

LOS ANGELES HERALD

THOMAS E. GIBBON, President and Editor. Entered as second class matter at the postoffice in Los Angeles, OLDEST MORNING PAPER IN LOS ANGELES. Founded October 4, 1875. Thirty-eighth Year. Chamber of Commerce Building. Phone—Sunset Main 3009; Home 10213. The only Democratic paper in Southern California receiving full Associated Press reports.

Population of Los Angeles.....319,198

Sometimes the thing our life misses helps more than the thing that it gets. —Cary.

LET THE HOUSE BE FREE

IT is amusing how some of the standpat Republicans are holding up their hands in horror of the fate that is sure to overtake the nation as a result of what they are pleased to call the "experiment" of really having the house control its own affairs instead of leaving that delicate task to the hands of an unbridled speaker. Of course it is a foregone conclusion that a committee of the house of representatives will name the committees of that body. That is a victory for public freedom that was won when insurgents and Democrats kicked the pedestal out from under "Czar" Cannon. But wherein is the experiment in the practice that has been in vogue in the senate ever since its foundation? Jealousy of the first vice president was the cause of it, and the senate has kept the naming of its own committees in its hands ever since. Nobody ever heard of a vice president who was a "czar," not even the forceful Roosevelt. The senate never could be induced to surrender this advantage to any one man. The senate method has worked well under all circumstances. When partisan majorities have been large and fierce the committees have reflected their spirit and numbers. When feeling has subsided there have been accommodations as to the committees that responded to the conditions. When the senate has been evenly divided or when men not closely affiliated with either of the great parties have held the balance of power the committees have been disposed of without partisanship and presidents pro tem. have been chosen chiefly for personal reasons. To call such a system an experiment is to juggle with the facts and puts the standpatters in a position of trying to make out that the nation is a naughty child with a plaything it does not know how to handle. The senate has no packed standing committees and it governs itself. There is no reason why the house should not be just as free.

SCRANTON SOUNDS A WARNING

SCRANTON is a coal town in the anthracite region of Pennsylvania. It came into unpleasant notoriety in the '70s as being the home and headquarters of the "Mollie Maguire." Most of the members of that organization who were captured were hanged, but the Tribune-Republican has published there. Possibly the editor of it had his ears frosted in the recent blizzards and is peevish. Anyhow, he is telling all his readers that Los Angeles is simply a real estate boom, although he admits this city has grown from 102,479 to 319,198 in ten years. Out here we think that is enough people to make a real boom on a solid foundation. But then, of course, we don't know what Scranton demands in a boom to make it real.

And the worst of it is the language he uses—such as "frisky malevolence," "megacephalous" and "mixobarbaric." If we ever find out what they all mean we intend to grow angry, but we urge forbearance on the part of the public until we can get a competent word plumber to unjoint them and see what they really are.

Possibly the editor was interrupted in writing his "piece" by the agent for the dictionary who seized it for non-payment of installments, for he gets right down to the ordinary kind of Pennsylvania English and cites a letter from B. R. Leach, who tells him that Southern California is a delusion and a snare. He even goes so far as to say that the best crop in Los Angeles is the tourists.

Right there is where we have to agree with him. They are. Just let that Scranton man come here and see the tents of thousands of them who have come here as tourists to remain here as residents. If they went back at all it was only to bring their families.

But of course the Scranton editor doesn't know, so he goes on to say that 90 per cent of the land in Southern California is not productive enough to be profitable and that the inhabitants are committing suicide to escape their misery, and then he adds:

Thousands, believing in advertisements published in newspapers and scattered through the east, have sold their comfortable homes and farms or have retired from business and located in California, to their sorrow. The lands purchased have been mostly unimproved desert tracts with no accessible supply of water. Hundreds have lost their all and have faced starvation. The wives and daughters have been forced to go out to work while husbands and sons work on half time at any employment that could be secured. Mr. Leach claims that he has conversed with men who, with tears streaming from their eyes, have told him how they were drawn to California by fake advertisements and had lost all that they had earned in the east. The writer states that but for the fact that he was cautious and did not invest upon first coming to California he would have been in the same boat with thousands of others who have been practically made paupers by the misrepresentations of the land boomers.

