

THE ALMA RECORD

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THEIR DUTY AND OURS

Our public officials owe a duty to us and we owe a duty to them.

We send senators and congressmen to Washington to make laws for us. We elect a president whose duty it is to see to a proper administration of those laws.

When a senator or congressman goes to the capitol he possesses a hazy idea of what his constituents desire. If he is newly elected his heart burns and throbs with a laudable ambition to accomplish wonderful things for "his people." He is determined to accomplish some worthy thing.

When he reaches Washington he finds that he is not half as big as he is when at home. In fact, the "leaders" promptly give him to understand that he is a very little potato in a mighty big basket.

He learns, also, that if he is a "good Indian" and votes as the leaders dictate he may be graciously permitted to send home a slice of bacon where he had hoped to send a slab.

He is duly impressed with the fact that big fish in congress require much feed, while the minnows must content themselves with the crumbs.

This is only the "educational" process he must undergo upon taking his seat. In most cases it is effective, and the leaders secure another follower and the constituents back at home lose a defender of their rights.

But in many cases the senator or congressman is not entirely to blame. The responsibility rests primarily upon the voters who send him forth to battle for them.

When we send an army out to fight we support that army to the utmost of our resources. Without such support its morale would be broken and defeat would be its portion.

We should do as much for our representatives in Washington, for they are fighting our battles of peace just as much as the army fights them in time of war.

A district should advise its representative as to what it needs. Then it should actively support that representative in his demands. The "leaders" should be given plainly to understand that if they desire the future support of that district they can expect it only upon condition that the district receives its just proportion of the "bacon" that is so lavishly handed out.

When a district takes this attitude and follows it up it generally gets what it wants within reason. The leaders soon take alarm and cease their blandishments in their efforts to switch the senator or congressman away from his path of duty to his constituents.

Leaders talk—constituents vote—and both leaders and representatives keep these facts in mind.

We should tell our representatives in Washington what we want, and then make our demands united and stronger than the influences opposed to us.

Even a "leader" can tell which way the wind blows when he watches a straw.

A BUNDLE OF STICKS

The story is told of a man who had six sons and sent each boy out to bring in a small willow stick, the size of his fore-finger. When the boys had returned, the father took the stick from each boy, and one at a time broke them and threw them away. He then asked the boys to go out and each to bring to him again a similar stick. The boys did so, and then the father bound the sticks together with a small cord, and made an effort to break the bundle in two, but was unable to do so. He asked each boy in turn to break the bundle. Each boy did his best, but without results. The sticks while bound together withstood all efforts to break them and no single stick in the bundle was broken or injured by the effort.

At the end of the contest the father said to the boys, "You see how easy it is to break the sticks separately. But in union there is strength."

That father and those boys built one of the greatest business institutions in this country, because they were united and because they agreed upon a progressive policy, and there was harmony and co-operation within the organization.

This should be an object lesson for this city, and all other communities. For from this story we may be made to see that great things are to be accomplished by working together for the common good. That statement from the Good Book, that "A house divided against itself cannot stand," is just as pertinent today as it ever was, and we should heed the wisdom that it contains.

This is a community of unlimited possibilities. We can do anything we undertake to do, within reason, for the upbuilding and advancement of this city and community if we get together and stick together.

Differences of opinion are bound to arise, but let us thresh out our differences without rancor or ill feeling and decide upon a course that is for the best interests of us all.

We cannot injure each other without injuring the whole community, and what benefits any individual benefits the whole community. Let's bind our sticks together and keep them bound together, working shoulder to shoulder for the upbuilding of this city and this community, and then there is no reason why we should not grow and thrive. Now is the time for co-operation. Let's go at it like father and sons.

MANNERS AND BOYS

The ill mannered boy invariably becomes an ill mannered man. An ill mannered man is not often successful in a business which requires that he come into daily contact with the buying public. People who spend their own money want to receive courtesy as well as the value of that money. They do not care to pay for a grouch or a grunt.

School teachers are always endeavoring to improve the manners of their pupils, but they find it a difficult task where manners are not taught at home.

These are every day facts—not theories, or a sermon.

