THE HERALD

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OLD-TIMERS AND NEW-COMERS

For a city of less than one hundred thousand inhabitants, Los Angeles is probably the most cosmopolitan of any in the world. Every quarter of the globe is represented on our busy streets and in our marts, and almost all the states of the union have contributed to swell our population in large numbers. The major part of our present population hardly knew there was such a town as Los Angeles on the Pacific end of the United States ten years ago. Such being the case, the new comers can have no proper conception as to how and through whom Los Angeles has become the enterprising and handsome city that it is today.

Recently a local writer wrote, in substance, that a few years ago the old-timers living here turned over a beautiful city to the new-comers. We have no inclination to belittle or underestimate the enterprise of old settlers in this favored locality. They are entitled to full credit for all they have done, or striven to do, in the direction of making a metropolis out of an insignificant and rusty old town. But it is just as well for everybody to recognize the facts of history. About nine years ago, when the tide of immigration turned upon this place, Los Angeles was anything but a fine city. It was scarcely worthy of being called a city at all. There was not a fine, large business block, a commodious, well-equipped hotel, a creditable court house, city hall or public library, a decent street car or railroad depot, nor a paved street in all the town. Upon Spring and Main streets and on Broadway (then Fort street) mud in a rainy time was so deep as to render traffic almost impossible and ipedestrianism perilous, and in summer the dust was ever swirling and all-pervasive. However, despite these drawbacks, people came here from the east by scores and hundreds; they continued to come, and a large percentage of them subsequently invested money in Los Angeles mud and dust and proceeded to make substantial improvements in their adopted city. A few of the early settlers have caught the spirit of enterprise from the active new-comers, and have made good improvements, and are now making more.

Thus, by the united efforts of old residents and recent comers we have the splendid Los Angeles of today. As to whose money and enterprise have done most in promoting this city's growth, every well-informed person knows that eastern capital, brought or sent here by men of energy and enterprise, is the principal, though not the only factor in giving our city its present status.

But there is no occasion for feelings of antagonism to arise between old-timers and new-comers. On the contrary, the interests of both are identical. If such jealousies exist, they should be eliminated, and all hands pull harmoniously together to realize for Los Angeles its manifest destiny—that of being the most prosperous city on the Pacific coast.

PLATT AND REFORM

Commenting on the coup by which the "reform" Republicans of New York fell into the hands of the great anti-reform boss, Tom Platt, the New York Evening Post says:

The personnel of Platts following in this city is strikingly revealed in the methods by which the primaries and delegate conventions have been "carried." All opposition has been put down with physical force, panied with whoops and yells. The Boys stood no nonsense from any quarter. If any one objected to the Platt programme he was saluted with such cries as, "Come out of that, you Irish brute!" "Get down there, you devil!" "Kick him in the stomach," and others far less suitable for publication. When the swindles in various parts of the city were over, Platt had nearly all the delegates in his favor, and he will appear in the state convention backed up by them as representatives of the Republican party in New York city. It is very plain that he has the support of the boys of the old machine who fought so gallantly for many years with Jake Paterson, Johnny O'Brien, Barney Biglin, Johnny McClave and the other immortals. They are all down on the mayor and are all in search of the offices which his administration has failed to give them. Lauterbach says that they are for Platt because the "are not to be cajoled by partonage," but then Lauterbach is a wag and the boys know he is having his little joke at the expense of the miserable Mugwumps. None of the boys want to be "cajoled" with patronage—what they are after is good solid substance.

THE PROPOSED HAWAIIAN CABLE

Discussion is revived in relation to the desirability of a cable to Hawaii by the report that Col. Z. S. Spalding, who recently obtained a franchise from the Dole government for a cable between the islands and California, was in Washington a short time ago for the purpose of notifying the United States government of his contract with the Dole administration. He is reported to have said: "As soon as congress meets, a charter will be asked for by a company of American capitalists, to whom I shall assign my concession, from Hawaii and, if sufficient assistance be granted by the government to make it feasible to construct and maintain a cable line, work will be commenced at once."

He went on to say that private capital to the amount of $1,000,000 would be forthcoming if the United States would grant a yearly subsidy large enough, with that promised by the Dole government, to make the investment pay.

