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ED. SWARTZ INVITES ED. HART TO COME WEST

A Little Climatic Argument Is Made by the Former St. Joseph Attorney

In Which Southern Sand Fleas and Active Florida Alligators Take a Prominent Part

To the Editor of The Observer—

"In this far off land of sunshine and flowers, where there are but two seasons in the year, spring and fall, and mostly spring; where we have fresh fish and fresh garden vegetables every day in the year, where they make hedge fences out of the prolific and beautiful Geranium, where at this time every shrub, every bush of every kind, every tree of every variety is in fullest bloom and flower, perfuming the air with the sweetest flavor, in the gentle ocean breeze, my mind wanders back to my old Missouri friends, especially the readers of The Observer, and how I do wish they could all come out and spend a day or two with me and enjoy the climate and scenery that God has certainly prepared for his chosen people.

"I have been getting The Observer regularly and it helps to keep my democracy straight. We need something of that kind here, too, for under the system they have here politics are sure jumbled; every candidate runs on all the tickets. I have enjoyed very much the letters of our old friend, the irrepressible Ed. Hart, about his meanderings and complaints in the glades of Florida. I notice he has had a hard time of it down there this winter keeping warm and getting enough to eat; that he has had to burn pine knots and inhale the smoke to keep warm and disinfected; that he held a handful of sand up to the sun and when the lice and fleas all jumped out his hand was empty. Surely where these friends of man so congest the soil I would think our friend Ed. would keep warm with scratches and exorcisms, and that his temper would be so aroused that he would continuously be hot without a fire. Send a message to Ed. to start at once for the sun-kissed clime of the Golden state. In Florida he must curse and fume because of temperature, vermin, stagnant water and other shortcomings of that little neck of land, while here his life will be continual tranquility and repose. In his slumbers, of course, when he first comes here he may dream of the alligators back in Florida and be aroused in fright, but the moment he opens his glims and extends his nostrils and views the beautiful surroundings and inhales the scented air his grouch will disappear as the morning vapor. Tell Ed. to buy his ticket straight through to my office and he will never be out of humor again as long as he lives.

Forgot His Mission

"I have devoted so much space to our old friend's calamities in Florida that I have no room left on what I really started to write about. I have received many communications from old friends at home asking me about the country, and when I was coming home. The story of California is a long one. This time I will only make a few short observations and if The Observer publishes this letter and we get the proper results I may write another in the near future.

"We have been here six months; during that time the mercury has not been below 40 and only once above 90; the average is 40 to 70 in the winter months, and 65 to 90 all the rest of the year. The rainy season, fall, winter and spring is delightful in this Southland. We have had but about eight rainy days in six months. The wind blows from five to eleven miles per hour, just a gentle sea breeze almost all of the time. We had one storm, which was called a freak here, as it came north and northwest out of Mexico, which gained a velocity of twenty-eight miles an hour, an ordinary Missouri wind, and you ought to have heard the natives complain and holler about such beastly weather. It shows how unreasonably the people of the world are.

Big County—Big People

Los Angeles county has an area of over 4,000 square miles, about the size of the Platte Purchase, I think. The great cities of Long Beach, Santa

Monica, Pasadena and Pomona are in this county, as well as numerous other large and active, growing places. The city of Los Angeles has an area of 374 square miles. The population of the city is estimated at 600,000, and of the county 1,200,000.

"The state of California has an annual budget eight times in excess of Missouri; California \$48,000,000, Missouri \$6,000,000. There are over 500,000 auto licenses out this year so far.

"The wealthy and prominent people from all over the world come here during the season. Taft, Baker, McAdoo, Henry Ford, Wrigley and a great host of others I have seen here this winter. Henry Ford was staying at his Pasadena home and would ride out every day in a specially constructed little Ford tin lizzie. They tell it that one day he was riding along when he met up with a couple of lawyers who were trying to get someone where in their regular Ford 'Lixie' and were completely stuck. Try as they would, it would not part or budge. Mr. Ford got out and caressed their little wagon, patted it on its radiator, pulled the priming rod gently a couple of times, talked to it in endearing terms, and said, 'now, you of course know me, I'm Henry.' He then took hold of the crank, gave it one gentle turn and off it went as smooth as grease. Moral to Ford owners: pat them gently and represent yourself to be 'Henry' and your troubles are over.

"This is the home of most of the 'movie stars.' Last fall during the Red Cross drive, business got a little slack at the auction, and Clara Kimball Young pulled off her bloomers and had them auctioned for the Cross and the bidding was sure spirited. The bloomers were knocked down to Charley Chaplin for \$200. He immediately put them around his neck for a muffler and paraded up and down before the populace.

