

LOS ANGELES HERALD

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THE OFFICIAL CITY PAPER. TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1893.

NO ENTANGLING ALLIANCES.

There are times when the most astounding nonsense is telegraphed from Washington to this coast.

It is a matter of course that the stuff would disgrace the inventive powers of a chimpanzee, or the logical faculty of a gorilla, on it comes, and our people are expected to swallow it though it should choke them.

The last assinine rorback which reached this coast was the report that France, Russia and the United States had for some time past been engaged in perfecting the details of an alliance, offensive and defensive, and that the lately amended extradition treaties with those countries was an outward and visible sign of this inward and invisible understanding.

Now this is the merest poppycock. There is no statesman and no combination of statesmen, who could bind the United States to a policy so utterly un-American, and so absolutely opposed to all American traditions, as such a treaty would involve.

When Washington was laying down his last counsels to his countrymen he was careful to advise them to beware of all entangling alliances. Happily our position is so exceptionally favored of God and nature that we are not obliged to mingle in the concerns of European nations and dynasties.

It required a great deal of tact on the part of Washington to maintain the neutrality of the United States during the first wars of the French revolution.

The French Republicans usurped thought that a sister republic, which France had virtually created, ought to have cast in its fortunes with them in their struggles against the monarchies of the old world.

There was indeed great plausibility in such a view of the matter. France was represented in the United States at that time by a minister of great irascibility, who, both under Washington's and succeeding administrations, caused great annoyance to the government and people of the United States.

But Washington and his successors thought that it would be the height of folly to expose the young republic to the perils of such malign entangling alliances.

The lesson taught then has been well learned by our people. The first Napoleon looked with great favor on the young republic of the west, and to save the great Louisiana territory from falling into the hands of England he sold it to President Jefferson for \$8,000,000, thus assuring us the control of the Mississippi river and of a territory which is intrinsically worth ten times that of France.

But, notwithstanding his cordial good-will to us, he told the Count de la Case, in one of his conversations with that gentleman on the island of St. Helena, that he had determined to make the United States take the side of either England or France in his last war.

Fortunately for the consistency of this country, the unbridled insolence of England on the high seas led to the United States plunging into a war with that country in defense of our maritime rights and national dignity.

The people of the United States want no entangling alliances of any description whatsoever. Europe, and the intrigues of European nations and dynasties, have no attraction for us. All we should aim at is to rescue the Monroe doctrine from the desuetude into which it has been allowed to fall.

Our interests are confined to maintaining the independence of all American nations. There we should be content to stop.

A FREE AND EASY JAIL DELIVERY. Just about the time the HERALD was going to press yesterday morning there was quite an extensive break for liberty in the city jail, and ten prisoners escaped.

Some days ago we gave details of the escape of the cook, who bored a hole in the wall of his culinary castle and hid him to fresh fields and pastures new. In the present instance the prisoners sawed and pried their way from the body of the jail to the kitchen, and as the wall was only twelve inches thick they soon made a hole eight and three-fourths inches by fifteen.

Precisely fifteen prisoners declined to make their egress through the fifteen inch hole. Such unwonted forbearance is a high testimonial to the excellence of the jail cuisine, or it was a recognition of the fact that, for a wonder in this semi-tropical climate, the night was cold and blustery. For now these many moons it has been known that the city prison is a mere children's card board affair. Why is this thus? If it is worth while to put a man in durance vile, he ought

to be kept there during the time for which his sentence runs. The prisoner who is committed to the Los Angeles jail is able to carol with truth the exalting stanzas of the cavalier of the time of Charles I:

Stone walls do not a prison make, Nor iron bars a cage.

If we are to go through the forms of committing people to prison, unless we desire to take part in a solemn farce, we ought to build a substantial jail; and when we have built it, we should drop the barbarous custom of a chain-gang. This system of degrading human beings is far more honored in the breach than in the observance. It is to be hoped that the city fathers will take note of the free and easy jail delivery and act accordingly.

A GOOD LAW IF PERFECTED. The assistant city attorney has reported to the council the progress made in the passage of the bill amending the street bond act.

That measure is certainly susceptible of great improvement, for as it is now it is really of no value to the city or to property-holders. The principle of the law is excellent, and if perfected so that the bonds would be readily accepted by financiers, it would work a great benefit to our people, and assure us a fine system of paved streets in all parts of the city in a very few years.

Mr. Childress, in a well-considered paper given in these columns yesterday, suggests that the street bonds should find no difficulty whatever in securing purchasers at par or a premium if their payment were guaranteed by the city.

We can see no objection to such guarantee if the council were restricted to ordering the street improvements to those parts of the city where property is assessed at three or four times the value of the bonds to be issued. No one would let his property be sold for a street lien if it were much more valuable than the amount of the lien, so that the city's guarantee would be perfectly safe.

