

EL PASO HERALD

Established April, 1881. The El Paso Herald includes also, by absorption and succession, The Daily News, The Telegraph, The Telegram, The Tribune, The Graphic, The Sun, The Advertiser, The Independent, The Journal, The Republican, The Bulletin.

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS AND AMER. NEWS-PUBLISHERS' ASSOC. Entered at the El Paso Postoffice for Transmission at Second Class Rates.

Dedicated to the service of the people, that no good cause shall lack a champion, and that evil shall not thrive unopposed.

How About the Consumer?

THE people of this city are to be asked to pay 75 percent more for water than they have ever paid in recent years. The majority of water consumers pay the "minimum rate" which heretofore has been 90 cents and is proposed at \$1.25; on the face of it, this seems to be less than a 50 percent increase...

According to the figures of the water company itself, verified and accepted by the city engineer and by the master in chancery, the increased rate will impose an additional tax on the people for water of \$78,000 per year—not a drop more water, but \$78,000 a year more to pay. There being less than 5000 consumers, this means an average increase of \$16 per year per consumer for his water bills—presumably he will get pure water instead of mixed pure and queer.

This whole matter is of such vital interest to the people of El Paso that it is to be hoped the city council will not act finally without giving the taxpayers and water consumers ample opportunity to discuss the pending propositions and express their views. This controversy has been going on over a year and a further delay of 10 days or so will not greatly harm anybody.

In the name of the taxpayers and the water consumers of El Paso who are absolutely unanimous on this point, The Herald urges the council to set a day not earlier than May 10 at which public hearings on the water question will be begun for receiving protests and petitions. An earlier date than that would mean conflict with the campaign for school trustees, and would not afford due opportunity for discussion.

Private caucuses behind closed doors are improper in connection with a matter of such vital importance to every citizen. Let everything be done in the open, and without such a degree of hurry as to prevent full understanding and discussion.

If the council accepts the suggestion of the master in chancery and raises the rates as proposed, the status of the water company will have been changed from that of a losing to that of a profit making concern. In any settlement that may be made it is naturally to be expected that the city council will fully safeguard the rights of the citizens and make the requirements and the guarantee so strong, so clear, and so specific that there can be no failure on the part of the company to comply with them.

The principal safeguard proposed in the ordinance for amending the water company's franchise is the proviso for the purchase of the plant after three years. If, however, there is any way by which the purchase plan can be carried out at once, and lawfully, it should be done as far as the most advantageous of the alternative proposals.

Months ago, as now, the water company would have accepted \$927,000 for all of its property and rights. The city could then have acquired this valuable property lawfully and easily without issuing one dollar's worth of bonds, and the payment of \$30,000 at 4 percent interest each year for 15 years, together with the interest and sinking fund on the \$477,000 bonds of the company to be assumed, could have been met out of the surplus earnings of the company, at least after the first year or two.

Mayor Sweeney appointed two separate commissions of business men to study the water question and report upon it. Both commissions reported in favor of municipal ownership, and the second commission presented a feasible plan for purchase that would in no sense have burdened the city. The city would have taken over the plant at once, operated it for the benefit of the taxpayers, and borrowed upon the plant itself for the necessary extensions without involving the city's general credit or bonding power. After 15 years there would be nothing more to pay except the interest and sinking fund upon the bonds secured upon the plant.

Mayor Sweeney flatly repudiated the action of both his water commissions and forced litigation which will entail much expense upon the city. Out of the long drawn out controversy, lasting nearly a year, with all of the commissions, investigations, experts, and court proceedings, the whole thing ends with the city government apparently disposed to concede every point the water company originally asked for.

At the beginning of this tedious controversy, The Herald presented the alternative security of raising the rates to the company as a matter of justice to the corporation and protection to the city, or else municipal ownership under a practical plan. The Herald favored the municipal ownership plan on the terms proposed by the mayor's second water commission. It regrets that that plan was not followed out.

