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WILL THE PARTIES STAND FOR IT

In the spring of the year 1911 the Utah legislature passed the commission form of government act for cities and would be political reformers have howled themselves hoarse to the effect that it was the intention of the legislators that the law should be nonpartisan. And in fact the cities concerned have so imbibed the song of the self heralded reformer that recent city elections have been based on individuality and the platforms of candidates themselves.

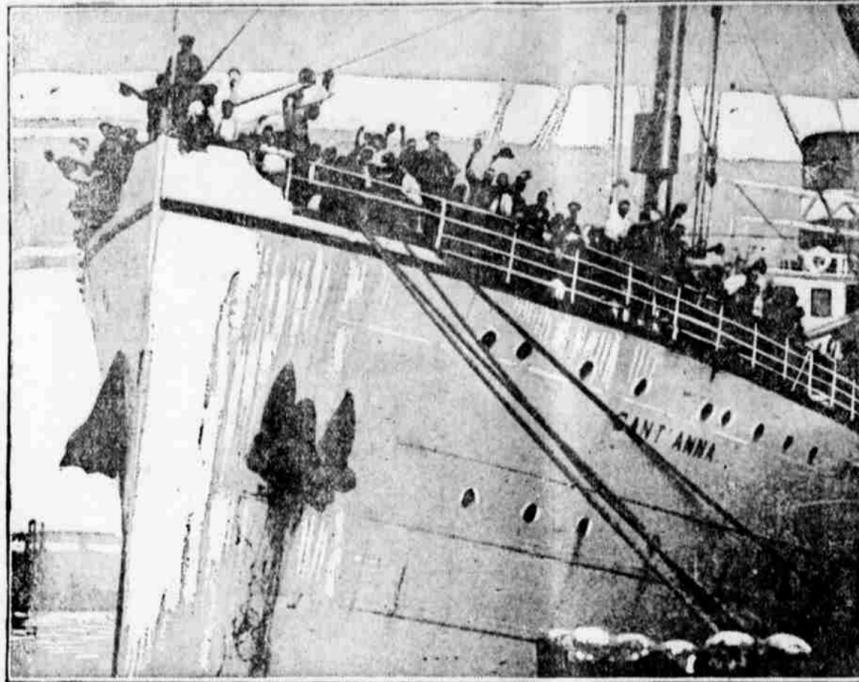
But in Logan it is to be so no more, and the Republican and Democratic parties are not good enough mediums for the new rulers either. No, a brand new political organization—The Betterment League—is to supplant all former parties, and rule the city. One week ago the Betterment League party met in convention assembled and nominated a ticket, or rather ratified the choice of the slate makers. Men who two and four years ago denounced any and all attempts to nominate party tickets, blandly and complacently acquiesced Saturday evening in a program which creates a new political party, nominates candidates, or rather ratifies candidates selected by the bosses, adopts a platform and elects a campaign organization. Just how long this new party is destined to live is not known from the fact that no limit was placed on its life. Dr. George Thomas who seemed to be first chief in the movement declared that it was not to be a "permanent political organization," but whether that means one, ten, or twenty years the big chief did not say. Judging from his inferences his party is necessary to do things that evidently no other party is capable of doing something that no individuality is capable of handling, and as it is just one step from city to county, it is not at all improbable that this new party will be in evidence in the county campaign one year hence. Why not, when it has secured an inch, why not take a mile. And if it is so much better than either of the old parties, why not make it permanent?

The state law says, "Any person deor or commissioner or auditor shall, at least ten days prior to said primary election file with the said recorder a statement of such candidacy" etc. This has made current the construction that city elections should be nonpartisan, nonsutarian, etc., and that the field is open to any citizen, who desires to be a candidate. Notwithstanding, this new political party, by virtue of its alignment, has practically served notice upon all single handed citizens that they must leave the field. Not content with a three to one victory in June they want to wage the fight over again in hopes of a unanimous verdict in November. If the fight were the same no doubt the verdict would be unanimous, for as one hitherto "wet" adherent said in discussing this question, "since the June election there is not a man, woman or child in Logan that is not for prohibition."