Politics Are Warning Up

"While you have your political excitement there, we also have it here. Jim Reed seems right now to be the issue there; here we have just indicted our mayor on the charge of accepting bribes from the underworld. The campaign comes off in May; so things are warm politically with the mayor, a candidate for re-election in the face of an indictment.

"Tell Billy Linn that he is as famous out here almost as Senator Reed; his remonstrance against the Senator has gained wide publicity. In the language of his remonstrance he is about as hard on Reed as General Ramshaka was against the Jews, as portrayed in the 36th chapter of Isaiah, especially the 12th verse thereof.

"To my inquiring and interested friends as to when I intend to return to Missouri, will say that we really intended to come home about April 1st if my wife's health would permit. She has grown strong since coming here, and we are all enjoying the very best of health; but for her welfare we have decided to stay until next fall and may be until next spring.

"To me, nothing equals old Missouri. In spite of all the grandeur, etc., here, nothing quite suits me so well for recreation as hunting along the highways and byways of the Missouri, the Platte and the Nodaway.

My best wishes to all, and I hope to hear from everybody.

E. M. Swartz,
523 Hollingsworth Bldg.,
Los Angeles, Calif."

FRED ROACH CAPTURED THE BACON

The school election in the country districts was held Tuesday and was quite exciting, there being three candidates for the office and all of them hustlers as far as county superintendent was concerned. Fred Roach of Rushville was the winner, he having received 795 votes to 779 for V. N. Cornelius and 491 for E. L. Birkhead. Roach is a native of this county and is now at the head of the Rushville schools. Both Cornelius and Birkhead, who were defeated, are soldiers who recently returned from the war. Roach was not a soldier.

EDITOR BAGBY RETIRES

Not From the Newspaper Game But From the Pugilistic Amphitheater.

Do not infer from the first headline of this article that Editor Bagby of the Craig Leader has retired from the management of that publication which he has made a power for good in his community—for he has not—and the profession all hope he will be there for years to come—but he has retired from one game and that is the squared circle of pugilism—for he says so.

Last week the patriotic citizens of Craig staged an athletic carnival at the opera house in that hustling city, for the benefit of the soldier boys. Among the talent who volunteered was Editor Bagby—and he sure does seem now to have had enough of it—but just let him tell it in his own words. Here it is:

"The main bout, for the feather-weight championship of Craig, came off as was predicted in last week's paper. The editor of The Leader and Maurice Stokes went four rounds.

"It is hard to write about a fight that you did not see. After the first round the editor's face looked as though he had attempted to separate two wild cats and they had both turned on him. He does not offer an alibi. The reason we did not go on in the fifth round was because we could not stand on our legs and walk to the center of the ring. It may not show the right kind of stuff that we did not get down on our hands and knees and crawl out in the fifth but we felt different than we do now. At the beginning of the fifth round the editor's second, Sam Rose, had visions of Craig being without a newspaper and he threw the sponge into the ring.

"This fight, as told by spectators, was the best thing that has been pulled off in years. There was no stalling, no science, no exchanging of love taps, but a knock down and drag out affair from start to finish.

"As a result of this fight the memorial fund for the soldier boys is swelled a little, but not as much as the editor's eyes and nose.

"Some one else will have to take up the burden of providing amusement for the public from now on. At the fighting game, which is much like the newspaper business, many were called but few were chosen."

WILL VOTE ON BONDS

A Special Election to be Held May 27th at Which Time the Goal Is \$1,850,000.

Will the voters of St. Joseph place an additional bond issue of nearly two million dollars on the debtor side of the ledger?

—That is the proposition on which they will be called upon to vote on May 27th, at which time a special election will be held to vote on the question, this election being the result of the action of the council Monday night, at which time the bond ordinances were submitted.

It is proposed to date the bonds July 15, 1919, to mature in twenty years, with 5 per cent interest, payable semi-annually on July 15 and Jan. 15. The bonds are to be of \$1,000 denomination, are to be offered for sale by the city comptroller at not less than par.

The estimates announced last week by the council were adopted last night, and each councilman introduced one of the bills. The amount of sewer bonds is placed at \$750,000; electric light plant, \$500,000; city hall, \$450,000; contagious disease hospital, \$100,000, and for motorizing of the fire department, \$50,000.

ST. JOSEPH MAY HAVE MAJOR BASE BALL

St. Joseph base ball fans may cheer up a bit—as there is yet a probability that this city will have a place in the Western League and will see the real article this year. Charles L. Moore, a base ball magnate of Lincoln, was in the city yesterday conferring with owner Hanlon of the St. Joseph team and it is said that in case the deal now on with Lincoln falls through that parties here will take over the team and keep it in St. Joseph.