Where Your Taxes Go

How Uncle Sam Spends Your Money in Conducting Your Business

By EDWARD G. LOWRY

Author of "Washington Class-Use," "Banks and Financial Systems," etc. Contributor Political and Economic Articles to Leading Periodicals and a Writer of Recognized Authority on the National Government's Business Methods.

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WRITE TO THESE MEN.

The chief defects, or places where waste is apparent in the conduct of the business of the government, that I have pointed out in these articles, have been, first, the excessive proportion of the government income that went for military expenditures; second, the chaotic condition and lack of adequate supervision and control of expenditures, which have been in part remedied by the introduction of the budget system; and third, the haphazard organization of the government departments and the unorganized condition that prevailed in government employment.

The remedy for two of these conditions I have treated briefly in the two immediately preceding articles. I come now to the matter of reorganization of the departments and the reclassification of government employees. A beginning has been made on both of these matters.

A joint committee of the two houses of congress, with Walter F. Brown as chairman, is studying the whole question of organization of the government and the function of the various departments and bureaus and independent establishments. I cannot too strongly advise you to keep yourself in contact with the work that joint committee is doing.

I have given you the names of the members of the committee in another article but I will repeat them here. They are Senators Smoot of Utah, Wadsworth of New York and Harrison of Mississippi; Representatives Reavis of Nebraska, Temple of Pennsylvania and Moore of Virginia. Write to any of them or to Mr. Brown, the chairman of the committee, who represents the President, with headquarters in the house office building here at Washington.

This is the third or fourth attempt that has been made to effect a general reorganization of the conduct of the business of the executive departments. They have all failed through lack of interest. There was lack of public interest, and consequently lack of interest in congress.

This joint committee is at work now. It is collecting facts. It is finding out the actual condition. It is studying the departments. Presently it will make a report to congress. If you will show an active, insistent interest in the work that it is doing, congress will take action. If you do not show this interest, there is every chance in the world that no action will be taken, and that things will remain much as ever.

Hundreds of special interests are clamoring for the attention of congress. All of them are organized. Most of them keep representatives here at Washington. They present to individual members of congress in a hundred skillful, shrewd, subtle ways arguments to support the legislation they are seeking to advance. It would take two or three columns of this newspaper merely to print a list of the organizations and associations that are here to keep congress mindful of their interests.

In this great clamor the common public interest is likely to be submerged. In fact, too often it has been submerged. This matter of economies and reorganizing the business of the government and taking up the tedious details of administration is a dull business. It has been neglected and put off time after time because of a lack of public interest and driving force behind it.

If you will supply this driving force now and display a sustained interest, you can at least put the business of government of the United States on an efficient basis. Congress has been negligent because you have been negligent, but now at last the thing has run along so far that something must be done about it.

Used Insects to Fight Insects.

Control of destructive insects by the introduction of their natural enemies has become an important technique during the last generation, writes Paul Popenoe in Science. But if competent observers are to be trusted, the southern Arabs employed the same method more than 100 years ago in the culture of the date palm.

In his "Relation d'un Voyage dans l'Yemen," P. E. Botta says: "I was able to verify the singular fact previously observed by Forskal, that the date palm in Yemen are attacked by a species of ant which would cause them to perish if each year the growers did not bring from the mountains and fasten in the tops of the palm branches of a tree that I did not recognize, which contains the nests of another species of ant which destroys that of the date palm."

A Peculiar View.

Hewell—He has some queer ideas. Powell—Yes, he believes that the history of the world would have been changed if he had married a different woman.

Bring your Cream to the Freeman Dairy Co., located at The Alma Creamery Co.—advertisement, 1w.

If it is something to be printed, we can print it. The Alma Record.—advertisement 10-3w

With Our State Contemporaries

WHO WANTS TO BE A WOLVERINE?

California has no reason to object to the sobriquet, "Golden State." Kansas can't kick on "Sunflower State" and probably Maine is perfectly happy as the "Pine Tree State." But just why Michigan should be called the "Wolverine State" and why the people of Michigan should complacently stand by and permit use of the mistaken appellation is an inexplicable mystery.

