LOS ANGELES HERALD

ISSUED EVERY MORNING BY THE HERALD COMPANY

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Entered as second-class matter at the postoffice in Los Angeles.

OLDEST MORNING PAPER IN LOS ANGELES
Founded Oct. 2, 1873. Thirty-fifth year. Chamber of Commerce Building.

TELEPHONES—Sunset, Press 11; Home, The Herald.

The only Democratic newspaper in Southern California receiving full Associated Press reports

NEWS SERVICE—Member of the Associated Press, receiving its full report, averaging 25,000 words a day.

EASTERN AGENT—J. P. McKinney, 604 Cambridge building, New York; 311 Boyce building, Chicago.

RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION WITH SUNDAY MAGAZINE:

Daily, by mail or carrier, a month	$ .40
Daily, by mail or carrier, three months	1.20
Dail, by mail or carrier, six months	2.35
Daily, by mail or carrier, one year	4.50
Sunday Herald, one year	1.50
Weekly Herald, one year	1.00

Postage free in United States and Mexico; elsewhere postage added.

THE HERALD IN SAN FRANCISCO AND OAKLAND—Los Angeles and Southern California visitors to San Francisco and Oakland will find The Herald on sale at the news stands in the San Francisco ferry building and on the streets in Oakland by Wheatley and by Amos News Co.

Population of Los Angeles 302,604

CLEAR, CRISP AND CLEAN

FOR PRESIDENT
WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN

FOR VICE PRESIDENT
JOHN W. KERN

Herald subscribers intending to leave the city for the summer months kindly notify the circulation department, and we will send The Herald to your new address and change the address as often as desired.

TARIFF REFORM

IT is not at all reasonable to believe the work of tariff reform may be intrusted safely to the party which is under heavy obligations to the highly protected interests. Whatever may be said on the subject of campaign contributions, whatever protestations may be made by the excellent Judge Taft and others as to the present mood of the Republican party with regard to tainted money, there is not any reasonable doubt that the Republican party is indebted to the protected interests, while it is equally certain the Democratic party is not under obligations to them, will not be under obligations to them, and is free to deal with them in a conscientious and patriotic manner, which will bring about the greatest good for the greatest number of citizens.

Moreover, the Republican party is not sincere in its tariff revision declarations. A comparison of the Republican with the Democratic platform on this point is remarkably disadvantageous to the Republican platform. "In all tariff legislation," says the Republican platform, "the true principle of protection is best maintained by the imposition of such duties as will equal the difference between the cost of production at home and abroad, together with a reasonable profit to American industries." The general idea conveyed by the Republican platform is one of adroit inaction. The plank in some respects is shrewdly worded, but the fact it is meant to be adroit is not hidden or disguised with sufficient cunning. "Art is to conceal art." Republicans have not the art of concealing artifice. How refreshingly direct and how suggestive of prompt, honest ACTION is the Democratic utterance: "We call attention to the significant fact that the promised tariff relief was postponed until after the coming election—an election to succeed in which the Republican party must have the same support from the beneficiaries of high protective tariff as it has always heretofore received from them, and to the further fact that during years of uninterrupted power, no action whatever has been taken by the Republican congress to correct the admittedly existing tariff iniquities. We favor immediate revision of the tariff by the reduction of import duties. ARTICLES ENTERING INTO COMPETITION WITH TRUST-CONTROLLED PRODUCTS SHOULD BE PLACED UPON THE FREE LIST, and material reductions should be made in the tariff upon the necessities of life, especially upon articles competing with such American manufactures as are sold abroad more cheaply than at home, and graduate reductions should be made in such other schedules as may be necessary to restore the tariff to a revenue basis. Existing duties have given the manufacturers of paper a shelter behind which they have organized combinations to raise the price of pulp and paper, thus imposing a tax upon the spread of knowledge. We demand the IMMEDIATE repeal of the tariff on wood pulp, print paper, lumber, timber and logs, and that these articles be placed upon the free list."

President Roosevelt will wear a Los Angeles helmet to keep off the African mosquitoes. We hope the manufacturer has not omitted a "made in Los Angeles" label.

THE CAMPAIGN

JUDGE ALTON B. PARKER gave the public, through Los Angeles Herald, the first great political interview published regarding the campaign. The two points he emphasized which should make even the jauntiest Republican don his thinking cap are, first, the Democratic party has a great issue and a winning cause in tariff reform, which is absolutely necessary for the restoration of the business and social equilibrium from which results true prosperity, "the greatest good for the greatest number;" second, the Democratic party is united.

