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MR. MUSHET AND THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS—IV

Showing How the Enemies of the Public Schools Interfered with the Sale of the School Bonds

WHEN the people, disregarding the attacks on the school bond issue made by Mr. Mushet and his accomplice in his fight against the public schools of the city, the Los Angeles Times, carried this bond issue by a vote of more than 3 to 1, the good citizens believed that the fight for adequate school facilities for the children of the city of Los Angeles was ended and that never again would boys and girls of the city in search of an education have to encamp for twenty-four hours upon the steps of its school buildings in order to be registered as scholars.

After the bonds were voted preparations were made for issuing them and the officials charged with their sale ascertained that although bearing only 4% interest they could be sold for something of a premium, so eager was the investing public at this particular time, just after the panic, to put its money in securities that were regarded as absolutely sound. But when the bonds were about to be sold the good people of the city, and especially the parents of children who were depending upon the public schools for an education, were astounded by the bringing of an action in the name of one Spencer to set aside the bond issue and declare the bonds void on account of certain alleged irregularities in the election.

Mr. Spencer was a small property owner in the city of Los Angeles but not by any means wealthy enough to have assumed the burden of such a litigation. An investigation has shown that Mr. Spencer was backed by five individuals who each agreed to contribute a share to the expense of bringing and maintaining the suit. Just who these individuals were and whether or not Mr. Mushet, the city auditor, was one of them, The Herald is unable to state, although it is able to state most positively that there were five men who pledged themselves to defray the expenses of the litigation. The Herald can, and does, state positively that before Mr. Spencer brought his suit and while he was preparing for it he had one or more interviews with Mr. Mushet, and The Herald has no doubt, and it believes no intelligent citizen of the city has any doubt, that in these interviews Mr. Mushet not only consented to but encouraged the bringing of this action. It is fairly certain also that had it not been for the encouragement given by Mr. Mushet by his various attacks upon the administration of the public schools, the opponents of the schools would not have had the courage to bring this suit.

The Los Angeles Times has been severely criticised by citizens for its share in the attacks upon the public schools. It should be remembered, however, that its attacks were founded upon statements made by Mr. Mushet, and if the Times is to be criticised for using, as a public journal, the utterances of a public official of the city derogatory to the administration of city affairs by another department of the city government, then how much more does the man making these utterances—utterances which were found by two investigating committees to be false and unfounded—deserve the criticism of the public.

So that whether or not Mr. Mushet contributed any financial assistance to the action brought against the school bonds and which tied up their sale for months, it is very evident that the encouragement which he had in the past given the opponents of the school bonds was largely responsible for the action of Mr. Spencer which prevented the sale of the school bonds for months, so that needed improvements in the public schools could not be made, and as a result many boys and girls were compelled to camp at the beginning of the last term not for twenty-four hours but for forty-eight hours, before the school buildings in order to secure an opportunity for an education. It is, and should be, the pride of the city of Los Angeles that our schools are free and open to the poorest child in our city. When the school session began hundreds of children who were seeking an education were compelled to seek it in the most uncomfortable and unsanitary conditions, all as a result of the fight against the public schools of the city of Los Angeles which for more than a year had been led by Mr. Mushet.

Mr. Mushet's journalistic supporter, in its issue of Wednesday evening, with all the force that black-faced type could give it, had this to say concerning Mr. Mushet:

"The great dominant issue in the present campaign is a financial issue. The administering of the stupendous sums of money to be expended in the completion of the aqueduct and the power and harbor developments will bring either municipal bankruptcy or municipal advancement.

"This city will soon be obligated to expend \$39,000,000 with which to complete these great enterprises.

"If this vast amount of the public funds is incapably, extravagantly or dishonestly administered, a tax levy will be imposed on every property owner, which will be the equivalent of a burdensome mortgage. Who is the man for the job? There is but one—W. C. Mushet."

So, then, the man who in order to defeat a 4% bond issue for the public schools of the city of Los Angeles, urged the sale, upon a dull real estate market—and in fact on, no real estate market—during the hard times produced by the recent panic, of the most valuable piece of real estate that the school department of the city owns, is the man whose business perspicuity and good judgment is to administer the huge financial affairs of the city of Los Angeles for the next two years! It is safe to say that had it been possible during the hard financial times of last year to secure any sort of a cash bid for the school lot on Spring and Broadway, burdened as it was by a long-time lease, which Mr. Mushet was insisting that the school department should sell, not half the actual value of the lot would have been obtained. That property, within four years, when the lease shall be terminated, will probably be worth \$10,000 per front foot, or, in round figures, \$2,400,000. Any well-informed real estate agent of the city of Los Angeles will say that during the latter part of last year it would have not been possible to have sold this property at a cash price of \$500,000. In fact, we do not believe that amount of money could have been found in the city of Los Angeles for an investment in real estate at that particular time. Yet this fiscal agent of the city, whose business it was to care for the financial welfare of the city, would, at a time when every private individual in the city owning real estate was holding it for the better prices which returning good times would bring, have forced upon the market the most valuable piece of real estate owned by the school department at an enormous loss, rather than have borrowed money at 4%, a rate of interest less than that of New York pays upon the bonds which it has sold during the past two years.