For days citizens have been sinking their heads and saying "The Republican and Democratic parties are good enough for us, and when men that cry out so loudly about keeping city elections out of politics, create a new party in violation of their own protests insinuate by their own acts that the two big political parties are not big enough to cope with the questions of the hour, and yet individually, so signally elevated by state law, as being totally incompetent in Logan, there is certainly a colored gentleman in the wood pile somewhere."

Will the parties stand for it? The Republican party has taken the initiative and has called a mass convention wherein the matter will be discussed, and it is evident that should the Republican party decide to en-

NEARLY 2,000 RESERVISTS ABOARD THE SANT ANNA, ON FIRE AT SEA.



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SANT ANNA LEAVING NEW YORK.

Nearly 2,000 Italian reservists were passengers on board the Fabre line steamer Sant Anna, when she left New York, according to the agents of the line. The ship carried a large cargo of merchandise, but had no munitions of war or inflammable materials of any kind, it was stated. Her cargo consisted chiefly of foodstuffs. "The Sant Anna carried no munitions of war," said Mr. Jones of the shipping firm. "In fact, the Fabre line has not been carrying any arms or ammunition to ports in the Mediterranean touched by its steamers. I cannot understand the cause of the fire. Her merchandise cargo was made up of foodstuffs and provisions." Besides the large number of Italian reservists aboard the Sant Anna, the ship carried a small number of first and second class passengers. Her crew numbered about 100. Fire was discovered in hold 2 of the Sant Anna while she was lying at her pier in South Brooklyn on Sept. 21, 1914. All the goods in that hold were destroyed by fire and water, and the loss was estimated at \$100,000. The steamer was not injured, it was said. The captain attributed the fire to spontaneous combustion. He asserted that the lower hold had been battened down since the vessel left Genoa. The Sant Anna is commanded by Captain F. Pavy and is in the New York-Mediterranean trade. She sailed from this port on Sept. 7 for Naples and Marseilles. She is a French vessel and was built at La Seyne, France. Her home flag is that of the Fabre line. She is a steel twin screw vessel of 5,514 tonnage and is 470 feet long. Her hauling port is Marseilles.

dorse a ticket that there will be no violation of confidences or breaking of precedents whatsoever, under the circumstances. Some people do not know when a question has been settled, and it is now up to the parties to decide as to whether or not they will have a say, or whether the field shall be vacated for the new political organization.

THE GAP BETWEEN THE EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYED

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., has eaten, washed, slept and dug coal with his Colorado miners. The experience will do him good. Such visits to his property may solve the problem of unrest and absentee ownership in a great industry.

In most cases the unfortunate chasm between capital and labor can not thus be bridged. A plant may be owned by a thousand different persons, most of whom possess but a few shares of stock. It might take all the stockholder's dividend to visit the place and see how his work people are faring. Ownership has split up all over the country, and the corporation has ceased to have any individuality. The owners are inaccessible and never get together to consider any general policy.

In the old days the manager of a business lived on the spot. If there were grievances, he talked it out face to face, which helped adjustments. Today the executive management is commonly given to officers who may own but a few shares in the company. Their success depends on maintaining or increasing dividends. They are not in so good a position to grant favors as an individual owner would be.

The stockholder is pictured as a hard hearted and indifferent taskmaster. Actually he may be kind and charitable. He knows nothing about the business save the few details gleaned from a routine annual report. How far is he responsible for the condition of the work people? What can he do for their welfare?

Corporation stockholders may well reflect that the best results are obtained only on a basis of a comfortable working population. If the employees are housed in a sordid tenement slum, unsanitary and forbidding, there will be discontent. Stockholders may well make it clear to their hired managers that they favor a liberal policy, not merely from motives of humanity, but as the best business policy in the long run.