Of course, no private enterprise will undertake to lay this cable, because of the certainty that it could not be made to pay for many years. Our trade with the islands, while of some local importance, is of no large consequence to this country and it is, for the most part, of such character that it can be carried on nearly as well without the aid of the telegraph, except for a few months each year, when sugar is being marketed. The cable would certainly not pay 1 per cent on an investment of $1,000,000. Without a guarantee from this government covering the interest on the investment the project will certainly not be undertaken. It would seem that the United States has had a sufficiently drastic experience with subsidized schemes to warn us against "putting up" for this unnecessary cable. If the islands should ever be annexed, of course the cable would have to be built and the government would be obliged to build it or guarantee interest on bonds; but at present there seems to be no crying demand for the consummation of the Harrison-Blaine-Stevens project, which the election of Cleveland "nipped in the bud." Festina lente would be a good motto for congress in relation to the proposed cable to Hawaii.

THE EVOLUTION OF THE AMERICAN

The several hundred of the social sphere of the "toll taker by the sea" are agitated. The cause of this perturbation is an attempted emulation of Ward McAllister's literary efforts by a one time aspirant for social leadership in the pasttime circles of San Francisco. In Society as It Really Is one William H. Chambliss has exposed to the unkindly observation of a cynical world the plebeian parentage of the gods and goddesses of the local swim, laid bare their foibles and trivolities and ridiculed their real or pretended superiority over the ordinary of mankind.

Of course author Chambliss retails much that is aged in the memory of long-time and well-informed Pacific coasters, builds some tall stories on indifferent and defective foundations and dilates superfiously on a great deal that is inconsequential, including himself. But just the same the volume will make what a distinguished bondsman of Jefferson Davis would have termed "mighty interestin' reading" to the average San Franciscan; and to the student of American character development it is equally suggestive.

The part of the work which will, in the abode of society pretension, cause the most heart burning, the part where he lifts the veil of forgetfulness and pushes away the shadow of years to lay plain the humble origin of a goodly portion or contemporaneous Golden Gate aristocracy, is the most significant to the social philosopher. It is significant of the rapidity with which the American evolves, and especially the Pacific coast American.

In the facility with which the sons and daughters of drawers of water and hewers of wood have ascended the social scale is adduced the most interesting evidence of American progressiveness. In the old world it has taken many generations to form and solidify that social stratum commonly and conveniently designated "polite society"; in this country it consumes but one or two. For this fact the abundance of our natural opportunities and the measurable freedom of conditions may be credited. In this land people have been able to lay cheaply and quickly the material foundations on which the graces and refinements of life may be built. The impress of one's early environment is supposed to be indelibly affixed and the youthful environment of some of those who shine today in the upper tendom of the Pacific coast, and we might also say in numerous instances, of the world, were harsh, often degrading and entirely unpromising of the development of those characteristics which are the essential attributes of "polite society."

The parentage of these were pioneers who wrested substance and fortune from hitherto unconquered nature. They had to build from the ground up and had little time and probably no inclination to place their progeny on the plane they now occupy. The influences and the necessities of the era were all against the cultivation of the more attractive personal traits that are supposed and ought to distinguish the charmed circle we are considering. Yet the offspring of this rugged, toilsome period have advanced far beyond the mere stage of eating pie minus a knife, being on terms of intimacy with a napkin, and distinguishing between a finger bowl and a drinking vessel, and have entered and held their own in social arenas abroad which are the products of many generations of refining forces. It is to their credit that they have thus advanced and the fact that their immediate ancestors walked in the ranks of poverty or even degradation should not deprive them of one iota of that credit. Of course it is gratifying for one to be able to scan the genealogical tree and see the branches from the lowest to the top-most hung with the trophies of notable achievement or the emblems of exalted rank, and the consciousness of such a precious lineage should inspire an honest pride and foster a solicitious care for the honored name. But the past after all belongs to the past. As a witty Frenchman once wrote, "the man with nothing to boast of but his ancestry is too much like the potato. All that there is good of him is under the ground."

The man or woman who attains prominence in any respectable field of life, social or otherwise, not because of family fame, but without or in spite of it, is, after al, more worthy of admiration than he or she who shines with the light of those that have gone before.

That this "mushroom aristocracy" of ours has its weaknesses, foibles and idiosyncrasies is doubtless true, but the wonder is not that it is thus defective, but that it is what it is, in the time it had to be.

The city attorney's office is preparing an ordinance requiring the erection of brick fire walls to divide the different sections of apartment houses, flats and tenements. The proposed new law will be introduced at the council meeting tomorrow.

Sam Purdy, the well-known Arizona newspaper man and politician, is in the city. Mr. Purdy has been in politics in the territory for seventeen years, and has never yet been defeated. Mr. Purdy hails from Yuma, and has served five terms in the legislature.

