

LOS ANGELES HERALD

ISSUED EVERY MORNING BY THE HERALD CO.

THOMAS E. GIBBON, President and Editor.

Entered as second class matter at the postoffice in Los Angeles, California, under postoffice number 10211. The only Democratic newspaper in Southern California receiving full Associated Press reports.

Founded Oct. 2, 1878. Thirty-sixth Year. Chamber of Commerce Building.

Phones—Sunset Main 8000; Home 10211. 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.

RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION WITH SUNDAY MAGAZINE Daily, by mail or carrier, a month, \$1.50

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.

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Population of Los Angeles 327,685

CLEAR, CRISP AND CLEAN



VESTIGIA NULLA RETRORSUM

Evidently the governor of Nevada is not going to play to the galleries.

This would have been a good Fourth for congress to celebrate by firing the Cannon.

There will still be more interest in the news from Sagamore Hill than from Beverly.

Margaret Illington is to return to the stage as a star in—but this is no press agent's column.

The mere presence of Theodore Roosevelt in the country has seemed to put some courage into Taft.

The continued silence of Roosevelt proves that he is in favor of the conservation of political opinions.

We should think a woman who bought one of those new bee-hive hats would feel that she had been stung.

The only expression of opinion Colonel Roosevelt is willing to stand for at present is that The Outlook is very good.

There are still a few days for J. J. J. to observe with possible profit the art of Coming Back as exemplified by T. R.

Official Ballinger decision Saturday. Having made up their minds, the people won't have to go through that formality.

They are going to crown King George on May 24, 1911. Meantime he can practice balancing the thing on his head gracefully.

The telescopes of the country are leveled on Los Angeles this week. What will they see when the smoke of battle dissipates?

Instead of taking an automobile trip tomorrow, turn your car over to the good government forces to use for Stewart and Whiffen.

Don't be content with voting yourself; make it your business to see that some friend, inclined to be lethargic, gets out and votes.

We expect to see the ocean crossed by an aeroplane when gasoline supply stations have been erected along the way about 200 miles apart.

The Pullman company is not particularly interested in race suicide, but it is making a strong fight against the order to reduce its berth rate.

France talks of erecting a monument to J. Pierpont Morgan. He already has several in this country in the form of steel trusts, shipping trusts, etc.

Appropos of Healy and Houghton (to paraphrase one of Lincoln's epigrams): For those who like that kind of councilmen, that is the sort of councilmen they would like.

With the deposed park watchmen it is "off again, again, Finnegan."

The Sunset company's injunction means that they think talk is likely to become too cheap.

If you have any civic pride as part of a city with a great destiny, remember that if Los Angeles votes to return to the Healy-Houghton kind of government it will be blazoned to the country in a thousand large type headlines on Friday.

The City Hall Sale

THE HERALD dislikes to disagree with our honorable city council upon any matter of city administration because we know that all the members of the council are inspired by the most earnest desire to serve the best interests of the city in every way. At the same time we cannot believe that the best interests of the city will be served by selling the present city hall just now and embarking upon the construction of a new city hall on the Temple block property recently acquired by the city.

If the city should enter upon the scheme of building a new city hall at the present time it would mean that some additional money must be raised in some way. Until the water and electric power of the Owens river aqueduct are turned into sources of income rather than sources of expense, as they are at the present time, and until the city begins to receive some return for the investment that it is making in San Pedro harbor we do not believe that any additional financial burden should be assumed.

Within two years' time the aqueduct should be a source of large income to the city, and when that time has arrived then the city can undertake the matter of providing itself with a new municipal home.

Furthermore, even if the city had at the present time in its treasury all the money required to build any kind of municipal building necessary to accommodate all of its offices we would not feel that it would be good business policy to enter upon the construction of a new municipal building. It is the hope and belief of all our citizens that the next two or three years will witness a consolidation of the city and county governments.

