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MUNICIPAL REFORM.

The sixth annual conference of municipal reformers is in session at Indianapolis.

While it is true that a great deal of corruption, favoritism and evil generally crops out in the administration of city government, particularly in the larger places, it does not necessarily follow that the remedy lies in the elimination of party principles from municipal politics.

To relieve established organizations, great political parties, of the responsibility for municipal government would serve to remove from such government any public responsibility whatever.

There is too much of a tendency, and these so-called reformers are partly responsible for it, to consider city administrations as different from and but distantly related to those affairs for which political parties are held to an accounting.

Political degeneracy cannot be cured by a fusion of discontented reformers from both sides.

Corruption and favoritism will flourish under one banner as well as another; evils will continue to exist as long as men and women shirk the primary when they feel a their duty to attend.

Party politics cannot be kept out of city campaigns. In the cities the politicians live. This cities present opportunities that politicians do not desire.

Reform is always in order. The non-partisan method of bringing it about in the larger cities has not proved successful.

It affords those who neglect their opportunities a chance to protest, and it provides a means by which men may obtain an office they could not get through a responsible and established party organization, but the offices and the patronage are generally in the vision of the so-called reformer just as they are in the eyes of the average party politician.

THE SCHOOL BOARD TICKET.

All the city school conventions have been held. In every instance where the present incumbent would consent to run he was renominated.

The ticket was very satisfactory to the public as regularly made. Having decided upon a non-partisan board there is nothing to be gained by turning the campaign upon either personal or partisan issues.

CANAL PRELIMINARIES.

Congress will consider the canal question at the coming session. The commission has prepared a report on the Nicaragua project, the survey of which has been carefully revised in contemplation of immediate and decisive action.

The estimate of cost, which is, of course, the most important feature, varies from \$39,000,000 to \$125,000,000, according to the route selected, and the material used, but the commissioners are confident the larger sum will cover all possible necessary expenditures on either route.

The report shows that two routes are feasible. Both have specific advantages, which are described at length. The difference in the cost of masonry or timber in the work of construction

is also explained. If lumber from the forests of Oregon and Washington is used it will make a difference of from \$25,000,000 to \$30,000,000 in the cost, and will last for a long period. Above the water line it will have to be replaced every fifteen or twenty years, while the masonry will be permanent.

The estimates are based upon the construction of locks 200 feet long, 40 feet deep and 200 feet wide, which will be large enough to hold any ship that floats.

One of the greatest problems to be solved is the disposition of surplus water. It will be necessary to construct the canal so that the high level will be maintained throughout the dry season.

There will be a period of two months that reservoirs will have to be used in keeping the channel filled with the requisite supply of water.

And there will be two months of flood and overflow that may prove exceedingly troublesome. In spite of anything that can be done.

The San Juan river, which flows eastward from Lake Nicaragua and empties into the Caribbean sea, shows a difference of seventy feet in depth between the dry and wet season, and the engineering problem, like that on the isthmus of Panama, is to carry off this water without damage to the construction work when it is not needed and reserve a sufficient quantity to keep the canal full during the dry months.

Invention has cheapened the expense of excavation. Canals can be constructed today for one-half of what it cost five years ago.

But there is no better way of taking care of surplus water near the sea level than was known a hundred years ago.

Nature has aided in the work of connecting the two oceans at the narrow part of the American continent. The San Juan river furnishes about 120 miles of the 190 miles of waterway.

Then comes Lake Nicaragua, which is about the size of Lake Erie, and a few miles from the Pacific, but considerably higher than the sea level.

It is said that an appropriation of \$9,000,000 will be asked by the commission for a detailed survey and estimates. The one given is only general.

If it takes \$3,000,000 to make the survey and ascertain what the canal will cost, the average taxpayer will open his eyes in astonishment and wonder what is going to be the cost of the construction.

But if the proper lines are followed, if scandals are kept out, and government ownership and control are assured, it will be worth, in peace and war, a hundred times its cost.

It is of greater importance to the commercial interests of the United States than the acquisition of new territory. It will be found more convenient even, than coal stations in remote parts of the world, owing to the extensive and defenseless coast line of the mainland of this republic.

SAMPSON AND HIS REPORT.

Admiral Sampson's report to Secretary Long has been made public. It contains a long account of the part played by the Atlantic squadron in the operations around Santiago.

There was not, judging from the report, the best understanding possible between the army of invasion and the blockading fleet.

Admiral Sampson complains that he was not invited to be present at the surrender. This, however, may have been an oversight on the part of General Shafter. But this was not the only slight which the admiral was made to feel in the war.

He was not invited to take part in the destruction of Cervera's fleet. It was this more than his failure to attend the capitulation of the city that weighed upon his mind.