The water company now comes back with the proposition to sell at the terms formerly acceptable. There are legal reasons why an acceptance of the proposition at this time may be impossible—Mayor Sweeney at least thought he was effectually squelching the municipal ownership proposition when he sent in his budget for the current year without making provision for interest and sinking fund on the new debt to be created for the waterworks. It may be, however, that a way can be found to acquire the plant on these terms substantially, and if so, this proposition is by far the best for the city and all its people. The city could borrow \$500,000 more on the plant without involving its own credit, and it would be much easier under the plan proposed by the mayor's second water commission to purchase the plant outright than to sustain it under private ownership. Municipal ownership is bound to come, and now is the best time to undertake it, if it can be lawfully arranged.

It may be that the water company's renewed proposition to sell is only a bluff in view of the fact that it probably can not be accepted until the time comes to arrange a new budget for the city. But even if it is a bluff, it is worth considering, and it should be accepted if possible to arrange it.

Of course the most important consideration for the proposed raising of rates is the required extension and improvement of the present plant at a cost of \$442,000. Without such a guarantee as this, there could be no possible excuse for a raise in rates at this time. So important is this matter that the city should exercise full supervision over the expenditure of this sum of money and satisfy itself absolutely that the agreement is carried out in good faith.

Under no circumstances should an increased rate go into effect until the company is furnishing clean water exclusively. It would be outrageous to raise the rates and still furnish the Watts well water. There seems to be nothing at present on record either in a written proposition submitted or in the proposed amended franchise, providing against an increase while Watts well water is being used. When we can all have assurance that there is nothing but pure water flowing in the mains and that the supply is absolutely free from organic contamination and harmful mineral salts, then it will not come so hard to pay an increased rate. But there can be no justification for increasing the rates without perfecting the water supply and doing away with the impurity. If the council chooses the alternative of raising rates, this point should be fully protected by the council in framing the new ordinance.

The city council of Waterloo, Neb., has just enacted an ordinance for the sanitary regulation of barber shops. One section of the ordinance reads as follows: "It shall be unlawful for any barber in this town to eat onions between 7 a. m. and 9 p. m. No barber while shaving a customer shall insert his thumb or finger in the said customer's mouth; shall not discuss the gossip of the town, and shall not use tobacco while working over his chair." It is a \$5 fine for each offense. These rules are all good and we might add another one—that every barber take an all over bath after finishing with each customer. Most of them don't even make a pretense at washing their hands. One wonders why the ordinance against gossiping should be limited to barbers. It would seem as if that law might be made

Pennsylvania coal miners crucified one of their number twice in one day, charging that he had reported some of his fellow workers for violating rules. A crown of thorns was placed on the terrified man's head and he was hung up on a cross and almost stoned to death. After one such performance four of the ringleaders were arrested and heavily fined, but the effect of the punishment was slight, for the man was crucified again by the same fellows. This was not in "barbarous Mexico" either, but in one of our 13 original states, the birthplace of our national independence.

The Herald suggests that at the next general meeting of the chamber of commerce each person arriving at the hall be given a little tag with lines on which to write his name and business. El Paso has been filling up with new people in the last two years and there is an unfortunate lack of general acquaintance among the business men of this city. The tag idea will enable many acquaintances to be formed where otherwise there would be continued lack of recognition

The fact is gradually becoming recognized that it is not the hidebound party man that decides elections, but the independent voter and the non-voter. A man by staying away from the polls gives his opponents a double advantage, while the independent voter exercises the balance of power, and is really the man in the saddle.

Even the high cost of living is bearing good fruits. For instance, it encourages a tendency toward cheaper funerals and toward cheaper school graduating exercises.

The undertakers are said to have formed a trust. Now the cost of living is not going to be in it with the cost of dying.