Nobody seems to know how Michigan ever was nicknamed "Wolverine." Whatever pleasing and worthy traits which the little animal of that name may claim, it must be admitted that it is known best merely as a glutton. Unless it is because our football teams occasionally have shown a wolverine's appetite for punishment, we know of no reason why the state's appetite should be thus impugned.

Most of the state nicknames have some basis in legend or present state conditions. Alabama is, in truth, the "Cotton State," just as it is called "Colorado" is the "Silver State." Pennsylvania may be proud to be "Keystone State," etc. If the nickname, "Wolverine" has lost any of its sting, it is only because Michigan's traits are not comparable to the animal from which the name is taken. The only excuse for "Wolverine" is a lack of more fitting moniker. And that excuse can't stand the test of knowledge. There may be no more better appellation for Louisiana than "Pelican" (twice about as soon be Wolverines as Pelicans) but certainly there are other suitable names for Michigan.

Eastern writers sometimes use "Auto State" as applying to us, but that won't do. It fits only a few large cities—Detroit, Flint, Lansing, Kalamazoo, Pontiac, etc. We can't take "Peninsular State" because that too closely resembles Florida's "Peninsular." So it's up to Michigan to coin a new nickname for itself. The job is easy. Among the 48, for example, there is no "Lake State." The title just fits Michigan with harbors on three Great Lakes and with 5,000 small inland lakes. (In fact, "Michigan" is taken from the Indian meaning "big water.") Or, why not the "Summer State"? Remember that this is rapidly becoming the most popular Summer Resort district in the world.

The list of possible nicknames is long—we could be satisfied with "Salt State" in preference to "Wolverine" since this is the chief salt-producing unit—but the thing to do is for Michigan to settle upon a name wholly suitable to itself and then inaugurate its usage by way of living down the "Wolverine" slander which we never have deserved.—Grand Rapids Herald.

National Holidays.

Those who dislike work should dwell in Turkey and avoid Scotland, for those two countries are at the top and bottom respectively in the list of the countries of the world as regards public holidays. Turkey has 29 official holidays in the year, while thrifty Scotland has only five. Italy celebrates 23 general public holidays; Germany, 20; France, 18; Great Britain, 16; Japan, 15, and Portugal, eight.

The Hyacinth.

The hyacinth is like a balustrade placed upside down. A bed of hyacinths resembles a mass of balusters. Thus that great invention of the Renaissance, the balustrade, allows us to gain through it a glimpse of nature. This ray of art, the flower, this delicate inspiration, unknowingly requires the intelligence of men to develop its possibilities.—Auguste Rodin.

Gift of Good Literature.

Don't forget that good literature will do for you the following things: "Give you an outlet, keep before you the vision of the ideal, supply a better knowledge of human nature, restore the past to you, show you the glory of the commonplace and give you a mastery of your own language."—C. Alphonso Smith.

An Accommodating Lecturer.

"Gentlemen," said the unperturbed speaker, when the lights went out and the hall was suddenly plunged in total darkness, "this does not disturb me in the least, so I shall continue my speech. I only ask that the last man out of the building lets me know when he is leaving and I'll stop then."—Harner's.

First Artificial Eyes.

Artificial eyes originated in Egypt. At first they were made of gold and silver, then of copper and ivory. In the sixteenth century porcelain was the substance used, and the makers advertised themselves by stamping their names and addresses on the white of the eye.

Really Something of a Mystery.

"Lawyers," said Uncle Eben, "mostly asks so unimportant cross-examinin' folks that I can't see how so many of 'em gets popular enough to be elected to offices."

We wish to store a player piano in a reliable home, or will sell cheap. Address Box L, care of Alma Record.—advertisement.

USE THE OLD D. MARSHALL'S CATARRH Snuff 30¢ at all Druggists, or sent prepaid by WILLIAMS MFG. CO., CLEVELAND, O. Winslow Bros. Drug Store

Phool Philosophy Old Cy Collegy

Don't borrow trouble. You can get all you want for nothing.

When prices are too high to snite you, climb up to their level.

A sin is most objectionable when committed by the other fellow.

The fellow who earns his pay invariably gets paid for what he earns.

The Lord expects you to help yourself in this world, but not to other people's possessions.

There are two sides to every question, and generally neither is understood.

