

GRAFT, GRAFT, GRAFT EVERYWHERE

WILL CITY COUNCIL CAN ATTORNEY BLAIR

Back again to the city council goes the scrap in the corporation counsel's office. It is now up to the city council to say whether they were really its earnest when they approved the sensational report of the special committee last night in the Blair investigation.

Mayor Pratt this morning refused to name a new corporation counsel, as requested by the special committee, and approved by the city council, and will stand by Blair. The city council asked for a new man, in order to settle the controversy, but Pratt has refused to "fire" Blair. In fact, he exonerated Blair before the investigating committee made its report at all.

It is believed that the city council wants to tie a can to Mr. Blair, but the question arises, has the council the moral courage to do the trick. That remains to be seen. The council will meet again tomorrow night and at that time will find Mr. Blair is still with them.

The findings of the special investigating committee appointed by the city council was read to that body last night. The findings were the bitterest arraignment ever made of a city official in like manner by a committee appointed to inquire into official misconduct.

The findings of the committee upheld the contention of the former corporation counsel, E. O. Connor, that Blair had "thrown down" the city in two big damage suits; that he had wholly neglected his duties as an assistant to the corporation counsel and refused to take orders from his chief; that he did everything in his power to hamper and interfere with the legal department of the city in order to force Connor from the office, and that in this work he had the aid and connivance of Mayor Pratt; that Blair gave the bulk of his time for the last three months to work of the charter revision committee, instead of helping work out the affairs of the city under the existing charter; that Blair's law partner, James T. Burcham, maintains an office in the corporation counsel's office in order to aid Blair in looking after private business while ostensibly transacting public business, and that Burcham had said office at a nominal rental; in fact, every charge made by E. O. Connor and Bruce Blake were upheld.

The present force of assistants to Blair, Messrs. Wiley, Tustin and McWilliams, were exempted from the general condemnation, as new men in the office about whom nothing but good can be said.

The report of the committee was drawn by G. W. Shaefer, an attorney, as chairman, and signed by Leonard Funk, Jacob Schiller, Charles W. Mohr and Peter Nelson. Shaefer has his office next door in the Hyde block to the one occupied by Blair.

The committee report was adopted by the city council without a dissenting vote.

Mr. Blair arose and read an answer of general denial to the charges, which the council permitted to be added to the report of the committee. After this he conferred with John Lee, the mayor's secretary, and Ernest Sargent, a former assistant city attorney.

In addition to the censure of Blair, the council ordered that Burcham be fired out of the office of the corporation counsel and that on and after April 1 less pretentious quarters be used, at not to exceed \$50 per month. The present rent is \$125 per month.

DRUG TRUST

(By United Press Leased Wire) NEW YORK, March 23.—To make war on the two powerful drug corporations that operate chains of "cut rate" stores throughout the country, a new drug trust with a capital of \$25,000,000 has been formed.

Final steps in the fight were taken yesterday when the stockholders of the American Drugists' syndicate voted to increase their capital stock from \$300,000 to \$25,000,000, and filed incorporation papers at Albany for a subsidiary corporation to be known as the American Drug Stores.

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JEFF WILL TRAIN HERE FOR FIGHT WITH JOHNSON



PANORAMIC VIEW OF ROWARDENNAN, WHERE JIM JEFFRIES WILL TRAIN FOR HIS FIGHT WITH JOHNSON.

Seeking an outdoor paradise as his ideal in the location of his training Jim Jeffries has found almost the ideal in the location in his training camp. It is at Rowardennan, 10 miles from Santa Cruz, and a few miles from the famous big trees of California.

When he hits the road, Jeff, should the fancy seize him, could trot back into the mountains or head for the coast and enjoy a dip in the ocean at the end of the run.

Hunting and fishing, mountain air and sea breezes may be had at Rowardennan for the taking, and it is because of this great variety that Jim has chosen the spot. A French chef will be employed to cook for the big fellow and his imposing array of trainers, sparrers, rubbers and other superintendents of his work.

Rowardennan has for several years been the camping spot of the social elite of California, and that it was turned over to a prize fighter came as a great surprise to countless hundreds who knew of the place and its advantages. Jeff will start training promptly on April 1, and from then on, it will be grind, grind, day in and day out, until the time when Jeff will either do down to defeat or else win back the world's championship.

KING GEORGE READY TO QUIT

ROME, March 23.—Crown Prince Constantine of Greece is authoritatively today for the statement that the next three weeks will decide whether his father, King George, is to retain or abdicate the Hellenic throne.

"Everything," said the prince, "depends on whether the Greek national assembly succeeds in carrying out the league's orders and the league dissolves."

