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MR. MUSHET AND THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS—III

Showing How Mr. Mushet by False and Misleading Statements and Arguments Tried to Defeat the School Bonds

We have seen how Mr. Mushet by his interview published in the Los Angeles Times of September 18, 1908, made a further attempt to injure the school department, and a special effort to discredit Dr. Moore, the superintendent of schools, by stating to the public that he could show "discrepancies of tens of thousands of dollars in the reports of the superintendent and his assistants."

We have also seen that the grand jury of Los Angeles, after a careful examination of these charges, found that they were absolutely untrue, AND REPROVED MR. MUSHET AND HIS FELLOW CONSPIRATORS against the school department for the unjust criticisms which they had leveled at that department on account of its having spent certain school money to protect the lives of the school children of the city.

To understand just how infamous was this conspiracy on the part of Mr. Mushet and his associates against the school department, our readers must bear in mind that this attack which Mr. Mushet made in the form of an interview in the Times was in no sense an official act. He has at all times contended that his utterances against the school department were made in the course of discharging his official duty as auditor of the city, to render reports to the city council concerning the finances of the school department. The attack that appeared in his interview published in the Los Angeles Times of September 18, 1908, was not an official act; had nothing to do with his duty as an official of the city, but was made as an individual for the purpose of assisting the Times in discrediting the school department, and being made just before the opening of the fall session of the public schools, was evidently intended to drive Dr. Moore, superintendent of the city schools, from office.

This last conclusion is inevitable, when we note the bitter attack upon the administration of Dr. Moore's office, amounting almost to an accusation of felony against "the superintendent and his assistants."

The attack failed of its purpose and the schools proceeded.

After Mr. Mushet's criticisms of the school department had been disproved by the finding of the committee appointed by the chamber of commerce, Merchants and Manufacturers' association and the Municipal league; and after his further individual criticisms furnished the Times had been disproved by the findings of the grand jury report, one would have supposed that Mr. Mushet would have, for very shame, refrained from further attempts to injure the school department of the city.

He not only did not do this, but he made his worst and most indefensible attempt to injure the department by an attack which he later made upon the proposed bond issue for constructing new schoolhouses for the accommodation of pupils who had been forced to camp out all night at the beginning of the session then in progress in order to secure an opportunity to get an education.

This bond issue was to be voted upon by the people of Los Angeles on January 6, 1909. On December 29, 1908, just six days before the election, Mr. Mushet made a report upon school matters to the city council in which, among other things, he said:

"As the fiscal agent of the city, I feel that I must state certain facts which should be known by the people when they go to the polls to vote on the bond question. I think when the people are asked to place an additional mortgage on their property of three-quarters of a million dollars they are entitled to all the facts. The board of education is holding as an investment, or as a speculation, a valuable piece of real estate running from Spring street to Broadway, and known as the Mercantile Place. The property is worth about \$1,250,000. It is leased for \$25,000 per year, or about 2 per cent on the investment. Think of a million and a quarter dollars belonging to the people, tied up in a 2 per cent investment, and the people asked to mortgage their homes to raise three-quarters of a million to pay interest at 4 per cent—the bonds to run forty years. It seems to me that the functions of the board of education are to provide for the proper accommodation and education of our children and that it is no part of their duty to tie up a million and a quarter dollars, either as an investment or as a speculation, but that the money must be used for proper school purposes. If the board is holding this property for investment purposes, I would urge that 2 per cent is a poor investment. If the board is holding this property for speculative purposes, then those three-quarters of a million dollars' worth of bonds now asked for are not really for new schoolhouses for our children but to enable the board to continue this speculation in real estate. What right has the board to keep all this property tied up and our children subjected to the indignity of having to stand in line all night for the chance of an education, many being educated in shacks, many in overcrowded rooms, many not being able to be accommodated at all? Would it not have been the part of wisdom for the board to have sold this real estate which they are holding as an investment or speculation and apply the proceeds to their legitimate purpose, i. e., the proper accommodations of our children, and then, that having been done, they could have come with better grace and asked the people to vote the bonds?"

