The Evening Herald.

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PLAIN TALK.

VERY SELDOM is it that the truth can do anything but good; when it is spoken, or when it is printed in a newspaper. When it is both spoken and printed in a newspaper of general circulation the truth is increasingly effective according to the number of people it reaches.

All of which is prefatory to the pleasant announcement that certain of the Herald's friends who are engaged to some extent in political pursuits have told us that we pay too much attention to the utterances within the legislative halls of State Senator Isaac Barth. These same gentlemen contend that Mr. Barth talks too much.

Certain other friends assure us that we give too much space to the statements outside the legislature of Ralph C. Ely, the chairman of the Republican state committee. These latter gentlemen assert that Mr. Ely talks too much.

We regret that there should be anyone who is displeased with the very extensive publicity which these two men have achieved but we would respectfully point out to our friends that the Herald, first of all, is a newspaper, and its purpose is to print all of the news; facts which the people ought to know. And we further respectfully submit that in the course of the present legislative session these two men, Mr. Barth within the legislature and a member of the hopeless minority, and Mr. Ely outside the legislature and the nominal leader at least of the overwhelming majority, have come nearer to stating the plain, unadorned and wholesome truth about the legislature and the men and conditions governing it than can be credited to any other two, four or a dozen men in or connected with the game as played at our state capitol. This somewhat broad assertion will be borne out by a review of the news columns of this newspaper covering the days of the now waning legislative session.

Mr. Ely has constantly and persistently kept his finger pointed to the standards of good government which the Republicans set up and to which they pledged themselves in their party platform prior to the last election. He has made what all impartial observers believe to have been a very sincere effort to secure performance of these pledges by the Republican two-thirds majority in the assembly.

Mr. Barth has pointed out in plain, cold statements on the floor of the senate the utter failure of the Republicans to redeem any of their pledges to the people, and the main reasons why they have not done so. These two men, therefore, in following this course, have done a distinct service to the people of the state regardless of politics, which in the end will produce beneficial results. Not a line of publicity has been accorded them by this newspaper which has not been merited by the news value of their statements, and by the value of those statements in bringing home to the people the truth about the conditions existing in the state capitol.

Mr. Ely has contended that the Republican majority in the legislature, if let alone by the lobby, would fulfill its party's pledges to the people of New Mexico. Mr. Barth in his statements upon the floor of the senate, has pointed out that the lobby is the real head and the real leader of the Republican party of this state, and that it is the lobby which is preventing the enactment of sound legislation, and not lack of willingness to enact such legislation on the part of the membership of the assembly. In his speech on the floor of the senate Friday afternoon, which was printed in this newspaper in full on Saturday Mr. Barth stated that the worst influence in this state is the lobby composed of Republican machine managers and corporation politicians; he denied that the state's greatest need was for a legislature. He insisted that we have a good enough legislature. The greatest need of the state and the legislature, he contended, was to be freed from the clutching hand of the all powerful Republican lobby, which by its various powers is able to misdirect the energies of the legislators, and to dominate absolutely the two-thirds Republican majority.

By playing upon the personal enmities and alleged grievances of some of the members, and fooling the rest of the Republicans, Mr. Barth pointed out that this lobby had deliberately plotted for and encouraged the long series of measures directed at the governor and the tearing down of the structure of the state government, not because the real leaders of the Republican party want to wreck the governor or the executive office, but because this kind of red fire catches the imagination of the party yeglot and serves best to divert his attention from the demands of the people and the needs of the state, as regards legislation.

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No person who has been in close touch with the situation in Santa Fe can doubt that a county salary bill could have been passed during the early days of this session, and a saving of at least four weeks of the public time effected, but for the constant intervention and manipulation of the Republican managing lobby which persistently obstructed that legislation, broke up agreements, pitted members against each other in the Republican caucus, and so diverted the public attention and the attention of the legislature from other more vital legislation; particularly that upon taxation and revenue. No person who is informed but knows that but for this obstruction and interference on the part of the lobby the Republican members, left to themselves, would have given this state a county salary bill which would have come much nearer, at least, to redeeming the Republican pledge of "reasonable salaries."

No person closely in touch with the situation at Santa Fe will doubt that Mr. Barth stated the exact truth when he asserted that the primary purpose of the legislation directed against the governor was to divert attention from taxation legislation and delay and obstruct it so that at the close of the session taxation legislation such as the lobby and the corporations employing it desire, may be rushed through. Furthermore, the program of the lobby, up to this time, has been carried out without a single slip; and with complete success.

When he stated that the greatest benefit which could befall this state would be that this Republican managing lobby be exiled from the state capital, Mr. Barth stated the exact truth.