The main object of the law is to enable property-holders to pay for their street improvements in installments. The importance of such a law at the present time is particularly significant, when we are about to lay down connecting sewers throughout the city. The cost of sewerage and grading a street is more than many of our property-holders can bear, if it has to be paid in a lump.

Spread over ten years, however, a great many poor people could pay the assessment; whilst, on the other hand, if they have to pay at once in full, they will be compelled to let their property go. A law that will enable poor people to escape confiscation cannot but be approved by every right-thinking person, and the underlying principle of the street bond law is to accomplish this benign object.

As the law now stands it works hard-ship instead of benefit. In the first place the reluctance which financiers have to

insure condition, forces contractors to forelay in their bids for a large discount upon them. Hence they must either bid extortionately high for the work, or else they intend to recon up all risks by making a cheap and nasty job of it. In the former case the property-holder pays from 30 to 50 per cent more than the work is worth, and in the latter he gets a pavement that is very inferior in every respect.

If the bonds could readily command their face value, he would stand on an even plane with his fellow citizen who can afford to pay for his street improvements as soon as they are finished.

The city would run no risk in guaranteeing the bonds. It has to collect the principal and interest under the measure as it is, the same as it collects taxes; and the fact that the city had become responsible would insure greater care and more conservatism in ordering street improvements under the bonded act.

We do not know what amendments will prevail in Sacramento. But the one relating to street railroads is too important to be overlooked. There is no practical way, under the law as it is, to compel street railroads to improve between their tracks.

When a street is paved under the bonded act, the railroads claim the right to also come in under that act. But the lien now only attaches against the fragment of railroad that runs through the improved track. Such a lien is valueless, for if it is enforced no one is going to buy a small fraction of a railway track. The lien should hold against the whole road, and not merely an infinitesimal part of it that is of no use to anybody. This would compel the street railroads to pave their portion of a street whenever the property holders are ready to improve theirs.

"HOW LONG? Oh, Lord," the guests all cried, When Otis to a toast replied: "Have patience, friends," the kismet said; And then his speech for hours he read, Till all the festive guests had fled, Or on the floor were laid out dead— Not drunk—which time this famous banquet Was squelched by Otis's wet blanket.

THERE is one way in which the United States can turn the tables on the gold-bugs of Europe who are now making such heavy inroads upon our store of specie. The credit of our government stands deservedly high with the people of Europe. In order to turn the gold tide back to America we have only to issue a new series of gold bonds bearing 4 per cent interest, and the depositors of London, Paris, Berlin and Vienna would take them up so fast that the monetarists of the moneyed capitals of Europe would stand petrified before the reversed outflow.

It is a matter of standing wonder to us that nobody makes a determined effort to develop natural gas in Los Angeles county. We have large and highly profitable petroleum measures both in this county and Ventura. The Pico cañon has been spouting oil for about nineteen years, and since then

the reliable oil deposits have been developed as far south and east as the Puente hills, and even still farther south, but there has been no determined effort made to exploit natural gas, which has been found to be an invariable accompaniment of oil measures in the east.

That it exists here there can be no reasonable doubt. Even Stockton has developed it, and yet we lag behind. All that is needed is to go deep enough. In this case, as in many others, perseverance will conquer difficulties.

The strong north wind that prevailed Sunday night moderated yesterday without doing any damage whatever to the orange crop. The wind is undoubtedly a drying one, but the rains have been so copious and soaking that the soil will not relax in the least its beneficent work of fruition.

AMUSEMENTS. LOS ANGELES THEATRE.—The Spider and the Fly company played to a large audience last evening. The company will close its engagement Wednesday evening.

PARK THEATRE.—The management certainly struck a popular chord when they inaugurated the present season at popular prices. The house was crowded last evening with an appreciative audience. The two Orphans being the attraction. Although it is a play frequently presented, the public never tires of it. It was creditably put on last evening. The company all carried out their respective parts in a manner that would compare with many more pretentious organizations.

Miss George Woodthorpe and Miss Anita Fallon, as the orphans, acquitted themselves in a most acceptable manner, the characters fitting them to a nicety, and they appeared to splendid advantage. Miss Josephine Lindheigh, as Julie, showed herself in a manner of no ordinary ability. Her performance was painstaking and clear cut. She has a fine stage appearance, and achieved an artistic success. Mr. J. K. Roberts as Jacques appeared to better advantage in this play than in any other. He does some remarkably clever acting. He has apparently made a strong study of the character. The piece was well staged and the scenery was good. Fred Cooper, the manager, made his first appearance in this theater as Pierre, the cripple, and acted the part in a manner that clearly shows him to be an artist of no mean merit. The same piece will be on throughout the week and Saturday matinee.