It is difficult to resist the simplicity and force of the logic which states that two and two add up to four. With a popular cause and a united party it is equally difficult to refute the assertion that "Democratic victory is probable in November."

In order, however, to resolve probability into actuality it will be necessary to conduct a conscientious campaign of education. Judge Parker, Delancey Nicoll and other eloquent Democrats of national reputation must rise to the occasion and act as "spellbinders," and every possible effort should be made to hold numerous Democratic meetings. In a campaign of education, one or two "big" meetings, on especial occasions, will not answer the purpose. Every week there must be many meetings, and the question box should be encouraged. With a competent, well posted, ready witted man to take care of it, a question box makes converts by the score. If Republicans attend Democratic meetings and ask questions so much the better. There is not any Republican question for which there will not be a ready and convincing Democratic answer. On the other hand, such is the poverty of Republican material that a question box taken advantage of by Democrats would have a demoralizing effect on Republicans. Even the best posted and most authoritative Republican, Judge Taft, the spokesman for his party, was bowled out ignominiously by the plain Democratic question: "If a man is out of work, cannot get work, has no money, has a wife and family to support, is compelled by law to support them, what is he going to do about it?" Judge Taft's answer was, "God knows." But the Republican candidate should not be allowed to seek refuge at the court of appeals. If he cannot answer such a simple question and one which refers to a condition which is common in the United States he is not qualified to be president.

FREE SPEECH

JUDGE WILBUR'S reversal of the police court decision in the cases of the three men fined in March for street speaking in violation of the unconstitutional ordinance emphasizes the fact that Los Angeles Herald helped to fight and win a battle for constitutional free speech in Los Angeles. The Herald undertook the fight because it believed an ordinance had been adopted with such an eager official gaze toward a new political party which some thought desirable to suppress, that the American first-principle with regard to freedom of speech had been overlooked. It was in this belief The Herald began to fight for free speech. It was not a fight for any individuals, but for Americanism. If individuals were benefited incidentally, so much the better for the individuals. We do not believe the right of free speech will ever be abused in Los Angeles. We are a conservative, cautious, restrained and well disciplined people.

A retrospective review of The Herald's successful free speech campaign suggests the thought that in this great land, with a vast population and an extraordinary diversity of interests, the right of freedom of speech and of the press is hardly ever misused. A real perversion of the privilege of free speech is rarely recorded. The general behavior of the American people is most excellent, admirable and praiseworthy. This makes official infringement on constitutional rights and liberties all the more unnecessary, all the more stupid, all the more foolish, all the more tiresome.

LABOR PROBLEM

JEREMIAH W. JENKS of the congressional immigration commission is in Los Angeles, where he will hold a conference with local federal officials on the problem of foreign labor. He says each section of the country has its peculiar difficulties in absorbing the flood of aliens, but he believes the country will adjust everything wisely in the end. This is all very well, but surely the country has had enough experience to make some kind of an adjustment NOW, and while that adjustment is being made—and we all know it is needed—is it asking too much to make the request that the government suspend immigration?

At last the government is showing signs of common sense in its treatment of the immigration problem. To allow all the world and his wife to rush into the great American seaports and then to express wonder that labor conditions should be more unsettled in the United States than they are in any other country, shows a simple habit of mind.

Treatment of the immigration question has been characterized either by gross carelessness or gross ignorance, excepting in the case of Chinese exclusion, which probably saved the labor market of the Pacific slope from being Mongolianized. But if the Chinese had been a Czech, a Hun or a Magyar, we would not have excluded him, even if he had come in locust swarms to eat us up!! As far as its effect on the community is concerned, is there any real difference between ignorant cheap labor which wears a pigtail and ignorant cheap labor which clatters in sabots? There is not the slightest necessity for going to Asia or Europe for ignorant labor. There is plenty of intelligent, educated labor in the United States. White men are willing to work, but they demand white men's wages. So short-sighted are some of the employing capitalists of the mining and manufacturing districts of the east that when they cannot get cheap southern Europeans they still persist in refusing to pay the wages demanded by white adults, and whenever they can dodge a law, or whenever the state has failed to legislate explicitly on the subject, they hire school children to do the work of men and pay them less than Chinese wages!