This truth leads to one other truth, which we believe the people are beginning to understand, and which they must understand and act upon before New Mexico can go forward unhampered; that there is just one way to banish this lobby from Santa Fe; and that is to elect men to the legislature who cannot be controlled and directed by it. The grip of this lobby upon the Republican party in this state is absolute. The lobby is the Republican party, its manager, its banker and its directing brain. Without a single desire to say "I told you so," we still venture to recall the fact that during the last campaign this newspaper repeatedly called attention to the danger of electing a Republican majority to the legislature, because of the certainty that such a majority would be controlled by this lobby.

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Because this lobby absolutely controls the two-thirds Republican majority at Santa Fe whenever it chooses to exercise its control, the taxpayers have been saddled with nearly a million dollars of useless expense, in unearned bonus paid and to be paid to county officeholders. Because of the dominance of this lobby we are to have no approach to the effective taxation and revenue legislation which the state so sorely needs. Because of the dominance of this lobby a legislature which should have been calm and deliberative and in the constant exercise of cool and unprejudiced judgment, has been stirred by political prejudice, by personal enmities, by passions and hatreds; has been led into violations of the constitution of the state, and to the commission of acts of gross injustice.

The Herald during the last campaign asked the people of New Mexico to make a change in the legislative control, for the one reason that the election of another Republican legislature meant inevitable control of legislation by this Republican managing lobby. The Republicans won the legislature; the session has come and is now near gone, and our fears in this respect have been abundantly justified.

In this great new state there is nothing to be accomplished by crying over the spilled milk. Two years from now the present hydra-headed lobby, one of its heads the leadership of the Republican party, the other the corporation influence and power, will be just as absolutely in control of the Republican party as it is today. Two years from now it is to be hoped that the people of New Mexico will remember the plain talk on the floor of the senate of State Senator Isaac Barth, and outside the legislature by the Republican state chairman, Mr. Ely. If they do they will exile this lobby from the state capital by sending to the legislature and into the state government men who represent the taxpayers and the people and who the Republican managing lobby cannot control or trick. This newspaper believes in the principles of the Democratic party, but wholly aside from our political beliefs, it must be clear to every thinking man that this Republican managing lobby, because it owns the Republican party machinery, will continue to nominate for the legislature and for state office those of its party men whom it can absolutely control, and that it is not party prejudice, but plain common sense, in the light of the facts, which leads us to say once more that the state's only chance for constructive legislation and for popular government and the square deal for the taxpayers lies in the election of Democrats to the state government and the legislature.

What of the Future?

Editor Herald:

I believe it was the great Patrick Henry, in his celebrated speech in the Virginia convention, who said: "I know of no way of judging the future but by the past."

That is as true as ever of men, parties, states, nations. True, there are sometimes reformations, and changes for the better, but there is also the retrograde for the worse, but in New Mexico there has in Republican leadership, certainly been no change for the better so in looking into its future the principle stated by Patrick Henry is applicable in all its force.

It is said of Democratic officials, "few die; none resign," and it may be said of Republican bosses, "they never reform. "The leopard cannot change his spots or the lion his skin."

Looking back at Republican leadership in New Mexico for many years, it has mostly been the same. A good "licking" has occasionally created a temporary division but no real change.

It was therefore to be expected, when the legislature assembled, that Republican leadership would be the same old thing, the tactics, the same old story, and the result has proven it to be so. Crazy over victory, politically drunken with power, every man with a scheme for his personal interest describes the situation.

Private interests first, the public good afterward, and a long time afterward, has been the rule with most of them. The old New Mexico Republican game of throwing out enough members to give two-thirds majority and then set the steam roller in motion and ruthlessly ride over the minority, has been and is the game. Chauncey Depew's motto: "The people be damned," is the majority shibboleth. The governor must be shorn of his power and appointment; big fees and salaries must be provided for the county officers who "whooped it up" at the last election; the immense coal interests of the big corporation of the north must be protected and favored, so as to foster the coal camp votes, all local Democratic officials must by legislation be turned out of office, and Republicans put in their places, the little private schemes of our political friends must be put through, seems to be the program evolved by the majority of the majority.

The protests of the minority of the majority, like old Rip Van Winkle's drink, "don't count this time." It is the few men who dominate; who ride over both the minority and the minority of the majority. For all this there is precedent in the past. However, never in all the history of New Mexico, so old timers say, was there such a numerous and bold lobby at Santa Fe; men leaving their daily vocations taking up "bed and board;" camping in committee rooms; haunting the halls of legislation. Why? Just for fun? As pure disinterested patriots for the good of the country? "Where the carcass is, there are the buzzards gathered also."

