

THE PACIFIC Commercial Advertiser

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BAD MEN FOR TOOLS.

The one plea we hear in favor of the election of unworthy men on the Republican legislative ticket is that these men can be "handled." It seems to be thought better to elect rascals and ignoramuses to the Legislature and "handle" them than to elect honest and competent men who do not need handling and can bring to their duties the qualities of wisdom, integrity and conscientiousness.

It sickens men to whom Republicanism means something more than graft to hear this excuse of "handling" and to see what sort of nominees it has resulted in and what sort of a fame it has given the party. Already in four years the party of moral ideas has "handled" the Boyds, the Wrights, Kumalae, Enoch Johnson, C. Wilcox, C. Clark, Vivian Richardson, B. H. Brown, Judge Little, the Tramways combine and the Solid Thirteen. No wonder its hands need washing.

Think of Roosevelt and what he would say to filling up Congress with the graduates of county jails, saloons and gambling halls on the ground that he would find them easier to get along with than honest men who think for themselves. Think of asking him to approve the election of incompetents to Congress because it would be easier to lead them than men who have well-stocked minds and definite purposes of their own.

The Republican party, wherever it has permanently succeeded and been of use to the people, has been a party of high ideals. Even its most suspected of machine bosses in various States have not often cared to run counter to public opinion in the matter of unclean tickets; and where such ventures have been tried, the result as in Delaware under Addicks and in New York under Lou Payn, was seen in a political revolution.

THE SUBWAY TAVERN.

The Literary Digest has collected some expert opinions about Bishop Potter's Subway Tavern, which make good reading in the issue of Sept. 3. The Digest quotes the Prohibitionist New Voice (Chicago), several liquor journals, the Sing Sing prison Star of Hope, and "Mr. Dooley." The last-named authority, after discussing at length the claim that drink is "a necessary evil," reaches the conclusion that "if it's an evil to a man, it's not necessary; an if it's necessary, it's not an evil." The New Voice, which considers the new saloon a wolf in sheep's clothing, declares that in singing the doxology in such a place the bishop was "praising God for hell." The liquor journals, however, approve the enterprise heartily. The bishop may "meet with scorn and obloquy from unbalanced reformers," says Mida's Critic of the Wholesale Whisky and Wine Market (Chicago), "but he can afford to overlook these and go on his course serenely, content to suffer for his well-meant efforts." He represents, the same authority assures us, "the highest ideals of practical religion, sound ethics, and upright citizenship." But in The Star of Hope, published in Sing Sing prison, the editor in chief expresses the opinion that the new tavern, with its stamp of clerical approval, "must greatly increase drunkenness and its attendant crimes." He writes:

"The fact is, there have been more good lives spoiled in a single 'comfortable,' 'homelike,' 'respectable' saloon than in a score of dives. Prisons and jails are full of men who can exactly trace their present wretched estate to liquor, and perhaps a large majority of these can truthfully say that they never took a drink in a disreputable place. The vile haunts where liquor is sold are frequented by only the naturally depraved or those whose misery has been made complete in the 'respectable' saloon; but the 'swell' cafes, the 'old-fashioned' Henglish hings, the 'cozy' taverns, and 'poor men's clubs' are sought by those whose natural character is for decency, but who don't maintain such a character for a great while after trying up to the liquor habit.

"There can be no possible doubt of the sincere intention of the estimable gentlemen who advocated in so novel a manner a patronage of the Subway Tavern; but so far as consequences are concerned they might as well have been actuated by the basest of motives, for it is a self-evident proposition that the sanctified Subway Tavern will not at all diminish the number of people who drink and who drink until they can drink no more, but that, on the other hand, its consecration will be a license to very many heretofore abstemious persons, and it would seem certain that his seal of clerical approval upon a truly terrifying evil must greatly increase drunkenness and its attendant crimes.

"Every one is bound to look at all matters as they reflect his own condition, and when a man is serving a term of life imprisonment for a crime committed while rendered practically irresponsible by liquor—as is the case with some of our number—he can but wonder at the strangeness of things when he reads that our strenuous divine of New York unhesitatingly acknowledges that he takes a drink 'whenever he feels like it,' and another joins in the singing of the Doxology at the opening of a saloon."

Bonfort's Wine and Spirit Circular

COLLAPSE OF THE JURY SYSTEM IN HONOLULU.

The jury system of trial in Honolulu has practically collapsed. Murder upon murder is being committed and no jury can be had to try the persons accused.

Why is it? Until within a few years ago the jury trials of Hawaii were referred to by foreign jurists as being models of propriety, fairness and expedition. Now they are the exact opposite.

What is the reason? Judge Gear says that it is because of the new law relating to drawing of juries, the Jury Commissioners having failed to provide eligible men.

It is true that the Jury Commissioners have been most woefully negligent of their duties. Their method of selection of jurymen would have been as discriminating if they had used a horse rake as the methods actually used; but after all, the negligence of the Jury Commissioners is only an incidental matter.

To Judge Gear we say: "THOU ART THE MAN!" There are two systems of jury trial in vogue in the United States, which, for convenience, may be termed the Massachusetts and the California systems, respectively.

In the Massachusetts system, a speedy trial is sought; a fair jury is provided for; an interminable examination of jurors on irrelevant matters is not permitted; intelligence and reading about the case in the newspapers are not deemed a bar to sitting on the jury; and technical defenses not involving the merits of the case are given but scant consideration.

