

THE PACIFIC COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER

WALTER G. SMITH EDITOR
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SETTLERS AND ROADS.

But it is useless to talk of getting the land to the people, or the people to the land, unless roads are provided by which settlers, homesteaders, occupiers, can get to the land, get building material to it for improvements, be able to live on it. Every appropriation made by the legislature for roads to government lands opened up or to be opened up, should be spent as soon as it efficiently can be in making the roads the legislature wanted made. Good faith with the homesteaders should be kept, and kept promptly. Where the legislature has made an appropriation for roads to homesteads, as in Palolo valley, the roads should be built as soon as may be—and no doubt they will—because it is a real and an essential part of the policy, which Acting Governor Atkinson has already done so much to forward, of getting the land to the people.—Star.

On the mainland the roads followed the settlers. When settlers came into the country they made roads inevitable, but before they came there was no one to build them. Here we have a building power, but it has been so rarely exercised in the opening up of raw land that very little settling has been done. Things are getting better now in the latter respect and one of the first fruits is a vigorous demand on the part of settlers who have gone on the Palolo tract without roads to have good highways built. One of the special pleaders is the managing editor of the Star—a strong force which is welcomed on the side of the small farmer.

Now, the point we wish to make for, perhaps the fiftieth time, is, that if enough settlers take up a given piece of land before roads are constructed they will work together until they get the highways they need. Such a community yields a powerful leverage of votes; by force of numbers and persistence of appeal it can get officials and legislatures to move. When one wants roads, first create a lobby of land owners and if one of them controls a paper, so much the better. Don't wait for the government to act first, as the man with a tin pail who sat down on a one-legged stool in the middle of a ten-acre lot waited for the cow to back up and be milked—the cow won't come.

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER.

A strictly judicial analysis of the article recently mothered and probably written by Miss Ida M. Tarbell in McClure's magazine, exclusively limited to the article itself, would result in presenting that gentleman to the world as one of its most just, completely balanced and most exemplary characters. The first enquiry that a capable judge would make would be the reason for the publication, which is stated by the writer to be that the enormous wealth of Mr. Rockefeller and his relations to business and to society not only suggest but require that he should be investigated.

This assumption, however, is not true. The canons of literature, in all ages and in all countries, exempt the personal conduct and motives, not involved in some pending question, of every conspicuous man from criticism during his lifetime or until a sufficient time has elapsed after his death to avoid the unnecessary wounding of the feelings of his relatives and contemporaries. This rule has the force of a principle. In the case of Mr. Rockefeller there was no real justification or excuse for the publication. Miss Tarbell, on her unsupported statement, charged him with having committed perjury a number of years ago. Presumably the charge is untrue, and, if it had been true, there was no proper opportunity to revive it, and it should have been left to the law, which had ample powers to deal with the matter. Miss Tarbell also set up her own views of Mr. Rockefeller's conduct in respect to the growth and extraordinary development of the alleged Standard Oil monopoly, which at least has furnished cheap oil to the American people. But the question is under official investigation by the direct order of President Roosevelt. This branch of the attack upon Mr. Rockefeller, therefore, was not only purely gratuitous, but an obvious and flagrant attempt to influence public opinion in advance of a public enquiry.

The reasons assigned for the publication were insufficient upon their face and this fact alone leads to the inference that the inspiration of the article, which is powerfully written, was malicious. The order and details of the composition emphasize this conclusion. With no disclosed cause, it brutally assails the grandfather and the father of Mr. Rockefeller, the latter now living in Iowa at the age of 91, without even attempting, by heredity or otherwise, to connect any part of the character or career of Mr. Rockefeller with either, although it does show that in his first business venture thousands of dollars were advanced to him by his father. The attack, therefore, was a malignant interpolation, a break in consecutiveness, ventured upon only because it might reasonably be supposed that Mr. Rockefeller, with powerful enemies and from his wealth exposed to the merciless abuse of those whom he had passed or disappointed in the business race, would not appeal to a jury for redress. In the case of his mother, with whom he is intimately associated, Miss Tarbell is forced to admit her balanced application of Christian doctrines, and her only aspersion is an accusation of New England narrowness, which, under her evident idea of breadth, means an orderly and systematic life.

