

THE Mexicans don't seem to have shot any Americans for several days.

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HOME EDITION

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WEATHER: Tacoma: Fair, Washington: Fair tonight; light frost Saturday; fair, warmer, east portion.

COUNCIL'S POLICY UNJUST, DECEITFUL

It is a remarkable commentary on the financial strength and soundness of Tacoma's Light and Water departments that they should be found able this year to shoulder a large part of Tacoma's added tax burden.

It refutes every claim, originating from selfish sources, that municipal ownership is not a success. But laudable as is the plants' ability to stand such an expense, the principle that they should be made to bear it is so seriously and fundamentally unjust that the council never should adopt it. If the council has mistakenly, or by force of circumstances, fixed on the policy for this year, **THE PRACTICE NEVER SHOULD BE REPEATED.** We cannot believe it necessary even this year.

Let us examine what this plan of cutting off the just revenues of the plants, and adding to them new and unprecedented charges, for the benefit of the general fund, means.

In the first place, there stand out two fundamental facts. First, that by such a course the council has not **REDUCED BY ONE PENNY THE ACTUAL COST OF RUNNING THE GOVERNMENT.** It simply has shifted the cost.

Secondly, **WHEN CHARGES ARE MADE AGAINST THE LIGHT AND WATER PLANTS, THEY REALLY ARE MADE AGAINST THE LIGHT-USERS AND WATER-USERS WHO SUPPORT THOSE PLANTS** and against whom they may not justly be made.

Briefly then, the council has evaded its duty of cutting Tacoma's municipal expense, and instead has placed the general burden of taxation on the shoulders of the light-users and water-users rather than on the general taxpayers. And lest you think this is taking money from one pocket to put it in another, remember **THERE IS A VAST DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE LIGHT-USERS AND WATER-USERS AS A CLASS AND THE TAXPAYERS AS A CLASS.**

For instance, there are many eastern speculators who own Tacoma realty. They do not live here or support local merchants. They perform no useful labor to upbuild the community. They

worry over no pay-roll. They let their land lie idle and useless. They never buy A GALLON OF TACOMA WATER OR A KILLOWATT OF ELECTRICITY.

Their sole interest in Tacoma is to watch the value of their property grow and to kick about taxes.

On the other hand are Tacoma workmen, home-owners and business men and manufacturers, who use largely of Tacoma light and water.

NEXT YEAR, A PART OF ALL THE LIGHT BILLS THESE PEOPLE PAY WILL GO TO A FUND WHICH IS TO LOWER THE TAXES OF THOSE OUTSIDERS; namely, the fund which the commissioners are taking under one pretext and another from the light and water funds and contributing to the general, or tax, fund.

So remember, folks, under this principle, you are paying high water and light bills so that the tax bills of eastern millionaires may be low.

Next, it is a discrimination in favor of the rich against the poor. Let us say the poor man's home is assessed at \$1,000--which is away above the average. If the city levy is 15 mills, he pays \$15 city tax. If it is 14 mills, he pays \$14. So the matter of a mill or so is nothing for him to get excited about. But—

THE FACT THAT LIGHT AND WATER RATES ARE KEPT HIGHER THAN NEED BE SO THAT MONEY MAY

BE TAKEN FROM THESE FUNDS TO LOWER THE GENERAL TAXES COSTS HIM MANY DOLLARS A YEAR.

It has the same effect on the manufacturer who uses power in his factory, or the business man who uses water or power or light in his business.

IT IS ONLY THE RICH AND UNINDUSTRIOUS—whose tax bill is more important to them than their water or light bill—WHO ARE BENEFITED.

If the council were working on right lines, it would cut water rates and light rates so low that not one cent profit would be made. It would give cheap water to Tacoma homes, cheap light to Tacoma stores, and cheap power to Tacoma factories. Then it would divide up the general expenses of the city in a fair, honest manner. That would be constructive statesmanship.

But the present policy is in favor of the 10 per cent and against the 90 per cent.

Do you wonder certain interests are so strong for the plan? Do you wonder that three kept newspapers loudly applaud this saving, this "economy"? That they try to mask and disguise it as a sort of fight on Commissioner Drake?

It's easy money for them. Their taxes and the taxes of those they represent are being paid **OUT OF THE POCKETS OF TACOMA'S WORKINGMEN AND BUSINESS MEN.**

It is a pernicious, fatuous scheme. Kill it!

DUMBA RECALL BRINGS CRISIS

BURDEN HEAPED ON CITY-OWNED UTILITY PLANTS

Although not a cent's taxation was decreased, the city council, by juggling funds of the light and water department, reduced the municipal expense for 1916 today—on paper—to such an extent that it now stands lower than a 15-mill levy.