We are fully in favor of an administrative center around which shall be grouped all buildings accommodating public officials, whether of the United States, the state, county or city governments. But we do not believe that now is the time to enter upon the construction of a new building for the city; first, because we have not the money to devote to it; second, because we do not know exactly what we shall want, and shall not know until the consolidation of the city and county governments has been brought about, and third, because if the scheme is entered upon after the completion of the aqueduct, and that enterprise has been changed from a financial burden to a financial asset, producing a large income, the city can undertake and carry out its improvements upon a scale very much more extensive, and therefore more worthy of what the city of Los Angeles will be, than can or should be done at the present time.

We advise our readers to vote against the sale of the city hall.

Six Months of Good Government

WITH a recollection in mind of the political upheaval of last year and the determination, as expressed in the expulsion of the Harpers and Heals from office, of the voters of Los Angeles to eschew national party lines in the election of city officials and place the government of city affairs in the hands of the best available men, it is impossible to escape the conclusion that the vote on Thursday of this week will be one of confidence or lack of confidence in the administration of Mayor Alexander and the others chosen to act with him.

The unblushing attempt of Healy and Houghton, who as members of former councils betrayed their trust, to get back into power makes the issue clear. No two men could have come forward who would more definitely represent the old regime, with its subservience to corporations, its Tammany political methods and its alliance with the most immoral elements in the community. When two such men ask the suffrage of a city that well remembers their part in bringing disgrace on Los Angeles and in seeking to give away to a corporation the river bed franchise without a penny of remuneration (worth at the least estimate \$1,000,000), they invite the voters to condemn at the polls the administration of Mayor Alexander and to deny him, the association of two sterling business men, Mr. Stewart and Mr. Whiffen, whom he has asked the community to send to the council to uphold his hands.

It is clear, then, that support of Healy and Houghton means repudiation of the present administration. Does it deserve it? Is it entitled to the continued confidence of the public on the record it has made in its six months' incumbency? No administration could clean house as this one has without creating thereby a small army of detractors, and it cannot be denied that the "knockers" have been busy, both openly and covertly, trying to foment dissatisfaction and create the impression that Mayor Alexander has "done nothing." All the old machine crowd are against him anyway. It is among the other kind that it is Hart, James Slauson, C. O. Hawley, W. C. Patterson, Parley M. Johnson, sought to gain recruits by spreading suspicion of the motives and dissatisfaction with the results of the Good Government regime.

Six short months is not a fair trial of any management that had first to clear the decks of encumbrances before getting down to executive and administrative work along original lines. But can the charge of failure, made by its enemies, be met? This question is so admirably answered in an article in the current issue of the Pacific Outlook that it deserves the widest reading, and we give here some of the conclusions reached by that journal.

In the first place Mayor Alexander's appointees are declared to be the best set of men ever asked to participate in any local city government. To mention only a few these names are given: Major H. T. Lee, Judge Charles Silent, J. B. Lippincott, John R. Haynes, W. D. Stephens, H. W. O'Melveny, M. H. Newsmark, Meyer Lissner, A. A. Hubbard, Gen. G. H. Burton, Stoddard Jess, F. J. Charles Wellborn, and this is a very incomplete list of a personnel that has created a new spirit in civic affairs that is calling the best and ablest men of the community to the public service.

The deposing of Dishman as chief of police and the appointment of Galloway are mentioned as acts of the police commission that are worthy of praise. It is too soon to pass upon the new chief's record, but it is certain that there has been a vast improvement in the morale of the force and a better enforcement of the law than in years. The ill-treatment of prisoners has been abolished and the police station is no longer the filthy, unsanitary hole that it was. The police commission is notoriously on the side of law and order and of proper control of the liquor business. The brewery trust, which formerly owned most of the saloons by a secret understanding, has been put out of business and permits are granted in order of filing.

The park commission has begun on a plan for the entire reconstruction of our parks on a modern and practical basis. A new superintendent has been chosen, Frank Sherer, who is an expert landscape engineer and architect. The entire park business and government, which was most antiquated and ineffective, is being overhauled and rehabilitated.