The case of Mr. Corrigan, skillfully woven into the libel, at once fills out the proof of express malice and reveals the real purpose of the attack. Mr. Corrigan is himself a millionaire, who at one time had to transfer his stock in the Standard Oil corporation to Mr. Rockefeller, and subsequently failed to set the transfer aside. Stripped of its embellishments, the narrative shows that, in dire extremity, Mr. Rockefeller was unusually generous to Mr. Corrigan and helped him with large amounts of money, and that he waited till long after the average business man would have ceased his assistance before he exacted a settlement. In the absence of any relation between Mr. Rockefeller and Miss Tarbell, the only possible inference from the article itself is that it represents, under a feminine cover, the hoarded malice of Mr. Corrigan himself. The allusions to court records, which could hardly have come under the scrutiny of Miss Tarbell, are a substantial proof that the source and origin of the publication are thus accurately traced. Whether or no it was paid for the conclusion is the same.

When the object and motive of the article have been fairly estimated and charges that cannot be passed on in literature eliminated, there remains an account, which can be easily drawn into consecutiveness, of one of the best-ordered lives that history records. Mr. Rockefeller is not even accused of a single vice. As a mere boy he struck out for himself, and began independent work by the most scrupulous attention to the smallest details, which then and during his whole career, under his training and bent, included Christianity and philanthropy in the broadest sense. He adopted the rule, to quote his own language, "that it is a good thing to let money be my slave and not make myself a slave to money." To this phrase, as to nearly every commendable fact she relates, Miss Tarbell attributes a meaning, conveyed finely and with the most subtle insinuation, that the quotation or the incident does not legitimately bear. It may be observed incidentally that if a man, conscious of a great intellect and with the moral and spiritual depths of human nature constantly in his mind, had deliberately set out to pit his individual powers against the world with the intention of accumulating wealth, of preserving his own purity, of neglecting no proper and contemporaneous opportunity of doing good, and of scrupulously applying the bulk of his gains for the substantial and permanent benefit of humanity, it would be difficult to conceive of a more absolutely correct program than that, which, according to the unassailable parts of Miss Tarbell's paper, Mr. Rockefeller has undeviatingly followed. He has been simple in his tastes and precise in his life. He has kept his own counsel, and has not talked indiscriminately, as Miss Tarbell virtually suggests he ought to have done. Even with the enormous fortune he has accumulated, he has avoided waste and insisted upon system and economy. He has given "his proportion" to every intellectual, moral, philanthropic and religious cause, in which he could discern a return, not in money, but in results. He may not have the esthetic tastes of Miss Tarbell—perhaps few men have—but he maintains large estates and, in a park of 400 acres, has gratified his "love of noble land." He is addicted to golf, which is surely an innocent amusement. He tells the young men of his Sunday school that the mere accumulation of wealth will be forgotten, and, referring to future generations, says: "They will want to know what we did with it. Did we spend it for the benefit of our fellow men? Of that we ought to think." Miss Tarbell herself admits the extent and diversity of Mr. Rockefeller's private benefactions, that he gives regular incomes to incapacitated friends and to unfortunate ministers and missionaries, and helps "the poor of all grades." His direct and public contributions to education, to science, to hospitals, to the Y. M. C. A. and to a missionary

society, when Miss Tarbell wrote, aggregated nearly forty millions. Since then he has announced his intention of adding fifty millions to the funds of the Chicago University, of which he is the founder. He also maintains a philanthropic bureau in New York, where every appeal for assistance is investigated, and "his proportion" of relief supplied. His only requirement is that his money shall be put to good use and not employed for the destruction of self-reliance and the promotion of extravagance.

Miss Tarbell illustrates her article with photographs and sketches, from which she endeavors to sustain her own venomous inferences. The difficulty with her is that she lays the foundation for this phase of her psychical interpretation of Mr. Rockefeller's character, not by a study of the pictures themselves as they appear to the ordinary observer or even to the trained critic, but by altering them to suit her preconceived views. Every one of the pictures shows a head and face of enormous strength, but not one of them reveals a sinister or corrupt nature. Under the different conditions that affect the expression, earnestness, geniality, tenderness, concentrated zeal and sincerity are the controlling elements. The photograph taken at the Chicago University in 1900 has seldom, if ever, been surpassed, as an illustration of concentrated thought and purpose.

Towards the close of the article Miss Tarbell asserts as the upshot of her remarkable analysis, in which thinly veiled rancor converts every moderated expression into an obvious falsehood, that Mr. Rockefeller "is simply the type pre-eminent in the public mind of the militant business man of the day." If the sifted facts are accurately grouped, the extraneous and irrelevant matter rejected, the labor of the imagination ignored, and the compressed truth extracted, the type approaches the highest standard of this advanced age and commends itself to the imitation of business men everywhere, and especially, perhaps, in Hawaii.

THE MEDICAL EXCLUSION RULE.