Telling people to go to hell is poor policy. The world admires a leader.

It is wise to keep in touch with the world, but still wiser to keep beyond its "touch."

If love is blind there must be a lot of married people who are enjoying excellent sight.

The best way to hook a husband is to make him think you don't want him.

Trouble seldom bothers the person who is not looking for it.

Trading our own glands for those of monkeys is just another evidence of the source from which we sprang.

There may be such a thing as luck, but if so it is the result of wisdom, energy and perseverance.

Some people find little difficulty in keeping their promises. They don't make 'em.

Never borrow money from a friend. You can utilize him to better advantage in other ways.

In mentioning the great men of the age it is wisdom to place your husband's name at the top. He will then be ripe for a touch.

All the world loves a lover until he makes a fool of himself.

Don't worry over the monotony of this life. You will find plenty of excitement below.

Very few people walk in the valley of the shadow of death. They hoof it until they get out.

Any fool can recognize a good thing when the other fellow has it.

Some people are always looking for a scrap and never recognize it when it is offered to them.

Record Directory FOR READY REFERENCE

President and Congress President, Warren G. Harding, Ohio, salary \$75,000, with allowance for traveling expenses up to \$25,000 extra, and \$100,000 more for clerk hire and White House expenses—\$200,000 in all. Subject to change. Vice-President, Calvin Coolidge, Mass., salary \$12,000. President pro tem of senate, Albert B. Cummins, Iowa. Speaker of House, Frederick H. Gillett of Mass., salary \$12,000. The 68 Senators and 435 Representatives of 73rd congress receive \$7,500 salary each, with mileage extra at 20 cents a mile each way, each session, figured on distance between their homes and Washington; also \$125 extra for stationery, newspapers, etc. Each is also allowed \$2,000 a year for clerk hire. Ratio of representation, one member to each 211,817 population.

Party Division in 67th Congress: House 361 Rep., 132 Dem., 1 Soc. Senate 59 Rep., 37 Dem.

U. S. Senators—Gans E. Townsend, Truman H. Newberry. Representative in Congress—Joseph W. Fordney.

The Cabinet

Arranged in order of presidential succession: State, Charles E. Hughes, N. Y.; Treasury, Andrew W. Mellon, Pa.; War, John W. Weeks, Mass.; Atty. Gen., Harry M. Daugherty, Ohio; Postmaster Gen., Will H. Hays, Ind.; Sec'y Navy, Edwin Denby, Mich.; Interior, Albert B. Fall, N. Mex.; Agriculture, Henry C. Wallace, Iowa; Commerce, Herbert C. Hoover, Calif.; Labor, James J. Davis, Pa. Salary of each \$12,000.

The Supreme Court

Chief Justice, William Howard Taft, salary \$25,000. Associate Justices, salary, \$14,500 each: Jos. McKenna, Calif. (Ret.); Oliver W. Holmes, Mass. (Ret.); Wm. B. Brandeis, Ohio (Ret.); Willis VanDevanter, Wyo. (Ret.); Mahon Pitney, N. J. (Ret.); James McReynolds, Tenn. (Dem.); Louis D. Brandeis, Mass. (Dem.); John H. Clarke, Ohio (Dem.).

Michigan Government

Governor, Alex. J. Groves, salary, \$5,000; Lieut. Gov., Thomas Reed, salary, \$300.00; Secretary of State, Charles J. Deland, salary, \$2,500.00; State Treas., Frank E. Gorman, salary, \$2,500.00; Auditor Gen., Oranuel R. Fallis, salary, \$2,500.00; Attorney Gen., Martin Wiley, salary, \$5,000.00; Supt. of Public Instruction, Thomas E. Johnson, salary, \$4,000.00; State Highway Com., Frank C. Rogers, salary, \$750.00; Senator of District, Aaron Amon, salary, \$300.00; Representative of District, David G. Locke, salary, \$800.00; Supreme Court Judges, salary, \$7,000.00; Joseph B. Moore, Joseph H. Steere, Howard Wood, Grant Fellows, John W. Stone, Geo. M. Clark, John E. Bird, Nelson Sharp.

