The Evening Herald.

Published by
The Evening Herald, Inc.
George S. Vaillant, Manager.
H. B. Hening, Editor.
Official Paper of the City of Albuquerque.

Published every afternoon except Sunday, at 124 North Second Street, Albuquerque, N. M.

Entered as second-class matter at the post office at Albuquerque, N. M., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

One month by mail or carrier.50c
One week by carrier.....15c
One year by mail or carrier in advance.....$5.00

Telephones 167 and 168.

NOW GET THE BEST.

WITH comparatively little effort the city of Albuquerque has been chosen as the meeting place of the next Democratic state convention. The convention will be held here probably during the late summer, when things are a little dull and when a few hundred visitors for a day or so will not only be welcome but will stir things up to our mutual advantage. We will arrange to give the Democrats a cordial and enthusiastic reception and will see that they have a good time while in our midst.

Having done this much, the Commercial club should feel encouraged to take another whirl or two and land the Republican state convention; the Progressive state convention, the next annual meeting of the State Retail Merchants' association, and a few other state gatherings which we know how to entertain if they will just come to see us. With these invitations it never pays to wait.

THE REWARD OF CONQUEST.

IN AN adjoining column today appears an article telling of "The Result of Our Last Conflict With Mexico," which is interesting as history just at this time. California was the immediate result of that conflict. Today it is quite needless to recall that California is one of the richest of the states, one of the greatest of them; a national asset utterly beyond price.

Although conditions now, both in Mexico and in our own nation are wholly different from those existing immediately prior to our first conflict with Mexico, there are many points of striking similarity. Mexico then was torn by internal strife, and the prey of warring factions. The factions united to fight the United States. This nation whipped the Mexicans and took such territory as seemed necessary and right to take. There are many interesting details, but these are the facts.

No one considered any great extension of territory when the first conflict began. No one considers it now, or seeks it. It is the last desire of the administration at Washington, of the people of the nation. Yet armed conflict, once it gets under way, is difficult to stop. Its march means conquest, and conquest means reward, or repayment for loss incurred.

It has been so since war began, and in spite of all the peace tribunals and the peace societies and the arbitration schemes and the advance in fighting methods and machines, there has been no change in the fundamentals of war. We may see strange things before the Mexican problem is solved, whether we want to see them or not.

—BUT TEXAS!

THE following was put on the Associated Press wire out of Chicago on April 22nd, and is more than likely true:

Illustrating the distorted idea of the United States which prevails throughout a great part of Mexico, especially among the uneducated classes, a traveling man at the Auditorium hotel tells the following.

"I left Mexico about two weeks ago and laughed nearly all the way to Chicago over something a Mexican told me shortly before my departure.

"We had been discussing the situation in an entirely friendly manner, and I asked him if he believed that Mexico could whip the United States. He replied:

"'Oh, yes, senor. We can whip the United States easily, but Texas, grasia Dios! I do not know.'"

WHAT IS A POLITICIAN?

MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING, a journal devoted to the problems of city government, and thus, probably coming into closer touch with all classes and descriptions of politicians than any other journal in the country, asks the question, "What Is a Politician?" and in answering it has some very wholesome and worth remembering things to say about municipal government. The question is an interesting one and it is doubtful if a satisfactory answer ever will be given. Municipal Engineering, however, gives some very satisfactory answers in the following:

A correspondent in a confessedly facetious mood suggests that "a politician in an ordinary newspaper sense is one who accepts an office. The citizen who today declines the honor of representing his neighbors in local, state or national matters is a 'good man and true,' but if he yields to their suggestions and his own pride and accepts a public position he immediately becomes a 'politician.' Sometimes the word politician is used by synonymous with grafter, but not all public officers have yet been proven grafters so as to make the two terms synonymous.

Popular uses of the word politician are certainly confusing. In one case the securing of results by indirect methods involving the exercise of influences outside the line of operation is said to be using the arts of the politician. In another case he is one who works for the public good through the medium of public office held by himself or by someone whom he controls. By the common deterioration of words this use has degenerated to the third, wherein the term is applied to those who work for the benefit of the party or for the private good of themselves or their friends through the medium of public office or control of public officials.