Secretary Long seems to regret it even more than the admiral does. He has shown it more. That it still rankles in his bosom is evidenced by the persistent efforts of the department to push Sampson to the front as hero-in-chief of the battle, and by the recent attempts to belittle Rear Admiral Schley.

They are telling now that Schley "narrowly escaped a court-martial just before his promotion." Yet there is a wide difference between a court-martial and a promotion.

"Only the disposition of the president to be lenient and the brilliant manner in which the commodore subsequently participated in the destruction of Cervera's fleet saved him from official investigation," says a Washington correspondent of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Commodore Schley was ordered to remain at Santiago, runs the story told by interested officials, but he replied: "Much to be regretted cannot obey orders for department. Have striven earnestly. Forced to proceed to coal to Key West by way of Yucatan passage."

The squadron sailed. Forty miles west of Santiago it was halted. The "officials" say: "The squadron then turned about, retraced the forty miles it had come westward of Santiago, took up its station off the mouth of Santiago harbor, and soon obtained positive information that the fleet was within. Admiral Sampson arrived, and the blockade was made complete."

"Complete" without Admiral Sampson? The department has been a long time getting up this story, but something had to be done sooner or later to excuse the promotion of an administration favorite over an equally able and courageous officer who outranked him.

PARIS VIEWS OF THE TREATY.

The opinion that there was no war-like significance in the treaty just made between France and Italy is corroborated by a special cable to the New York Tribune from Paris.

The announcement of the agreement was received with as much surprise in Paris as it was in London or in Washington, and shows that, even in France, where everybody talks, it is possible to keep diplomacy a secret.

According to the cablegram referred to the treaty is hailed as the end of a disastrous tariff war that has raged between France and Italy since 1880, and has caused a rise of two francs in Italian bonds.

"But the effects of this arrangement are more plastic than practical," says the correspondent. "Silks, the manufacture of which is the most important industry common to both countries, are exempted from its provisions; the bulk of the Tuscan and Sicilian wines cannot much benefit by it for they contain such high degrees of alcohol as to subject them to exceptional duties. Mean-

while Germany, in consequence of the most-favored nation treatment, will derive advantage from the concessions which have been made by Italy. Those will affect German wines, medicines, cloth, millinery, hosiery and hardware, which will henceforth be enabled to compete on an equal footing in the Italian market with French products."

Just how long this agreement will be allowed to stand is problematic. If France intended, as is generally believed, to court the friendship of her neighbors in order to become the recognized head of the Latin nations, there will be other concessions to make before the harmony is complete.

Spain is by no means pleased with the new tariff, especially as the French duties on Spanish wines have lately been increased, and the application of the minimum duties upon Italian wines entering France will be a terrible blow to the Spanish wine producers.

CUBA, A LAND OF PROMISE.

It was Columbus who first called Cuba "the Pearl of the Antilles." It is the fairest of all the Indies, the most fertile of the islands taken from Spain. There are 45,000 square miles included in the area, of which only about ten per cent is under cultivation, although the unutilized portion is comparatively small.

The possibilities in Cuba are wonderful. It and Puerto Rico present great opportunities for the American youth, with his energy, native ability and character.

But Cuba is so rich and undeveloped that the opening for enterprise appears to be greater there than in any other island under the control of this government. With but a tenth of the area under cultivation, the exports from the islands amount to millions every year.

Owing to the civil war, which has paralyzed commerce and laid waste most of the plantations during the last five years, it will be necessary to go back a few years for an average estimate of Cuban resources and commerce. Conditions were neither at their best nor worst in 1892. In that year the exports amounted to \$59,500,000, and were distributed as follows: Tobacco and sugar, \$45,000,000; minerals, \$3,500,000; animals, \$550,000, and the remainder including bananas, beeswax, honey, malmagony and other fine woods. The total imports amounted to \$56,250,000, of which \$17,622,411 was from the United States. Total imports from Cuba to this country during the same year aggregated \$7,933,571.

Cuba has been compelled to raise in the neighborhood of \$30,000,000 annually for the mother country, Spain. Two millions per year went to pay for local government, in which the Cubans had no part or representation. They had full permission to pay the taxes and till the soil, but no voice in the administration of their island affairs.

The money-making chances in Cuba are certainly ahead of the Klondike. Plantations will begin to change hands at once and there will be openings for young men as well as men with a little means. A demand for clerks, overseers, engineers, skilled workmen and common laborers will exist from this time on.

Under a free government, Cuba is sure to flourish, and American capital, American ingenuity and American skill will make a veritable paradise out of Cuba within five years.