The result is justice, clean cut and decisive. Juries are procured easily, and of a higher order of intelligence; trials are short, and results are satisfactory as any under a jury system can be.

Under the California system, the exact reverse takes place upon every point.

The selection of a jury takes days and even weeks, and, as in the recent Jones case here, even then a jury cannot be had. This is not because a jury cannot in fact be obtained, but because the presiding judge has adopted the system of allowing intelligent jurors to be questioned and cross questioned ad infinitum until they are practically all eliminated "for cause," at an expense of time which exhausts the panel and the patience of the jurors.

When a jury is finally obtained, ignorant enough to have no ideas, or impecunious enough to make the jury fees an object, an interminable series of pettifogging quibbles, objections and exceptions begin, lasting for days and weeks.

Instead of sharply shutting off this systematic attempt to baffle the issue, and try the case on its merits, the judge joins and makes a mountain out of a molehill of obstruction and evolves all the technical pitfalls which waylay the feet of justice, which the attorney for the defense may forget, until rank murder goes unavenged, justice is put to scorn, the people lose faith in the law and the lynching spirit lifts its ugly head.

The California system of jury law, as now administered in Honolulu, is not intended to ascertain and does not ascertain whether a man charged with crime is guilty, and if guilty to punish him properly and adequately. It is a system intended to try and conjure up some technicality under which, by hook or by crook, an arraigned criminal may be acquitted whether he is guilty or not; and it amply accomplishes its purposes.

Judge Gear is not alone in imposing this iniquitous system on Hawaii. His fellow Circuit Judges are working along the same general lines, but he is the chief offender.

The reform of the jury system lies within the hands of the Circuit Judges, and it is but an evasion of responsibility and a negation of the facts to attempt to place the sole responsibility on the Jury Commissioners.

(New York) commends the bishop in the following editorial:

"It is all very well for the extremists to point to the evils of excessive drinking and to cry out against the use of alcohol in any form, but they leave out of consideration the fact that most men will drink, if not openly then in secret, if not in one place then in another. In fact, these very extremists have made the saloon of today what, in many cases, it unfortunately is. They have stigmatized the seller of liquors, they have placed embarrassing and prohibitive laws upon the statute books and have driven, in many localities, the sellers to a violation of law in order to supply an imperative demand which would find its supply, if not from them, then from some other source.

"Is it a cause for wonder then, that far-seeing men like Bishop Potter, who understand human nature, should endeavor to find some way to mitigate the evil or that they should lend themselves to a cause which they believe makes for the better; that they should try to surround the sale of alcoholic beverages with the most cheerful and least harmful conditions?" "It is our firm belief that if the saloon were a place where a man might take his family, where one found recreation and amusement while taking his drink, and where the surroundings were such as had a tendency to elevate and educate, there would shortly be no more complaint against the saloon from any responsible source. Our friends the prohibitionists thrive and wax strong upon the present evils of the saloon, and the surest way to discredit them is to eliminate these evils and toward this end the Subway Tavern, with the approbation of Bishop Potter, has taken a long step."

If anybody "handles" Carlos Long in or out of the Legislature it will probably be Clarence Ashford and John Colburn. Long is emphatically their man, and as they cannot get elected to the Legislature themselves they are naturally solicitous for Long to connect. Is there any reason why the voters of the Fourth District should share that solicitude? Wouldn't they be better suited with a competent citizen like C. J. Hutchins or Captain Campbell who would vote on all measures according to his conscience?

It is a wholesome sign of better politics that the scratcher is out in force. One hears of him on all sides. Wherever a group of reputable citizens meets, he can be found urging the necessity of voting for the best men. The movement to get rid of the boodlers, grafters and ignoramuses bids fairly to upset the machine program in both the Fourth and Fifth districts and create the best group of legislators, taken as a whole, which Oahu has contributed to the Legislature since the days of the Republic.

LYNCHING.

Fawaii has never yet had a lynching, and it never wants one.

The man who advocates lynching is an enemy to the commonwealth.

The microbe of lynching is more deadly than the plague and more infectious than a pest.

Lynching begins with the avenging of some atrocious crime, but once the example is set, a lesser degree of crime is considered sufficient provocation, until finally petty larceny has been deemed to justify lynching.

There have been occasions in frontier communities, where justice appeared to require summary action, there being no adequate machinery for securing it in any other way; but in no civilized country with organized courts is lynching justifiable, or otherwise than a menace and a disaster to the community in which it takes place.

Kumalae has been denied registration and on the same grounds—that of conviction of a felony—he cannot be legally elected to office. He is running for the Legislature on the Home Rule ticket.

Kumalae has mixed up identities. It was not the Board of Registry but the trial jury and judge who took away his civil rights.

WIFE'S MEAN TRICK ON HER HUSBAND.

George Adams has a good story to tell on himself regarding how he became an expert in the culture of tomatoes. Early in the season a friend gave Adams a few choice tomato plants, and he took them home with a view of determining how tall such vines could be made to grow and at the same time bear. He selected a place near the stump of a tree, and, although his wife protested because she had chosen the same place for a flower bed, Adams won over the protests and planted the vines. He never knew until yesterday, when he met a number of friends whom his wife invited to dinner, that she had substituted rag weed for the vines, and all summer Adams had nursed with care what he supposed were his choice tomato vines, and often wondered why they never blossomed and bore fruit. He had boasted that he had tomato vines at his home nine feet high.—Louisville Evening Post.

Official and Commercial Record contains all meeting notices and all corporation notices of every kind and description.

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