County Officers

Circuit Judge, Edward J. Molnet, salary \$3,500.00; Judge of Probate, James G. Kress, salary, \$2,400.00; Sheriff, A. T. Willet, salary, fees; Clerk, Bernie Case, salary, \$1,500; Treas., Sidney Evey, salary, \$1,500; Pros. Atty., Romaine Clark, salary, \$2,200; Register of Deeds, Chas. Heisler, salary, fees; School Com., Howard Potter, salary, \$100; Circuit Court Com., Archie McCall, Wm. A. Bahke, fees; Drain Com., Erva Laycock, salary \$1,500; Coronors, W. K. Ludwig, Dr. Hall, fees. City Government Mayor, Chas. R. Murphy, salary, \$300.00; City Commissioners, John E. Chick, Thos. J. City, A. J. Archer, Philip Cressler, salary, \$200.00; City Manager, Wm. E. Reynolds, salary, \$2,000.00; City Clerk, Francis C. Hayward, salary \$2,000.00; City Treasurer, D. W. Adams, salary, \$1,800.00; City Atorney, Wm. A. Bahke, salary, \$1,200.00; Health Officer, Dr. John N. Day, salary, \$1,500.00; Chief of Police, James R. Campbell, salary \$1,150.00; Supervisors, 1st ward, Jesse E. Fuller, 2nd ward, Nicholas E. Saad, 3rd ward, Albert P. Cook, 4th ward, Jacob D. Helman, salary, \$2.00 per day on actual time.

The Open Forum

THE BELATED MIND

The following from Fostick is worth thinking over:

"One of the most fatal enemies of effective service is the belated mind. Many people of sincere good will are behind the times. Many of man's most ruinous sins consist in being behind the times. It is a most disturbing fact that God is not dead, but alive. We love to settle down to customary ways; we put our minds to bed and tuck them in. But the forward moving purposes of the living God are forever disturbing our repose and forcing us to move. Humanity settled down on a flat and stationary earth, with the vault of heaven a few miles above and to that cosmology sealed all its thinking; but of a sudden the flat earth rounded out into a sphere and went spinning thro space. God tipped the minds of all the world out of bed that day and cried, "Move on."

In wide areas of its worst exhibition, therefore, sin means living in the present age upon the ideas and standards of an age gone by. "It was said unto you of old time," the Master repeatedly insists, "but I say unto you." One way to be a sinner in His eyes is to live in His new day as though the old day still were here. Everywhere in the new testament the characteristic sinners are men who refused to move on with Paul's universal gospel. They were men of the closed mind and the backward look. How many men there are who deserve Paul's comment on Metternich. If he had been present when God began to bring order out of chaos, Metternich would have prayed fervently, "Oh God, preserve chaos."

H. E. Fostick.

Record want ads pay.

Strand

THURSDAY and FRIDAY

Cecil B. DeMille's "Male and Female"

SATURDAY

Cecil B. DeMille's "Don't Change Your Husband"

SUNDAY and MONDAY

TOM MOORE

"Beating the Game"

BUSTER KEATON

"The Cops"

TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY

BEBE DANIELS

"A Game Chicken"

THURSDAY and FRIDAY

William DeMille's "Miss Lulu Bett"

We Sell That Kind

When you are in the market again for building materials, why not buy such reliable products as—

- Newaygo Portland Cement
U. S. Gypsum Co.'s Plaster
"Sheetrock" Plaster Board
Cornell Wood-Board
Reynolds' Shingles
Barrett Roofings
Curtis Wood-Work
Keep Your Home Attractive

HOME LUMBER & FUEL COMPANY PHONE ONE-NINE



A VERY good tire at a very low price. Just another instance of Fisk extra value. As true with the Fisk Premier Tread as with the Fisk Cord—compare with competitive tires and you will find extra size, strength and resiliency in the Fisk. Comparison proves Fisk Quality; it also proves common-sense buying.

There's a Fisk Tire of extra value in every size, for car, truck or speed wagon

30 x 3 1/2 FISK PREMIER TREAD \$10.85

TAKE FOLEY KIDNEY PILLS For Backache, Rheumatism Kidneys and Bladder Quick to Results SOLD EVERYWHERE IN ALMA