UNCLE WALT'S Denatured Poem

JUSTITIA'S raving in despair, and Old Subscriber paves the air, while Constant Reader seeks the fray, and wears out forty pens a day. In store, in workshop, on the farm, we all are viewing with alarm. The things for which our fathers died are hitting the toboggan slide; the day of Liberty is done; the Constitution's on the run; the Bulwarks and the Sacred Boons are on the blink—their name is Prunes. And while we raise these cries of dread, we're mostly fat and fully fed; and in our motor cars we race quite blithely to the waiting place; we wear boiled shirts and tailored clothes while setting forth our list of woes; we plan a trip to Europe's shore, when we have hoveled a little more. Methinks that in the After-while, when we have reached the Blessed Isle, our happiness won't be complete if we can't gather on the street—the golden street of boundless charm—and view with sorrow and alarm. There Constant Reader will sit down in anger and denounce his crown, as being two years out of style, and smaller than his former tie. Justitia will remark: "My wings are really poor and flimsy things; they screech like windmills when I soar; they came from some department store." We'll always growl to beat the band, in this or any other land; no peace can smooth the human brow, unless we're kicking up a row.

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14 Years Ago Today No Prisoners in City Jail. Texas Press Convention Adjourns.

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LETTERS TO THE HERALD

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Today's Diamond Fields

AMERICANS ARE LARGEST PURCHASERS OF ACCIDENTALLY DISCOVERED GEMS.

THE people of the United States buy more diamonds than any other people in the world. The importation of these stones has increased more than twentyfold since the civil war. The annual importation now approximates \$30,000,000 on which a duty of \$1,000,000 is estimated. It is estimated that 75 per cent of all the precious stones imported into this country are diamonds. Those who have made this estimate believe these figures to be representative of the importations into other countries also. The world's stock of diamonds is exceedingly large, how large no one really knows. George F. Kunz, an expert of international reputation, declares that the loss of diamonds through carelessness, fire, or otherwise, amounts to less than 5 per cent in a whole century. South Africa Greatest Producer. The South African diamond fields alone have produced a half billion dollars worth of these stones since 1867. The plunder of Delhi by Navir Shah in 1739 yielded three hundred million dollars, the main part of the treasure being diamonds. The great moguls thus had gathered together the most remarkable collection of these jewels the world has ever seen. It is said that one American necklace is worth 300,000,000, and that at some of the operations in New York, millions of dollars worth of jewels may be seen on display. The production of diamonds in the South African fields has amounted to approximately 50,000,000 karats. Could it be that the world's stock of diamonds would make a column of precious stones as high as the Washington monument and five feet square. All but 5 per cent of the world's output of diamonds today comes from these fields. The diamond trade is the world's one feature of commerce which is completely dominated by one group of interests. These capitalists assert that the interest of civilization demands that the diamond market shall be maintained in an unfluctuating state. They assert that when the Brazilian diamonds were placed on the market without reference to the demand, great injury was done to the owners of diamonds throughout the world. Field Long Unnoticed. No one knows when man first conceived his liking for the shining stone. The diamond in the rough is not so attractive as the well cut and highly polished jewel but its use in that form must have antedated its use in its cut and polished form. For centuries unnumbered the aboriginal natives had tramped over South Africa, and English and Dutch hunters, pioneers, sheepherds, missionaries, and adventurers had troked heedlessly over what was destined to become one of the richest spots on earth. Even colonial geologists made surveys of that region without dreaming that untold millions of diamonds were hidden in the soil. One of the managers of the deBeers company declared that during 15 years of service on the diamond field he had never found a single stone. It would not be remarkable if Jacobo had actually roamed the world over in search of diamonds and finally cast himself into the river to escape starvation while in the sand of his own garden lay the treasure of Golconda. In Brazil diamonds were used as counters in card games by the native gold hunters long before they were recognized as diamonds. Discovery Accidental. And so the South African diamond fields lay undiscovered until a little more than 40 years ago. It remained for a little boy, the son of a Boer farmer, Daniel Jacobs, to find the stone which ultimately was to lead the attention of the world to the great diamond mines of South Africa. Durheim and his brothers and sisters herded their cattle and sheep over the South African veldt and along the stream by which their rude hut was built. In 1868 he happened to find a pebble brighter than all the rest; put it in his pocket, and carried it home. Finally a neighbor came along who thought the stone might be something. The boy went out into the yard, got it, and in giving it to him refused to pay for it. This neighbor turned it over to a traveler who happened that way and it was carried to the nearest town where the jeweler finally pronounced it an actual diamond. There were a number of expeditions into that region and everybody began to look for diamonds, but very few indeed were the rewards of the search. In the following year, however, while the English were being urged to make a geological survey of this region, a Griqua shepherd boy found an \$2-karat white diamond. The same Nelker who had carried the Jacobs' diamond to civilization bought this one and gave 500 sheep, ten oxen and a horse for it. "Find" Sold for \$11,000. This of course seemed to the boy a