Scarcely any one of these uses should be applicable to one interested in the city's business. Here the principal concern is to do the business of the citizens which they cannot do for themselves, by wholesale and in the most efficient and economical manner possible. Evidently some of the definitions of politician given above have any necessary connection with the man who is doing his duty to the city in such an office, and the same is true of any other common definition of the term. Moreover, he should not be obliged to exercise the arts of the politician, but should be chosen without reference to his qualifications in this regard.

It is eminently true that there are differences concerning the policies to be followed in municipal matters and there is a need for the politician, using the word in the best sense, in setting forth and standing for such policies. But, the every-day work of the city has nothing to do with such policies, aside from the effect thereon of the general policy adopted. This is the justification of the short ballot, the restriction of elections to the few intrusted with the carrying out of the policies approved by the voters. And it is the justification of the civil service or some method of securing and retaining in appointive offices of men competent to do the business of the city under such adopted policy, without fear of removal unless he becomes incompetent or neglectful or seriously at odds with the policy of his superior elected to carry out the will of the people.

In this sense the constant demand for the elimination of the politician, under any definition, from the every-day work of the city is made. The politician, in the best sense, is demanded in the mayoralty or the council or the commission. The politician in any sense has no place in a subordinate office. This is the basis for the popularity of the commission form of government, not because it belongs to that form of government more than to any other, but because its advocates are so strenuous in their assertions that it will be one of the results of that form. Actually, the division of responsibility and the certainty of ignorance if not of inefficiency in commissioners make this one of the most fruitful fields for the politician in the bad sense as soon as the citizens relax their vigilance, and practically insures the ultimate failure of this form in any but the small cities. The partial recognition of this fact is the cause of the safeguards which are thrown about the system in all its forms since the first of the elective plans and whose latest development is the city manager acting under the elected commission and subject to recall by the voters if the commission turns out to be filled with politicians in the bad sense.

Talks on Thrift

THRIFT—THE MAINSTAY OF THE NATION.

"When he threw himself so energetically into the movement for the conservation of her natural resources, Theodore Roosevelt, with statesmanlike pertinency, compelled the nation to heed his warning and by dint of persistent reiteration awoke the public conscience to a realization of conditions that were fast leading to bankruptcy and ruin."—The Literary Digest.

Thrift in the individual and thrift in the government are more closely related than is often realized.

Here is a great truth, a truth which it was high time several million people were beginning to realize. They cry for economy for the elimination of waste in government, and they do not practice economy, they do not eliminate waste in their business or in their private affairs. Only as we people become individually more thrifty—that is, more saving, more economical, more conserving—can we expect our councils, our legislatures, our congress to be likewise.

Consider thrift in its relation to the industries of the country.

If everybody should spend his entire income every year there never would be any capital for investment beyond that which is already invested; no new enterprises could be floated, and improvements of all kinds, public and private, would be at an end. The world's supply of new capital is simply the margin between the world's income and its expenditures.

If we had more thrift we would have more temperance. How genuinely useful the money spent for the 70,000,000 gallons of whiskey we drank in the last half of 1913 would be if turned into constructive industry now!

Nor are the benefits of thrift to be measured wholly in terms of economics. The steadiness, the industry, the sobriety, the respect for property, which are fostered among thrifty and frugal people are political virtues that make for stability and permanence of government.

The habitual spendthrift is a menace to the community and the nation; the careful citizen, guided by a sense of the true value of property is a safeguard to our institutions. Habits of extravagance tend to make trouble in the family, the community, the nation.

An "American Society for Thrift" has been organized in Chicago with the avowed purpose of "promoting nationally the individual thrift which is the basis of good citizenship and community prosperity." Men of prominence, including governors of several states, are back of this movement, which aims to advocate a broad and sensible view of economy, pointing out to the people that, as a great English statesman said, "Thrift is not meanness, but management."

