

THE COMMISSIONERS' VAUDEVILLE

In common with others, we would be indebted to the city commission if its members would explain just who started this so-called investigation of the police department, and would further enlighten the community with some definite information as to why it was started, what is hoped will be accomplished, and, in a word, just what the reason is for staging such a farce. It is reflecting anything but credit on the commission system, and is again making this city a laughing stock at the hands of men who were thought to be bigger.

If the members of the city commission, who are conducting the ludicrous investigation, have no respect for themselves, they should certainly have some respect for their office, and the city they are supposed to represent.

The taxpayers are viewing their actions in a spirit of ridicule, mingled with a feeling of disgust, and a certain amount of wonderment as to whether or not the era of government by the episcene is upon us.

The man who writes the scenarios for Charlie Chaplin is overlooking a grand opportunity by not keeping an official record of the proceedings, for with its help a film could be produced that would make an everlasting fortune for all concerned in the production.

The spectacle of a cluster of harpies, pimps, hop-heads, con men, tin horns, booze tossers, and other coarse-mouthed habitues of the reeking tenderloin telling the officials who say they have the same powers as a court, what they will do and what they won't, brazenly defying them, and adding insult whenever it suits their pleasure, is most edifying. And the best thing the farceurs sitting in silly judgment can do, is to wind up the affair before the laughter becomes hysterical.

If they cannot do any better, they might await the return of the oracle from the northwest, who sits with them in council, when a full membership is present, and who found it convenient to beat it when the department he has made such a mess of came up for public discussion.

We believe there isn't a commissioner on the

board who has learned anything new from any blackleg or other law breaker who has appeared before the august body, since it took it upon it e'f to find out something it didn't want to know, about somebody who didn't want to hear, from somebody who didn't want to tell.

There isn't a commissioner on the board who has not privately on more than one occasion been told enough to justify an investigation and reconstruction of the police department.

There isn't one—for all of them have lived here practically all their lives—who does not know the history of Fred Grant, and some of the officials closest to him; not one who has any particular reason for believing that a complete transformation is likely to take place in men, because they happen to be suddenly vested with a little authority.

That the flotsam and jetsam of the tenderloin tide have made monkeys of the commission and the attorneys interested, is their own fault, for in as much as the officials have treated the whole business as a laughing matter, it is scarcely to be expected that those who make a business of evading the law, will do otherwise.

An enterprising theatrical man should stage this black trial while the field is so free from counter attractions. It is extremely selfish in the commission to keep the sport from the vast majority of the public, which is too busy making a living in the day time, and protecting its valuables at night, to enjoy the proceedings at first hand. The voters are entitled to some kind of a run for their money, and what better than this comedy, with its admixture of dignitaries, solemnly performing their sworn duty, with the colorful side lights of the tenderloin to varigate the scene, while the air is redolent with the talnt of the dive, saloon, and brothel.

Our idea of a happy time, is to be investigated by a city commission, which hasn't an idea what it is investigating, or why it is investigating, and would be scared to death if it found something in the turnover that might call for action.

And to think that the Wizards overlooked the opportunity of staging this show in "The Zone" during the carnival. In the meantime, there sit

four representative citizens, apparently without an idea of the respect due the office each one holds, allowing the cannille of the gutter to leer and jeer at them and the city they represent, and continue their sodden vocations unrestrained.

BISHOP GIAUQUE—ECONOMIST

If the action of Arnold J. Giauque in regard to the placing of the boiler insurance awarded by the board of education, or rather by the committee on buildings and grounds of which he is chairman, is to be taken as a criterion of what kind of a city commissioner he would make, the promise is not very alluring. Acceptance of the bid of the Hartford company represented by Heber J. Grant & Co., is just one of those little things put over now and then without the public knowing anything about it. But the action of the committee in such cases would seem to require an explanation, or at least a certain amount of publicity so that taxpayers may know how their affairs are being conducted.

To go back a little, a week or ten days, bids were called for the insurance on the boilers of the school buildings for the ensuing three years and the board made the award to the London Guaranty company which subsequently withdrew its bid. Then it was suggested that another company which was not aware that bids had been called for previously, be allowed to put in its bid, which precipitated a fight which unmistakably showed the hands of some of the members of the committee.

It was moved and seconded and carried in open meeting that this bid be returned to the bidder, a bid by the way, which was six dollars less per boiler than the bid of the Hartford company, and Mr. Giauque was very zealous in demanding that the bids of the companies already represented be referred to the committee on buildings and grounds for action. Then Mr. McMullen of the same committee made the motion that the matter be referred, and was immediately opposed by two members of the board, neither of whom was on this committee, their contention being that the matter stood exactly as it did before any bids were asked for owing

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