TURNVEREIN HALL.—There was an excellent audience at the minstrel entertainment at Turnverein hall last evening. It was given for the benefit of the choir fund of St. Paul's church. The performance was given smoothly and with a creditable amateur performance. Mr. Marion Wigmore was the interlocutor.

When the curtain rose the performers were seen grouped in evening costume in the old standard style. The first part was as follows: Orestes, Knights of the Mystic Star—by the company. Uncle Ben's Dream—E. L. Doe. Love's Sorrow—Mr. J. R. Logie. Push down Clover—Mr. C. J. Clark. Sweet Mien—Mr. W. W. Ray. The Londoner—Mr. W. W. Ray. I'll be an Idiot—P. Robinson. An old Love Song—Mr. Harrison. All the Comforts of a Home—A. G. Gibbs. Dear Robin—Mr. Miller.

The second part of the entertainment consisted of several specialties and amusing short sketches. Peak and Schoneman, in their musical specialties, were very good.

LOS ANGELES THEATRE.—The mere announcement of the coming of the original Swedish dialect comedy, Ole Olsen, at the New Los Angeles theater Friday and Saturday, February 15th and 16th, has already caused a very noticeable stir. Ole Olsen contains much to interest and amuse that class of people enjoying an evening of laughter at the theater, the many complicated situations in which Ole finds himself furnishing a world of amusement for all. The management has gotten together a highly competent company of comedians and singers, and with the aid of some new specialty features, the show is materially brightened and strengthened. Since its last presentation in this city it has been rewritten and much improved, and with its present array of artists, takes rank with the leading comedy organizations traveling. The piece is founded on the adventures of one unscrupulous character in America, and the incidents which follow in rapid succession, keep an audience in a continual roar of laughter.

A STORY FROM PERRIS. The Charge Brought by Dr. Perry Against A. L. Brock.

A dispatch to the San Francisco Examiner reads as follows: Perris, Cal., Feb. 10.—Yesterday a case was brought before the superior court on a criminal charge by Dr. F. W. Perry against A. L. Brock for attempting to extort \$500. Dr. Perry lives at Perris, a few miles from Riverside, and stands high in his profession. He is a pillar of the church, a member of the Four Hundred in this section of Southern California, and besides owning considerable property, he is also the president of the Perris Valley Irrigation district. Mr. Brock is a well-known contractor in the Perris valley, who has a pretty wife and a family of three children. It seems that although the doctor and Mr. Brock were not on the best of terms, Mrs. Brock, when she was ill in December, demanded that Dr. Perry should be called to attend her. About the middle of January Mr. Brock suspected that all was not well between his wife and the doctor, and openly accused her of impropriety, when she confessed her guilt.

Not wishing to separate on account of the children, and not wishing to increase his wife's shame publicly, Mr. Brock decided to take his family and leave the country, but finding it impossible to raise the required funds, in a fit of desperation he applied to Dr. F. W. Perry for \$400 or \$500, which would enable him to leave without causing scandal. This is Mr. Brock's story.

Dr. Perry, on the contrary, denied that he had been guilty of any impropriety, and claimed that Brock was trying to extort money from him.

As the scandal was beginning to come to the surface through Brock's efforts to borrow money, the doctor's counsel advised him to have Brock arrested, Brock being too poor to pay for an able defense. The matter was brought to the notice of prominent citizens and Brock obtained the required assistance. The case was removed to Judge A. O. Oliver's court. R. E. Bledsoe of San Bernardino was employed for the defense.

A CHINESE LEPER CAPTURED.

He Has Been Here Undetected for Five Years.

Followed the Trade of a Tinworker Until He Became Blind.

Dr. Hagan Pronounces His Disease Asiatic Leprosy, and He Will Be Isolated at the County Hospital.

Yesterday a well developed case of leprosy was found in Chinatown, the man being an old Chinaman totally blind. He was brought to the health office, where Dr. Hagan examined him and pronounced it a clear case.

The old fellow has been five years from China. He lived five years after reaching this country in San Francisco, and he has been four years in Los Angeles. He followed the trade of a tin worker in this city until last October, when he went stone blind, and has been in the Chinese hospital a good portion of the time since then. He has been led around the streets by another Chinaman, who had a sore on his nose, but this man the physicians declare is not a leper.

The only marks of the disease visible on the leper are a flatness of his nostrils and a swelling of the ears, but Dr. Hagan says the evidence is conclusive that he is afflicted with that dread disease. The doctors are not certain that his blindness was caused by the disease.

A consultation was held as to what disposition should be made of the man, and finally the board of supervisors was requested to make provision for his care. The law is not mandatory upon the supervisors in such cases, saying that they may provide if they desire to do so. In this instance the supervisors did not hesitate, but gave the necessary directions for the reception of the patient into the county hospital.