The cuts are only on paper, however. They are all made diverting revenues of the municipal light and water plants into other channels.

When the budget committee convened today, Commissioner Atkins had figures to show that a cut of \$75,600 in operating expense was necessary to bring the tax levy below 15 mills.

Figures by Superintendents Collins and Savidge of the light and water departments showed that new light and water rates to the city would reduce the operating expense of all departments by \$62,322.

Then the council voted to sell to the light department the 12 lots at 24th and Broadway, on which the city substation stands, for \$23,000, the cost price. This brought the budget, without a single cut in actual operation expense, \$10,000 below the sum that a 15-mill levy would bring.

More Juggling. The council also decided that the water department should hereafter only pay interest on \$750,000 of the \$1,300,000 debt against it, placing the remaining \$550,000 debt against the general fund. This was done to relieve the financial strain on the water department, but it will necessitate a large levy for interest and redemption against the general fund.

Although some criticism has been expressed against the alleged juggling of budget figures, Commissioner Drake expressed himself today as well satisfied over

changes, and W. I. Moulton, representative of the Pierce County Taxpayers' league, declared that the plan to place the light department on "a business basis" was the best move made by the city in years.

Yesterday's Session. Continuing their work yesterday afternoon of allowing the municipal power plant to take over a large part of the burden of reduced city revenue in 1916, the city council, acting as a budget committee, came to a deadlock when Commissioner Mills attempted to charge a tax against the light plant.

Mills declared that, as long as the municipal plant was being reduced to a practical business basis it should be forced to pay taxes, the same as any private corporation.

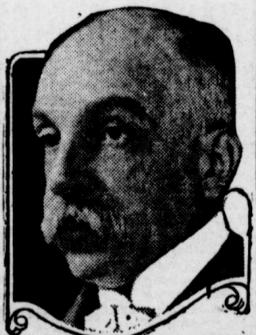
He therefore offered a motion that the Nisqually plant, and the transmission and distribution system, pay a tax into the city treasury next year based on the tax levy fixed by the present board.

And 2 Per Cent Tax! Commissioner Atkins balked. So did Drake. Atkins declared that it did not seem fair to charge a tax against the light plant, when all other city property is exempt from taxation.

Adjournment was called, and the taxation idea will be discussed later. The council voted yesterday afternoon to charge the light and water departments \$300 a month rent for offices in the city hall, use of the ground at the 23rd street sub-station and use of the city barn. It also voted to charge the light and water departments a 2 per cent gross earnings tax.

All Out of Public Utilities. Based on the figures of 1914, when the water department show-

Diplomat Who Must Leave the U.S.



CONSTANTIN DUMBA
Austria-Hungary's ambassador extraordinary at Washington, and Emperor Franz Joseph's official representative in the United States.

ed a gross earning of \$432,929 and the light department \$609,248, or a total of \$1,042,177, the 2 per cent tax will take from the two departments \$20,843 annually.

At the beginning of yesterday afternoon's session, Commissioner Atkins announced that the council had to cut \$96,000 from the budget, as prepared by various department heads.

Already \$9,000 has been cut by decrease in street lighting rates; \$38,000 in water hydrant rental; \$20,000 through the gross earnings tax; and \$3,600 through light and water rental, leaving \$26,000 still to be cut.

These cuts have all been made at the expense of the light and water departments, and effect no real saving to the taxpayers. Big cuts in operating expenses, still to be made, may bring the 1916 levy down to 14 or 13 mills, it is believed at the city hall.

1600 Bankers a Good-Fellow Lot; All Like Tacoma

There were millions and millions of dollars in Tacoma this afternoon—many billions and billions. Sixteen hundred bankers, making up probably the largest party of guests which this city has entertained in years, arrived at 12:45, enthusiastic over the boat-ride from Seattle.

There were two kinds of 'em—the fat and the thin. All looked prosperous and well-groomed as a clothing-ad, but the fellows from New York and the Atlantic seaboard were distinctively the live-wire, push-ahead young type, smooth of face, slick of hair and latest-tailored of dress.

The older boys were from the middle west. They had gone into banking, many of 'em, after having made enough money to do so in the rough-and-tumble competition of prairie days. They don't care much for these here fashions.

There was one banker that a Times man looked for in vain. He was the one who wore a rusty broadcloth coat and a plug hat. He had his little country wooden building, and he sneered at fine offices, typewriters, marble counters, adding machines, and so on. His favorite afternoon diversion was foreclosing mortgages.