It is understood that the league has no intention of dissolving unless the league leaders believe make its organization no longer necessary.

It is doubtful whether the assembly can get through the league's program before the end of the session. So there is a strong indication that the king will abdicate, as he has stated that he will not attempt to rule Greece under the direction of the league.

Among the things which the league has demanded are: Changes in the election laws by which it is hoped to secure a more representative assembly; purchase of all large land owners' holdings in Thessaly and the redistribution of the lands among the peasant farmers; the creation of a minister of agriculture; the dismissal of all the higher officials in the civil service in favor of men more competent to handle the national affairs.

OH, MAYBE HE DOES MAYBE SOMEBODY LIED

(By United Press Leased Wire) PORTLAND, Ore., March 23.—Much interest is being manifested today in the claims of William H. Sweet, who says he has discovered the secret of preserving fish and cereals used by the ancient Egyptians. As proof of his assertions, Sweet exhibited a number of roses that had been allowed to wither for a year. By the simple process of moistening the petals, the flowers resumed their original freshness and color and the withered buds burst into bloom.

Corn on the cob, dried a year ago, was restored by merely being placed in water overnight, so that it not only looked but tasted fresh.

Sweet says that for 15 years he has been experimenting seeking for the element which, successfully applied by the ancients, kept deterioration from affecting food products and recently he discovered this element.

The apparatus by which he accomplishes the results which he expects will revolutionize the canning industry and the preservation of meats, is a queer looking affair. A fire burns in both ends of the oblong box. Horizontal screens bear the product to be preserved. Air constantly circulates within. That is all.

The process is not expensive, the work is quickly done and the products keep indefinitely. Sweet claims.

The rumor that Frank Gould married an actress is untrue. The young woman belonged to a musical comedy company.

OLD ENGLAND HAS NO TAX LAW

(By United Press Leased Wire) LONDON, March 23.—For the first time in the history of parliamentary government a fiscal year is about to terminate—March 31—without the passage of a "budget."

The effect upon a country's private as well as financial affairs promises to be serious.

It is likely to be felt abroad, too. While it is not true that absolutely no taxes have been collected during the fiscal year 1909-10, still the returns from "fixed" taxes are sufficient only to maintain the navy and army on their present basis and provide for no increase of armament.

FOOL DARE PRATT RULE IS WORST SPOKANE HAS SUFFERED

(By United Press Leased Wire) LOS ANGELES, March 23.—An unidentified Mexican youth was killed instantly, and Antonio Yoa, 18, injured so severely that he died three hours later, by a Southern Pacific train near Santa Barbara yesterday. Yoa made a trifling bet with a companion that he could run across the railroad tracks in front of an approaching train.

When the engine had reached a designated spot, Yoa leaped toward the roadbed. The other boy, not to be outdone, leaped after him.

Both lads were squarely between the rails when the engine struck them. Yoa was picked up unconscious from a ditch at the side of the track, while the other was found 200 feet down the track. Yoa was placed on a freight train and brought here. Just before the train reached Los Angeles, he recovered consciousness and told his story.

He stated that he could not remember his companion's name, and died while being questioned by the doctors.

THE RACES TODAY. (By United Press Leased Wire) Jacksonville, March 23.—Results: First race—Darling, even; won; Agnes May, 8 to 5, second; Eastern Star, third. Time, :49.

Second race—Starboard, 5 to 2; won; Brevet, 2 to 1, second; Outpost, third. Time, 1:14 2-5.

Third race—Jack Parker, 2 to 1; won; Nimble second; High Range, third. Time, 1:12 1-5.

Fourth race—Spellbound, 6 to 5; won; El Pall, 2 to 1, second; Ozana, third. Time, 1:48 1-5.

Fifth race—Spanish Prince, 7 to 1; won; Goleconda, 9 to 10, second; Decemnitz, third. Time, 1:45.

Sixth race—Gerrymander, even; won; Ohio, 3 to 1, second; Maximum, third. Time, 1:48 2-5.

TREAT JIM HILL WITH COURTESY

For some time there has been pending in the city council an ordinance granting a franchise to the Northern Pacific for a connecting track from the Great Northern to be laid just east of the Schade brewery. This will give the N. P. and the G. N.—the Hill twins, a chance to exchange traffic to and fro and consign the same to the Spokane, Portland & Seattle, which bears the city over the Great Northern tracks.

There has been no demand for terminal rates from Jim Hill as a concession for the passage of this connecting line franchise. Neither was there a demand made on Hill when the city council had under consideration the franchise for the connecting line to be built by the Great Northern to the S. P. & S.