This report of Mr. Mushet was, of course, taken up by the Times and used as Mr. Mushet had intended it to be used, as an argument against the people voting the bonds on the election which was to occur within six days after the report was rendered.

Now note the depth of deceit and falsehood to which Mr. Mushet descended in order to further injure the school department of the city and to serve the influences that were endeavoring to injure that department:

"The amount of bonds called for at the election was \$720,000. Of this amount \$480,000, or two-thirds, was to be used for the construction of new school buildings. Let it be understood right here that it was the high school pupils who had been forced to camp out all night in order to be registered in the high schools and not the pupils of the grammar schools."

By the organization of the school department of the city the grammar schools and the high schools of the city are under two different organizations, which have the legal effect of two different corporations. Money and property belonging to the grammar schools cannot be used for the high schools; and, conversely, money and property belonging to the high schools cannot be used for the grammar schools.

The property on Spring street, which Mr. Mushet says in his report should have been sold and the proceeds devoted to furnishing the school accommodations which it was proposed to furnish out of the \$720,000 bond issue, belongs to the grammar school department of the city. The board of education was advised that had it been sold, not a cent of its proceeds could have been used for constructing high schools, which were the schools most needed by the city, and to the construction of which \$480,000, or two-thirds of the proposed bond issue, was to be devoted.

To suppose that Mr. Mushet did not know this when he submitted to the council and furnished the Los Angeles Times the report above quoted from, is to suppose that he is a fool. And he is not a fool, whatever other qualities he may possess. If he did not know that the Spring street property belonged to the grammar school department of the city and could not be used for the high school department, then he was unparadoxically ignorant as the fiscal agent of the city. If he did know it, then he deliberately used a false argument for the purpose of prejudicing the voters of the city against the issuing of bonds to pay for the construction of these school buildings, and the lack of high school accommodations of the city, which had already resulted in pupils having to camp out over night in order to secure entrance to these schools and in many others pupils being denied entrance on account of their congested condition, would inevitably grow worse before another bond issue could be called for.

Besides all this, Mr. Mushet's report did not fairly state the condition of the Spring street property. This property consists of a lot extending through from Spring street to Broadway and facing 120 feet on each of those streets.

A former board of education, with which the board of education that Mr. Mushet was criticizing had nothing to do, had on the 9th day of May, 1904, leased this property for ten years at an annual rental of \$25,000 per year. At the date when this lease was made the rental provided for was a very good income indeed upon the value of the property at that time.

Our readers will all remember how during the period between 1904 and 1908 property in that part of the city appreciated very largely in value.

As an instance of this we may cite the fact that property in the adjoining block on Broadway, purchased by Mr. Billocke in the year 1905 for \$2116 per front foot, has sold within the past ten days for \$7676 per front foot, being an increase of nearly 400 per cent in four years.

The lot in question, owned by the grammar schools of the city, on account of its location, should at the present time be worth per front foot nearly as much as that sold by Mr. Billocke, but at the date of Mr. Mushet's report, September 30, 1908, there was no active demand for real estate in the city of Los Angeles, for the reason that the country had not yet recovered from the panic of 1907. Besides, the lot was under a lease that had over five years to run. If they had attempted to force this property upon the market at that time, when every private individual who owned real estate in Los Angeles, and especially business property, was holding it until better times should come, it would have been the worst sort of a business blunder on the part of the board of education. It would have been impossible to have obtained any reasonable cash offer for it at that time.

Anyone not interested in finding something upon which to criticize the board of education could readily have seen this at that time. But, besides all this, if the property had been sold, as suggested by Mr. Mushet, the city would have sustained a very great loss, with no compensating benefits, because the proceeds could not have been used for constructing the \$480,000 worth of high schools which the bond issue was intended to provide for, and which were the most imperatively needed of all the proposed school improvements.

After the people, by the overwhelming vote which they cast in favor of the bonds, had decided against Mr. Mushet and his fellow conspirators against the public schools—just as the committee and the grand jury had previously decided against them—common decency should have prevented his carrying his unjust opposition to the school department any further.