THE CHILD PROBLEM

IT IS high time public attention were directed to the child problem, and we believe efforts of men and women who from the lecture platform or the pulpit are endeavoring to arouse interest in this question will be appreciated by all who have at heart the welfare of the United States. In this country we have been accused of wasting great national resources. Having squandered our forests, worked out the agricultural lands in the older portions of the country, killed that great natural food and clothing supply, the buffalo, dried up rivers by the reckless deforestation of watersheds, destroyed fish and game of every description, are we about to play the prodigal with the last and greatest of our resources, the CHILD LIFE OF THE NATION? We cannot replace the forests in their original extent and grandeur, although we are making a painful effort to win back by woodcraft what our forefathers threw away because of their ignorance. We cannot rejuvenate the dead farm lands of the east, although from time to time attempts are made to fertilize the thin soil bequeathed to the farmers of today by the thriftless soil-prodigals of a bygone generation. We cannot restore to the prairie-plains their countless herds of buffalo, and occasional boasts of what is being done by way of building up a meager score or two of the animals merely emphasize the economy-defying recklessness which is the besetting sin of the national character. Our fishery commissioners may bring to bear on their problem every artifice that science may suggest, but the wild salmon will never again teem by the myriad in mighty rivers. And now to those who would use the child life of the nation for the upbuilding of their private fortunes, who would add to the heap of the whitening bones of the innocents on which sits Timour Mammon, we cry "HALT! You shall not waste the child life of the United States, its greatest natural resource, as you have devastated its woods and its waters, and destroyed the life of prairie and river."

TRUST VETO

IT IS EVIDENT the steamship trust has humbugged the country by an ingeniously conceived and cunningly executed legislative feat with regard to the immigration question. When it became evident that Republican manufacturers and captains of finance were using immigration for the purpose of reducing wages, "keeping labor in its place" (as they put it), and causing an overcrowding of the army of wage earners, which gave Republican employers cheap labor, sent the white American to the soup kitchen and robbed his children of education, the Democratic party was strongly in favor of an educational test to restrict immigration coming to this country. But Republicans took alarm at a proposal which would have interfered with the operations of the steamship trust, which has been making its steerages larger and larger and larger, and now advertises an "all steerage" service between southern European ports and the United States. Instead of attracting public attention to one of the most important public questions of the day, which must be settled sooner or later, or it will "settle" the United States, the Republicans offered a compromise measure. "Never mind the education test," said the Republican leaders, "there are many Americans who could not take such a test successfully, so why be inconsistent and apply it to immigrants? Instead, let us regulate this matter from a physical point of view. Let us see to it that only good, healthy immigrants are admitted, and in order that they may remain healthy during the voyage let us compel the owners of immigrant ships to increase air space and provide better accommodations. This will at once reduce the number and improve the quality of immigrants." But apparently the Republican leaders failed to consult their masters.

The reform was to have gone into effect January, 1909. But it won't be adopted. The steamship trust is opposed to it. Such a measure would cause expense to the trust and would cut down profits. And "the trusts first, the country second," is the motto of the Republican party in practice, and Judge Taft cannot mend matters. For the welfare of the United States a Democratic president must be elected. Republicans propose; the trusts dispose!

CRUELTY

AMONG many amiable qualities attributed to the Japanese is that of cruelty to animals, and cruelty so diabolically ingenious that, thank heaven, the brain of the white man is not capable of thinking and devising it. If the Japanese are to be acceptable neighbors and to retain the good will of Americans they must begin to realize that "love me, love my dog" is one of the white man's rules. We must say we are not as surprised by stories of Japanese torture in Los Angeles as we would be if the white dog catcher had not set an example in barbarity. Japanese and other foreigners don't care a button what we say. That does not affect them in the least. It is what we DO that counts with them, and if we are cruel to dogs, how can we expect the Japanese to be humane?

OUTRAGEOUS

CONTRACT LABORERS ARE BEING BROUGHT FROM MEXICO TO DO TRACK WORK FOR THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD FROM EL PASO TO SAN FRANCISCO. Members of the firm of L. H. Manning & Co. acknowledge openly they have a contract with the Southern Pacific to furnish labor. Are there not enough able-bodied white men in the United States to do the Southern Pacific railroad's work? Certainly there are, and the Manning firm or any other could find them if it took the trouble to look for them. But CONTRACT MEXICAN LABOR IS CHEAPER THAN FREE AMERICAN LABOR. That is the true explanation of the conduct of the Southern Pacific railroad. At a time when white men are out of work, to bring cheap labor into the United States is not merely a violation of the alien labor law, but is treason to the workingmen of America.