The truth of the whole business is that Mr. Mushet, in the attitude which he assumed toward the public schools of the city, showed that AS A PUBLIC OFFICIAL HE WAS UTTERLY WEAK, UNRELIABLE, INSINCERE AND INADEQUATE. His judgment as to the correctness of the accounts kept by the school board and as to the propriety and correctness of its expenditures was disapproved in toto by both the committee appointed by the great civic organizations of the city of Los Angeles and a grand jury of Los Angeles county. His permitting himself and his office to be used by opponents of the school department was probably the most pitiable exhibition of weakness ever made by a man who had been entrusted with official responsibility by the citizens of Los Angeles. He and his friends and supporters have announced that he is appealing for the support of the voters of Los Angeles upon his record. We have given his record—a record which he will not dare deny or dispute, and unless the verdict of the people of the city of Los Angeles at the primaries on the 10th instant shall be a repetition of the verdict of the two public bodies of the city that have already examined and passed upon Mr. Mushet's actions, we shall be very much mistaken in our judgment of the good people of our city.

In view of the fact that Mr. Mushet's journalistic champion has seen fit to warn the good people of the city of Los Angeles against the designs of Mr. T. E. Gibbon, proprietor of The Herald, it may not be out of place in closing these articles to state that, notwithstanding the fact that the Los Angeles Herald probably contributed as much as any one influence to the election of Mr. Alexander and the present city administration, neither Mr. Gibbon nor anyone connected with The Herald has ever asked a favor of any kind of Mr. Alexander or any of his appointees. This policy on the part of The Herald and its owners was announced immediately after Mayor Alexander was elected and a notice was posted in the editorial rooms of The Herald stating that if any member of its staff ever asked any favor at the hands of Mayor Alexander or any member of his administration the loss of his position with The Herald would be the penalty for such a violation of the rule of the paper.

Furthermore, neither Mr. Gibbon nor anyone connected with The Herald will ask any appointment or any other favor of any kind of Mayor Alexander or any member of the new administration should the candidates now being advocated by The Herald be elected. The Herald takes this position for two reasons. First, because it believes that inasmuch as a city official is held personally responsible for the success of the administration of his office he should have the most untrammelled right of choosing the a bondsmen by whose services that administration is made a success or a failure; and, secondly, because The Herald proposes to keep itself at all times free to criticize public officials, whether they be public officials elected by its assistance or not; and therefore neither its proprietor nor any of its employees will ask any favor of any kind at the hands of any public official. The only interest that The Herald has in the election of any candidate whom it sees fit to recommend to its readers is that it honestly believes that by such election the cause of good government in our city will be served.

JUDGE SHATTERS IRON NERVE OF MME. STEINHEIL

MERCILESS EXAMINATION IS LONG ENDURED

ALLEGED DOUBLE SLAYER GIVES WITTY ANSWERS

Woman on Trial in Paris Withstands Terrific Ordeal Until Late in Day and Then Collapses Suddenly

[By Associated Press.]

PARIS, Nov. 5.—After having withstood for nearly three days a merciless examination at the hands of the presiding judge of the court of assizes, where she is being tried on a charge of murdering her husband and her step-mother, the iron nerves of Mme. Margaret Steinheil gave way late today, and she was led out of the court room in a state of utter collapse.

Several times before the climax came restoratives were administered when it seemed as though Mme. Steinheil was about to faint, and each time she recovered quickly and replied to the interrogations of Judge M. de Valles. When today's session began M. de Valles was fearful that the strain was proving too much for Mme. Steinheil, but this solicitude evoked from Mme. Steinheil the unhesitating statement that she was not at all fatigued.

M. de Valles thereupon led her through a labyrinth of questions surrounding the case with his wonted relentlessness, and Mme. Steinheil, with her ever ready wit, answered them quickly to the point, or when they seemed unduly compromising pleaded for justice and not vindictiveness. Once she made a plea direct to the jury that they believe her innocent, declaring that in the hour of her adversity erstwhile friends who had partaken of her hospitality had utterly forsaken her.