The Republican party has in it another element which disapproves of this line of action, just now a minority element. The letter of Hon. Ralph Ely, Republican chairman, voiced the views of that element. They believe in fair play and that "Honesty is the best policy." True, Hon. Ely was "sat down on" hard; yes, very hard, by Hon. Spies, but Mr. Ely is yet alive, very much alive. It is said he is not of the material cowards are made of. If so, he is likely to resent the operations of the steam roller, manipulated by its most skillful manipulator, "The gentleman from San Juan" also seems to have a conscience. Now what of the future. Which element will control? Will this minority of the majority quietly submit to imperious dictation, "go away back and sit down," run up the white flag, or stand on the eternal principles of truth and honest government and assert itself and in New Mexico become a power for good?

Watch the legislative record of the minority of the majority and see whether the steam roller, propelled by past masters, is sufficient to crush out the manly spirit of independence which is the greatest heritage of American citizenship.

OBSERVER.

BILL FOR A BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR MINERS

One of an Interesting Collection Introduced in House; Logging Bill Finally Makes Its Appearance.

(State Capital Bureau
(of Evening Herald.
(51 De Vargas Hotel.

Santa Fe, N. M., Feb. 27.—The time is fast approaching when no more new bills may be introduced in either house and as a result the end of the week has seen a flood of bills in th house and a considerable number of them in the senate, making their way into the legislative game before the gates closed.

In the house some curiously interesting measures have been introduced and a few which are of considerable importance during the last few days.

Board of Mine Examiners.

House Bill No. 268, introduced in the house Thursday afternoon by Hon. Modesto C. Ortiz of Bernalillo county and Representative Fleming of McKinley county, provides for the creation of a board of state mine examiners, who are named in the bill and who are to serve for a term of four years. These gentlemen are D. H. Somerville of McKinley county, who is named president of the board; Tom O'Brien of Colfax county who is named treasurer, and Benjamin Hill of Santa Fe who is appointed secretary. The president and treasurer are to receive $500 a year each and necessary traveling expenses, while the secretary is to receive $1,000 a year and necessary expenses. The first and what appears to be the principal duty of the secretary is that he must make his residence in Santa Fe. The measure appropriates $2,000 for the supplies and equipment of the board, which are not otherwise described.

The duties of this proposed board are to examine all persons who wish employment in New Mexico as mine examiner, mine foreman, mine manager or mine inspector and to issue certificates to such as shall successfully pass an examination, the nature and form of which are left to the discretion of the board. Any mine owner or other person who shall employ any person in any of the above named capacities, following the passage of the bill, which carries the emergency clause, shall be punished by a varied series of fines, imprisonment or both in the discretion of the court.

A New Mounted Police Bill.

Representative Sena of San Miguel county has ready for introduction a mounted police bill, re-creating the company which is just now being finally abolished by a bill which has passed the senate and is pending in the house on a report favoring passage. The Sena bill as drafted provides the state senate shall appoint a captain of the mounted police whose salary shall be $1,800 a year, and whi shall select six privates to form the company and who shall receive $1,200 a year each, the men to provide their own horses and subsistence.

A Hog Cholera Measure.

Following a suggestion of the cattle sanitary board in its last report to the governor, Representative Black of Chaves county has introduced House Bill No. 269 providing for the suppression of hog cholera and other diseases of swine. The bill seeks to establish rigid regulations for inspection of hogs being brought into the state, disinfection of cars, etc., and for the prevention of movement of diseased hogs within the state. It would entrust to the cattle sanitary board the duty of enforcing the law, for which there is an urgent need, owing to the prevalence of hog cholera, particularly in the Pecos valley where it has caused heavy losses.

$1,000 for Translating.

Representative Martinez has introduced a joint resolution to appropriate $1,000 for the cost of translating the laws of the present legislature into Spanish for Spanish publication. The resolution would entrust the work to Blas Sanchez, the capable chief clerk of the house.

To Block Recess Appointments.

Representative Candelario Vigil in House Bill No. 285 introduced Thursday, has sought to prevent the governor from making recess appointments. The bill reads as follows:

"No person whose nomination has been rejected by the senate shall be eligible to hold office under a recess appointment."

The bill concludes with the familiar wording of the emergency clause.

SPANISH TEACHING DEFENDED BY MR. VIGIL IN HOUSE

Representative Anxious to Have Language of Conquistadores Made Part of Curricula in New Mexico.

(State Capital Bureau
(Evening Herald
(51 De Vargas Hotel.

Santa Fe, N. M., Feb. 27.—Representative Flavio Vigil vigorously defends the teaching of Spanish in the public schools of the state, a number of bills for which are pending in the house.

