

GRAFT AND PORK AND THE ARMY POST

The Tacoma Times

NIGHT EDITION
WEATHER
Tacoma: Fair, light frost tonight.
Washington: Same west; heavy frost east.

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NEW RUSSIA NOW FACES OVERTHROW

SCHEME NO. 1

A Fine Little Plan to Pay Discredited Politician \$500 a Month

BY THE EDITOR

Three raids, I charged yesterday, have been organized on public funds in connection with the army post project.

A great public enterprise that has been free from all taint of pork and graft is in danger of being shot through with both.

Scheme No. 1 smells of the hog barrel. It was simple, absurdly so.

This was it: Make the American lake project the rallying center for a big, old-fashioned drive against Uncle Sammy at this time when he is spending billions for military purposes, AND—As generalissimo in this patriotic undertaking appoint, guess who!

No other than W. E. Humphrey, Seattle congressman, whose term just expired!

Yes, that was it. Get Will Humphrey to serve Tacoma as lobbyist at Washington, at \$500 a month. This is the same Will Humphrey who, at a state convention once held in Tacoma, earned the sobriquet "God-Hates-a-Coward" Humphrey.

The Humphrey who helped pawn off on the government as a postoffice site a Seattle duck pond under several feet of water, owned by a business and political friend, at a price running well into six figures.

The Humphrey who, while running last fall against Miles Poindexter for U. S. senator, a race in which he was overwhelmingly defeated, said in a speech at Seattle:

"All that I have or that I expect to be is interwoven with the future of Seattle. The old Seattle spirit still lives."

The Humphrey who, thanks to Poindexter's immense majority, is now "Lame Duck" Humphrey.

It Was Fine, Ambitious Scheme
I confess I do not know just where the happy idea originated, but I suspect Will E. himself is its author. Anyhow the men he got to sponsor it for him were (get this; it is edifying) Senator Wesley L. Jones, late aide to the Kaiser's Dozen, and Albert Johnson, congressman from this district.

Knowing the latter pretty well and realizing that he has a normal sense of humor, I imagine perhaps Johnson backed the idea with one eye closed, but anyhow he was for it.

Being fairly well balanced and sane organizations, they naturally turned the proposition down jointly and severally and with considerable elat.

And, of course, that ended it, because Humphrey's crew could think of nobody else to ask for the \$500 per.

There is a group of men in Tacoma who looked with approval on the Humphrey idea, for what reason they best know. As I do not happen to have exact, first-hand information as to just who they all are, I will leave their identity for you to guess. It ought to be fairly easy. If you recall the newspaper and political clique that backed his senatorial campaign here last fall, the personnel of the select circle should not be difficult to surmise.

I also will leave it for you to figure out whether this clever pork-hunt project has any relation to schemes No. 2 and No. 3, especially No. 3, after you have read what I will have to say tomorrow and Monday.

There is a great deal of unintended humor and very little of real menace in the Humphrey episode. It is funny because it purported to be serious and yet never succeeded in getting within the pale of common sense or probability.

IT HAS, JUST THE SAME, ONE SOBERING IMPLICATION—the fact that there should be in Tacoma and elsewhere an organized and supposedly influential group who would try to use the American lake army camp as a means of milking the government.

Never Fear for the Project
Now the fact is the American lake camp is going to develop rapidly into the immense government establishment we all have hoped to see arise there. It is going to do so through sheer merit. Every army officer, every war department official is for it STRONG, because the site is the best that lies outdoors.

The only danger that confronts it is that somebody's haste, or somebody's greed, or somebody's bone-headedness is going to replace this friendly spirit at headquarters with antagonism. The project will develop and expand the best and fastest if we let Uncle Sam do it in his own way. A Humphrey or similar meddler might muddy the waters at Washington so that the project would suffer irreparable harm.

The nation is at war. The war department is the busiest organization in all likelihood at present in this whole world. It is bending every energy to create and outfit and train a mighty army. The American lake site, we have been repeatedly assured, is to play a leading part in this program.