The continued rise in the cost of living, unaccompanied to any great extent by a corresponding increase of individual incomes, is making many an American family right-about-face in the matter of personal and domestic economy.

Perhaps the new tariff will reduce the cost of living eventually, but it hasn't yet. Possibly governmental investigating commissions may lead to that consummation, but there are no signs of it yet. And no other panacea has been found for it. Apparently, therefore, for the present at least, there is no hope of abating the steady rise in the price of everyday necessities, and, so far, no way has been found to beat the high cost of living except to stop living so high.

It is not quite possible that in good old fashioned thrift may be found the solution of the difficult problem of living up to modern standards under modern conditions?

T. D. MacGREGOR.

SOLOS
by the Second Fiddle.

HAVING buried the bridges to Mexico City, pinched a few hundred Americans, murdered a few and failed to live up to his salute, Huerta has let it be known through the Spanish minister that he's willing to let Argentine, Brazil and Chile arbitrate the matter. Reasonable chap, that Huerta.

—o—

GENERAL'S event to the treacherous gringe.

—o—

WELL, the policy of watchful waiting certainly has its rewards.

—o—

IN THE neck.

—o—

IT'S ALL to the credit of Mr. Bryan's little dove of peace. A little smoke around the tail feathers where it's been kicked, but still doing high.

—o—

WHAT are we "watchful waiting" for? Strenuousness has quit.
And when the Irish call it war
It certainly is it.

—o—

SPAIN has volunteered in the meantime to take charge of Huerta's embassy in Washington with all the solemnity of the coroner at a family inquest.

—o—

And if a kick
Arrived with a brick
On Bryan's bean were landing
No doubt he'd stick
Up for that kick
And shout "misunderstanding."

For peace we must
Have, if we bust
The nation's Bradstreet rating.
In God we trust
All others must
Keep busy "watchful waiting."

—o—

FARM AND FIRESIDE gives minute instructions about how to fight a mad bull. One way is always to carry a broom with you and jab it in the bull's eye.

—o—

A BETTER WAY is to be sure the bull is tied outside.

—o—

IF NEW MEXICO goes on increasing in population at the rate of 12,000 a year in 100 years we'll have close to the population of Philadelphia. Which is important to those of us owning real estate here now.

—o—

WHEN THE WHEAT market is "depressed" it's a sign somebody is prosperous.

—o—

CHAIRS AND TABLES are not permitted in Las Cruces saloons. Means an increase in bar rail knee.

—o—

THE MONTOYA Republican editor says a man's a fool to borrow trouble when he can make it at home.

—o—

HE ALSO SAYS the old-time mother who used to wonder where her boy was now has a grandson who wonders where his mother is.

—o—

SAWDUST is sold at $40 a ton in Canada.—Exchange. Coal dust is sold in New Mexico at $6 to $7.50 a ton.

—o—

CONSULAR report says Constantinople offers an excellent market for carpenter's tools. Fixed roofs against the bursting of a fresh set of war clouds.

—o—

BRYAN SAYS Americans leaving Mexico City were detained through a misunderstanding.

—o—

SAME THING served to detain Madero when he was leaving.

—o—

FOR LIGHTING gas burners a New Jersey inventor has patented a paint in which a spring shoots a rod of flint through a roughened steel cloth, producing a shower of sparks. In the far southwest the invention will prove popular with the boys who are no longer permitted to shoot out the lights.

—o—

FOR SENDING messages from aeroplanes to the ground a Frenchman has invented a missile to contain papers and which, on striking, ignites a colored fire to signal its whereabouts. Another invention makes a loud report, when the aviator strikes the ground, being designed to notify the undertaker.

—o—

WE APOLOGIZE. The whole four wards only yielded 580 loads of dirt.

—o—

WITH 180 loads out of the Second ward, that leaves 220 loads to divide among the other three.

—o—

A LARGE drop of milk will adhere to a needle dipped into it and withdrawn if pure, but if adulterated it will form several drops which will leave the metal quickly. Note. This test will not work with goat's milk, condensed milk, or if you owe the milkman.