The editor of the Tribune-Republican may be a very excellent man and even speak kindly of his immediate neighbors after he has eaten his Christmas mince pie flavored with California raisins and something stronger that also comes from the grape, but we feel certain Mr. Leach must have investigated Los Angeles about the time Dr. Cook was "discovering" the north pole.

CHRISTMAS BRINGS ITS JOYS

CHRISTMAS is here and we are all happy with the possible exception of those who cannot get home for the day, at least. It is the one day of all the year that is the carnival of the fireside and reaches its greatest joy in the family gathering. There is a charm to the day that no other holiday possesses and a feeling that makes mankind more akin.

In the giving of presents in the home and seeing the joy they bring there is balm for all the worry and the trials. Even the more sordid notion that the day is only the climax of a shopping mania falls before the spirit of the day.

Christmas also is the only universal festival of the civilized world, and is the day when all creeds and beliefs merge closer into one.

THE HERALD'S CHRISTMAS EDITION

THE HERALD today issues an edition of which it is justly proud; an edition that The Herald believes will appeal to the people of Southern California as something far above the average in journalistic accomplishment and which will prove worthy of careful perusal and preservation for future reference.

The story of the growth of Los Angeles from a sleepy little pueblo to a city of more than 320,000 population is indeed a wonder story, and in chronicling the giant strides of this now marvelous city The Herald desires to congratulate its readers on the fact that they live in and are a part of this great community which is astonishing the world.

AVIATORS SHOW NEW THRILLS

THE crowds that gathered at Dominguez field yesterday for the opening of the aviation meet were treated to thrills such as they never had anticipated and far beyond the wonders that filled them with amaze last year.

Hoxsey made his promised dash for the world's altitude record and stayed up in the air an hour and a half, only coming down when his gasoline was exhausted. His zigzag sweeps back to earth gave a remarkable demonstration of the perfect control that has been acquired over the aeroplanes in one short year.

The crowd was not so large as on the opening day of last year, but it was bigger than was expected on the last shopping day before Christmas. The weather was perfect and the double holiday of today and tomorrow is expected to break all records for attendance.

All the aviators expressed their enthusiasm over aviation conditions here and are sure that the Los Angeles gathering will surpass all the world's aviation meets of the past.

The management is to be congratulated on the perfect arrangements.

TO NEW YORK WITHOUT STOP

THE announcement that the Harriman lines propose to run through trains to New York from the coast is one that will be hailed with delight, but it is a practice that ought to have been put into effect long ago. The connection from Chicago to New York is to be made over the New York Central lines via the Lake Shore.

The west always has been handicapped in the way of mail service and travel from the east because a day was lost in Chicago. The best trains from the east all arrive there in the morning, but the passengers are not able to make a western connection until the evening of that day.

What the public service requires is trains that will run direct through from coast to coast in both directions without stop or change. This will practically save a day in the running time.

Under the new plan for west-bound service the Chicago-Northwestern will be used between Chicago and Omaha and the Union Pacific lines westward. At Granger, Wyo., the cars for points north and south are to be switched, those for Los Angeles coming over the Salt Lake road.

This innovation is sure to result in increased traffic and will work a great benefit to Los Angeles, as one of the principal objections raised by the easterners against coming here was the annoying delay and the trouble of transfer in Chicago.

Secretary of the Navy Meyer now wants to settle a \$1,000,000 coal bill on Uncle Sam on that same old war scare. The foreign foe furor seems to be the best paying industry in Washington.

Can it be classed as murder to kill the house of lords when so many of its members have been undergoing a process of painless embalming in those many years?

Have you ever been forced to listen to the airy persiflage between an "almost" and a "nearly" humorist on the smoking end of a street car? Isn't it awful?

We suggest that the Carnegie peace commission should find old Mr. "Unrest" in the Balkan states and bribe him with a pension as a starter.