Hervey Lindley has just returned from a lengthy tour in the east, and will remain in the city some days attending to his private business interests.

George Leviston of Leviston Bros., attorneys, San Francisco, is at the Westminster, accompanied by his wife and daughter. They will remain here a few days and then visit Catalina island.

W. L. Tomlins, of national reputation, will make an address this evening at Simpson M. E. Tabernacle on The Ministry of Music.

PROTECTION

BY ABBOT KINNEY

The busy life of Mr. H. D. Barrows has evidently prevented him from investigating and thinking out the economic and moral principles underlying all forms of taxation. I am sure that Mr. Barrows desires to be informed on these points and I propose to him, in the most polite manner in the world, that he peruse some standard work on political economy, say Mills, Ricardo, Bastiat, Adam Smith among foreigners; or, among Americans, the old, reliable Francis Wayland, Prof. Sumner, or perhaps the brightest and most readable of all, the very American work of Henry George on Protection. In fact, any reputable writer on economics will surely prove of advantage to him.

Like all those who stumble about in the perplexing detail of ex parte assertion made by the beneficiaries of protection, Mr. Barrows evades a discussion of the great principles violated by the protective scheme, viz., those of pure economics and those of morals or pure justice. A man setting up a plan of motion for the heavenly bodies at variance with the facts would be in the same mental nothoroughfare as the protectionist protagonist. He would be forced to deny the theory of gravity and set up some statement about balloons full of gas going away from the earth when liberated instead of toward it as proof that no such force as gravity existed. Such an arguer would doubtless dispose of the facts and principles fatal to his fallacy as the theories of doctrinaires. He would treat Kepler, Copernicus, Newton, Galileo and the grand galaxy of astronomers as mental feather-weights for the balloon to toss or toy with.

Thus our protectionist advocates gasbag Adam Smith, Herbert Spencer, Henry George and the economic thinkers of the world. I presented the plain statement that a free government cannot justly tax one portion of a community for the benefit of another. That is about as plain a proposition of justice as anything can be. It is manifestly improper for a free government to favor any person or class. Such favors cannot be given except at the general expense. The use of the governing power to add to the private gains of any person, combination or class is an abuse. The whole experience of the world, including that of America, is that the delegation of the taxing power for private gain or the giving of bounties and subsidies to private persons from the public purse is always a matter of lobby bargain and deal, and ends in a profoundly penetrating corruption. It is, in fact, an immoral economic departure that substitutes a government subsidy and vile lobbying in the place of industry, enterprise and foresight as the incentives to industry and achievement.

Another point presented was the pretense of protection on the matter of wages. The subsidies, taxes and bounties are all given, delegated and paid by the government to the rich and powerful. In no case does the government give a bounty or subsidy to a laboring man. For his share the laboring man can trust to luck and hope for the best. This one strong fact tears down the mask of protection. The protected barons like Carnegie pay their lobby and their corruptionists, in congress, and out for their own private gain. It is absurd to the point of lunacy to think that the costly Washington protection lobby is manitained for laboring men.

My distinguished critic meets these plain facts and moral axioms with the usual bald assertions of protectionists, mixed up with other matters not at all to the point. One of these outside questions is immigration. On this he and I can agree. I believe that a quarantine to secure the national health physically is a proper function of government. I also believe that this quarantine function can be and should be extended to preserve the national health, both political and moral. Immigration should be restricted to those physically and morally healthy. No class of people should be admitted to our country who from any cause are incompetent for the political duties of freemen in a free country.

All this importation of Huns, Goths and vandals by the protected barons, with the concomitants of brass tags and numbers to designate human beings, pluck-me stores and a degraded standard of life is a mistake—nay, more, a political crime. We of California owe the mass of our Chinese to the importations of our subsidized railroads. If Mr. Barrows desires to apply this proper protective function of government to the restriction of immigration I am heatily with him.

So, also, we can agree that charity should commence at home. But when he advocates federal tax charity to great combinations of capital like our transcontinental railroads, or to the iron and coal barons of Pennsylvania, we disagree. Mr. Barrows thinks that a wise protective system could increase our productive power. There can be no wise protective system with its corrupting lobby and privileged class. All protective systems absolutely reduce the individuality, self reliance and productive power of those who suffer from them. No better instance of this effect exists than the present stagnation of the inventors of gunpowder, of the compass, the pump, etc., in the Chinese empire, after centuries of the highest protection ever carried out. The result is moral decreptitude, industrial stagnation and intellectual decay. We can there note the blighting effect of a false system and perceive the magnitude of the protective handicap to a race so far advanced when thus ruled out of the world's progress.