—o—

TO LIGHTEN the labor of cleaning horses there has been invented a pneumatic curry-comb which pumps away the loosened dust. In other words you can vacuum clean the plug.

Great Trials of History

TRIAL OF DR. LAMSON.

ONE of the most remarkable poisoning trials ever conducted at the old Bailey, London's famous court of justice, was that of Dr. George Henry Lamson, who, in 1882, was hanged at Wandsworth on April 28. It was of especial interest to Americans for the reason that Dr. Lamson was a native of New York and the son of an Episcopal clergyman.

Dr. Lamson was charged with the murder of his younger brother-in-law, Percy Malcolm St. John, a delicate youth who suffered from a spinal disease. If he died before attaining his majority a considerable sum of money would accrue to the poisoner through his wife. Dr. Lamson was in great financial straits—hence the motive for the crime.

On the evening of December 2, 1881, Dr. Lamson called on his brother-in-law, who, at the time, was 18 years of age. The boy was attending school at Blenheim House, Wimbledon. After some casual conversation Lamson induced the young man to take a gelatine capsule in which he had cunningly placed what was supposed to be some powdered agar, telling him how easy it would be, in such capsules, to take even the most disagreeable medicine.

Immediately afterward Lamson left, saying he was en route for Florence. In a very short time the boy complained of being seriously unwell, and at 11:30 the same night he died. A suspicion that he had been poisoned was at once aroused, and Lamson was pointed out as the criminal, especially when the purchase of the aconite was brought to light.

The news of what had occurred was soon conveyed to Lamson and he hurried back from Paris and presented himself at Scotland Yard. Here he announced his anxiety to discover the cause of Percy St. John's death and expressed great surprise and indignation when he was arrested and charged with the murder.

The evidence against the doctor was overwhelming, when it was found that he had in his possession pills and powders purporting to be quinine preparations, but upon analysis were found to contain poison.

Dr. Lamson was placed on trial March 8. The trial continued for six days. The defense mainly turned on the presumption that it was impossible to prove the presence of a vegetable alkaloid in the body twenty-four hours after death. But the scientists called into the case soon disposed of this and proved that aconite was the cause of Percy St. John's death.

The most strenuous efforts were made by Lamson's friends on this side of the Atlantic to save him. They based their plea for a stay of sentence on what they considered as abundant evidence of insanity in his family. It was said that Lamson was actively engaged in the Roumanian hospitals during the Russo-Turkish war, and that while so engaged he had a severe attack of fever which completely undermined his health.

The judge who presided over the trial was the famous Justice Hawkine. The prisoner was defended by the celebrated criminal lawyer, Montague Williams, and everything was done to free him. Williams' speech to the jury is frequently printed as a fine example of a plea of this character. He concluded his address with: "You may have remarked in the dusk at the close of each day's proceedings a figure delicate and fragile stealing across the threshold of the court to the dock and placing her hand in that of the prisoner at the bar, exclaim by gesture if not by voice, 'Though all the world be against you, I will cling to you still. She is a woman, and that woman the prisoner's wife.'"

To this plea for the prisoner the justice replied: "Facts are one thing and eloquence is another, and, however much our feelings may have been wrung by the impassioned address in regard to the unfortunate prisoner's wife, justice would never be administered if we allowed our feelings to go out to those who, innocent themselves, have, I am sorry to say, to suffer for the crimes of the guilty."

Dr. Lamson made a confession the day before he was executed in which he practically admitted poisoning his brother-in-law. The hanging occurred at 9 o'clock in the morning in the presence of the undersheriff and deputy governor, the warden and three press reporters. A chaplain attended him to the scaffold and remained praying. It was nearly an hour before the body was cut down.

Results of Our Last Conflict With Mexico

Singularly enough the war in the forties between the United States and Mexico occurred, like the present trouble, while a Democratic administration was in office at Washington. California was the great prize which fell to the United States as a result of the conflict which started in 1844 over the admission of Texas into the American union.

History repeats itself. In the forties, as now, Mexico was split by internal dissension. Many arbitrary acts on the part of the Mexican government and excesses by federalists and revolutionaries had led the Democrats to indulge in a policy of "watchful waiting" which was followed by the bombardment and seizure of Vera Cruz among other things.