"Oh, that is another matter," say some of the councilmen. It is nothing of the kind. Jim Hill burs his stuff from the east at the high rates paid by Spokane. In order to reach the coast more cheaply, to aid him in getting the lower rates which he has for years granted the coast cities, the legislative body of Spokane was called upon and voted unanimously to give Jim Hill the right to change horses in this city, and never a word was whispered about terminal rates.

Through the grace of the city council, Mr. Hill is now enabled to get freight to the coast more cheaply than he was before over his S. P. & S. and not even a word of protest on the question of terminal rates was heard from Mr. Ostrand, who had a club hanging over the North Coast in the committee of the whole at the same time.

Jim Hill is the most subtle foe of the people in the matter of pernicious activity that the state of Washington has ever known. He has controlled city councils, county officials, judges, courts, legislatures, governors and United States senators. He is a powerful factor today in the city of Spokane. It is to Hill's advantage to keep out the North Coast and the Milwaukee.

The question then comes up, to what extent has he interfered in the present situation.

The council was wise in agreeing to let the people settle the issue. Now place the question before the people fairly, so that when it is passed upon it will be upon the merits of all points involved and settle the franchise controversy for good.

WILL CITY COUNCIL CAN ATTORNEY BLAIR

Who is going to throw the next brick? This is the burning issue at the city hall.

With the police, the legal and the engineering departments under investigation or subject to charges, and the minor departments no less free from complaint, it is time to rise and ask, "Whither are we drifting?"

In the police department the conditions are notoriously bad and do not improve, and it keeps the whole force busy trying to see that too much of the truth does not come out. If half of what has been told is true, the Spokane police department is rotten.

Then there is the corporation counsel's office, the legal guardian of the rights of the people. After investigation we are told that conditions therein are chaotic and that the lawyers hired by the city have been trying to see how far they could wander from the straight and narrow path.

And the engineer's office—oh, don't mention it. That is about the worst yet. While other departments have been sweeping away the taxpayers' hard earned money by the thousands, it has been melting in the engineer's office by the tens of thousands. No one appears to be able to check it. Engineer Ralston seems to have cast a magic spell over the whole bunch, from top to bottom. His equal has never before been seen in Spokane.

We are told that the service in the crematory department is miserable; we know that the city has been held up month after month in the bills for boarding the unucky citizens that are compelled to visit the city isolation hospital; there is talk of graft in the purchase of supplies in the past, and that some of the inspectors at the city hall are maintained more for the protection of certain lines of business than looking after the interests of the people.

The present administration will go down into history as the most extravagant, the most fruitless of results; we know that the city has been held up month after month in the bills for boarding the unucky citizens that are compelled to visit the city isolation hospital; there is talk of graft in the purchase of supplies in the past, and that some of the inspectors at the city hall are maintained more for the protection of certain lines of business than looking after the interests of the people.

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THIS PARSON HAS MUCH BREWERY STOCK

(By United Press Leased Wire.) LONDON, March 23.—Critics of the sermon by Archbishop Sinclair of London to the effect that the moderate use of intoxicants is justified by the bible, and that discriminating legislation against liquor interests is socialistic, are charging today that Archbishop Sinclair has financial reasons for his attitude.

"In connection with the remarkable sermon delivered by the archbishop in Manchester," said F. Norbury Williams, "may I be allowed to quote a line from the official list of shareholders in the Great Brewery of Barclay, Perkins & Co."

This entry is found in the brewer's books since the formation of the company in 1836:

"Sinclair, Wm., Chapter house, St. Paul's; 200 10-pound preferred shares.

LANGFORD HAS CASH FOR JOHNSON FIGHT

(By United Press Leased Wire) LOS ANGELES, Cal., March 23.—Langford, announced today that he has deposited \$1000 with a local sportsman to find a match for his meal ticket with Jack Johnson. An additional \$5000 to provide a side bet of \$10,000 will be forthcoming the moment Johnson evinces his willingness to cover the wager, Woodman declared.

"When it was suggested to Johnson in Chicago recently that he fight Langford, he stuck out his chest and remarked that Langford would have to come around with his hand in his pocket before the proposition could be considered," said Woodman.

"Langford's hand is in his pocket now," he continued, "and it will be up to Johnson to make good."

Woodman is loud in his claim that Langford can dispose of any man in the pugilistic world today, barring Jim Jeffries.

He stated that he will return to the Pacific coast with Langford when the eastern tour he has arranged is completed and will camp on Johnson's trail until a meeting between the Africans is arranged.