PIONEER PHILOSOPHY.

By Frederic J. Haskin



In the old days, for anybody cared for water anyhow. Now lots of El Paso readers actually have to have it for a chaser.

ADVERTISERS OUGHT TO KNOW THE CIRCULATION

Have a Right to Know Just What They Are Paying For—"Waste."

"The end of advertising is to create and supply demand," declared J. C. Wilmarth, of The Herald, at the Y. M. C. A. Thursday night. He was the first speaker slated for a series of Thursday night free talks on advertising. Mr. Wilmarth continued: "A good many people, both advertisers and non-advertisers, are apt to consider advertising, however, as an end in itself. This cuts down the efficiency of the advertiser. By no means should he be one of the most essential parts of his selling campaign."

The speaker confined himself largely to the newspaper medium. He touched upon a common and careless custom of advertisers as follows: "Many people do not read advertisements. That is a fact beyond dispute. The advertiser, whether he uses the newspaper, magazine, or hand bills, inevitably pays for many insertions of his announcement where his argument cannot possibly affect the reader, for it is not read, and this is waste."

"But is waste of this character confined to advertising? By no means. It costs the average advertiser one-tenth of a cent per copy to insert his announcement in a publication. 50c to \$1 to send a salesman to make a call. "But can a salesman be sent out to canvass without waste?"

"The answer is, No. Some of those upon whom he calls are out, some refuse to see him, others refuse to listen. The man who says no one reads advertisements would stretch the truth no further if he said, 'No one listens to a salesman.'"

Buying Store and Ad. Space. "A man in buying space in a newspaper occupies the same position as a man who rents a store. Perhaps the rental of the store is \$200 per month, but the store always full of customers? By no means. In many stores, during the early hours, you will find no one but the clerks. The store represents waste—waste of sign in advertising. 'Closed from 12 to 3 p. m.' In other words, 'nothing doing.' Of course, this is a waste—waste of rental, help, equipment."

"They say that in a battle it takes a man's weight in lead to kill him—so his shots miss the mark. And yet cold lead is one of the best remedies that has ever been found for the cure of overproduction."

Allowance for Waste. "There must be a certain allowance for waste in any human effort. But make that margin as small as possible. The more you do away with the mystery of advertising, the less waste there will be. Newspaper rates are no longer based on guess work. As a rule, newspapers now charge from 3 to 5 cents per inch for each thousand of circulation. And the advertiser does not hesitate to ask for proof that he is getting the full number of thousand he contracts for."

Demands Results. "If an advertiser buys 5000 letter heads he expects to make sure that he gets the full 5000. If he buys 5000 newspaper space, he sees no reason why he should not get what he pays for. Today advertising service is founded on a solid basis of truth, and nine out of 10 of the large advertising contracts carry the circulation guarantee."

