth district to send him as a delegate to the national convention. When he announces his candidacy formally he will declare himself for United States Senator Lawrence Y. Sherman, favorite son of Illinois, for the nomination for president.

ROGER WILL RUN

Sullivan Announcing Candidacy for Delegate at Large to Democratic National Convention Opens Big Fight.

Gossip About the Work of Public Officials and Others in Various Departments of Public Life.

Public Men and Public Conditions as They Are Seen by the People in the Light of Their Performances.

General Information of a Public and Political Nature From All Parts of the State and All Parties In It.

Roger C. Sullivan announces that he will be a candidate for delegate at large on the Democratic ticket.

"What ticket is Mr. Harrison going to run on?" asked Mr. Sullivan when he said he saw by the papers the Dunne-Harrison-Lewis forces were going to run a national delegate ticket, with the former mayor heading it.

"Is he going to run on the republican ticket with Mayor Thompson," continued the biscuit maker. "He supported the republican ticket in the last two campaigns and we are wondering where he is going to be next time."

Thereupon Mr. Sullivan let it be known he was going to be a candidate for delegate at large. It is said Robert M. Switzer will also run as a delegate at large.

Mr. Harrison said nothing definite had been decided relative to his candidacy, that he will do what Governor Dunne and William L. O'Connell decide as to the national delegate situation.

"If what Sullivan says goes for me it goes for him as well," said Mr. Harrison. "I ask where were they in 1911 when I was a candidate for mayor. I am informed that at a meeting in Mr. Sullivan's home ward, the 14th, the word was given to get out and support Mr. Merriam. I might go back to 1896 and ask where was Mr. Sullivan and 'his crew' when William Jennings Bryan was first a candidate for president?"

Mr. Harrison declared he could say what Mr. Sullivan could say, that he had been "regular," that he had voted for Mr. Sullivan for senator and Mr. Switzer for mayor.

If the Bryan that Sullivan is accused by Mr. Harrison of going back on in 1896 is the William J. Bryan who was in Wilson's cabinet, then Harrison has done Sullivan a favor. For William J. Bryan, though long forgotten as a favorite of the Democratic party, is an ever present thorn in its side.

Bryan is especially non grata with the Democracy of Chicago.

He is the original Sunday closer. He is the arch enemy of personal liberty from a sumptuary standpoint. He is a prohibitionist.

He deserted President Wilson. He deserted Champ Clark in order to have a chance to desert President Wilson.

He is a Dry.

And Chicago has a wet climate, politically.

So take it all in all, Sullivan will lose little popularity on account of his past enmity toward William J. Bryan.

The formal launching of the fight of the Sullivan forces for control of the Cook county committee, the state committee and the delegation to the national convention next year, was staged Tuesday night in the new Eighteenth Ward Democratic Club rooms on West Madison street.

Robert M. Switzer, defeated candidate for mayor last spring; County Treasurer Henry Stuckert, chairman of the Switzer campaign committee; Attorney John J. Coburn, and others, bitterly assailed the "treachery" of

last year's senatorial battle and the inactivity campaign of the spring.

County Treasurer Henry Stuckert and Attorney John J. Coburn both made strong speeches.

"What we should do," said Mr. Coburn, "is to defeat these treacherous, Benedict Arnold Democrats in the primary next spring and in all succeeding primaries and then talk compromise afterward. But for their treachery Roger C. Sullivan, the splendid Democrat, would now be at Washington helping to make the laws in the United States senate and Robert M. Switzer, that prince of Democrats, would now be mayor of Chicago."

When the cheering subsided, Mr. Coburn added:

"And if we had the recall law now in operation it wouldn't take this city long to put Robert M. Switzer in the mayor's chair."

County Treasurer Stuckert said "amen" to that and declared that such "base treachery" as was practiced last spring and a year ago should not be permitted to go unpunished.

Sanitary District Trustee Thomas Sullivan was introduced as the "man who was brought up on a bottle in the 18th ward." He spoke for Sullivan and his organization and for the Democratic policies of President Wilson.

Mr. Switzer assured the audience that he was not shedding any tears, but that he was there in the flesh to encourage "good" democrats to get into the coming primary fight with a new zeal. He flayed the "treacherous" Democrats who had knifed the party ticket last year and last spring.

Assistant State's Attorney Higgins, Attorney Frank Walsh, State Senator John Broderick, and Lou Conway contributed eloquence and good stories.

SHERMAN STIRS THINGS

Senator and Presidential Candidate Believes There Should Be Referendum Vote for National Committee-man.

Republican politicians are all torn up over Senator Lawrence Y. Sherman coming out in favor of Mayor Thompson's proposal to have a referendum vote on the national committee in the April primaries.

The proposition made by the mayor was that he and Roy O. West, the anti-Thompson candidate for national committeeman, submit their names to the entire electorate of the state in the next primary, the agreement to be that the one receiving the fewer votes will quit the race and support his opponent.

Mr. West and former Gov. Deneen turned down the proposition, coming back with a counter proposal that each side put up a full list of national delegates with the understanding that the side that elected the most delegates have the support of the opposition when the national committeeman is elected.

This plan, it was held by the Thompson forces, would jeopardize the interests of Senator Sherman in his presidential fight, as an outside man might come in and get the delegates in districts where the Sherman vote would be split rather evenly as

between the Deneen-West and Thompson delegate slates.

Senator Sherman in Washington confirmed the report that he would support the mayor in the proposed referendum plan of ironing out the party strife.

"It appears," said Senator Sherman, "that this would be a fair way to determine the choice of a national committeeman, if means can be devised for the taking of the advisory vote, for the Illinois primary law does not provide for a preferential vote on national committeeman. As soon as I heard of the proposal I wrote Mayor Thompson a brief letter in which I stated that I approved of it in principle and believed the matter should be settled in the general way he had indicated."

The City Civil Service Commission learned of a supposed attempt to defraud city firemen—candidates for promotion—by charging them \$50 to \$200 for "influence." A lawyer, according to Captain Coffin, has been doing this and charging the financial entries to "Legal Advice."

"We intend to ask the State's Attorney to take it up," said Captain Coffin.

It was stated by Mr. Coffin that the commission had laid a trap a few days ago for a city official who was to have been paid \$2,000 in graft money by a paving contractor. The money was to have been paid in a Clark street saloon. Detectives were there and saw the men talking together, but no money was passed between them.

Judgment for \$6,678.15 was entered on Monday against the estate of former County Treasurer D. H. Kochersperger of Cook County, in Sangamon County Circuit Court, in the suit instituted by Attorney General Lucey to compel payment into the state treasury of money collected in interest on inheritance tax funds.

The suit probably will be appealed to the Supreme Court to obtain a ruling on the validity of the law. It was filed after the Illinois Supreme Court ruled that county treasurers were not entitled to retain 2 per cent of the inheritance tax.

Under the inheritance tax law, the treasurer was permitted to retain the 2 per cent, but the provision was held to be illegal. Former County Treasurer William L. O'Connell, paid almost \$100,000 into the state treasury as soon as the Supreme Court held the provision to be illegal.

By a vote of forty-five to fourteen the council passed a resolution providing for an additional tax levy of \$54,257 to be used for the police pension fund. Ald. Merriam introduced a resolution asking that the matter be first investigated by a committee but the motion failed.

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