A pork-visioned lobbyist fussing and meddling and importuning and whining around the capitol would be about as unpatriotic, as unwelcome and as useless a piece of furniture as the mind of mortal man could conceive.

But that is enough on scheme No. 1. No. 2 is more serious. It is a plan to gouge Pierce county for \$21,000 that I, as one member of the army post committee and as editor of a paper which always has backed the project, do not think the county legally can or rightfully should pay. I will discuss it tomorrow, and on Monday the third and largest and most serious graft menace in this multi-million-dollar enterprise.

Divorced, Woman Attorney and Frank Riley Re-marry
After a sensational divorce and a year of separation, Frank Riley and Miss Nelda Jaeger again are man and wife. The wedding Thursday afternoon came as a surprise to their friends. Both are well known attorneys of Tacoma.

Here He Is



W.E. Humphrey

CAR BURNED BY ENEMIES

After two attempts to wreck the touring car of Patsy Mattison, a police chauffeur, enemies of Patsy were successful Friday morning when they stole the car from the Exeter apartments, South 5th and J streets, drove it to South 10th and Adams, and set fire to it.

STREET CAR VETERAN ILL

Charles Purdy, conductor No. 1 of the T. R. & P. company, who has served continuously on the rear end of Tacoma street cars for more than 25 years, is ill at the Tacoma General hospital, and his life is despaired of.

HOME LOOTED

Prying open a window in the home of Hugh Wallace, prominent Tacoma politician, now residing in Washington, D. C., some time during the past week thieves ransacked the house, according to a report made to the police by Forbes Haskell, who looks after Mr. Wallace's affairs here.

GUARDS ORGANIZE RIFLE CLUB HERE

A rifle club was organized Thursday night among the members of the Tacoma Home Guards, to meeting at the headquarters of Y. M. C. A. More than 15 members were present, and they put in a half-hour drill under the direction of B. W. Colner.

TO PAINT FISHING BOATS ALL WHITE

CATCH A PAIR OF 'EM

Pursued by dry squad officers in a police machine to a point on the Sixth avenue boulevard half way to Titlow's beach Thursday night, Ray Gamble, proprietor of the Olympia Oyster & Fish Co., and Kenneth D. Burnham, chief clerk of the Northern Pacific railway in Tacoma, were arrested and taken to police headquarters on charges of having liquor in their possession for evidence purpose of sale.

Four cases of Sunnybrook whisky, containing 48 quarts, were found concealed under lap robes in the tonneau of Gamble's car.

A Pacific avenue druggist, whom the police say had driven out to the boulevard in a hired car, to receive the liquor from Gamble and Burnham, escaped while officers were making the arrest. Dry squad members were searching for him Friday.

Chief of Police Smith declared Friday that his men had been watching Gamble and Burnham for three months, in the belief that they were handling liquor.

Police officers learned Thursday evening that a shipment of liquor was to be disposed of by the Pacific avenue druggist, they say. In a police car, Officers Whitmore, Sears, Archer and Dymmet followed the car hired by the druggist.

When the druggist's car reached the Sixth ave. boulevard, he turned off all lights.

The pursuers did likewise. About a mile beyond the end of the Sixth ave. car line, the druggist's car approached a second machine which had just driven to the side of the paved road. The police car passed, and immediately swung about.

Coming back to the spot where the two cars were lined up together, the officers made a rush for the machine beside the road. As they did so, the druggist ordered his driver to speed away, and he had disappeared down the boulevard at a mile-a-minute gait before the police could give chase.

Gamble and Burnham were in Gamble's car. The whisky was hidden in the tonneau.

At police headquarters the two men were booked on a double charge, the first alleging violation of city ordinance regarding the possession of liquor for sale, and the second alleging violation of the state prohibition law.

They were released on bail of \$600 each.

Battle Rages Hotter Than Ever Before

(By United Press.)
WITH THE BRITISH ARMIES IN THE FIELD, May 4.—Germany is fighting as she never fought before to stop the British drive.