BRYAN'S SON GOES TO VISIT FATHER; TAKES SON. William Jennings Bryan, Jr., accompanied by his mother and Mrs. Wm. J. Bryan, Jr., passed through El Paso Thursday night en route from Tucson, the home of Mr. Bryan, to Nebraska on a visit to Mr. Bryan's father, who has just returned from South American countries. Young Bryan is taking his distinguished father a present in a young grandson, which recently came to the young Bryans at their home in Tucson.

NOTES FROM COLONIA DIAZ. Colonia, Diaz, Mexico, April 29.—A large party of people have returned from El Paso. Next week another crowd will go from here to El Paso to do some trading. A girl has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Erastus Yorgenson. E. C. Yorgenson is very sick. We need rain badly, everything is very dry. We are enjoying our early gardens, but our prospects for fruit are very discouraging. A. E. Johnson has gone to Dog Springs to fill a contract of some carpenter work. Mrs. D. Mortensen is 70 years old and her descendants are preparing to celebrate the occasion in a fitting and an enjoyable manner.

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SOLICITING FOR FUNDS FOR THE NEW HOTEL. A soliciting committee composed of W. B. Latta, P. L. Young, L. E. Behr, J. M. Wyatt and J. J. Mundy has been appointed to secure subscriptions for the new hotel, an option for which has been obtained on the Kohlberg site on West San Antonio street.

GRAND JURY INDICTMENTS. Indictments were made Friday by the grand jury in the 24th district court, as follows: H. Collins, theft over \$50; Daniel Garza, assault with intent to murder; Augustin Rivera, burglary. Two other indictments are held secret as the indicted are not in jail.

CARRIERS' DAY. Tomorrow being the last Saturday of the month, The Herald carriers will present bills for the month of April. Subscribers who kindly note the above and are ready for the boys.

RACING RESULTS.

Olympian third. Time, 1:12 3/5. Third race, six furlongs—Madman won; Camperon second; Eddi Dugan third. Time, 1:12 3/5. Fourth race, one mile—Guy Fisher won; Question Mark second; Righteous third. Time, 1:29 4/5. Fifth race, four furlongs—Golden Agnes won; Vash second; Horizon third. Time, 47 4/5. Sixth race, seven furlongs—Nunda won; Faultless second; Brighton third. Time, 1:28 3/5. HISBEE HAS 1237 VOTERS; ARREST MEXICAN FOR THEFT. Bisbee, Ariz., April 29.—According to a statement of city clerk Gage, the number of voters registered for the primary election are 1237. The Y. W. C. A. military class will display for the two days the hats made by the members of the class during the term. Justice Burdick has resumed his duties. The meeting of the executive committee of the Warren District Democratic club was held in mayor Neale's office. T. Cardenas, a Mexican, has been arrested on the charge of stealing supplies from Bob Lyons, foreman of the Elenita properties. The sack contained a pump and some mining tools valued at several hundred dollars. Two Mexicans have been arrested by special officer Hardwick for breaking into a car of oranges near the postoffice. The floriculturists of Bisbee are much pleased with the production of flowers in this district. They assert that in the present season larger and better shaped roses are being produced than in any of the previous years. Mrs. P. Doan has arrived from California and will remain here during the summer.

Pinacol Summaries.

First race, four and a half furlongs—Chilton Bell won; Heretic second; Muskmelon third. Time, 57 1/5. Second race, six furlongs—Wenna won; Kyle second; Jennie Wells third. Time, 1:18 2/5. Third race, one mile—Apologize won; Lad of Langdon second; Olive third. Time, 1:44. Fourth race, two miles—Ross Fenton won; Tourney second; Stellaand third. Time, 4:23 1/5. Fifth race, five furlongs—Lay Minister won; Teddy Bear second; Tasteful third. Time, 1:19 1/5. Sixth race, six furlongs—M. T. Greene won; Jacobite second; Lotus Eater third. Time, 1:18 4/5. Aqueduct Summaries. First race, four and a half furlongs—Omer won; Starrier second; Heretic third. Time, 54. Second race, six furlongs—Rocky O'Brien won; Rose Queen second; King