Dr. Brainerd was consulted and decided to have a room prepared especially for the Chinaman. After he had been before the health department he went back to Chinatown, and word was received late in the afternoon that he was in the Chinese hospital, where he will remain until removed.

It is expected that the leper will be taken to the county hospital this morning.

It is learned that there is now in the county hospital a case of leprosy. The patient is a Spaniard, and has been there for nearly a year past. It is said that he has a wife and a child 3 years old, but they are not with him.

Dr. Hagan says in regard to leprosy that it is not contagious, and is not contracted except by inoculation, such as contact with a cut upon the hand or some such manner.

The fate of the Chinaman is not a pleasant one. He is blind, and cannot speak a word of English. His fate when isolated from all people in the hospital will be one that is not cheerful to contemplate.

OUR LOCAL LEGISLATION. At Sacramento.

William E. Dunn, assistant city attorney, returned on Sunday night from Sacramento, where he had been watching the progress of several bills of a municipal character. He was in the big washout in the San Joaquin valley and says that, from Stockton to Caliente, the whole country looked like a chain of lakes. When they got to Tulare, the overflow of the Four Creeks and other streams made any further progress impossible, so that the trains (five in number) lay there for nearly 45 hours.

The HERALD reporter asked him how the Los Angeles local bill was getting on in the legislature.

"Quite as well as one could expect. You see they did not fairly get down to work till about the 15th of January. The bills affecting the county I did not look into, for I was sent up there on municipal business."

"How many bills are there?"

"Five bills affecting the city in all. The first is the city funding bill, which will enable the city to fund its debt over again at a lower rate of interest and save the treasury about \$650 per month in interest. This bill has already passed the house and will come up in the senate about Tuesday at the top of the file."

"How about the street bond bill?"

"That is all in good shape, too," said Mr. Dunn, "and if it becomes a law, Mr. Childress' arguments against certain features in city bonds will have no weight. That bill is on top of the house file, having already passed the senate."

"How about that park bill?"

"That's a good bill, and you will say so if you read it. It has passed the senate and is near the top of the house calendar. It will pass this week, but the governor may possibly veto it."

"That makes the city engineer, assessor and street superintendent a permanent board for opening streets?"

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"The bill I took up was for changing grades, and met with opposition from the delegates of every city in the state, and is amended now so its own mother wouldn't know it. But I look for it to pass some time this week, all the same."

DR. PRICE'S DELICIOUS Flavoring Extracts NATURAL FRUIT FLAVORS.

Vanilla, Lemon, Orange, Almond, Rose etc.

Of perfect purity. Of great strength. Economy in their use. Flavor as delicately and deliciously as the fresh fruit.

THE BENTLEY CASE.

The Prosecution Claim to Have a New Witness.

The prosecution in the Bentley case are quietly preparing for the preliminary examination of the alleged murderer of Mrs. Nordholt-Bentley, which takes place Friday of this week.

It was learned yesterday that it is claimed a witness has been found who will give some interesting testimony at the examination, with reference to Bentley's administration of medicine to his wife, a short time before her death.

It is said that the witness will testify that he saw Bentley give his wife some medicine one day, and that shortly afterwards she was seized with violent pains in the stomach and contraction of the elbow joints.

Those interested will not state who the witness is, but say that he will be forthcoming when the examination takes place.

DISREPUTABLE STUFF. THE FURNITURE A TREASURY AGENT PURCHASED.

Worm-Eaten Chairs, Scratched Desks and Dilapidated Book Cases for the Federal Building Arrived Yesterday.

The scene presented on the north side of the government building yesterday afternoon led many passers-by to believe that some one had concluded to convert the edifice that adorns the corner of Fourth and Winston streets into a second-hand furniture shop. Such was not the case, however.

But there was much speculation as to what the furniture that set out on the sidewalk and blocked the entrance to the building was doing there. It was aged and worn. It consisted of desks with green cloth coverings, tables, a few book-cases, chairs and things like that. The desks and the book-cases and the chairs all looked as though they had had a tough experience. No one for a moment supposed that they were new, just from the factory.

Such, however, is the case. The entire lot of scratched, defaced and broken furniture was from a Delaware factory, and was for the government building at Los Angeles, Cal. It has been coming ever since the building has been occupied, for some 10 months. Now that it is here, it looks sorry that it arrived. It was purchased by treasury department officials. The club of nearly every one of the green-top desks is worn and ragged. There are great holes in the cherry wood of the desks and book cases.

Taken as a whole, the furniture is really tough. Some interesting facts about the furniture are that the desks and the book-cases and the chairs all looked as though they had had a tough experience. No one for a moment supposed that they were new, just from the factory.

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