Fighting for the most part hand-to-hand and bayonet-to-bayonet over miles of front, the Tommies themselves were authority for this statement.

Today the German artillery fire was vastly increased.

More war news on page five.

T.R.P. SEEKS RELIEF

An early reduction of the service on certain car lines of the city, the withdrawal of city commutation tickets, and other measures to cut down the expense of operation were announced Friday by the Tacoma Railway & Power Co., through Louis Best, manager.

Manager Best was not ready Friday to announce the date on which the reduction in service will become effective.

No statement of which lines would be affected, however, was obtained although it is believed the long hauls were the ones referred to, including Pt. Defiance, South Tacoma, Spanaway, Bismark lines and Regent Park.

The reason given is the dismissal by the public service commission of the company's petition asking to be relieved of the payment of a gross earnings tax to the city, the paving of streets and other franchise obligations.

"This relief" having been at least temporarily deferred," said Manager Best in a statement Friday, "we are forced to take the only means within our power to defer complete financial collapse of the companies, by reductions in service on lines where service has been maintained entirely for the benefit of the public at a serious financial loss to us."

"The nature of these reductions in service will be given publicity before being placed in effect."

Best announced that the company was filing a withdrawal of the city commutation tickets both of the T. R. & P. and the Pacific (Continued on Page Five.)

ARMY QUILTS WORK!

BY WILLIAM G. SHEPHERD.
(United Press Leased Wire.)
PETROGRAD, May 4.—A dramatic speech, appealing to the patriotism of the workmen and soldiers, delivered by Premier Miliukoff from the balcony of the government building, had today apparently staved off the crisis that appears imminent in new Russia.

From a hooting, jerring mob that demanded his resignation the premier turned the throngs of soldiers and workmen which had paraded the streets throughout yesterday into a crowd which cheered his utterances, pledging unrelenting war on Germany.

The situation was not entirely cleared up today, however. A joint meeting of the representatives of the provisional government and the workmen and soldiers' committees scheduled for tonight has been cancelled. It is assumed this action was taken to permit further conferences with leaders of the workmen and soldiers, warning his forces to participate in the affairs of the government.

Warfare Ceases.
A virtual armistice exists along almost the entire Russian front today.

Not a shot has been fired on the Austro-Russian front in more than a month.

There has been no real activity on the German-Russian sector. At many places Russian and German soldiers are fraternizing, meeting unarmed in "No Man's Land."

So general has become the habit of fraternizing and so completely has the fighting spirit been subdued that Gen. Gourka, commander of the Russian forces on the Minsk front, today issued a formal statement warning his forces to beware of a German rush.

All-Night Session.
Soldiers arriving for the duma meeting are authority for the statement there has been absolutely no fighting on the Austrian front.

In this connection, Petrograd newspapers today publish 11 uncensored letters from soldiers at the front telling of soldiers fraternizing.

How seriously the situation (Continued on Page Five.)

TODAY'S CLEARINGS
Clearings \$ 387,382.38
Balances 88,221.25
Transactions 1,116,180.79

TALK O' THE TIMES

Give us your dog as a wartime sacrifice?

This vacant lot garden situation is becoming serious. Soon so many of the properties will be cultivated that there will be no place for our neighbors to dump their garbage.

It is noted that the "matchless" news-gathering forces of a certain Tacoma newspaper have not yet found out anything about the peculiar goings-on in the army post project. (At least for publication.)

HOUSEHOLD HINT
Never throw away an old wash boiler. If it leaks, have it mended and use it to hold hairpins.

Last Wednesday there was just one recruit signed up at Norfolk, Va. You probably think we're faking this, but we aren't—his name was B. W. Skinker.

About the same day a woman blind-pigger was sent up from Minot, N. D. And her name was Jennie Hogg.

The city council ought to buy Charlie Atkins, one of the city funds, of course, and five-cent beer in Tacoma.