STENOGRAPHERS IN WIRE CAGES

Mrs. Charlotte Smith, a Boston social worker, recently made a much discussed statement to the effect that stenographers should be kept in wire cages to protect them from familiar employers. This is of course mostly exaggeration, no doubt thus recognized by the one who made it.

The majority of these young women workers are employed in groups. They are as impersonal a part of the business fabric as the machines they operate. They are independent, self respecting girls who mind their own

business. No doubt there are isolated positions where a girl is placed in a trying position. She may have to work in an office alone with one man. There are some men who under such circumstances violate all principles of chivalry.

Some employers do not feel that they can properly give instructions to a young woman secretary without some personal familiarity of touch. They feel benevolently toward the girl. This sentiment is expressed by touching her shoulder or resting an arm on her chair back. This is only the beginning. The girl may resent familiarity. But dependent on her position, she may not dare to show this resentment. She might like to leave her work, but would fear not getting a recommendation.

Modern business calls for an enormous amount of letter writing. Commercial habit makes it customary to answer every letter the day it is received. This brings an army of young women into the business field. It is up to every self respecting man to surround these girls with all possible protection. The parents of young women taking such positions may well give some thought to these matters. Where a girl is shut up with a single man he should have a known reputation for clean living.

OILED ROADS

Every year's experience of highway building brings some new light. A few seasons ago the rapid deterioration of highways under motor cars seemed an almost insoluble problem. Millions had been spent in improving roads. Yet a few more summers of motor travel seemed likely to ruin these costly surfaces. A stone road with the filling all ripped out is worse than the original sand or clay.

For a number of years road makers have been binding road surfaces with various forms of asphaltic, tarry and bituminous oils. Better results are constantly being secured in this way. It is remarked that the principal lesson of this year's highway experience is the value of the oiled road.

A road expert said a short time ago that the country districts should realize that oil is the cheapest form of maintenance. Not merely does it protect the surface against the grind of motor tires. It also holds it down through storms. Heavy rains formerly meant enormous expenditures for reconstruction. But they run off a well oiled road like water off the traditional duck's back.

The cure of road work in this country has been the tendency to make temporary repairs and neglect permanent work. This is especially particularly true in sparsely settled districts where funds are scarce. The road officers must please the voters by the best possible showing on a small appropriation. The temptation is strong to scratch over the surface and heap up muck from the gutters. They may impress the voters for the time being. But it goes to pieces under protracted rains or under a

few month's motor travel. Any town or county that has money enough to build any roads at all has money enough to save what it builds with oil preparations. Building an unprotected road today merely deepens the poverty of a poor community. It is spending for work that will very soon have to be done over again.

WRIST WATCHING WAITS AND WINS

It begins to look as if the long, uphill fight of the wrist watch for serious male recognition was almost won. Uncle Sam has ordered 400 of the species for his cavalry officers. Peeping from beneath the khaki sleeve and spanning the tanned and

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corded carpus of the fighter they would at least appear safe from the jibes of cartoonists and cafe warriors. The Chicago policeman who was rebuked lately by his chief for wearing one may now have his revenge.

But as a matter of fact wrist watches have long been worn by army officers in this country and by the rank and file, as well as the officers abroad. Will Irwin found them common among the men in the trenches, who, however were later forbidden to wear them because too many serious wounds had resulted from having the works driven into the forearm by the enemy's bullets. This danger is probably not considered serious in the case of the cavalry. And neither this danger nor the more appalling one, luckily now almost past, of being dubbed a sissy, a mollicodde, a highbrow, or a pacifist, has deterred such males as Police Commissioner Woods, Mayor Mitchel, Christy Mathewson or Louis Disbrow from forming the habit, a habit which is spreading like wildfire at Plattsburg introduced there possibly by our martial police commissioner and mayor.

It is only in this country that ridicule has been the portion of this labor saving device, probably because it was viewed as a protection against the peculiar mode of chastisement reserved for the effeminate. But the first thing they know those who now rail at it will be in a fair way of being slapped on the wrist by those who affect it. It may be necessary soon to wear a wrist watch to prove one's martial intentions.—New York Tribune.

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