THE TAX BOARD IS TO GO

Advice received from Jefferson City Thursday were to the effect that the Senate had on that day passed the bill which abolishes the state tax commission, which is made up of Cornelius Roach, chairman, and two other members. The bill has gone to engrossment in the House. The members of the board receive \$3,500 a year salary, the president \$4,000, the secretary \$2,400 and two clerks \$1200 per annum each.

SPENCER REMAINED ON TOP RAIL OF THE FENCE

And Will Probably Remain There Until the Peace Treaties Are Signed

WHEN HE WILL THEN "LOCATE" HIMSELF

The Junior Senator From Missouri States His Position Before a Joint Meeting of the Senate and House Which When Analyzed Proves to Be That of a Man Sitting Straddle of a Fence Waiting for the Wind to Blow Him into Some Direction.

JEFFERSON CITY, April 5.—(Correspondence.)—The League of Nations debates here has caused this topic to be discussed a great deal during the past week. Senator Selden P. Spencer came down and made a forty minutes talk before a joint meeting of the house and senate and instead of expressing an opinion other than that he favored the right kind of a League of Nations remained on the top rail of the fence during the entire time. Spencer demonstrated his weakness when he stated that he would not favor any sort of a league that would take from congress the right to declare war. He knows, undoubtedly, that the constitution of the United States vests this power in congress and that the United States cannot amend it, but instead this must be done by thirty-six states. Republicans were displeased with his speech and termed it the greatest "straddle" they had ever witnessed.

Representative Frank H. Farris has engrossed his bill in the house requiring all property to be assessed at its full value and that it be taxed 60 per cent of the value. An amendment was tacked onto the measure providing that bankers must furnish assessors with information concerning deposits in the banks and requiring persons to open their deposit boxes on request of the assessor. Farris made a great fight for this bill that was enjoyed by all in the hall at the time.

Republicans Are Still Hostile

Republicans in the house still maintain their hostile attitude to the submission of the question of a new constitution to the people of the state. The claim is made by them that they will pass the measure in the house provided the Democrats will redistrict the senatorial districts of the state. It is known that this cannot be done at this session.

An agreement has been reached on the soft drink bill and a tax of one and one-half cents a gallon will be collected.

The income tax has been increased from one-fourth of one per cent to one-half of one per cent. Income tax under the measure are \$2,000 for single men and \$4,000 for married men. Senator Bowker, chairman of the ways and means committee, had the bill in charge.

To Form Clubs

The Democratic state committee at a meeting here declared that a club to be known as the Missouri State Democratic Club will be formed in every voting precinct of the state. Vice-presidents for each legislative district are now being selected and a state-wide meeting will be held in St. Louis some time the last of May.

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THEY ARE TOO HIGH

It is Assorted That Dealers Are Taking Advantage of People Regarding Luxuries.

The officials here who are collecting the income and other federal taxes make no secret of saying that many dealers are taking unfair advantage of the people, especially in the matter of luxuries.

Camel cigarettes, for instance, are now selling for 20 cents a package—twenty in each package. The original cost was 10 cents. The 1917 tax was two-fifths of a cent on each package, but the price went to 15 and even 18 cents. This year an additional tax of 1.9 cents per package was levied, and the price promptly hopped to 20 cents.

"The total tax on a package of Camel cigarettes is 20 cents," said a revenue official at the federal building today. "Yet, on account of this tax the retail price of this piece of goods has jumped 100 per cent—from 10 to 20 cents. I get only using the Camels as an illustration. The same applies to nearly everything."

SEN. REED MONDAY NIGHT

He Will Address the People on the League of Nations at the Auditorium.

All indications point to the fact that United States Senator James A. Reed will speak to an audience at the Auditorium Monday night that will tax the capacity of that great structure. From information received from towns outside, it is certain that there will be large delegations and the territory tributary to this city will furnish a great outpouring. Senator Reed will begin his speech at 8 o'clock.

While there is a great majority of the people of this district who do not think or believe the same as Senator Reed on the question of a league of nations, yet they all appreciate the fact that he is one of the big men of the nation and propose to hear his views on this great question. He will be accorded a respectful hearing here as the people of St. Joseph believe in giving a man a fair and open hearing.