The fire commission opened up the fight on the loan shark and persisted in the campaign until it achieved a victory where defeat had been the lot of every previous administration. Chief Lips was deposed and the place filled by A. J. Eley, a man of tried efficiency.

The library board accepted the resignation of Mr. Lummis and elected in his place Purd B. Wright, an experienced, professional librarian of national repute.

The harbor commission has made an exhaustive study into the conditions at the harbor that were unfavorable to commerce, and has recommended to council a number of changes, particularly against overcharges to vessels, which will be adopted. This commission has charge of the litigation now under way for the deliverance of the inner harbor from corporate control and of the plans for its physical development. The people have just voted \$3,000,000 of bonds for this work.

The utilities commission, although entering a new field, has amply demonstrated its usefulness. Forty-five matters were referred to it from council, of which twenty-three were franchises. The matter of transfers was investigated and twenty new ones added to the list. Fifteen crossings have been protected, either by flagmen or gates. Complaints to the number of ninety-five have been investigated. Regular conferences are held between the commission and the traffic men of the various railways, with a view to working out a comprehensive system to avoid grade crossings. A thorough investigation was made into the lighting, water and telephone companies and rates were established for the consideration of council. If the lower lighting rates are adopted by the voters there will be a saving of about \$200,000 a year.

The tax collector has rearranged his accommodations and his office force in such a fashion as to do away almost entirely with the long lines of waiting people that used formerly to stretch out into the hall. Outside collectors were dispensed with at considerable saving of expense. In fact, up to date, in the matter of cost of collection, there is a reduction from 7-13 mills to 5-3-4 mills, or 20 per cent. As the total involved is about four and a half million dollars, a saving of 1.6 mills per dollar is well worth while.

The city treasurer handles over \$30,000,000 a year now as against \$10,000,000 five years ago, but there has been no increase in the office force or expense. This office is kept open one night in the week to pay off six hundred day laborers who are paid weekly under the new administration. If they were paid in



the day time they would average a loss of three hours of work, which would amount to \$2000 a month.

Possibly in no department in the city have more changes taken place than in the auditor's office, and nowhere were reforms more needed. The office was clogged with unnecessary red tape. In this way labor has been diminished all along the line and the incessant demand for more help has ceased. On the other hand it has been possible to make out weekly pay rolls for the city laborers instead of monthly.

Mayor and council have worked harmoniously together, neither seeking political capital at the expense of the other. A number of positions were abolished, such as city forester, five park watchmen, outside license collectors, city messenger, clerk to health board, second police surgeon, etc., and no extra expenditures were allowed. A committee of council has been studying the salary list of the city hall with a view to making reductions where possible, and it will report for the new budget.

Acting under the advice of the city engineer this council has compelled the street railways to construct substantial paving under their tracks and to put in the flat, grooved rail. It has revised the speed ordinance and the traffic ordinance. It has compelled the construction of good streets in the new tracts added to the city. Accepting a plan worked out by the auditor and treasurer and a committee from the fire commission, this council has put a stop to the loan shark robbery by which several thousand men in the city's employ were regularly bled for money advanced. Salaries are paid promptly and labor is paid by the week, and the city hall kept open at night to make this possible.

The council has many projects in hand, such as revision of the liquor laws, cutting down the size of billboards, etc., which will be acted upon later. A charter revision committee, appointed by this council, is at work on a series of necessary charter amendments.

To this it may be added, as no mean consideration, that the city has been advertised to the world as one of the few large American communities run absolutely without graft or partnership with evil business. This is without a great deal to a city like Los Angeles, that is reaching out for new population and new investors.

This is a record which any administration may be justly proud to have accomplished in six months. It completely belies the detractions of self-seekers and those who have necessarily been offended in effecting betterments, and merits the continued confidence of the voters.

Such confidence can be expressed by the election of Mr. Stewart and Mr. Whiffen to the city council.