Senator Allison had a notable and admirable career, yet he died a disappointed man, with the ambition of his life unsatisfied. Thrice he refused cabinet offices because he believed he would have a better chance to be nominated for president if he remained in the senate. But the McKinley boom in Ohio and the rise of Roosevelt in New York shattered his hopes. He was the dean of the senate and a typical and old-fashioned American.

All lovers of the drama will be sorry to hear of the death of Bronson Howard, author of "Shenandoah" and many other popular plays which were distinctively American. There ought to be encouragement to American playwrights in the fact that Howard's plays were as popular in London as in the United States!

A little revolution was arranged in Bosnia, but somebody sieved and the Austrian authorities have rounded up the editors and politicians and sent most of them to jail. This will necessitate a postponement of the revolution.

New York surgeons are making a great cackle over the fact a brainless child lived for two days. Brainless men have been known to live for years, and years, and years. Why get excited over the poor little baby?

City Auditor Mushet says the budget for the present municipal fiscal year must be cut $1,645,768.81. We are entitled to wonder what particular kind of extravagance is indicated by the odd penny.

An airship circled the tower of a Strasburg church. But no one connected with the church made any attempt to have the aeronaut burned for witchcraft. World do move!

Political Points

Will Support Bryan

Ten of the twenty-one men who were members of President Cleveland's two cabinets survive. They are William F. Vilas, Richard Olney, Judson Harmon, Charles S. Fairchild, David R. Francis, Don M. Dickinson, John G. Carlisle, Hoke Smith, Hilary A. Herbert and Norman J. Colman. So far as heard from these former cabinet officers are enthusiastically supporting Mr. Bryan for president. — Buffalo Times.

Not Holy Rollers

William H. Taft has been made a member of the Steam Shovelers' union, according to the Associated Press. This may be an error. Perhaps it was the Steam Rollers' union.—Seattle Times.

Yellowest Journalism

Hearst's newspaper batteries are shotted with missiles against Bryan that will not smell like eau de cologne. The keynote of his conversation was "To h—ll with Bryan!"—Milwaukee Sentinel.

Good

As things look now it is doubtful whether William Randolph Hearst will consent to become even a "brother" to Mr. Bryan.—Kansas City Times.

National Conventions

Hon. Champ Clark of Missouri is going around protesting that national conventions have become unruly and demanding that they be cut down to a limit of 2500 for delegates, newspaper men and spectators combined. Why have that many? Mr. Clark has expressed himself very well satisfied with all that was done at Fairview.—Denver Republican.

Uncle Joe

Mr. Taft declines the gift of a real live elephant. Though hardly in the capacity of mascot, Uncle Joe Cannon is likely to serve very well throughout the campaign.—Providence Journal.

State Press Echoes

Dull Times

The Honduras revolution is ended. As they do not have baseball in Honduras the natives will now have nothing to do during the long summer evenings but read the papers.—Whittier News.

Anvil Chorus

Notwithstanding the heated term the political pot locally is "bilin." Each up train brings a candidate and each candidate brings along his hammer. It is excellent pastime for the visiting public.—Brawley News.

Drunken Truth

The Republican's "sober truth" has rather titubant tootsy-wootsies—that is to say, it stumbles.—Fresno Mirror.

Trumpet for Band

Wednesday evening's concert by the Colton Citizens' band was a revelation to the hundreds of people who gathered to hear the music. The band shows constant improvement and is the envy of neighboring towns. — Colton Chronicle.

Piscatory

Without being unduly credulous, the Star looks upon some of these fish stories that come from Avalon as rather "yellow" tales.—Pasadena Star.

The Public Letter Box

Letters intended for publication must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer. The Herald gives the widest latitude to correspondents, but assumes no responsibility for their views. Letters should not exceed 200 words.

TELLS HOW CHAMBERLAIN FELL FOR "TEA ON TERRACE"

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 4.—[Editor Herald]: After so much overblown adulation of Joseph Chamberlain by American press writers, who mistook his "big noise" over "tariff reform" (which in Great Britain means protection) for high statesmanship, it is refreshing to read your little editorial of today which "hits off" so neatly the "story of Joseph."