CAR AND AUTO IN FATAL CRASH

(By United Press Leased Wire) WASHINGTON, March 23.—Mrs. H. J. Slocum, wife of Major Slocum, U. S. A., stationed at Governor's Island, New York, was killed today in an automobile accident. The automobile was struck and demolished by an interurban car in a suburb north of this city.

General Franklin Bell, chief of staff of the army, was in the machine. He escaped with slight injuries.

Mrs. Slocum died within 15 minutes after the collision.

General Bell sustained a deep scalp wound, but a superficial examination revealed no other injuries.

The general and Mrs. Slocum were seated in the tonneau of the machine from which they were hurled by the impact of the trolley car.

WILL RAISE MAINE.

(By United Press Leased Wire) WASHINGTON, March 23.—A bill for the raising of the battleship Maine, submerged at Havana harbor, Cuba, was passed late this afternoon by the house by a vote of 150 to 4.

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As proof of his assertions, Sweet exhibited a number of roses that had been allowed to wither for a year. By the simple process of moistening the petals, the flowers resumed their original freshness and color and the withered buds burst into bloom.

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FRENZIED FINANCE

An ambition of the Spokane & Inland Empire Railway company to buy in the property of the Spokane Hydraulic Press Stone company for about a quarter of its actual value, is believed to be behind an action that has been brought in the superior court by W. G. Davidson, against the stone company, asking that its officers be restrained from "wasting" any more of the corporation's assets until a regular meeting of the stockholders can be called.

Davidson is one of the stockholders in the Press Stone company, and aside from asking that the assets be preserved for the time being, he petitions the court to set aside a default judgment secured against other members of the company by J. A. McLean for salary and office rent.

McLean secured a default judgment for approximately \$3000 a short time ago, for office rent and salary, while he, as a member of the stone company, worked in its interests. It is said now that the Spokane & Inland Railway company not only has designs on the Spokane Hydraulic Press Stone company's property, which abuts upon its right of way, but that it has already secured possession of a good share of the company's stock at less than one-quarter of its actual value.

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BIG CONGRESS ROW TONIGHT

(By United Press Leased Wire) WASHINGTON, March 23.—The rules committee fight is scheduled to take the center of the stage tonight, when the republican caucus to select members of the new committee provided by the Norris resolution meets. The session, it is believed, from present indications, will be very quiet. The insurgents today are sticking to the position they took after the fight was won on the floor.

"We do not after committee places," say the insurgent leaders today.

The insurgents declare that they are willing to leave the matter of appointment to the caucus and the caucus is overwhelmingly in the hands of the Cannon faction. It is generally believed that the caucus will not name an insurgent for a place on the committee, although some of the organization men favor

such an appointment, so that the insurgents will be forced to assume their share of responsibility for the action of the committee in the future.

The most interested spectators of the fight are the democrats. When they caucus tomorrow night it is estimated that they may espouse the cause of the insurgents. The political dopesters here predict such an action on the theory that the democrats believe it would create a wider breach between insurgents and regulars in the republican ranks, and intensify political wrangles in the ranks of the opposition.

If the democrats name an insurgent as their choice for the committee it is understood that the name will refuse to serve and there will be a chance for more fireworks when the selection of the new committee comes up for the ratification of the house.

Foss, discussing his election, said: "The vote is the result of the people's demand that the republicans shall fulfill their pledges of an honest downward revision of the tariff."

"It is a demand for the immediate repeal of section two of the tariff act, which substitutes retaliation for reciprocity and means tariff war with our best customers."

"It is a demand that Canada be treated decently."

Buchanan, the defeated republican, said: "I shall feel that my defeat is not without its value if it convinces the republicans that something must be done speedily to lower the cost of living."

SAYLER JURY SECURED. (By United Press Leased Wire.) WATSEKA, Ill., March 23.—After more than a week's delay in getting a jury, opening argument of the prosecution in the trial of Mrs. J. B. Saylor, John Grunden, her father, and Dr. Wm. Miller began today. The defendants are accused of the murder of J. B. Saylor, banker, husband of the woman on trial.

THE WORLD WAR POWER

(By United Press Leased Wire) PEKIN, March 23.—The Chinese board of war is preparing today for the reception of Yin Tchang, present minister to Germany, who will become the minister of war upon his arrival here.

Officials of the board are preparing to put into effect a plan, outlined by Yin, for the redistribution of Chinese troops, an immense increase in the imperial army and possibly the institution of a compulsory military service system.

According to friends of Minister Yin he intends to introduce universal military service in China. It is recognized that if all available Chinese join the army, China will overshadow all other armed nations.

The details of the plan have not yet been worked out but it is proposed to make all young Chinese capable of military service through drill and education.</