Young men who go there with good habits, good intentions, a fair knowledge of Spanish and a determination to succeed will prosper. It is worth considering.

To the Editor of The Herald: Please give the names of the president's cabinet officials and oblige.

J. M. LAITSEN.

In the order of their succession to the presidency they are as follows: Secretary of state, John Hay; secretary of the treasury, Lyman J. Gage; secretary of war, Russell A. Alger; attorney general, Charles McKenna; postmaster general, Charles Emory Smith; secretary of the navy, John D. Long; secretary of the interior, Cornelius N. Bliss; secretary of agriculture, James Wilson.

A circular has been received from "The Western Sheep Hunting association" calling attention to "the first annual round-up of mountain lions, wild cats, wolves, lynx and coyotes."

The rendezvous will be at De Beque, Colorado, and the time of meeting is fixed at Dec. 28th. The size of the game indicates that the limit has been taken off in true western style, and that wild animals are about to become extinct.

HAM AND JERRY.

(New York Sun.) Full of feet, I feel Octopus, Grim and monstrous thing.

"What dark deed that magnanimous opus sets thee capering?"

"Why in steepest circles tentacular—Dancest thou wildly a giant thing?"

"With shrill hurrahs he shook his claws, Exploding into vast guffaws."

"I like ham and Jerry."

"They were the boys that would drink my blood."

"And now in the deeps Where the foam sleeps, They lie engulged in the River of Mud."

"Buzzard, buzzard, all disheveled, Sick and sad and weak."

"How he bled and bled, and bled, Why, with faint fluttering, viciously spat, Lolling."

"Raucously cursed a deep blue streak!"

"With doubtful creak his silver bank Exuded in a useful leak."

"For Sampson and Lewis My neck and Jerry."

"Thousand-lunged chiefs of Sixteen to One, Their silver trumps Are smushed to stumps, And Jerry and Ham are over and done."

Mermals, mermals, in your grottoes Underneath the blue Caves that sparkle with silver motes, What is wrong with you? You, who coquetishly frolic, why pettishly Glimmer and comb do you amash in two?"

"Their great eyes dripping, they came on skipping, Their silver feet on the seaweed slipping; We're Jerry, very, Dear were Jerry's tales to marines submarine."

"Ham's whiskers made us think Of the corn in the drink, Oh, woe for Ham and Jerry deep is our teen."

"Life: 'My friend,' said the visitor at the dime museum to one of the exhibits, 'as a fat man you are a rank failure. I have seen many fatter men than you running at large.'"

"But do you thoroughly understand," asked the curator, "that I acquired this fatness in a military camp during the Hispano-American war?"

"Beaming with foster-motherly gladness, She asked (still fiercely ruminant) The full-roomed man, 'occupy my seat, And do you find the turkey good?'"

"At first he seemed to have no tongue; But presently he gravely eyed His vis-a-vis, and thus replied, 'Madam, they say the duck is young.'"

"Giving Them a Run.

"Citizen—What is the trouble over there? Has the bank failed?"

"Folksman—No; the depositors are just having a run for their money."

UTAH'S THIRD LEGISLATURE.



HON. MATTHEW W. MANSFIELD.

M. W. Mansfield is a native son of Utah, having been born in the city of St. George, where the early part of his life was spent, and where he was married. He has resided for a number of years past at Thurber, Wayne county. He is engaged in the mercantile and other business pursuits and has been admitted to the practice of law. He is a bishop in the Mormon church, presiding over the Thurber ward, and has held a number of precinct and county offices in Piute and Wayne counties. He was a member of the constitutional convention of 1887, and of the first state legislature of Utah. In that body Mr. Mansfield distinguished himself in the house as a leader on the Democratic side, and made many brilliant oratorical efforts, notably in the Lemmon contest case, when he spoke in favor of Mr. Lemmon, to which effort he was undoubtedly due, in large part, the result of the case, in seating Mr. Lemmon. He was an earnest, aggressive legislator, but never carried the latter characteristic beyond the point of being willing to agree to a compromise when he could not secure his full purpose. His influence was always felt, but most particularly when such important bills as the appropriations, revenue, county government, etc., were being considered. In all these he took a deep interest and a determined stand on the side of economy. He will again represent Wayne county in the house.

COOK WHO BECAME JUDGE.

Being a Story of the Late Judge Erskine.

(New York Sun.)

The late Judge John Erskine of Georgia, did not read law until he was 45 years old, but he soon made his way to the front, and shortly after the close of the war President Johnson appointed him to the judgeship of the United States for the northern and southern districts of Georgia. Judge Erskine took great pleasure in relating one story which dealt with incidents in his early life and in his later years. When he was about 15 years old he ran away from his home in Ireland. He joined the crew of a sailing vessel, but as the captain could not make a sailor of him, he had to do the cooking, and was known to everybody on the ship as Johnny the Cook.