The complex character of the rebates, bounties and delegation of taxes of the McKinley system might well confuse any one. We have, however, most fortunately, a very clear illustration of protective taxation of the many for the few in our recent laws; one, indeed, that those of very moderate intelligence can understand. This is the bounty given to sugar refiners. The sugar bounty was a sum of money given to refiners of sugar by the government according to their production of sugar. No one could obtain this bounty unless in the command of capital. The larger the producer the greater the capital required. So that the tax went to those already rich, and the richer they were the more they could get. The money from which the government paid these bounties came out of the general treasury. It was derived form all the sources of revenue at its command. Who paid the tax? Is it not clear that the mass of the American people paid this tax? Is it not equally clear that a coterie of capitalists received it? How can a sensible man escape from the plain fact that the government used its great taxing power to force a contribution from the American people for the benefit of a very few? The withdrawal of the bounty laws incidentally showed that the sugar refining industry needed it no more than any present free industry, like house building, railroads, etc.

I will re-ask Mr. Barrows this question: If the government protectionist sincerely desires high wages, why does he not give a daily subsidy to the carpenter, the bricklayer, the engineer, the conductor, the cook and all the laborers? Why give the bounty to rich men, like Carnegie, who build castles in Scotland and import Huns whom they brasstag in their works?

Protection is simply an insidious wedge of socialism. It is founded on private greed, served by political panders. Its cliam that a cheap man is a cheap producer is a fallacy fatal to humanity, and fortunately contradicted by the experience of humanity. The history of industry throughout the world is that a man is becoming a better and more efficient producer. This has resulted in diminished cost of products and increased wages to the producer. Wages have been constantly increasing and are closely proportioned in every country to the productive power of the laborer, whether by hand or brain. If we can keep the world's riff raff out of our bounds we will feel this more clearly than any one now realizes. It is the low type of humanity, so often and so largely introduced here, that prevents the free institutions, the freedom and order, the free schools and the interstate free trade from being more grandly felt than they have been.

The word "free" has a glorious significance, and no one should fear to apply it to anything orderly and honest.

A cheap man is not a cheap producer. A state can not direct its citizens what industries they shall pursue without general loss. Trade, whether domestic or foreign, ought to be free. It is only carried on voluntarily and for mutual advantage. If either side gets no good from trade, trade stops. The production of all an individual needs by him or all society needs by it, means stagnation. No man nor no nation of men trade for what they do not want. What men do is to trade a surplus of their product for the surplus of another. If let alone in a free country they gravitate to those things they can do best, and so achieve the highest results. If ruled by a privileged class or forced, as in the protective scheme, into less congenial or remunerative activities, their productive power is diminished. The nation as a whole loses, though some favored class grows rich.

Look at the results of the complete protection of American ships. No American can buy a ship except from a protected coterie. He has no freedom; he is ship protected. The result is a lot of old, played-out coasting tubs in the protected coasting trade, generally in combine with the land transportation for the usual protective cinch, and as for the rest of the great free ocean, once brightened with the free flag of a free people, where are we? Our flag has been swept from the sea to enrich two or three gigantic combinations of capital. Even in this it has failed of doing as much as freedom would have done for these political ship builders. My dear sir, give up this rank heresy against free America.

Let the government maintain order; protect, yes, protect the franchise from those unworthy or incapable of its exercise; restrict emigration; defend the flag against all comers and give our citizens freedom. Let us be free to farm or mine or manufacture or to trade.

The highest hopes of the American republic rest in the preservation of a free country for free men.

The re-establishment of McKinleyism will be a reloading of the curse upon us from which we have just escaped. We want no pampered, pap-fed few; no privileged class drawing down tax money wrung from the people. We want no Scotch castled steel baron squandering American taxes in private pleasure in some lordly foreign estate. No, sir. This country is founded on freedom, and that is what we must have. Liberty and justice, supported by free men, cannot tolerate taxes and bounties to the rich, no matter how plausible the pretext for such plunder.

TO THE EDITOR

[The Herald under this heading prints communications, but does not assume responsibility for the sentiments expressed.]

The Lesser Los Angeles

Editor Herald:—There has been a shrewd plan laid and carried on for several months to annex the districts of Pico Heights, Rosedale, University and Vernon to the city of Los Angeles, and no stone has been left unturned to make the scheme carry; means fair and unfair have been freely used to accomplish that point, and the success of that ingenious enterprise will soon be tested at the ballot box.