FORTY-TWO YEARS OF CONTINUAL FAILURE

That Is the History of the Efforts of People to Have a New Constitution

ITS ADVOCATES HERE ARE DEJECTED

For With the Failure of the Majority of the Members of the Senate Committee to Rally to the Support of the Bill Which Is Now in Committee the Failures of Nearly a Half Century Are Almost Certain to be Duplicated.

When Senator Lysaght was here this week he gave out the information that there was but little left for the proponents of a new state constitution, in this part of Missouri to hope for, as the bill would not probably find its way out of the committee, of which Senator Buford is chairman. He had reported prior to Senator Lysaght's departure that a majority of his committee was decidedly averse to making a favorable report on the McCullough bill which provides a method of calling a state constitutional convention. He added that at the meeting of the committee Thursday night several of the members were absent, and if any objections were made he would withhold the adverse report on the measure.

Senator McCullough of Knox entered a protest, so the report was withheld.

Couldn't Overturn Precedent

The records on file in the office of the secretary of state show that at every session of the legislature since 1877, measures have been introduced making provision for calling a state constitutional convention and failure has marked every one of these movements. In all this long period of time neither branch of the general assembly has ever gone on record in favor of a new constitution. Accordingly, the present legislature is no departure from the rule of its predecessors for the last forty-two years.

The McCullough Bill, like a similar bill in the house, has been held in the committee since almost the first day of the session, which opened the second week in January. Recently, the house and senate have been flooded with petitions from voters all over the state demanding they be given an opportunity to vote on the constitutional question.

Those For and Against

The McCullough Bill sets the special election at which the matter of a new constitution will be taken up for the first Tuesday in next September. Members of the senate committee who have had it under discussion are Senators C. M. Buford, R. S. McClintic, Michael Casey, Wallace Greene, Sam B. Cook, Walter C. Goodson, Peter Anderson and A. E. L. Gardner.

Sensors McClintic, Kinney, Greene, Cook and Goodson assured advocates of the new constitution movement they would give the McCullough Bill a favorable report. Senator Greene declined to say he would vote for the measure when it came before the senate, but declined to be a party to the plan to smother the program for a new constitution by using the gag rule in the committee.

WILL OBSERVE ITS 75TH BIRTHDAY

The Advent of Masonry in Andrew County to Be Fittingly Celebrated

WILL HOLD GREAT CELEBRATION AT SAVANNAH

The Diamond Jubilee of Savannah Lodge No. 71, A. F. & A. M., Will Be the Occasion of the Home Coming of Many Former Residents and the Great Masons of the Present Period Will be in Attendance to Help to Make the Event a Grand Success.

The 75th anniversary of the establishment of Masonry in Andrew county will be fittingly observed on July 31, 1919, by members of, and the Savannah Lodge, No. 71, A. F. & A. M., at Savannah, Missouri, the exercises to take place in the fair grounds of the Andrew County Fair Association which have been placed at their disposal and service by the latter's directors this week.

And the Shriners of this city have shown their true spirit of fraternity by adding their splendid band and will also lend their presence to this auspicious date in the history of Masonry in Andrew county. The Shriner band is known far and near as one of the leading fraternal musical organizations in the West and its presence will be of material assistance in making July 31 one of the days never to be forgotten by all who are fortunate enough to be able to attend. The various Masonic bodies here will participate as well as lodges from all over Northwest Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Illinois and other bordering states.

Grand Lodge Members Counting

Complete arrangements have not been announced, but it is definitely planned to have all the officers of the Missouri Grand Lodge present as well as any from other states that can come. Invitations are being prepared to cover all lodges in this and other states and all former members of the Savannah lodge are being urged to make this week their "home coming time" both for visiting and participation in this important event.

The Savannah lodge has a membership of over 200 and is rapidly growing. Masonry being in the ascendancy in that county for several years past. Its present officers are John K. White, Worshipful Master; Felix E. Whitechurch, Senior Warden; W. M. Wells, Junior Warden; W. S. Stevenson, Treasurer, and Clarence E. Stevenson, Secretary.

Many Visitors Are Expected

A broad and general invitation is extended to any of the Masonic bodies of this or any other state to be there and participate in this celebration and Secretary Clarence E. Stevenson will appreciate any notice from any lodge that it or its members will be present. Arrangements are being made to handle a large number of visitors and all will be properly cared for who put in an appearance.