Mrs. Lillian Ashley-Baldwin-Turnbull and the Duchess de Choiseul-Praslin can now start a society for the prevention of forged love notes.

Watch the lot of converts that will rally to the pure tobacco crusade when husbands begin smoking the Christmas cigars their wives bought.

Lieutenant Sebastian's appointment as chief of police is likely to make even this climate uncomfortable for a lot of undesirables.

Of course we all agree with Dr. N. Allen Starr that we are working too hard, but the average man can't make his boss believe it.

Ranchers will unite to fight the pure tobacco crusade because it would lessen the demand for alfalfa.

That Toledo biscuit fire proves that the food cracker is almost as dangerous as the "fire" variety.

Most of us will be willing to accept presents even if they don't arrive until tomorrow.

Christmas brought one blessing. Congress had to adjourn for a few days.

The problem of today is what to do with useless Christmas presents.

Merry Christmas!



THE LOS ANGELES PLAN

Editor Herald: Former President Roosevelt says: "Lease the Alaska coal mines, lease the oil fields, lease the undeveloped water power of the mountain fastnesses of California, Montana, Idaho, Arizona and New Mexico to the corporations."

It is almost impossible to grasp the magnitude of a deal so stupendous in its results. Such a scheme would entangle us still more in the meshes of the money power and would be a rank injustice to the nation. The cry for justice is rising from the rank and file of our people and must be heeded.

Does Roosevelt think the people so blind as not to be able to penetrate his sophisms?

Why not apply the Los Angeles plan, the issuance of bonds for construction purposes, as in the case of the Owens river aqueduct? Realizing that the foundations upon which a commonwealth must be built are water, light, heat and power and that the last three are embodied in embryo in the first, the people have held within their own grasp this latent energy; and three years hence when the aqueduct is completed the last three will have been developed and the people of Los Angeles will own their lighting, power and heating plant and will no longer be at the mercy of the corporations for these utilities.

They will then be in position to invite manufacturing interests here with the inducement of cheap power, or what would be a still greater advantage they can build and operate their own manufacturing, and this, we believe, will be the ultimate result.

But Roosevelt's plan would have been to lease the Owens river to the corporations and then being "full of fight" would fight them from court to court for the next half century in order to control them.

Why not the state with its undeveloped resources try the Los Angeles plan? Let the state issue bonds and develop its own water power, its oil and mineral land.

If the state may issue bonds, as is proposed, for the purpose of constructing automobile roads, why should it not issue bonds for the purpose of developing the water power of our mountains which would benefit all the people? And, again, if we can issue bonds for the construction of automobile roads, why not for the constructing of railroads? This would be the "Los Angeles plan" on a more extended scale.

But Roosevelt's line of reasoning would be to lease the public highways to the corporations, let them do the developing and then charge the people for the use of such roads.

Again, if Los Angeles may own and operate her water, lighting and power plants and the state may develop her water power, etc., why may not the nation develop the coal lands of Alaska and supply the people and battleships at the actual cost of labor, instead of turning the coal over to the Guggenheims and Rockefeller and pay to them exorbitant prices for that which the people already own?

Hampton's Magazine for June goes Roosevelt one better in his plea for corporate leasing. In its editorial notes (page 875) it says: "Lease the coal lands to the corporations, but let the nation build the railroads to the mines for the benefit of the corporations—own and operate the railroads, but let the corporations operate our coal mines."

"It is the last stand of the plutocracy—to retain their hold upon the people's resources. All these subterfuges are but the dying wail of a system which is tottering to its fall; for we have outlived it and like much other nineteenth

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Editor Herald: "The law is a sort of hocus-pocus science, that smiles in your face while it picks your pocket."—Macklin.