That it did not do so, however, and that as a result of this continued feud against the school department, which had been aided and abetted by Mr. Mushet, hundreds of children of this city were prevented from having educational advantages that the children have a right to demand of the city, will be shown in tomorrow's Herald.

NEW WARSHIP NORTH DAKOTA FASTEST BUILT

EXCEEDS RECORD OF WORLD'S DREADNAUGHT

TRYOUT AT ROCKLAND PROVES GREAT ABILITY

Screw Standardization Tests Develop Maximum Speed of 22.25 Knots, More Than the Bel-lerophon's

(By Associated Press.) ROCKLAND, Me., Nov. 4.—The North Dakota is the fastest battleship of the dreadnaught type afloat, as well as one of the most powerful ships in the world.

Her screw standardization tests over the Rockland measured course of one mile today developed a maximum speed of 22.25 knots, an average of 21.33.

Both marks are in excess of the best performances of either her sister ship, the Delaware or the Bellerophon, the fastest dreadnaught of the British navy.

In attaining this surprising speed, the machine engines of the North Dakota were forced to the development of more horse-power than has been reached by any battleship afloat.

A maximum of 35,150 horse-power was recorded, while 23,575 horse-power was the mean amount.

The maximum number of revolutions of her nickel composition propellers was 286 a minute. It was found that 263 revolutions in this time were sufficient to maintain the contract speed of 21 knots.

Takes Precedence The North Dakota, by her performance today, takes precedence as a general first-class battleship. The figures recorded for the North Dakota today surpass those of any other dreadnaught in the world.

But one such battleship is afloat the attainments of which may exceed those of the North Dakota. This is the Neptune, just launched from the British navy.

The Neptune, however, will have to attain figures much in excess of specifications to accomplish this. The Bellerophon of the British navy has made but 22.1 knots.

Comparisons between the trial performances of the North Dakota and Delaware, sister ships, are as follows:

Table with 4 columns: North Dakota, Delaware, Fastest speed, Mean speed, Mean horse power.

It was on the first of her runs over the measured course of one mile that the North Dakota made her record. The tide was in her favor and this is not subtracted from the best figures.

Corrections Made In the recorded mean, or average, however, the tidal corrections are made. Five trials over the mile course were recorded as follows: 22.25, 21.486, 22.13, 21.505, and 22.132.

The influence of the tide on the vessel's speed is shown in a comparison of the time in succeeding miles. While the five speed runs were being recorded, the North Dakota was also undergoing a two hours test for consumption of oil and coal. The showing is understood to have been satisfactory.

Captain Edward G. Evans was in charge of the North Dakota. A working crew of 400 men pushed the vessel to her record performance.

Beginning at 7 o'clock tomorrow morning the North Dakota is to be put through the second test, a four hour run at 21 knots. It is expected that an average of about 21.75 knots will be developed. The run will end off Boston light, where the North Dakota will anchor and prepare for her 24 hour run at 12 knots.

Following this, she will go under another 24 hour test at 19 knots. Within six months it is expected the North Dakota and the Delaware will take their places in the van of the American navy's line of sea fighters and will then rank as the greatest battleships in commission throughout the world.

SMOKE OR BABIES MUST GO, SAYS CHICAGO ALDERMAN

Author of Ordinance to Electrify Railroad Terminals Says Death Rate of Infants Alarms

CHICAGO, Nov. 4.—Either smoke or babies must go! This is the alternative which confronts Chicago, declared Alderman Bernard Snow in a speech last night at an anti-smoke meeting conducted by the Chicago Woman's club.

Big deposits of smoke so vitiate the atmosphere that the death rate among infants has assumed startling proportions, and actual depopulation of the city born is threatened, said the author of an ordinance which proposes the electrification of railway terminals.

Say Corn Causes Pellagra

COLUMBIA, S. C., Nov. 4.—Not alone corn, but the ordinary products of food made of that cereal, but the distilled spirits of that grain, corn "licker," plays an important part in the cause of the disease pellagra. This was declared at the second day's session of the national conference on pellagra by more than one distinguished physician. There is a growing conviction, according to speakers, that pellagra is already attacking horses, cows and hogs, as well as human beings.