There are many people who are under the impression that Masonry in that county was not so old or well established, but when the fact that dispensation was granted by the Grand Lodge at St. Louis on the 13th of April, 1844, for that chapter to Wm. Burnett, Jacob Hittabald, E. L. Castle, Oliver W. Martin, Miles H. Cheneveth and several others to found a lodge there, and at convention of the Grand Lodge that fall in St. Louis, No. 71 was legally granted a charter on the 28th day of October, 1844, (in the Masonic year of A. L. 5344) signed by State Grand Master J. W. S. Mitchell, Dep. G. M., Fred L. Bellan, S. G. W., E. S. Ruggles, J. G. W., J. F. L. Jacoby and Grand Secretary Richard B. Dallan, the fact becomes self evident upon subtraction of 1844 from 1919 is 75.

Burnett the First Master

It is recorded on the charter granted that chapter that Wm. Burnett was appointed its first master, Jacob Hittabald, Senior Warden, and E. L. Castle as Junior Warden, and with its advent, Masonry advanced and flourished up to the close of the 1861-62 conflict when in 1870 Ben Franklin Lodge was established and became known as the "daylight lodge," but this, in July, 1886, was merged with Savannah Lodge No. 71. Ben Franklin's first Master was Bird Cox and many such prominent Andrew residents as the late Judge J. L. Bennett,

GO AWAY TO LEARN

That Is How You May Find Out What Is "Going On" in St. Joseph.

St. Joseph has a singularly apt and capable set of press correspondents—that is they "keep St. Joseph on the map" no matter if it is at the expense of the people or the city—but just so it brings them from fifty cents to a dollar or more. For the latter sum the enterprising individual who desires publicity, if he sees the yellow correspondent, may get all that he desires—at so much per.

The rule of papers foreign to this city is that they will not pay for dispatches that these enterprising "journalists" send out unless there is "pep" in them. In other words the story must have "features" or it will not be paid for—therefore these enterprising journalists put the features in profusely. As an example read the following special dispatch sent by one of these enterprising yellow boys to the Omaha World-Herald the other day. Issued:

"St. Joseph, Mo., March 28.—One of the biggest political graft operations in the history of Northwest Missouri was sprung today by the Buchanan county grand jury, when it brought in indictments charging former County Commissioners, William Bub and Marvin Kirkman with bribery in connection with the granting of saloon licenses at Winthrop, a village eighteen miles south of here.

"Herman Tschoner, a liquor agent, also was to have been indicted, but he turned state's evidence.

"Both Bub and Kirkman were implicated on five counts, and charging acceptance of money from Winthrop saloon keepers, four in all, for granting dramshop licenses.

Just before the indictments were brought in frantic efforts were made by leaders of certain political factions to prevent indictment of the democratic bosses. Bub, at his own request, was given a hearing shortly before the true bills were returned, but what he had to say failed to sway the grand jury's action.

Steve Owens, the prosecuting attorney, is said to have himself opposed such drastic action, taking the ground that the evidence was too weak to result in conviction by a trial jury. Suspecting that the prosecutor had opposition, the grand jury went ahead and brought in the indictments.

"The indicting grand jury was equally divided between republicans and democrats. The presiding judge, W. H. Uta, and the prosecutor are democrats."

Some "Enterprise," eh!

A STATE CONVENTION

The Democracy of Missouri to Hold a Convention in St. Louis in May.

At the meeting of the organization committee of the State Democratic convention held at Jefferson City it was decided to call a state convention in St. Louis, sometime in May, immediately after the national Democratic committee meets in Chicago. The exact date will not be set until word is received from Homer B. Cummings, national chairman, as to when he can be in St. Louis.

Delegates to the convention will be confined to the vice-presidents of the Democratic organization of whom there is one in each legislative district, the members of the committee, the county chairmen and the Democratic senators of the state. Only matters of state organization will be discussed and plans will be made for the 1920 campaign. Resolutions endorsing President Wilson and the covenant of the League of Nations, will be submitted but there will be no mention of the controversy which has been raging around Senator Reed, if the plans adopted by the organization committee go through.

WILL NOT "REMOVE" GEORGE JUST NOW

The farmers of the county who do not favor the methods being used in an attempt to oust Rube L. George from the position of assessor in the office of county highway engineer H. L. Meyer sent a protest to the county court Monday when they threatened to appear in a body before the court and asked that proceedings at that body against George be stopped. The court granted the request and will do nothing further in the matter until the friends of George are heard.

John L. Stanton, Wm. and George Middleton, J. W. Johnson, Silas H. (Red) Sherman, Davis P. Abbott and Director Wm. S. Wells of the Well-Rine Trust Company of Savannah, and many others were members but associated themselves with No. 71 on the consolidation.

Complete plans and arrangements will be announced as soon as possible regarding this celebration and the local members of that lodge are very enthusiastic and eager to make this celebration one of the greatest Masonic events in the history of Northwest Missouri as well as in that of Andrew county and Savannah.