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The Tacoma Times

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TACOMA, WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1917. VOL. XIV. NO. 115.

NIGHT
WEAT.
Tacoma: Fair
and Friday.
Washington: San-
light frost east portion.

GRAFT! ARMY POST IS ENDANGERED BY CROOKED WORK

(BY THE EDITOR)

I AM now going to rip the cover off of a rapidly developing scandal that threatens to besmear Pierce County's dearest possession, the American Lake army camp project!

The time has come for the people to learn that invisible, intriguing forces are reaching out greedy hands toward the two million dollars you and I and the rest of us voted for the use of Uncle Sam.

THE project was conceived in a spirit of patriotism and has been carried through to the present point by Tacoma citizens acting along lines of high civic ideals. It has been--to this date--clean and aboveboard and honorable. There has been as yet no taint of pork or graft. But the sinister motives of a few men are today menacing the enterprise with both pork barrel and graft dangers.

As the editor of a paper which assured its readers at the time of the bond election that the proposition was meritorious and on the square and which pledged itself to see that the plan was carried through to the very finish in the same spirit, I now find it my unpleasant duty to disclose the subterranean burrowings which certain "prominent" Tacomans are engaged in, their noses pointed toward the county's \$2,000,000 treasure.

The aforesaid noses, be it remarked, are due to come in contact with the moving end of one large club unless they speedily point in a reverse direction.

The American Lake project is too important to Tacoma and to the government, too splendid, too vital an enterprise to be ruined or discredited by a pack of petty grafters. It SHALL NOT be either ruined or discredited. I repeat that up to the present no taint attaches to the project itself; when this series of articles is off the press there won't be a grafter in sight.

For all the intriguing, all the plotting as yet has borne no fruit. The conspiracy is just ripening to a point where its promoters expect to cash in on it. The public can and will find it easy to attend to the case when once it has the facts. These it is about to receive. Publicity will do the business.

In general, there are three attempted raids planned on Pierce county's and Uncle Sam's multi-million-dollar enterprise.

SCHEME NO. 1 is a comparatively piffling matter, a proposed arrangement by which a notorious politician was to be put on Tacoma's payroll to the extent of \$500 a month to lobby for appropriations at Washington. This is merely an amazingly crude scheme which already is already wilting in its yellow bud. You will be astonished, though, when you learn the names of the men, high officials they are, who proposed the raw deal, and perhaps even more surprised when I tell you who the individual was they had in mind as Tacoma's envoy extraordinary to the pork barrel.

SCHEME NO. 2 is a plan that is being cleverly engineered by some of the slickest lawyers in the state to tap Pierce county's treasury for \$21,000. There is yet plenty of time to block the raid, and you, the Tacoma public, can do it.

SCHEME NO. 3 is the most desperate and most dangerous of all. It is the game for the big stakes. It is ill-formed, but cunning; it is bold, predatory--yet after it has suffered the publicity I propose to inflict on it--**DOOMED TO FAILURE.**

Now this is an intricate subject. It has ramifications that lead across the continent to the nation's capital, and it has little rootlets that bind it by apparently innocent ties to innumerable Tacomans from whose minds graft is farthest removed.

For that reason it cannot be told in a breath. It must be unfolded chapter by chapter. I shall tell tomorrow of scheme No. 1, the next day of scheme No. 2, and on Monday of scheme No. 3. I will follow up those exposures with an explanation of just how the public may act to block all three and to see that the army camp project is carried out just as the people desire, free from crookedness. The coming week is going to be an interesting one for the people of Pierce County.