"The Spanish language is one of the most popular languages in the world," said Mr. Vigil today, "and the need of a thorough knowledge of this language is recognized by all broad-minded men. Perhaps the idea of having this language taught in all the high schools, universities and other educational institutions throughout the Union has not been given due consideration. But when you realize the immense mineral deposits which have not been touched by the hands of man, and the large tracts of rich soil that are awaiting the skill of men for development in our neighboring republics of Mexico, Chile, Argentine and other Latin countries, and the opportunities that the Panama canal will offer to the young men of tomorrow, you will undoubtedly admit that the Spanish language should be taught in all the high schools, universities and other educational institutions of our country. Any person who has a full knowledge of both the English and the Spanish language holds the upper hand of prosperity in any of the countries above mentioned, and even in the large cities of the United States, especially the seaports.

"The state of New Mexico, on account of its past history and its peculiar element of citizenship, is especially fitted to have the Spanish language taught in all its public schools, high schools and other state institutions. Should this be done, as it is now proposed by the present legislature, the state of New Mexico would be opening the doors to eastern children to acquire a full knowledge of this much needed language, and at the same time will induce people to settle and invest their money in our state.

"I earnestly believe that it behooves the public welfare that all educators be required to begin to teach the Spanish language along with the English language in all our public schools and other state institutions as soon as possible. In sectarian educational institutions it is commonly recognized that the teaching of German or French is essential to a complete education. In view of the peculiar relations and responsibilities which are increasing daily that this nation holds with reference to Mexico, Central America, the Panama canal and South America, the importance of the Spanish language cannot be overestimated if this country shall fulfill its mission with a proper regard for its responsibilities, both morally and commercially."

APPROPRIATION ACT TO BE PRESENTED TOMORROW

Little Likelihood That Educational Institutions Will Get Needed Buildings, Owing to Scarcity of Cash.

(51 De Vargas Hotel.
(State Capital Bureau
(of Evening Herald.

Santa Fe, N. M., March 1.—The general appropriation bill will be introduced in the senate tomorrow by the senate finance committee. The bill is not yet complete and as introduced it may carry some blanks. This is likely to be true in the case of appropriations asked for by the educational institutions. It was said today that the disposition of the committee was to refuse all appropriations for buildings by the various educational institutions and that the only buildings which the committee would favor would be for the state reform school, the deaf and dumb institution, the blind school and the insane asylum. It was pointed out that it was necessary for the state to provide for the unfortunate and that the buildings asked by these institutions are absolutely necessary. The revenue of the state for last year was approximately $900,000. Appropriations necessary and asked for total $1,600,000. Of the increase, it is stated, $250,000 is the estimated necessary increase.

The only way to produce additional revenue without increasing taxation is a taxation and revenue law which will bring all property in the state upon the tax rolls on an equitable basis. There seems little prospect for the passage of such a law and members of the finance committee declare that they will not appropriate money which is not available.

The need for making some provision for additional buildings for the educational institution sis such that various measures are being discussed. One of these is a proposal to submit a constitutional amendment raising the limit of bonded indebtedness which may be incurred without a vote of the people. The limit is now $200,000, and it is variously suggested that it be raised from $400,000 to $500,000. Another proposal is to lump all of the building appropriations needed by these institutions into one bond issue and submit that bond issue to the people at the next general election. It is pointed out, however, that it would be almost inevitable that an appropriation for an addition to the state capitol building would be included in this bond issue and that the disinclination of the people of the state to increase the investment in the state capitol equipment prior to 1925 is such that a bond issue even partially for that purpose, would meet strong opposition if not certain defeat. The outlook for certain very necessary buildings for educational institutions therefore is not encouraging.

STATE GEOLOGIST WILL GO TO THE MINES SCHOOL

Bill Introduced in House Yesterday to Amend State Resources Commission Law Transfering Office.

(State Capital Bureau
(of Evening Herald
(51 De Vargas Hotel

Santa Fe, N. M., Feb. 27.—Abeytia of Socorro county introduced in the house Thursday House Bill 221, to amend the statute creating the New Mexico resources commission transfering the office of state geologist, now held under the law by the professor of geology of the University of New Mexico, to the president of the state school of mines at Socorro. The change has been agreed upon among the various educational institutions, there being a general readjustment of the several functions of the resources service as provided for in the act, among the various educational institutions. It was agreed that the state geologist properly belonged in the school of mines. The bill, it is understood, will have no opposition.

The resources commission was created several years ago but up to this time has never been active through the inability to secure appropriations for its operation.

A small appropriation may be made for the commission this year.