The anti-annexationists, whose name is legion, have until the present made no public demonstration, but have kept up a mighty thinking and have thoroughly discussed the merits of the subject among themselves and arrived at two important conclusions, viz.: That they do not need annexation at this time; that its accomplishment would be detrimental to the interests of a large majority of those living in the territory to be annexed and ruinous to a great percentage of the poor. And secondly, that the scheme of present annexation had its origin in the greed of land speculators, the cupidity of capitalists and the ambition and unscrupulousness of wily politicians; and that annexation at this time would afford this trio of professional manipulators a first-class chance to ply their several callings there is not a scintilla of doubt, as will be seen further on.

Within the territory to be annexed most of the people are poor; they obtained homes outside of the city limits because they were not able to buy and hold them within the city; at least 50 per cent of them are now in debt for the humble shelters that protect them and their families from the inclement elements and they are struggling desperately to keep off the sheriff and at the very least over one-half of these strugglers will lose their homes should annexation take place at this time, for the reason that their taxes will be largely increased, the present tax levy being 1.45 on $100, and even this will be a small item in comparison with the expenses of grading and graveling streets, putting down sidewalks, placing curbs, making sewers and replumbing houses, all of which and much more will naturally follow annexation; and said improvements done by city officials and bosses will cost 50 per cent more than the same work can be done for outside of the city. This large class of honorable poor, not being able to pay the increased demands for taxes, improvements and the incident expenses accruing to commissioners, bosses and inspectors, will have the painful experience of seeing their sacred little homes, the results of their hard labor and economical savings, at short notice sold under the hammer to the highest bidder. Here comes in the vocation of the annexation land speculator and the capitalist; the one already holds the mortgage and the other bids in the equity of the poor man's home for taxes, improvements and costs; the two then settle the business between themselves, divide the profits and remark, "A fine speculation."

Let the city officials evict the sick mother with her hungry children in Irish landlord style, homeless upon the street, that we may take possession while we look out for another chance. And it is done according to municipal law! That such will be the result of premature annexation, who can doubt? For these reasons and more to follow, the anti-annexationists are bitterly opposed to this premature annexation scheme, gotten up by a clique of land and money manipulators and wily politicians. The former to gain wealth by the downfall of the unfortunate, and the latter to enter official life to enact and execute ordinances to make the poor poorer and to keep them so.

But those in better circumstances have other objections to annexation. Will it pay? Many of these own real estate both in the city and out of it, and know whereof they speak. Not only are their taxes very much higher in the city but the continual improvements required by the city ordinances become a wellnigh unbearable burden and the burden is increasing yearly. To such an extent have the improvement and debt-increasing craze seized upon our city officials that there are now shrewd capitalists and business men who are disposing of their city property for outside real estate in anticipation of similar troubles to those passed through by the city fresh in the memory of all—and furthermore because they will not longer stand the results of reckless legislation.

The anti-annexationists are perfectly satisfied with the advantages of their districts and the rapid advancement they are making in building, in street improvements, in water supply, in preparation for electric lights, in cheap insurance, in electric street railways, in school facilities, in churches, in courts of justice and competent judges, in stores and marktes of every variety, in lowness of taxes, in cleanliness and health, in industry, order, honesty and morals, in all of which the antis challenge comparison with any like extent of territory within the city limits at a like distance from the center of population. The annextionists charge the antis with having no city government but they can boast of one still better and more inexpensive—that of the county and also of having no police. They reply there is no need of any. The people are law-abiding, and occasionally crime accompanies the introduction of the policeman. They have faithful constables and a deputy sheriff, which will answer every purpose. They need no fire department, as they have no incendiaries and fires scarcely ever occur. They will soon have electric lights. Transportation is becoming abundant. Sewers they do not need, as their system of cesspools is so perfect that the sanitary condition of the community is superior to that of the well sewered city of Los Angeles, whose leaky sea main is contaminating the air along its line—and furthermore, if sewer connection was desirable it would be impossible for the most of the territory to be annexed to make such connection, unless the nature of water can be so changed as to make it run up hill. In Rosedale district, according to the decision of competent engineers, no sewers can be of any benefit until a main is constructed to Centinela, or thereabouts, at a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars, and the "antis" greatly prefer to clear the debts and mortgages from their homes before entering upon so gigantic an enterprise. The antis are fully in sympathy with the effort at reasonable improvement of their community, both in utility and beauty, but they are not willing to make such as will involve themselves or any considrable number of them in inextricable financial ruin and irretrievable bankruptcy, which they fully believe would follow premature annexation; and hence their heroic opposition to the move.

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