The only criticism I would make is as to his downfall being due to the acquisition of riches. He was already enormously rich when he entered political life. It was not the "ducats" but the duchesses that proved his undoing. Somewhere behind all his great ability lurked the weakness of the tuft-hunter, and when his combined ability, daring and rancor had made the aristocracy more or less afraid of this "vulgar screwmaker" they tried an Chamberlain that method they always try sooner or later in such a case—they sent their blue bloodedest dames to 'capture" him, and Joseph fell a victim. He was caught in the toils of "tea on the terrace with the duchesses." To the flattery of the duchesses—and the dukes—for the former were only the advance guard—may doubtless be ascribed the awakening of that insensate ambition which could not brook the delay of waiting to succeed Gladstone—but must try to oust him. It was a failure as far concerns the realization of his own ambitions, and as a whole J. C. has been a failure.

So mote it be with all who forsake the "people's" cause they once assumed to stand for! V. S.

ASKS FOR SPECIFIC REPLY TO QUESTIONS OUTLINED

WHITTIER, Aug. 2.—[Editor Herald]: I wish to submit a few inquiries in relation to the woman suffrage questions.

Will some of those who advocate suffrage by men and oppose the exercise of the same right or privilege by women be good enough to answer the following questions:

1. State briefly some of the more important grounds upon which you favor voting by men.

2. Then specify such of the grounds thus enumerated, as you claim do not anpply to women.

It will be seen from reading these questions that a mere statement of grounds or principles is called for and a naming or pointing out of any or all of them which it is held do not apply to women.

No argument or comment in support of such grounds or principles is requested and none sought as to why it is insisted they do not apply to women where such is believed to be the case.

No such comment or argument is asked, for the reason that space enough for such a course of treatment is not available to correspondents of the Letter Box within the limits to which their articles must be necessarily restricted. J. T. MORIARITY.

BELIEVES PROPERTY HOLDERS ONLY SHOULD HAVE VOTES

PASADENA, Aug. 4.—[Editor Herald]: One word to say how much I approve of M. T. of San Pedro in the contention that the franchise should only extend to taxpayers. I take it that M. T. means no one but property holders should be allowed to vote. Let us ignore the contention that consumers pay the taxes. If we can but adopt a system of graded franchise and allow so many votes per thousand dollars in property owned by the voter we will quickly silence the noisy agitators. The educational test would also help in this direction, for under that system in one more generation those who deserve to manage affairs in this country would be firmly seated in power.

A GENTLEMAN.

MRS. VAL STONE BEGS FOR LARGER ISSUES THAN CARD PLAY

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 4.—[Editor Herald]: There is a sad weakness in the position of the people who are opposed to "votes for women," when their whole argument sifts down to a question of beer, tobacco and cards for the men. I am not questioning "P-K 4's" veracity nor the merits of his little card story. It may be that there has been unreasonable interference with innocent recreation at the club he speaks of, but goodness me! these trifling things are happening to all of us all the time. All laws lead to small hardships by the hundred, but are we to discuss these bagatelles as high politics? Let us deal with large issues first. With woman taking her part in politics—well, I don't like that word politics; let us say "matters of government"—there would tend to be less of these interferences, frictions and injustices, because it stands to reason the larger the proportion of the population represented the more extended and varied will be the interests considered in legislation.

Does it not occur to "P-K 4" to ask himself: "If men, legislating for men, cannot contrive to avoid these injustices and annoyances to men, what must the women who are unrepresented have to suffer? They're used to it and don't talk so much about it as the men—and that explains much, though it doesn't justify it.

MRS. VAL STONE.

DISAGREES WITH WRITER ABOUT PROPERTY AND VOTERS

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 4.—[Editor Herald]: How strange it is that M. T. writes from San Pedro a good article, then by one sentence spoils it and makes it clear to people why Mr. Nelson says women are only intended to become mothers and dressmakers. M. T. should disfranchise every man (and woman who are propertyless who do not pay taxes, yet she believes that the saloon keepers are the dominant influence in politics and all saloon men are taxpayers.

No reforms ever came by taking the liberties away from the people. Some of the most ignorant and debauched people are taxpayers. George Pullman's sons died degenerates from the effects of too much wealth extracted from the workers by his father. What we want is an intelligent vote by both sexes. Under the new system which is impending the saloon will be abolished because nothing will be sold for profit. No one will be broke and on the chain gang. People will be shown that poverty is the cause of crime and that all wealth is crystallized labor.