SUSTAIN THE LICENSE ORDINANCE

OUR citizens should vote to sustain the license ordinance. This ordinance represents the first effort ever made by the city council of this city to establish a license ordinance upon the just and scientific principle of basing the amount of license paid upon the amount of business done. Heretofore the license ordinances of the city have been so arranged as to make the burden heaviest upon those least able to bear it. In other words, the small businesses of the city paid much greater license fees than did the larger businesses. The license ordinance as passed by the council and submitted to the people at this election does away with this inequality and injustice, and comes infinitely nearer being a thoroughly just and equitable measure than has ever been attempted in the city before. The grading of the licenses so that they will increase with the amount of business done will also increase the income of the city from that source.

Every good citizen should by all means vote to sustain the license ordinance.

A full vote tomorrow means the election of Stewart and Whiffen. In the lethargy of the believers in a business administration lies the only hope of the Healy-Houghton crowd.

By voting early you will greatly aid the good government workers tomorrow. Their work will be doubled if they have to worry in the afternoon whether you must be sent for.

Archie Roosevelt is credited with this: "What sort of a man is your father?" somebody asked the boy. "Oh," said Archie, "he's this kind of a man: If he went to a wedding he would want to be the bride, and if he went to a funeral he would want to be the corpse."

The report that the Hamburg-American Steamship company purposes to establish between New York and Boston a commercial Zeppelin air line may be classed as "important if true." We are inclined to believe that the company will think several times before doing so, in view of the second collapse of Zeppelin's aerial dreams yesterday.

As Others See Us

How does San Francisco expect to pull off a great world's fair when it couldn't even put through a pugilistic mill?—Jacksonville Union.

Governor Gillet asks "What is a prize fight?" It is a drawing in which the capital prize is a moving picture concession.—Philadelphia Telegraph.

It is said California had to choose between the fair or the fight, and the governor regarded a fair in the bush worth two fights in the hand.—Houston Post.

Nat Goodwin bought a California orange orchard for his last wife. He is convinced that he made a mistake in not giving her a lemon orchard.—Wichita Eagle.

So far as senoritas are concerned, it is hard to see that New Orleans has any advantage over San Francisco in urging its claims for that Panama exposition.—Omaha Bee.

Jeffries can now write to the maker of the Gillette safety razor that his experience with a Gillette has shown that it is perfect in its action.—Savannah Press.

The colonel's son will be established in California just in time to be elected United States senator. What matters if he does lack something of the constitutional age limit?—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The strong arm of the law, it appears, is going to prove powerful enough to knock out singly and collectively, the pugilists who have been planning to hold fistie contests in the state of California. With the weight of the constituted authorities back of it, it can strike an effective blow that cannot well be dodged or side-stepped.—Christian Science Monitor.

PUBLIC LETTER BOX

TO CORRESPONDENTS—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.

URGES VOTERS TO REFUSE TO COMPROMISE ON RATES

Editor Herald: It is amusing to read the communications from the Edison Electric company to the voters of Los Angeles. Voter, beware, and vote for what is right and just.

Take no hot air story for facts, but deal to them what they ask as far as it is just to you. The company proposes to split the difference. Every voter surely knows what the difference is between 4 cents and 9 cents. Four cents is what the Edison Electric company is furnishing light for at Pasadena.

The council gave the Edison company three-fourths the difference and asks one-fourth for the people. Now the good lighting company has the cheek to ask the people to split the one-fourth.

Pasadena has the same kind of voters as Los Angeles, uses the same kind of electricity and pays the same kind of money.

Will the Edison company please tell why the voters of Pasadena should have electricity at 4 cents a kilowatt hour and the voters of Los Angeles pay 8 or 9 cents? CITIZEN. Los Angeles, June 26.