Try to Burn Poolroom

HAMMOND, Ind., Nov. 4.—An attempt was made by fire to destroy the Dearborn Park pool room at Clarke station early today. A bucket brigade saved the building. It is said the "gamblers' war" of Chicago has been extended to this vicinity.

CONGRESSMAN READY TO BEGIN VOYAGE TO PANAMA CANAL ZONE



JAMES A. TAWNEY

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4.—Chairman James A. Tawney of the house appropriation committee is in Washington preparatory to the trip of his committee to the canal zone to look into the matter of appropriations for the canal for the coming year. The committee will sail from New York Wednesday on the Cristobal and will land on the isthmus November 30. It is expected that the party will be accompanied by members of the senate committee on interoceanic canals and by several members of the house committee on interstate and foreign commerce. The delegation will number about thirty-five persons, including clerks and stenographers.

CHURCH LEADLR IS EXONERATED

CHRISTIAN SCIENTIST GIVEN STRONG SUPPORT

Mrs. Augustus E. Stetson of New York, Accused of Mental Malpractice, Vindicated After Stormy Session

(By Associated Press.) NEW YORK, Nov. 4.—Mrs. Augustus E. Stetson, formerly head reader of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, in this city, was exonerated today of charges of "mental malpractice" in the report of a special board of inquiry presented to the congregation of 2000 persons.

The exonerated was endorsed by the members, but a portion of the board's report which concerned Virgil C. Strickland, her successor as first reader, was referred back for further consideration.

The meeting of the congregation was stormy. It lasted six hours, and it was after a heated debate that the only action taken by the congregation was to vote its endorsement by a close margin of the report in Mrs. Stetson's favor.

The most important charges were, in effect, that Mrs. Stetson had tended to disloyalty to Mrs. Mary Baker Eddy, and that Mrs. Stetson had been guilty of mental malpractice in bringing Christian Science to bear upon people who did not welcome it "by hypnotism, mesmerism and similar methods."

The committee sums up Mrs. Stetson's work for the church as follows: "She has promoted in a marked degree the moral and spiritual progress of the methods of this branch church. She has freed great numbers of them from sickness and sin to which they were in bondage previous to their coming in touch with her."

She has enabled many of them to acquire such an understanding of Christian Science, such a love and loyalty to Mary Baker Eddy and such obedience to God and divine principles that they have been enabled to free many of their fellow men from sin and sickness in their parishes."

Mrs. Stetson was not present.

STEAMER ADRIATIC RUNS ON SANDBAR OFF HUDSON

NEW YORK, Nov. 4.—Passengers on the White Star steamer Adriatic were detained at the harbor mouth for several hours early today while the liner was clearing herself from the grip of the sands at the entrance of Ambrose channel.

The Adriatic grounded before daylight, and it was thought she might have to await the incoming tide, but shortly before 3 o'clock the steamer managed to free herself.

The steamer had on board a large number of passengers, among them Orville Wright, the aviator.

No excitement was occasioned by the grounding.

WOMAN BUYS AEROPLANE TO FLY ABOUT FLORIDA

HAMMONDSPOIT, N. Y., Nov. 4.—Mrs. H. A. Arnold, who has a large estate in Florida, south of Jacksonville, has contracted to purchase an aeroplane for \$7500.

The machine is to be built at once, as Mrs. Arnold desires to learn to fly this winter while she is in Florida.

An expert attached to the factory will instruct Mrs. Arnold how to operate the aeroplane.

This is said to be the first purchase of an aeroplane by a woman in any part of the world.

Bubonic Plague Fatal

GUAYAQUIL, Nov. 4.—During the last two weeks of October fifty cases of bubonic plague were reported, twenty-three of which proved fatal and sixteen cases of yellow fever with nine deaths in Ecuador.