General Grant said that he knew of no method so effective to secure the respect of bad or obnoxious laws, as their stringent enforcement. The people of the United States—who have historically shaken off "the old man of the sea" whenever he has made himself burdensome on their backs, have again asserted themselves. The best friend of the people, President Taft, has professed valuable advice in his recommendation of careful enforcement now of the righteous laws already written on the statute books in order to ascertain their remedial qualities in practice and incidentally to discover if any of them prove to be the "hocus-pocus" variety, which, while full of smiling promise, are picking the pockets of the people.

Enforcement of the law is the salient point (as the evasion of any law breeds contempt for all law) and leads directly to development of repeal of impossible statutes—if they are thus developed—whose evasion breeds contempt of all law. Thus careful enforcement and observation of the effect of such general and specific action will be the beginning of a valuable educational epoch. If it should demonstrate that all the ills of the country cannot be cured by legislation it would be a progressive era and will be found to be the logical path of repeal of nonsensical, bad and obnoxious laws, if any are now on the statute books of the people. So that the people may in the procedure witness the legal justification of their recent antics in "kicking over the political traces" and dumping the handwagon, and a little time will tell whether special influence has written within the statute books any hocus-pocus laws for a patent and long-suffering people.

LINCOLN C. CUMMINGS, Brookline, Mass.

IT IS UNIVERSAL. A woman robbed a safe in Kansas City this week, which is a reminder that a woman with a hairpin can do almost anything.—Kansas City Journal.

SCARES NOBODY. The St. Louis Times makes the ominous display to presidential aspirants that 1912 totals just thirteen. But who's afraid of signs?—Omaha Bee.

FEEDING THROUGH THE NOSE. "An egg will give you the strength of a pound of meat."—Dr. Wiley. Well, some eggs have it to give.—Memphis Commercial-Appal.

LIMIT OF CRANIOLGY. Bone grafting is now a pronounced success, but no way of converting a bonehead into a bright and shining light has been discovered.—Toledo Blade.

ADDED TROUBLES. The defeated Republicans are doing a lot of worrying about the fearful task the Democrats have ahead of them. 'Twas ever thus.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

FROM HUGHES TO DIX. New York goes from one extreme to the other. The governor-elect of that state doesn't even wear a mustache.—Chicago Record-Herald.

THE HUNTING INSTINCT. There is a great rush for hunting permits. The tendency to kill something is not to be lulled even by the fee.—Philadelphia Ledger.

INVESTIGATE! Somehow or other it strikes us that the time to look into the titles of counts is before the marriage.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

CRIME IN INDIANAPOLIS. Between burglaries and violent assaults Indianapolis is getting to be a better town than ever to stay at home in o' nights.—Indianapolis News.

RATHER A PLATITUDE. "Fighting Bob" Evans says life in New York is worse than war. Why deal in platitudes?—Omaha Bee.

DREADFUL DREADNOUGHTS. Our two next are to be the biggest battleships ever. Get a move on you, John Bull. Are you listening, Kaiser Bill?—Newark News.

THE SHARP POINT OF VIEW. The express strike was a \$6,420,000 advertisement for the parcels post.—New York World.

The letter box department today will be found on pages 8 and 9 of this section.

THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE MERRITT BUILDING

Editor Herald: As a visitor in Los Angeles I have been very much surprised and considerably amused to see the attitude of the city council toward the project of Mr. Merritt to erect in your beautiful city a 22-story office building. If such an attitude should be taken by the city fathers of some of the "stand still" cities of the east it would not be surprising to an outside observer, but we have been educated to believe that Los Angeles was a city made up of progressive people. One of the most impressive features of San Francisco to the stranger is the Call building, from which the most comprehensive and beautiful view of the city can be obtained. Buildings of the character and nature of the Call building lend an air of stability and architectural wealth to any city. Such a building as the one proposed by Mr. Merritt would put Los Angeles in the Metropolitan class of cities.

Your city is a beautiful one and attractive to the tourist, but as any one will admit it looks now decidedly different from the older western cities. Two or three such buildings as the proposed Merritt structure could not but add value to your real estate and emphasize the importance of the city to the visitors who come here each year.