In the discussion about the rule of the medical examiners excluding from practice here doctors who cannot meet an English language test, the argument is against the board. About all those who support the rule have to say in its defense is that the language test is required in other countries—excepting Japan. But the plea of usage does not reach cases which present radically different conditions. Berlin may exclude American doctors who cannot speak in German, but she would not attempt to do so if Americans bore the same relation of numbers to her total population that Orientals do to the population of Hawaii. Suppose, by way of analogy, that there were 12,000 Spanish-speaking people on Panama and 60,000 American laborers, and that the Panamanians would permit no American or English doctor to practice among them unless he could pass an examination in the language of Castile. Could anything be more absurd than that—excepting the anti-Japanese rule of the Board of Medical Examiners here?

Enlightened fair play—such as Japan extends to all competent foreign surgeons and physicians—would lead our Board of Medical Examiners to either depute men like Drs. Mori, Katsuki and Kobayashi to examine Japanese applicants to practice medicine here or admit two of them into membership of the board for the same purpose.

A civic federation should be the watchful, sleepless and active guardian of the public interests. It ought to concern itself in all matters that affect the common weal, whether they occur at election time or at any other period. A civic federation which lives up to its opportunities should take no vacations; least of all should it hibernate or lie fallow. Graft, misgovernment and humbug have all seasons for their own, and if they are to be properly dealt with, the good citizenship which civic federations represent should not take many days off at a time.

Such an organization as a civic federation needs to be active for its own good as well as the public good. If it does not advance it retrogrades. That is the law of the collective as well as the individual man. Our own federation is composed of a fine body of citizens and it defeated some unsatisfactory nominees at the last county election and taught all parties the wisdom of putting up good men only. But since the campaign it has kept out of sight like a monk in his cloister, full of moral resolves no doubt, but not applying them. There has been enough incentive. The matter of disfiguring signs ought to have enlisted at least a protest from the Civic Federation. The increase in the number of city parks should interest it. Everything that concerns the citizenship of Honolulu should draw the Civic Federation out.

As a means of sustaining public interest in it, as well as its own interest in itself, the federation might borrow a leaf from the book of the Social Science Club and hold occasional meetings at the houses of members to discuss local public affairs and start policies. This would keep interest up and help make the federation a power for good—saving it, in fact, from degenerating into a mere cabal or an unorganized political militia.

NEW LIGHT ON THE CREMATORY QUESTION

Editor Advertiser: The day is a warm one and one's thoughts naturally take a crematorial turn. How about that crematory, Mr. Editor?

It was never worse wanted in Honolulu. Scarcely a week passes without coffins being reported exposed in the various city cemeteries. Is this state of things right? Are such conditions healthful? What would happen in a mainland city under similar circumstances? Wouldn't there be a nice outcry?

The Oahu Cemetery Association introduced the crematory proposition when, tardily realizing that they had no more lots to sell in the Nuuanu cemetery, they purchased an adjacent 13-4 acres of land. On this they proposed erecting a crematory and sent a man round with a list to collect subscriptions. He is said to have been successful to the extent of \$8000 in promises.

The Board of Health was then approached for a permit to use the 13-4 acres as a burial ground, but took the stand that they couldn't extend the present cemetery privileges. The next move on the part of the Oahu Cemetery Association was to attempt to secure a large tract of land adjoining the present cemetery and extending clear to Judd St. whether the deal has been consummated or not I don't know, but the owner of the land, it is said, wants a certain sum down and a half share of all profits over and above this amount realized by the Association.

Now comes the monkey business. The Board of Health, it is common talk, is on the point of granting a permit for this big tract of land to be used as a burial ground. They evidently didn't think it worth while to dicker with the 13-4 acres proposition. At the rates the Oahu Cemetery Association sells its lots, the projected new burial site is estimated to be worth in the neighborhood of \$1,000,000, provided the necessary permit can be obtained. Do you detect a faint odor of burning, Mr. Editor?

Meanwhile the crematory project lan-

guishes and it seems to be a question of no land, no crematory. It is generally admitted that there would be little money in a crematory for the association unless it had land to sell.

I understand that the property owners in the neighborhood are fighting the project of extended burial privileges on Nuuanu street, tooth and nail, particularly the Juds, Davies and Mark Robinson, realizing the disastrous effect the contemplated action on the part of the Board of Health would have on their property.

The people of Honolulu, through the press, have, in the past, agitated against the extension of cemetery limits in the city. It seems to me that it is high time to be up and doing again, lest a deal, inestimably deleterious to the public health and infinitely profitable to certain individuals, be railroaded to a successful but scandalous conclusion.

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