To Save Daughter Again, when pressed closely by M. de Valles as to why she had declared certain jewels had been stolen at the time of the murder, when in reality she had concealed them, Mme. Steinheil, her eyes burning brightly and moist, hurried behind the paler walls of St. Maizere prison have imprinted on her cheeks, cried out that it was to save her daughter from the knowledge that her mother had a lover.

Special policemen were examined concerning what they saw at Mme. Steinheil's house after the murder.

DIES IN COLORADO SPRINGS AFTER TWO DAYS' DEBAUCH

Fast Living in Company of Young Woman Proves Fatal to James Cox

COLORADO SPRINGS, Nov. 5.—James Cox, alias James Lytle, and said to have been the father of two children who were cared for by the juvenile court of Los Angeles, died here today, following two days of fast living in the company of a young woman who came with him from Denver. Cox and the young woman, who gives the name of Jennie Mitchell, arrived here yesterday and registered at a hotel. Cox was drinking heavily, and during the evening began to suffer greatly.

The woman sent out for a dozen drops of aromatic ammonia, which she says she gave to Cox. It seemed to ease him and he went to sleep. When she awoke this morning Cox was dead.

Pending an analysis of the man's body the woman is being held by the police.

DERAILS MAIL CAR TO PREVENT TRAIN WRECK

MASON CITY, Ia., Nov. 5.—To prevent a collision between passenger trains on the Iowa Central and Great Western railroads, at Manley Junction, early this morning, the Iowa Central engine derailed Iowa Central train No. 6, south bound, sending the train into the ditch. The mail car was burned, with all the mail and a large amount of money. No one was hurt.

Cholera Invades Germany

WASHINGTON, Nov. 5.—Cholera has invaded the German side of the Russian border and the consular agent at Koenigsberg has reported to the state department twenty-two cases and seven deaths so far.

GOVERNOR OF UTAH IS ASKED TO GIVE SHIRT FOR PUBLIC DISPLAY

SALT LAKE CITY, Nov. 5.—William Spry, governor of Utah, is torn with conflicting emotions. He has received from the National Association of Laundrymen a request for a shirt—one that he has worn—to be entered in a display of gubernatorial garments at the annual convention in Richmond, Va., next month. The governor wants to oblige the laundrymen, but finds it difficult to decide which shirt to sacrifice. The relations between the governor and his shirts have been very close. When a tentative selection is made old associations are recalled that make the thought of parting unbearable. It may be necessary to submit the matter to the supreme court, as Gov. Spry insists that it involves the constitutional question of the right to bare arms.

OPERA SINGER WHO LOSES WILL CONTEST



CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Nov. 5.—A decision adverse to Madame Lillian Nordica, the opera singer, and several of her sisters and cousins, who attempted to break the will of their aunt, Mrs. Yannie P. Allen of Melrose, was handed down by Judge Mellrose in the state supreme court today.

LURE ORATORS WITH VICTUALS

I. W. W. SPEAKERS TEMPTED TO RISK ARREST

Prisoners Placed in Jail for Insisting on Right of Free Speech Will Be Forced to Take Baths

SPOKANE, Wash., Nov. 5.—Samuel T. Crane, an attorney, was arrested today for denouncing in a street harangue the action of the police and firemen toward the Industrial Workers of the World. From his office window he had made a brief speech and then descended to the sidewalk, where Chief of Police Sullivan and Deputy Sheriff Logan were waiting for him. The lawyer fought his captors and at the station was booked on the charge of inciting a riot and was confined in the city jail.

Officers said that previous to his speech Crane had been active in the crowd, remonstrating with the firemen when they started to connect a line of hose with a hydrant to throw water on some men who had refused to move on.

[By Associated Press.]

SPOKANE, Nov. 5.—Braced by the big free breakfast offered by the Industrial Workers of the World to all who would promise to speak on the streets today, a number of orators appeared on Main avenue and were gathered in by the police before their speeches were well started.

A number of speakers are expected here from Kalamazoo, Mich., the advance guard having arrived during the night.

Can Be No Peace

Among the bulletins posted by the I. W. W. is one declaring: "The I. W. W.'s and the police have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as the police use clubs and hose and the I. W. W. use pen and tongue. Between these two a struggle must go on until the I. W. W. civilizes the police." Other bulletins refer to the chief of police as "Pinhead" Sullivan, while the mayor is branded as "Czar Pratt."

Up to noon only eleven street orators had been arrested. Strict orders have been issued by Police Commissioner Tuerke that every convicted prisoner shall be given a bath, and if they refuse to bathe themselves then in order to add to the sanitation of the city they shall be forcibly bathed by officers and trustees.

Councilman Resists

In the crowd that followed Crane and his captors down the street was Councilman John Gray, who did not move fast enough to satisfy an officer. The latter shoved him ahead with no gentle touch, whereat Gray angrily exclaimed, "I'm a councilman, officer, I'd have you understand."