At the end of a year the youngster abandoned the salt sea, and returned home, after completing his education he came to this country and settled in Georgia, where he was remarkably successful and prosperous. He had held his judgeship for two years when he went to Savannah to preside over the federal court. One afternoon he strolled down to the river to look at the vessels in the water. The captain of one of the ships came ashore and passed the judge, giving him a sharp glance. Evidently something puzzled the captain, for he looked at the judge and stared at the man, who was enjoying the scene on the river.

"Dammed if it isn't Johnny the Cook!" exclaimed the bluff seaman. Judge Erskine looked at him, and recognized his old captain. The two shook hands heartily, and the captain told the other he had identified him by a scar on his forehead.

"I haven't forgotten the fight in which you were so badly cut," said the veteran of the sea. "You proved your self a man that day, and the whole ship sided with you."

A brief talk about old times followed, and then the captain glanced at his watch. "You must have prospered in this country," he remarked. "What is your line of business?"

"That dark deed that magnanimous opus sets thee capering?" replied the judge, "and as I have to meet an appointment now, I must postpone it until I see you again. Meet me here at the boat house tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock. Until then, goodbye."

The captain promised to be on hand the next morning at 10 o'clock. Judge Erskine was on the bench, in his black robe, dealing out justice to a crowd of moonshiners. In a few minutes the old sea captain walked into the court room. He glanced around in a dazed way, and was evidently disappointed in not finding the man he sought. Finally he raised his eyes to the bench. For a moment he seemed to be staring at the judge, and then he became absorbed in his own eyes. Erskine saw him, and beckoned to him to come inside of the railing which fenced off the lawyers from the spectators.

With trembling steps the captain took his stand one step below the platform on which the judge sat. Erskine welcomed him cordially, and during the bottom step he faced about and gave the judge a sweeping glance.

"Well, I'm damned!" he ejaculated, in a distinctly audible voice. He left the court room shaking his head and looking back every other step. Even when he was outside of the building he was in the snare of the bewitched garment. The incident afforded Judge Erskine intense enjoyment, and he frequently referred to it.

A Tough Selection. (Cleveland Plain Dealer.) "Gimme the cizzard, ma'!"

"Howdy, Johnnie, what for?"

"Teacher said we must each of us bring somethin' to school for a grab bag."

Giving Them a Run. (Puck.)

"Citizen—What is the trouble over there? Has the bank failed?"

"Folksman—No; the depositors are just having a run for their money."

"You may withdraw your plea of guilty if you wish," said the presiding judge.

"But I don't," was the reply.

"Well, of course, that matter rests entirely with you. I simply mentioned it because I thought you might desire to do so. However, consult with your counsel."

"But vat is de use, already, I am yet so sure he it is what done it as dat I am not yet already dead?"

"What's that you say?" exclaimed the judge, "another implicated in this crime? Where is he? Who is he?"

"Offer mit dose bolonnen; he has been here already since I meinsel haf been standing here."

"Bring him to the bar."

"Meanwhile the lawyer began to confer with the man. Then the lawyer smiled.

"May it please the court," he began, his smile broadening, "this man is not the criminal; he is the complainant, and desires to appear as a witness for the state to testify against the real criminal."

The judges smiled, too.

AMUSEMENTS.

Hi Henry's Minstrels came back to the Grand last evening for their farewell engagement. The same crowded house that greeted them on their last appearance was on hand to welcome them again and the laughter and applause over the very many excellent features were as hearty and generous as before. The first part includes many new jokes and musical numbers, while the second reintroduces the clever specialty people who made such a decided impression originally. Two nights more and a matinee closes the engagement.

The town was flooded yesterday with advertisements of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," which opens at popular prices at the Theatre tonight. Tomorrow's matinee will be 25-cent prices. The street parade with the bloodhounds and donkeys today will doubtless attract the attention of the youngsters as nothing short of a circus could do.

Unpronounceable. (Judge.)

Ethel—Supper is ready, Uncle Dohn. Uncle John—You mean breakfast, don't you, Dohn? Ethel—Es, but I can't say it.

STOUT AND SLIM MEN.

who have visited other stores have an idea that they cannot be fitted only in a high-class tailor's. Those that have that idea have not tried our stouts and lumps.

Stout Suits for stout men, \$12.00 to \$25.00.

Long suits for long men, \$12.50 to \$25.00.

A saving of half on the tailor's suit. If the suit doesn't fit, we make it.

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Reduced Prices, 25c, 50c and 75c. Matinee, 25c. Seats now ready.

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