CLARA DOSCH BARTEL.

AGREES WITH FRANCES WILLARD POVERTY CAUSES DRUNKENNESS

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 3.—[Editor Herald]: M. T. of San Pedro makes some statements in her letter of today to which I wish to reply.

She says: "Nine-tenths of the crime and misery in the world are caused by liquor." Frances E. Willard, who knew whereof she spoke, said in her address to the world's W. C. T. U. convention, held in London, England: "Under the searchlight of knowledge in these later days it is folly for us longer to ignore the mighty power of poverty to induce evil habits of every kind. Those words of Holy Writ are ominously true in the present condition of things: 'Let him drink and forget his poverty and remember his misery no more.'" Many others of our sociological students and writers could be quoted to prove the fact that much the largest proportion of the misery and crime of the world is directly the result of poverty and its vicious environment.

Again, she claims with Mrs. Smith that the blot of child slavery would not exist if women had the ballot. The women of America could wipe out this blot today without the ballot if they realized the enormity of it.

The "cry of the children" has not yet reached their ears nor touched their hears, else we would see the motherhood of our country arrayed against this blackest of crimes.

M. T. closes with saying: "I would like to see the day when only taxpayers of both sexes can vote." That would exclude about 75 per cent of the people—and by no means the "debauched and ignorant" class, as she implies it would.

There is one class of women more than any other who needs the ballot for her own protection, and that is the working class. The working woman is now discriminated against in wages, in hours of labor and in too many instances improper conditions under which she works. With the ballot in her hands she would have a weapon with which to utter her protest, to defend her rights, to demand more equitable consideration. M. E. G.

ASKS WHY CORNER LOTS ARE VACANT AND ALSO UNSIGHTLY

MONROVIA, Aug. 4.—[Editor Herald]: A friend in Los Angeles volunteered to show me around your almost beautiful city. In one part of the residence district every corner lot was covered with dry weeds and real estate signs. I asked my host why this was and he was unable to answer.

It seemed like an awful disfigurement of otherwise magnificent streets. Will someone tell me why?

EASTERNER.

San Francisco Appreciates Enterprise of Los Angeles

BY A VOTE said to be about 3 to 1, the city and county of Los Angeles have decided to issue $3,500,000 in bonds to be used in constructing good county roads. The money is to be expended by a county highway commission. It was the sane, man-fashion way of getting good roads, says the San Francisco Chronicle. The people of Los Angeles do not ask the state nor the United States to build roads for them. They will build them themselves. And that is not only the quickest, but the best way for any community to get good roads. Road-building is a matter not of sentiment, but of business. If it will pay to make them, or if a community can afford and desires to have them for pleasure they ought to be built. If they will not pay and the community cannot afford luxuries they should not be built. There is a lot of bosh talk about good roads. People may be just as happy with bad roads as with the best in the world. If the poets and active high class sentimentalists are right the golden days of the human race were those which were passed in "a state of nature"—that is, when there were no roads at all. We do not say that the sentimentalists are right. We only say that if they are right in their main contention that the state of bliss is the state of nature, they are excluded from clamoring for stone roads, which are highly artificial products.

As a matter of fact it must be recognized that sentimentalists are very rarely right in anything, and, frankly, it seems sneaky for them to howl for costly roads for sentimental reasons and insist that somebody else shall put up the money for them. The state of nature was never even a reasonably comfortable state. We all thoroughly enjoy the modern improvements and would be glad to see fine roads extended in every direction. When California has been settled as long as Europe it is certain that our roads will be excellent.

There was no sentiment in the vote in Los Angeles to borrow three and a half millions to build good roads. It was business and sound business. Good roads will pay in Los Angeles county, and the people who were smart enough to see it will get their fun for nothing. The best business of Los Angeles county is the tourist business and the immigration which results from it. Nothing will more thoroughly attract the visitors and settlers who do most to raise the price of real estate than ease and comfort in rapidly getting about. There is not much doubt that the expenditure of this three and a half millions will add ten millions to the assessment roll of Los Angeles county. The people saw it and voted the bonds. They are wise and energetic, as they always are. And they pay their own bills.

Common Sense Is Valuable Adjunct to Regulations

PRACTICAL men of affairs often laugh when confronted by some of the absurdities of our service examinations, doctors' requirements and like nonsense.

San Francisco, Boston, New York and Pittsburg have had some recent instances of rules run mad.

