

he handled the matter in unmistakable terms. A portion of Mr. Shearman's letter reads as follows:

"I do not agree, however, with the proposal that no refund be made unless demanded by the property owners. If the city has collected too much money from any citizen, it is our duty to return it as soon as possible without waiting for any demand. In a great many cases the property owner is probably unaware that he is entitled to any refund and to take advantage of that fact would be most unjust."

At this juncture the Salt Lake Tribune took cognizance of Mr. Shearman's stand, and under date of August 2, 1913, commented editorially as follows:

"City Auditor Shearman is undoubtedly right in his position that money due to property owners on account of over-payment of special assessments should be paid by the city, without demand on the part of those to whom it is due. For no one has any means of knowing whether he has overpaid or not, and for the city to hold back the money which the municipal administration knows it ought to pay, would be an abuse of confidence."

Mr. Shearman won his point, although not without strong opposition, and the refunding was authorized. The fight to fool the public, however, was still continued by certain city officials who thought, like Mr. Green, that what the taxpayers didn't know wouldn't hurt them. These officials urged Mr. Shearman that he merely serve notice of the intention to refund by vague and covert advertisement in the hope, as they expressed it, that many of the interested property owners would not see it and the money eventually revert to the city. But Mr. Shearman refused to listen to such a proposal, and personally sent an individual notice to each property owner entitled to a refund as rapidly as the amount due him was determined. Moreover, every effort was made to locate such property owners as could not be reached by mail. In this connection we believe that Mr. Green was retained by the commission to do the actual work of preparing the lists of refunds, a purely clerical position.

Then the records further show that when Mr. Shearman was about to retire from the city auditorship, he had the following to say in his annual report:

"The audit of the special improvement funds ordered by the commission has been completed and shows as follows:

To be refunded to owners\$76,811.82
To be abated 49,270.31

"Of this amount \$25,139.24 had been actually paid to property owners by December 31, 1913, and the balance was being refunded as rapidly as possible. The abatements were all credited to the property owners on the books of the corporation.

"In retiring from the office of city auditor I desire to thank the board of commissioners for their loyal co-operation, especially in connection with the return to the property owners of this city the thousands of dollars which have been withheld from them so many years."

According to the records, therefore, it is manifest that certain misrepresentations are being made with respect to the special tax refunds; also that it is intended by certain individuals to make Mr. Green the direct beneficiary of these misrepresentations. As we view the case, the tax moneys refunded by Mr. Green during his administration as city auditor were done pursuant to law, and in line with his manifest duty and a precedent established by his predecessors. Moreover, it strikes us that in this respect at least Mr. Green is standing on a flimsy and apparently false platform, and that his friends are engaged in exceedingly small business when they undertake to solicit a credit for their candidate that belongs partly to Mr. Alf and mostly to Mr. Shearman.

An excerpt from the published announcement made by Slippery Dick Morris, reads:

AS TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT which merits particular attention—

I believe in a moral administration of this department, as has been conducted under Mayor Park.

That ought to be enough in itself to overwhelmingly defeat the slippery one.

THE CANDIDATES

rectly to the present administration. We take it that the new deal promised by certain candidates who propose to change the existing order of things embraces fair treatment to the citizens of the west side. If Mr. Giauque would undertake to favor his immediate locality to the detriment of all other sections of the city, then we would feel that his platform was not well founded. Mr. Giauque has not declared himself on the main question, but in view of recent developments we fail to see how he can consistently have anything in common with the Morris-Green combination.

H. K. Russell, the labor candidate, represents the conservative element of his party. He is a high-class citizen, is sane in his ideas of public policy, would be fair to all interests, and worse things could happen to the community than his election. Inasmuch as he would naturally stand for a new order of things altogether, we take it that he would oppose a continuation of the policies and personnel of the present administration. As we said before, he is not a fire-eater, his mind is well-ordered, and there is no reason to be fearful of him if elected.

A SMASHUP

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and that he had nothing in common with any of them. Moreover, he assured Mr. Ferry of his firm friendship and expressed the hope that both of them would be elected.