When war seemed inevitable in December, 1845, the United States sent a special envoy, just as President Wilson last year sent Lind, to Mexico City to confer with President Herrera. But while the envoy was en route General Paredes refused to receive the American messenger.

Mexicans Spoiling for War.

Following this incident Paredes, who saw that his people wanted to fight the United States, found an ostensible cause for war almost as trivial as the Tampico incident. He insisted that Nueces river was the frontier line between Texas and Mexico, while the United States maintained that the Rio Grande was the proper boundary.

American troops advanced towards the Rio Grande in March, 1846. A Mexican army crossed the river in April. A general conflict was precipitated when, on April 24, Mexicans on the Texas side of the Rio Grande ambuscaded a reconnoitering party of dragoons commanded by Captain Thornton. In this skirmish sixteen Americans were killed or wounded and the remainder of the small force captured.

The Americans quickly obtained revenge when, on May 8, the first pitched battle was fought at Palo Alto and the Mexicans were worsted. On May 13 congress adopted a resolution and President Polk proclaimed that "by the act of the republic of Mexico a state of war exists between that government and the United States." Congress appropriated $10,000,000 for the prosecution of the war and 50,000 volunteers were called for. General Zachary Taylor crossed the Mexican border on May 18 and occupied Matamoras, a few miles below Brownsville, Tex. While he was pursuing his victorious way to Buena Vista, or Angostura, Doniphan advanced through New Mexico and, after the battle of Sacramento, occupied Chihuahua.

Revolt in California.

Meanwhile American settlers in California, under the leadership of Fremont, had revolted against Mexican rule and proclaimed California independent. This revolt, known as the Bear Flag revolt, startled both the Mexican and United States governments. The authorities at Washington impressed upon Commodore Sloat, then at Mazatlan, the importance of acting quickly to seize Monterey and to blockade San Francisco. This latter was performed by Commodore Stockton. On the east coast of Mexico operations were directed by General Scott, who landed at Vera Cruz and commenced his march on Mexico City.

At this time Pio Pico was governor of California, and General Castro was in command of the Mexican troops. They squabbled over which was in supreme authority. Pico called the assembly to meet in Los Angeles to discuss the situation. This assembly consisted of President Figueroa, Bandini, Guerra, Botello and Arguello. Abel Stearns, at the invitation of Figueroa, convened a junta of citizens, and resolutions were passed condemnatory of Castro. Measures, futile it turned out, were adopted for the defense of Los Angeles. The activity of Fremont, Sloat and the other American leaders impressed on Pico and Castro the necessity for uniting against the Americans.

Meanwhile General Kearney had been ordered by the Washington authorities to proceed overland from New Mexico to California to establish temporary civil government and "to assure the people that it is the wish and design of the United States to provide for them a true government with the least possible delay similar to that which exists in our own Territories."

Los Angeles Is Captured.

Pico and Castro, having reconciled their differences, determined "to spare no sacrifice for the defense of California." They found, however, "little sympathy from all but the lower class of Mexicans in Los Angeles and certainty that they decided that discretion was the better part of valor, and fled. Pico declared that he had to choose between "ignominy and emigration" and decided on emigration. He said there was no chance for the successful defense of California, and that the best way to preserve the honor of the government was for him to depart with Castro and report to the national authorities at Mexico City.

When Commodore Stockton and Fremont arrived and entered Los Angeles the friends to whom Pico had addressed his extraordinary message made no resistance worth mentioning, and the flag of the United States was first raised in Los Angeles by Stockton on August 13, 1846, with due ceremony. Stockton issued a proclamation, signed by himself as "Commander-in-Chief and Governor of the Territory of California," announcing that California belonged to the United States and as soon as possible would be governed like any other territory of the union.

Later a revolt in southern California led by Flores and Captain Andres Pico was put down by Stockton, Kearney and Fremont, and Los Angeles was captured again on January 10, 1847.

The Main Invasion.

