

LOS ANGELES HERALD

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Population of Los Angeles 315,985

CLEAR, CRISP AND CLEAN



AT THE THEATERS

AUDITORIUM—Dark. MADON—Princess company in "Peggy from Paris." BELASCO—Richard Bennett in "The Lion and the Mouse." BURBANK—"When Knights Were Bold." GRAND—"A Man's Broken Promise." MAJESTIC—"Three Weeks." OPERHEIM—Vandeville. LOS ANGELES—Vandeville. WALKER—Vandeville. EMPIRE—Vandeville. UNIQUE—Vandeville and musical comedy. FISCHER'S—Musical comedy and vaudeville.

HUMAN NATURE

WHAT story of the fight at Pike's Peak should not have happened in real life. It should have been told by Robert Louis Stevenson or Edgar Allan Poe. We wish it had not happened. Usually all of us are given to imagining many of the unpleasantnesses that sometimes make life miserable and furnish grist for the news mill and for the courts, would never have taken place if it had not been for the dreadful congestion of society.

We apologize for each other and for all the world by saying we are piled on top of each other and jammed up against each other, and must struggle or be crushed. But what are we to say when the worst passions of human nature break out in a limited "society," composed of three human beings, on a lonely mountain peak?

Amid the solitudes and spaces and beneath the spacious skies they snarl, they quarrel and they fight. Even "total darkness" and the "twosomeness of the night" on the great mountain failed to have a restraining effect on angry passions aroused by a dispute over MONEY, a quarrel over PRICES. So Mammon rules the mountain and Mammon rules the giant; Mammon's rule is every where among the sons of men. All of which reminds us Cain murdered Abel when there was no social congestion. When there were only four people on the face of the earth, one killed another. The Pike's Peak story helps us to realize the literal truth of the story of Cain and Abel.

ALPHABET REFORM

ROOSEVELT spelling has been abandoned. It will no longer make documents of state prizes for collectors of the quaint and curious. As The Herald has said repeatedly, it is not spelling reform that is needed by the language, but alphabetical reform. The alphabet which is used by the polyglot languages sometimes called English and sometimes American is the alphabet of the Latin tongue. It is impossible to spell its sounds phonetically with the Latin alphabet, and the SILENT LETTERS OF OUR ANTIQUATED ALPHABET COST THE RACE AT LEAST \$100,000,000 A YEAR!

SCHOOLS

CLOSING exercises in Los Angeles elementary schools were conducted in a common sense manner, and in accordance with a suggestion made in Los Angeles Herald, "dressing up" was not encouraged, and the children were grouped in such a way that if any pupils were extra splendidly arrayed they were not conspicuous. The public schools of Los Angeles are the best in the world, and principals and teachers may always be trusted to do "what's just right and just American."

HONESTY

IN the resolutions adopted by the Democratic League of Southern California approving the selection of Joseph W. Folk as candidate for president of the United States, attention was called to the fact that "special privileges, conferred ostensibly by law, in the nature of private concessions to the so-called public utility corporations; protective tariff on the necessities of life, granted to favored producers and manufacturers, illegal combinations, trusts, monopolies and the like, have resulted in a state of corruption in the nation's political affairs which the Republican party, during the last twelve years of its control of the nation's affairs, has been unable or unwilling to curb."

Think of the remarkable and unprecedented state of affairs revealed in the words quoted. During twelve long years the citizens of the United States have been bitterly conscious of grave encroachments on the nation's CHARACTER, but, owing to the skillful and complex fashion in which this attack on integrity has been conducted, never in the nation's history has it been so difficult for the believers in the first principles of Americanism to assert these principles and bring about a restoration of true national prosperity ("the greatest good of the greatest number").

What is most needed in the national life is honesty, and before we can have honesty we must have the spirit of fair dealing, which is a form of HONOR.

As Saint Patrick of old drove the snakes out of Ireland, so must the "snakes" of graft, corruption and dishonesty be driven out of the United States and an honest and popular man of patriotism and ability must take the lead in expelling them. The fight for honesty, for square dealing, for a restoration of the first principles of Americanism, is the fight which it is the duty of the Democratic party to take up, and to win, and it cannot win this fight unless provided with facilities for winning it, and facilities it cannot have without political power, and political power it cannot have without success at the national election, and success it cannot have without a candidate who will represent Americanism, all that is best and truest in American life, and both by his record and his principles will appeal to the American voters and obtain their support; and such a man is JOSEPH W. FOLK.

GREATER LOS ANGELES

HARBOR excursions like that of members of the City club will help the cause of consolidation. The club members are now as enthusiastically appreciative of harbor activities and possibilities as all citizens should be. Everybody should visit San Pedro harbor, then The Herald would not need to devote so much space to urging people to take an active interest in harbor work, for the entire community would be enthused.