We've read about him often, but he wasn't there. Maybe the old curmudgeon is dead.

All of the crowd fairly exuded responsibility and trustworthiness, but even at that, James K. Lynch of San Francisco; Peter K. Goebel, Kansas City; F. E. Farnsworth, and W. G. Fitzwilson, New Yorkers both, and E. W. Wing, LaCrosse, Wis., fairly surpassed the others in the appearance of men to whom you give your money freely and get a slip of paper back.

It was only right, for they're the newly elected officers.

EAT AT PICNIC BAR

Did you ever see a banker

at a picnic bar?

(A picnic bar, Ethel, is just a kind of counter of rough boards, without any foot-rail or other modern improvements.)

They had one today at the Tacoma hotel, and as the bankers cottoned up to that buffet lunch, they stood, sandwich in hand, lined along the bar, urging the white-aproned gentlemen to hurry-up first.

Most of 'em had an awful time pawing away at the place where the rail should have been.

The ladies had separate lunch, and drank stickless punch.

And so all this bunch of fellows, laughing and smiling just like a banker can when he hasn't the heavy duty of turning down your request for a \$100 loan on a \$1,000 property, got up to the Tacoma hotel from the boat; ate one swell luncheon; and started on a ride around the Stadium-Pt. Defiance and other show-places in the autos donated by citizens. There were plenty of cars. They were appreciative guests—licked to death at the hospitality of the Tacomans who had given the machines, and delighted every minute with what they saw.

GERMANS WIN AGAIN

BERLIN, Sept. 10.—The Russian center suffered another loss today from the Teuton battering, it was officially announced. Gen. von Hindenburg stormed three heights of Klooko on the Zeelwanska river, taking them with considerable loss of life.

Now We'll Call Her a Pacific Coast Girl



RHODA FULLAM
Miss Rhoda Fullam, daughter of Rear-Admiral Fullam, until recently superintendent of the naval academy, who will be one of the attendants at the marriage of Miss Margaret Andrews at Newport, R. I.

Miss Fullam now may be classified as a Pacific Coast girl in one sense, as her father has been transferred to the command of the Pacific Reserve fleet.

ACTIVE IN WEST, ALSO
PARIS, Sept. 10.—Using gas bombs, artillery and rifle fire, the Germans are making terrific attacks against the allies in Alsace and the Vosges.

TEUTONIC SITUATION IS TENSE

(BULLETIN.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 10.—"The situation is strained, but America will wait a reasonable time for Austria to act," Secretary Lansing told newspaper men late today.

His intimation was plain that if Austria did not recall Dumba at once, the United States was ready to hand him his passports.

Relations with Germany also were tense, because of the kaiser's refusal of reparations for the deaths of those who were lost in the Arabic disaster. Inferentially, this means, too, that he disavows responsibility for the Lusitania victims.

Germany is involved in the Dumba incident, through the relations of its embassy with the American, Archibald, who carried Dumba's message, to say nothing of the kaiser's own reported plan to carry out a munition-plant crippling campaign like Dumba's.

At the same time, Austria, as the kaiser's ally, is expected to stand by him in the Arabic controversy.

SITUATION VERY TENSE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 10.—The relations of America and Austria are strained almost to the breaking point today following President Wilson's demand for the recall of Ambassador Dumba of Austria.

The action was based on the envoy's admitted efforts to cripple American munition plants by calling Austrian workers out on strikes.

The threatened breach may cause a severance of diplomatic relations, but this would not mean war necessarily.

High officials admitted,

however, that the situation is pregnant with possibilities of an open break.

If Austria refuses to recall Dumba, the United States will hand him his passports.

While officials all hoped that no serious results would follow President Wilson's demand, they pointed out that Dumba had taken his action in attempting to tie up American munitions manufactures at the behest of his government.

Not only, it is declared, did his government have full knowledge of what he was doing, but it had ordered him to do it.

This in fact, was an assertion which Dumba himself made to Secretary Lansing in the conference which was called at Dumba's request.

It is a question now if the Austrian government will leave its minister in the lurch by a practical disavowal of the acts which it instructed him to carry through.

Test May Come Today.

If it should elect to stand by him, it is certain serious diplomatic results will follow, for President Wilson is fully determined in his course.

Ambassador Penfield at Vienna has the message to the Austrian foreign office, and it is assumed that he will deliver it today. Then will come the test of how Austria will stand by its minister.

The state department made it known in its message to Austria that Dumba's action in sending government dispatches by James F. J. Archibald, an American who posed as a newspaper correspondent, is no less serious than his attempt to tie up American munitions concerns engaged in making munitions for the allies.