URGES FIVE-CENT LIGHT INSTEAD OF COMPROMISE

Editor Herald: How is it that the people's own friends, the Good Government forces—aye, even our beloved Herald itself—show such a weak back over this lighting rate question? Here is a corporation literally wallowing in millions of crazy hero-worshippers, not one of whom can tell of one act of our Teddy's which was of benefit to the people; and just to think, if somebody should happen to stumble on to something he has really done, poor Val might himself join the ranks. "Ain't it awful, Mabel! Let's all keep still, at least until Val brushes the cobwebs out of his garret; for until then I fear it would be useless to speak." E. P. HASKELL. Montebello, June 22.

MESERVE'S CANDIDACY

(Pacific Outlook.)

It is really a relief at last to find some one in the machine crowd possessed of enough horse sense to meet the present exigency with frankness and point to a way out for the faithful. It is E. A. Meserve, Esq., of Los Angeles, and he announces his intention of entering the direct primary for United States senator. Now, we are not the least little bit. He is of, by and for the machine. If elected to the senate he will represent the people with his voice and the interests with his vote. He is a stand-going partisan, will be a thorough-going partisan on the tariff, and will tie the state up in a neat little package and hand it over to Aldrich or his successor—exactly as Flint and Perkins have done. But for all that he is entitled to our admiration as one who knows politics when he sees it, and who rises to a great emergency like a true sport.

In his opening statement he denounces the Southern Pacific, that of that, friends; think hard, and let it sink in!

For some time the machine has been exhibiting a bad case of guttles. Nobody knows what to do, but all have been doing it! Tired at last of running around in circles, they seem to have collapsed into a blue funk. Ask any machine man what to do, and he'll tell you, and he gives you either Johnson or Bell. If you suggest Curry, he wince; Anderson, he grins; Stanton, he roars with laughter. Thus far the campaign has been managed by Herin and Parker. Their system of doing politics is to get all the delegates fixed and then hold a convention. After that it's a game into the grand old party, and the problem is simple. Give them a direct primary, however, and an honest expression of the will of the people, and they are in. It happens that the road has in its employ an attorney with a large weather eye on politics, Judge McKinley, an able man and a fair-minded one. He can't ignore the issue of the camp of good citizenship, and he knows enough about the people to know when they are in earnest. We do not pretend to have any information as to what has actually happened, but we can easily imagine a conversation between the judge and Mr. Meserve something like this:

Meserve—But don't you see what kind of a fix I am in? Here is Johnson talking anti-corporation talk everywhere, and big crowds come to hear him. I can't possibly ignore the issue that is foremost in every voter's mind, can I?

McKinley—Certainly not.

Meserve—Well, then, what? If I go into it at all, I must talk against the Corporation, you know.

McKinley—Of course, and that is the thing to do. And while you are at it, do it hard. It's good politics—your only chance.

Meserve—That is the way it looked to me. But will he stand for it—the Chief?

McKinley—Mr. Herrin? Sure. He expects it. I took it up with him a week ago.

Meserve—Gee! What a relief. I can turn cool then, and warm up. Can I call names like Johnson does?

McKinley—You can cuss all you like. I am used to it, and indeed I have scarcely been myself since the Times came over to our side and quit abusing me. But go gently with Walter. The poor fellow is so sore over this ghastly fiasco of the governorship that he writes when you merely glance in his direction.

Meserve—Then it's general denunciations for me, and the Southern Pacific? John Johnson, things will begin to sizzle when I hit the trail. (Exit with head up.)

McKinley (thoughtfully)—Did he say sizzle?

Thus are great political principles brought into being. From this time forth, like enough, everybody in sight will be imitating the Southern Pacific. Before the campaign is over Stanton may note the fact that it is raining and come into the house with the others.

A bit later will not in the least degree impede their enthusiasm. It is always the new convert that displays the most fiery zeal.

Nevertheless, to E. A. Meserve belongs the credit of making the first correct diagnosis of the organization's ailment and providing a remedy. Or, to put the case in terms of his own profession, he advises his client to plead guilty and throw himself on the mercy of the court.