The resolutions of the City club on the subject of Captain Fries represent accurately the sentiment of the best informed people of this metropolis as to the importance of the services to the community of this gallant and learned officer.

CLEAN THE CITY

IN HIS suggestion the city should be thoroughly cleaned for the Elks' visit Mayor Alexander is warmly supported by public sentiment. The only possible improvement that can be indicated is that the city should be cleaned again after the Elks' visit, and should be kept religiously clean. When Los Angeles is spick and span it is easily the finest city in the United States. To put it colloquially, "She can't be beat for looks," but even as the best looking woman will appear at a disadvantage if there are smudges on her face, so the best looking city appears at a disadvantage when the sidewalks are gritty and grimy and the streets are littered with paper, etc. A serious effort should be made to put an end to the practice of throwing fruit skins and fruit refuse of any kind on the streets. Of course, this is the capital of the greatest fruit country in the world, but that is no reason why the stranger within our gates should be asked to run the risk of sliding and falling on a treacherous bit of peel. Children should be instructed not to throw fruit litter of any kind on the sidewalks. Orange and lemon peel, banana and grape skins may be dangerous man-traps.

OFFICIAL HONOR

A secretary of state Robert Bacon was in every way efficient," says a Washington letter, "but he was not popular with the newspaper representatives, and therefore received comparatively little space in the public press. This is attributed to his lack of knowledge of customs at the capital. Soon after he took office he was asked a question concerning some public business, and returned an answer which was afterward found to be untrue. It is the custom in Washington for officials to tell the truth or remain silent, and because of this inadvertence Mr. Bacon suffered."

AMERICAN FOURTH

LET us have a sane as well as glorious Fourth in Los Angeles. The celebration of Independence day should be marked by patriotism, enthusiasm and Americanism, and there are many ways of giving expression to them besides shooting Chinese explosives. We believe the citizens of Los Angeles will realize the importance of saving the fire department work, the insurance companies worry, hospital surgeons and attendants extra toll and families sorrow and bereavement by observing the great day patriotically. A "fireworks Fourth," when we think of it analytically, is frightfully and recklessly selfish and un-American. Let us have an American Fourth.

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Waiting for Bill!



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THE STATE PRESS

Good Roads. San Diego county is to vote on the question of bonding the county for a million and a quarter with which to build good roads. It is a lot of money, but San Diego is a big and enterprising county, and will in all probability "come through." It is probable that Riverside will be stimulated to the point where she will also do something on the good roads question, if the campaign is successful in San Diego—and it will be San Bernardino's turn next.—Redlands Review.

Sensible. The class of '09 of the Gilroy high school deserves especial praise for the innovation inaugurated in placing "No flowers, no presents" on their invitations. This sensible custom will do away with any favoritism that might be shown at the commencement exercises to those graduates who are connected with wealthy or more prominent families.—Gilroy Advocate.

Orny Over. The orgy of promotion, which was brought about by the combined influences of the prosperous business conditions and the wild excitement attending sensational mining developments, is a thing of the past, with a resulting increased mineral output, as well as many regrets as souvenirs of the experience.—Hart Enterprise.

Soldiers' Home Scandal. The condition of affairs in the Soldiers' home at Sawtelle, referred to in a dispatch from Los Angeles published in the Union Thursday morning, reveals the fact that in their old age, we are starving the men who went to the front in the civil war to save the Union.—Sacramento Union.

Orange Situation. In some respects the orange situation is quite as serious as first reports led us to believe. So far no one has claimed to have more than half a crop of navels and some much less. Doubtless the fears of some have magnified the disaster.—Riverside Enterprise.

Unholy Alliance. Francis J. Heney called attention to one undoubted truth when he pointed out in his speech in the Calhoun trial that the bribe givers and the bribe takers—the predatory rich and the political grafters—always form an unholy alliance with vice.—Bakersfield Echo.

Sensible Paper. The Wilmington Journal, under the management of Raymond Wayman, is on our table, and has the appearance of being published in a print shop. It is ably edited, and is for consolidation. Success to you, Brother Wayman.—Gardena Reporter.

Honesty Is Life. One thing is plain—political, social and business corruption has been the cause of the downfall of nations before this, and we may not reasonably hope to escape it.—San Francisco Commercial-News.

Prosperous Palo Alto. If anyone imagines that Palo Alto is taking a backward step let him walk the full length of all the streets of the city and note the number of new homes that are under construction.—Palo Alto Tribune.

Profits in Poetry. The English poet Swinburne died recently leaving an estate valued at \$125,000. While he might have made a good deal more in Standard Oil, \$125,000 is a good deal to make out of poetry.—Highland Messenger.

Hospitality and Cash. While it may be infra dig to speak of hospitality and coin, the two go hand in hand at a time when a patriotic boosting carnival is in progress.—Redding Free Press.

Commission Government. The city of Wichita, Kas., is among the latest cities to adopt the modern system of commission government with responsibility to the people.—Oakland Enquirer.