A man might be an excellent policeman and a poor penman, a superb mathematician and a failure as a clerk. In this age of specialties the world wants men and women of fine special training, workers who know their business.

Recently New York's police surgeons rejected an applicant for a place on the force, though he had won at the Olympic games in London, defeating more than a hundred of the world's crack athletes. The surgeons found "a slight hardening of the muscles of the heart," as in the case of most athletes.

It might seem to one not a doctor that a man of heroic endurance and iron canstitution might be strong enough to pace a beat, try doors or even make arrests. One technical blemish, however, threw the great athlete from the lists, says the Sacramento Union.

Petty technicalities of law, medicine and government confront us an all sides. Why nojt permit surgeons, civil service examiners or even judges to exercise some of the saving grace of common sense in the handling of the business of their vocations?

China Plans Big Reception for Uncle Sam's Warships

NOT TO BE outdone by Japan, China has appropriated a total of $300,000 for the entertainment of the American battleship fleet, which is expected to arrive at Amoy the latter part of October. The program includes banquets to the officers and men, who will be entertained in two big parties, says the San Diego Union. Three thousand American sailors and marines will be dined at one time. They will be given souvenirs of their visits and there will be a series of sports on shore and continuous performances in the theaters. This is almost as extensive a program of greeting and festivity as any that was presented even in the Pacific coast ports which the fleet visited. It is unfortunate, however, that Amoy was selected. It is isolated and somewhat inaccessible. There is not even a suitable landing place for launches. The Chinese regret that Amoy was chosen, presumably as a part of the game of politics as played in the Orient, but they are making the best of the situation, and it may be doubted that the fleet will have a more genuine welcome anywhere than at that out-of-the-way port. China has reasons to be grateful to the United States—notwithstanding the exclusion act—and especially for its liberality in regard to the Boxer indemnity. The visit of the fleet will afford an opportunity to show that this country's friendly policy toward the Chinese is appreciated.

Letters Intended to Knock the Roosevelt Policies

THE Oakland Tribune pays Senator Perkins the following high compliment:

"Examination of the record shows that he has steadfastly supported the Roosevelt administration from start to finish."

That will have to be classed under the head "interesting if true." Let us look at the "record" a little, says the Riverside Press.

Just about the time congress met a year ago last fall, Senator Perkins sent out to a large number of papers in California a letter stating that he had arranged with a friend to furnish some Washington correspondence to California papers during the session of congress; that the letters would be sent without expense to the papers, and that he trusted the matter would prove of interest.

Soon after this the letters began to come, sent out under the frank of Senator Perkins and bearing unmistakable earmarks of his literary style. Persumably they were written by the senator's secretary on suggestions furnished by him, if not from actual dictation. This correspondence seemed to have two specific purposes: To boom Perkins and to "knock" Roosevelt. Every letter contained a few paragraphs telling of some remarkable thing the senior senator from California had accomplished for his constituents; and practically every one contained some slurring attack on the president. If the copy had been prepared for the New York Sun, the recognized organ of Wall street, it could not have been marked by a meaner spirit of opposition to the president and his policies. There could be but one purpose in sending out this matter, and that was to weaken the popularity of Roosevelt in California and to discredit the president and his administration.

Socialists Are Optimists and Believe in Humanity

ALL Socialists are optimists. They resolutely believe that if mankind as it exists today were to be put into possession of some absolutely perfect political and economic system, mankind would be capable of operating that system as it was intended to be operated; would be equal to the task of preserving it and handing it on to the next generation intact. Sometimes it is a theory of ownership which is advocated; sometimes a theory of taxation; sometimes a theory of government; but there is always present in the Socialist, of whatever sort the belief, that if God permitted man to grasp a perfect system man is large enough and wise enough to benefit by it to the elimination of human misery; to preserve it in its perfection unperverted and uncorrupted. This belief does them credit in a way. But it is scarcely discreditable not to share it. It is better to face the fact that just government and human happiness are not so much matters of governmental mechanism, of system God-given or man-evolved, as they are of the spirit and intelligence brought to the operation of any system whatsoever. There are the most generous possibilities at the disposal of an absolute despot; there are the most malign possibilities in the freest democracy. Laws and forms are never fundamental causes; they are more or less imperfect expressions, says the Home Magazine.

A perfect system will be possible of perfect operation only at that future period of human development when no system at all is any longer a necessity. The only perfect democracy possible is one of which each member is an aristocrat.