When Nephi L. Morris learned of Mr. Green's duplicity he met the latter face to face in the headquarters of Richard P. Morris and accused him of being treacherous to his former associates. Mr. Green was first disposed to deny the charge, but when he was confronted with the actual facts involved he finally admitted that Mr. Morris' information was correct. What happened next we were unable to learn, but we do know that Nephi L. Morris finally picked up bag and baggage and quit the combination camp. It would appear now that the Giauque campaign is being directed from a separate and independent camp.

We suspect also that, as one act of treachery always provokes other acts of a similar nature, the remaining members of the original combination are not feeling any too sure of each other's loyalty and support, and that a general smashup will result. This whole affair has been one of the funny features of the campaign, and it would undoubtedly add to the sport to see certain fellows who were pledged to each other at the start, finish the race in the devil take the hindmost fashion.

It would seem that James W. McKinney's services for Slippery Dick did not finish with the primary election, judging from the important conference the slippery one had in McKinney's office early in the week.

With the word going out that the election of Ferry means a clean-up of the con men, grafters, up-and-down men, pater men, yeggs and the rest, it would not be surprising if the management of the Wilson cafe fears the losing of considerable patronage, for that has been one of the main hangouts of a number of these delectable citizens during their stay in the city. They know that one can always get a drink there after twelve o'clock, while Wille cheats the law a little, and in consequence have made the place a sort of rendezvous for their revels when they are not engaged in trimming a sucker.

Voters, Attention

AN unusually large registration is reported in this city. This may indicate either or all of three things: An increase in population, an increased solicitude about the result of the election, or excessive work on the part of politicians. There is but one thing for earnest men and women who want the best men elected to do; that is to be sure to vote and to urge careless voters to do the same. The best qualified candidates should be elected. By "best qualified" we mean best equipped to meet the duties of the offices to which they aspire and with the will to do their best to fulfill their duties if elected.

We want none elected who in the past have been failures; we want no one elected who has not, in the management of his private business, shown that he would be capable in a public place where great responsibilities would be upon him.

In voting, too, men and women should keep in mind that the result will have its effect upon other men in responsible positions now in office.

This is not a time to consider the political predilections of the men to be elected. It is not a time to consider any creed in connection with the offices of the city. It is not a time to pay political debts, or to be avenged because of political animosities. The old rule when we had a mayor and council was necessarily, to a great extent, a partisan contest. Mixed with it the question of creeds was brought in. Those who advocated the change to the commission form urged the need of doing away with those old encumbrances and won.

That makes it the duty of voters to rally around the new form and give it their best support, by voting for the men who in the past have by their lives given the best proof that "if elected they will return to the city the best possible administration of the city's business.

The first essential is for every qualified voter to be sure to vote.

The life of our government, city, state and nation, rests upon the vote of the people and their solicitude to see that the best candidates receive their support.

Ours is a government of the people, and to insure its life and prosperity, the people should all take an interest in it and see that their votes count for the best good.

A Serious Menace

THIS west coast is confronted by a serious menace. Its opportunities for working men are more numerous and generous than any other section of this world presents; nearly all the wealthy men on the coast began with nothing but their hands and brains and forged out the foundations of what they have by honest work.

But there is a class of men on this coast that while they are determined never to do any honest work, still make a feigned solicitude for the welfare of the "poor working man" their watchword; and spend their days and nights in planning the destruction of accumulated property. The man Haywood, formerly of Colorado, seems to be the acknowledged leader of these incendiaries. He openly preaches anarchy and a desire to destroy all semblance of order and of law. He is among men what the jackal is among beasts—a beast of prey of the scavenger order. A sample of the methods of these men was seen when the hop crop on a ranch close to Sacramento was burned a few nights since.

Their organ tells a simple method of how fruit trees may be destroyed and then adds the advice not to use that method. The natural result is being realized in California. Fruit trees of the value of hundreds of thousands of dollars have been destroyed in California during the last few months.

The devilry of the gang manifests itself in