Cocotches Scribendi. The Marysville postoffice receives and sends out twenty-four mails a day. Not so bad for one city, is it?—Marysville Appeal.

Storm in Oroville. The board of trustees had a stormy session last evening when it met in special session.—Oroville Register.

Scientific Library Work

By Frederic J. Haskin

THE American Library association will begin its annual conference at Bretton Woods, N. H., today. To this organization more than to any other is due the present state of uniformity of library work in the United States and Canada. It has done much to bring about a spirit of co-operation among libraries, and more to establish uniform methods of cataloging. This latter matter, chiefly, will occupy the attention of the association at the present meeting.

It is estimated that there are 10,000 libraries in the United States and Canada, and that the books in their shelves aggregate more than 60,000,000 volumes. Some idea of the number of libraries in the United States which attempt to make any of their collections anything like complete may be gathered from the fact that about 5000 of them have been designated as depositories for public documents issued by the United States government. The library as an adjunct to universal education has become a recognized essential.

Library work has been reduced to a science, broadly speaking, and one may now study the librarian's profession much as he would study law or medicine—only he learns to do by doing to a greater extent than in either of the latter two. There are perhaps 25,000 young men and women in the United States who are preparing for library work, and if the number of libraries multiply in the next twenty years as in the past two decades, there will be a great demand for competent workers. Not only has there been a remarkable increase in the number of libraries, but also in the size and importance of those already in existence.

Of course, the first essential to successful library endeavor is a catalogue of its contents which will enable the patron to locate any book therein by subject, author or title. The perfection of such a catalogue has called for the best thought of the library world, and the American Library association has adopted a code of rules for cataloging, which represents the combined wisdom of its membership to date. The co-operation in cataloging has been extended to British libraries as well, and an Anglo-American agreement on rules has been reached. The rules agreed to have been printed, and are being distributed to libraries in the United States, Canada and Great Britain. These rules are not complete, dealing only with the questions relating to titles and authors in the catalogue. The subjects next to be handled will be the preparation and printing of the list of subject headings.

The most prodigious task of indexing now being carried forward in the United States is that covering the statistics at large of the United States. There are 25,000 pages of closely printed matter in the volume containing the statistics, and to make every proposition in them readily accessible for reference is a huge task. Congress legislated in something of a haphazard way, using different languages and different times to express the same meaning, and this gives rise to numerous conflicts and inconsistencies, and to implied repeals and amendments, all of which make indexing a very difficult job. Although the work has been carried on for a good while, there is yet much to be done. Up to the close of the last fiscal year only the acts passed since 1873 had been indexed, and even to index them required over a hundred thousand cards.

The bureau of standards has made itself felt in the library world through its tests of cloth for bookbinding. It has laid down specifications for all cloth that shall be used in the binding of public documents, and the government buys no cloth that does not come up to the standard set by these tests. The specifications are obtainable by any person or library desiring them, and through this standard it is expected that much loss due to defective binding material will be prevented.

Library methods are gradually permeating the business world, the card index being an excellent example. An index without a competent indexer is a delusion and a snare after it grows to large proportions, so the most progressive business establishments are taking advantage of American Library association rules, so far as it is possible to do so, and some of the young men trained for library work find better salaries in the business field than in library circles. Business prophets see the day when every up-to-date establishment will have its trained librarian for keeping track of every transaction.

The first library in the world was that established by King Osymandyas, King of Egypt, in 600 B. C. For a card index was located in a portion of the king's palace, and above the entrance was the striking phrase, "The Healing of the Soul." The first American library established was at Jamestown directly after the settlement there. But it was so small that most historians fail to notice it, giving first place to the one at Oxford, England.

Far and Wide

Directors' Gold Pieces. Some one cruelly remarks that the full attendance of directors at board meetings is not now in hand during vacation time.—Wall Street Journal.

Encouragement. Now that they have saved the Holbein painting from Americans, the English must now feel that perhaps they can save the empire from the Germans.—New York Evening Post.

Suggestive Deception. Many a time a woman says, "Pass the cream, please," when she knows well that there's nothing but milk in the pitcher, and mightily thim milk at that.—Detroit Free Press.

Congressional Pay. By paying congressmen on a sliding scale an opportunity would be provided for endless debate in ascertaining the relative earning capacities of statesmen.—Washington Star.

Melon Crop Saved. Everybody will breathe a sigh of relief that the Georgia Railroad strike ended before the watermelon shipments were due to begin, anyway.—Washington Herald.

Senators Exempted. The law against hazing, enacted by congress a few years ago, evidently does not apply to new senators.—Kansas City Star.

Eloquent Crop. With the close of the tariff debate, the senatorial Chautauqua crop will be ripe enough to pick.—Portland Telegram.

Loeb. The difference is that Loeb is being blamed only for his own acts now.—Ohio State Journal.