Los Angeles is destined unquestionably to be a great city, and these high office buildings will come sooner or later. It would seem to me a pity for this beautiful building not to be erected now, and I am surprised that your paper and other newspapers of the city do not make an aggressive fight by acting in some way to change the decision I am told your city council has made in the matter.

CHARLES A. POST.

ONE-CENT PIECES FOR THE WEST

(New York Sun)

The striking of more than a million cent pieces at the San Francisco mint in 1908 made a new record in the history of the United States mint and its branches, for never before since the coinage of pieces of this denomination was begun, in 1793, had such coins been struck anywhere but at the parent establishment at Philadelphia. As a matter of fact, no need for the making of coins of this denomination in the west presented itself until within recent years, as the demand for cent pieces was confined almost exclusively to the Atlantic and middle western states. In the west and southwest this minor coin has had no purchasing value, was not recognized and was seldom seen in circulation. Indeed, even at the present time there are many western localities in which cent pieces are not accepted.

In Colorado, for instance, if a person tenders a five-cent piece to a postmaster for two two-cent stamps he receives in exchange, together with his stamps, not a one-cent piece, but a one-cent postage stamp. There are no cent pieces in the money drawer of the postmaster, and he doesn't desire any. In a Denver store a certain commodity is quoted at, say, 17 cents a pound. The purchaser must take either 15 or 20 cents' worth. Nothing less than five cents' worth is sold. Apples may be four or five cents, but one apple is also five cents, just the same. Now the people of the Centennial state are going to have a chance of becoming acquainted with the little bronze cent, for it is the intention of the government to strike cent pieces at the new Denver mint.

California has had a little use for the cent as other parts of the west. For many years no coin of less denomination than 10 cents had a purchasing value there, and in the gold days nothing less than 25 cents would buy anything, miners frequently throwing a handful of small silver pieces out into the street as useless weight to carry, the "two-bits," or quarter, being the minimum current coin.

Times have changed and the people along the Pacific coast have been quicker to adopt the cent than those in the Rocky mountain district. Now the coin is used in such quantities that it has been found advisable to manufacture cents on the ground and thus save the expense of shipment across the continent from Philadelphia. For the calendar year of 1908 the United States mint report shows that \$11,150 worth of cents were struck at the San Francisco mint, and \$23,278,787 worth at Philadelphia.

Following the custom of placing a distinguishing mark upon the coin struck at the different mints, the new cent pieces made at the San Francisco and Denver mints will respectively bear the mint letters S and D.

A HEARTY LAUGH

Being the day's best joke from the news exchange.

Booker T. Washington, the negro educator, tells a story about a religious old darkey of his acquaintance who had his faith badly shaken. He was the sexton for a white church, and one afternoon as he was in front, sweeping the pavement, a sudden wind arose, tearing a piece of the cornice off and taking a few bricks out of the wall of the church. Realizing that a good run was better than a bad stand, the old man sought shelter in a saloon on the opposite side of the street.

Several minutes later a member of the church of which Uncle Isham was sexton came by. Noticing the old darkey when he emerged he remarked that he thought it an exceedingly strange place for one of the faith to seek shelter.

"Dat's so, sah," replied Uncle Isham, "I agrees wid yo'. But what's a man gwine ter do when de Lord begins ter frow bricks at 'im?"

"I wonder, boys, will dar come a time when All oder k'yars be built so fine? Wif speed, luxury and safety, she has no equal! Gas the sleepin' k'yars are built for the people.

Air ships may fly, autos may speed in race. But an electric fitted sleepin' k'yars surely sit. The pace, babies and the rev'nd folks surely. Am pleased while gidin' fru de tropic Land wif de smooth and ease.

Ah tell you de truth 'bout all this dope On a sleepin' k'yar, taint no joke; Wif porter like a tub on its bottom, Elf the goods, to build a reputation Or back to de woods.

See the eager, watchin' folks, and that Colored man; he am de private star. Dey can understand 'bout the top berth. And bottom, bein' alive with publicity. When it comes to handlin' human freight Wif most simplicity. —Odell Graham.