"I don't care who you are, move along," retorted the officer, and Gray moved. Earlier in the day eleven arrests were made. In police court Justice Mann disposed of fifty-nine cases, sentencing the majority of them to thirty days terms in jail with rock pile labor. The bread and water diet for those who have been sentenced and refuse to work is beginning to have an effect, and there are signs of weakening.

Noted Educator Dies

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Nov. 5.—William Torrey Harris, former United States commissioner of education, died here tonight. Mr. Harris' work in educational lines gained for him international recognition.

CURTISS WILL FLY AEROPLANE IN LOS ANGELES

SUCCESS OF GREAT AVIATION WEEK ASSURED

DICK FERRIS IN COMMUNICATION WITH FAMOUS AERIALISTS

Bleriot, Latham, Lambert, Farnham and Other Leading Aviators Will Make First Appearance in America

A TENTATIVE impetus to the famous aviation week planned by Dick Ferris was given last night by the assurance that Glenn H. Curtiss, the famous American aviator, will be one of the exhibitors and contestants at the local "meet."

"I have wired the necessary guarantee of \$10,000 and 'closed' with the representatives of Mr. Curtiss," announced Mr. Ferris last evening. "I have received word by telegraph that this noted flyer will participate in the great week of aerial flights.

"Today I cabled following prior communications with Bleriot, who crossed the English channel and started the Eiffel tower; Farnham, who won his niche of fame at Rheims; Fournier, the great French aviator; and Latham, whose monoplane feats have been epochal. Probably all of these, to judge from the present basis of communications, will be seen in Los Angeles this winter. Other more or less prominent aviators are among those who are anxious to aid in the great public demonstration.

"Before announcing to the public the exact date of the exhibits or the complete details of the proposition I may give a reason for the secrecy (if so it may be called) that I have maintained. It is because of the outside competition. Egypt, for instance, through the steamship companies that touch there with tourists, has been overzealous to secure such a big aviation week. In technical phrase, there has been sounded out 'the surprise of the Sphinx'; the comparisons between the days of the pyramids and the era of the Wrights are being made. Then there is now a great city in the United States that has not been busy raising anywhere from \$200,000 to \$250,000 with the intention of giving the aviation week a grander next summer under the cap contest for the emblem worn this past summer by Curtiss and offered as prize in the city of Los Angeles. The inducements in a financial and climatic way.

"It is for this reason that I have kept my own counsel, so far as possible and expedient. Now with Curtiss 'signed,' I feel that we have got matters to a tangle.

"It has been suggested to me that I abandon the idea of getting world famous aviators to the city. The week required is large at the present time and that we hold an aviation week with perhaps some noted American aerialists and a number of local aviators and machines. This I have absolutely refused to do. The net result would be a local affair attracting only local interests, whereas the greater plan will have not only the vast interest that will be held out to Los Angeles, but it will furthermore advertise to the entire world the midwinter conditions in this vicinity and at the same time bring to the city thousands upon thousands who would not otherwise come here. Southern California—the place where aviation tests may be held in winter months—will be heralded around the globe—will be a topic of daily conversation to those unfortunate enough not to come here but who will follow the airship flights through the newspapers and magazines. Those who do come will spend their hundreds of dollars; those who do not will read the stories and come the following year.

"It is my proposal to make aviation week a big civic project, and such an event that will add to the glory and fame of Los Angeles. I am going to have it a grand success, a big general interest in the scientist and interest from the curious, and interest from the wondering—that it will attract to us a vast horde of outsiders. It is going to be something that will write a chapter in the history of air flight.

"My plan is to have a citizens' committee of ten representative business men, brokers and bankers to assume the sponsorship for this work. I have proposed that a stock company be organized and that each share be sold to the general public, each share entitling the holder to two tickets of admission.

"This plan makes the project one of and for the general public. The stock not only has two admission tickets, worth more than his one share, but in addition he is a member of a corporation that will prove a big dividend company. At Rheims the first week's receipts amounted to \$375,000.

MRS. JOHN JACOB ASTOR'S DIVORCE PAPERS READY

NEW YORK, Nov. 5.—The papers in the suit for divorce which Mrs. John Jacob Astor is reported to have brought against her husband are now complete and were turned over today by Referee Young to counsel for both principals. It is reported the papers recommend divorce in favor of Mrs. Astor. The custody of the daughter, Alice, 7 years old, is said to have been given to Mrs. Astor, while Colonel Astor, it is reported, will be given the custody of the son, William Vincent, 17 years old. The papers will be submitted to the court and the decree made public.