The main invasion of Mexico was from the south and was aimed directly at the capital. Scott, after forcing the capitulation of Vera Cruz, outflanked and defeated Santa Anna and occupied Puebla. After defeating the Mexicans at Padierna he made a brilliant strategic advance across the pedregal that cut the Mexican center and rendered possible the victory at Churubusco.

With the capture of the presidential palace the conquest of Mexico was practically complete. Two days later Scott took formal possession of the City of Mexico. Peace was made by the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, concluded February 2, 1848, by which Mexico ceded to the United States all the territory held or claimed north and northeast of the present boundary and received in return $15,000,000 from the United States. For a treaty dictated by a conquering army in the captured capital of the nation treaties with this instrument stands as an example of American generosity to a defeated foe.

Improving the Clip.

(Boston Commercial Bulletin).

The lack of science in the preparation of the new wool clips for sale to the eastern markets, especially in the "territory" sections of the country, has undoubtedly been more to the absence of a stimulating necessity than to any lack of initiative on the part of the growers. Conditions hitherto in this country have not been conducive to shearing and packing wool in the same manner in which that work is done in Australia.

It is quite likely, also, that conditions this present year, when the wool is being contracted freely before shearing and at high and advancing rates, will not give any incentive to most growers to improve the condition in which their clips come to the seaboard markets. However, wool-growers under the present tariff, are face to face with world-wide competition, and the buyer of wool, less than ever, can be a respecter of growers. On the contrary, more than ever he will be obliged to buy judiciously.

For three reasons, the efforts being put forth at the present time by the bureau of animal industry of the United States department of agriculture in preparing an exhibit car to be shown through the west, to the end that the sheepmen may obtain a better knowledge of the scientific handling of the clip and the inherent possibilities in his wool, should be gladly heard and heeded.

Members of the bureau of animal industry have been studying the method of handling wool in the Boston wool lofts and the subsequent operations at the mills, for some months and it is their belief that the wool grower can realize greater profits from his industry by the use of a little more care.

In these instances—unfortunately far too few—where growers from sheer pride in their industry have actually taken care in feeding and breeding, as well as in the preparation of the clip for market, they have undoubtedly, in the long run, benefited in consequence financially, although sometimes their care may have been more or less discounted through the fact that the general run of the American wool clips have come to market in a careless condition.

In the matter of preparatory grading in the west, a primary obstacle will doubtless be encountered, not only in the accommodations at the shearing pens, but also, and more particularly, with the class of labor employed very largely from necessity. These difficulties will hardly be overcome in a year; probably not in several, but even so, the bureau can induce growers to stop completely the use of sisal twines and adopt a substitute for the paints and tars which are used in branding, something worth while will have been accomplished.

How to Save Your Eyes

Try this Free Prescription.

Do your eyes give you trouble? Do you always wear eyeglasses or spectacles? Thousands of people wear these "windows" who might easily dispense with them. You may be one of these, and it is your duty to save your eyes before it is too late. The eyes are neglected more than any other organ in the entire body. After you finish your day's work you sit down and rest your muscles, but how about your eyes? Do you rest them? You know you do not. You read or do something else that keeps your eyes busy; you work your eyes until you go to bed. That is why so many have strained eyes and finally other eye troubles that threaten partial or total blindness. Eyeglasses are merely crutches; they never cure. This free prescription, which has benefited the eyes of so many, may work equal wonders for you. Use it a short time. Would you like your eye troubles to disappear as if by magic? Try this prescription. Go to Rapp's Drug store or the nearest wideawake drug store and get a bottle of Optona tablets; fill a two-ounce bottle with warm water, drop in one tablet and allow it to thoroughly dissolve. With this liquid bathe the eyes two to four times daily. Just not how quickly the inflammation will disappear. Don't be afraid to use it; it is absolutely harmless. Many who are now blind might have saved their eyes had they started to care for the min times. This is a simple treatment, but marvelously effective in multitudes of cases. Now that you have been warned don't delay, but do what you can to save your eyes and you are likely to thank us as long as you live for publishing this prescription.

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