BODY OF NOTED STATESMAN LAID IN MAUSOLEUM

ITO'S FUNERAL ATTENDED BY MANY DIGNITARIES

IMPRESSIVE SHINTO CEREMONY HELD AT HOME

State Rites Magnificent and Witnessed by Great Throng—Coffin Interred at Omori, Suburb of Tokio

(By Associated Press.) TOKIO, Nov. 4.—Followed by representatives of the emperor and ambassadors of Japan, ambassadors and others directed to represent their governments, the body of Prince Ito was conveyed to its final resting place today.

The burial, conducted with the impressive Shinto rites, took place at the mausoleum, erected at the late country residence of the prince, in Omori, a suburb of Tokio.

The state funeral was conducted with magnificent solemnity. It began with simple ceremonies at the Ito city home at 7 a. m. Only members of the family and personal friends were present.

At 9 o'clock a procession was formed, headed by the Imperial band playing "Chopin's Funeral March," and moved to Kibya park, where public services were held.

The park was crowded with men in evening dress and women gowned in black. Many of these were foreigners. A special shrine had been erected and in this the catafalque rested. The ceremonies occupied three hours.

America's Wreath Here a wreath was presented by Ambassador Thomas J. O'Brien on behalf of the United States, while similar floral offerings were made in the name of their governments by British Ambassador McDonald, Count Montenegro, German chargé d'affaires and representatives of France, Russia, Austria and Italy.

Floral tributes also were presented by Field Marshal Lord Kitchener in the name of the British army and by the delegation of Koreans now in this country.

At the conclusion of the rites the catafalque was again placed upon the gun carriage and at 2 o'clock the march was begun to Omori, the place of interment.

Along the route of six miles a great throng looked on in silence. The interment was made at dusk in the presence of the family, a few personal friends, representatives of the emperor and empress and others of the royal family.

"STRANGLER" MURDERS IN DENVER MAY BE SOLVED

Man in Schenectady, N. Y., Says He Can Give Information Regarding Mysterious Deaths

DENVER, Nov. 4.—The unsolved mystery of Denver's strangler murders in the fall of 1894 was again brought into prominence today by the receipt by a local paper of a letter from W. F. Williams of Schenectady, N. Y., which he announced he can give information in regard to the person who committed the crimes.

The writer concludes with the statement: "I shan't expect adequate compensation for the same."

The letter was at once turned over to Chief of Police Armstrong, who has wired the authorities at Schenectady to get into touch with Williams.

In September, October and November, 1894, three women in the underworld of Denver were strangled to death. In each case a small riot in which two men were evident, Richard Demady, a consort of one of the women, was tried for her death but was acquitted, and from that time the crimes have remained a mystery.

MAKE STERN ATTEMPT TO CHECK SMOKING ON CARS

CHICAGO, Nov. 4.—Mild efforts to eliminate smoking on the trains of the Chicago and Oak Park elevated railroad were succeeded today by stern measures. "I shan't expect adequate compensation for the same."

The matter will go to the courts. A small riot in which two men were injured, accompanied the ejection of one passenger. The trouble started when an elderly man entered the car at the Forty-fourth avenue station smoking a cigar. When the conductor told him he was violating a rule of the company, the smoker replied that he was violating no city ordinance.

At the next station the conductor called upon two private detectives for assistance. The latter started to drag their prisoner from the train when other passengers interfered. The officers drew their revolvers and forced the crowd back.

J. D. Attey, a lumberman, was nearly forced through a window and was badly cut by breaking glass. Former Alderman Joseph H. Francis was forced from the car platform, and fell to the tracks, escaping death only by heavily charged third rail by only a few inches.

Young Woman Commits Suicide

CLEVELAND, Nov. 4.—Celia Dubenski, 19 years old, rushed into an office on the ninth floor of the Card building today and leaped through a window to the sidewalk, 100 feet below.

She was instantly killed. The girl's friends say she received a letter from New York today in which it was said her sweetheart had married another girl.

Prominent Lodgeman Dies

CHEYENNE, Wyo., Nov. 4.—Louis Kirk, clerk of the United States district and circuit courts, thirty-three years old, died today, following a stroke of paralysis last Saturday.