

THE NEW AGE

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EDITORIAL

AND NOW THE BRIDGE SCANDAL.

In reality, this seems to be one of those peculiar periods of official scandal—or, rather, the development and exposure of official turpitude—that delight the reformer who is generally busy with his cry of "Stop, thief!" But in this case there appears to be the coveted opportunity for him to proclaim from the rooftops: "I told you so!"

The New Age has no more use for the "professional" reformer than it has for the "professional" politician or the "professional" pulpiteer, or the "professional" rogue or the "professional" tramp in his imbecile innocence—or any other "professional" humbug; but in recent local cases it is apparent that the "professional" reformer enjoys an unusual occasion for glee over his discovery.

The scandal connected with the reconstruction of the Tanner creek sewer quickly directed public attention to the fact that there might be something wrong with an important bridge contract or two on which work is now in progress. A little official investigation—done in a semi-official way at first—has apparently developed the necessity of a thorough and open inquiry by the powers that be. That important work will soon be under way—and a man from Tacoma will conduct the inquiry. What the result will be, is, to be sure, yet problematical; but the public is fully aroused to the necessity of watching more closely the conduct of their chosen servants in public contracts involving large expenditure of money.

There is no doubt that contractors will, as a rule, obtain all of the profit possible out of important work, such as that now being done in the construction of big bridges in the city of Portland, even though the "assistance" of trusted public servants, whose sworn duty it is to protect the interests of the people, must be acquired in some way. There seems to be reason to suspect that such "assistance" has been given in some of the large bridge contracts now in process of completion—but so far it is only a suspicion. Let the good work of investigation by disinterested agents be complete, no matter what the result may be to some of our trusted local agents. High officials in the conduct of our municipal business, whose records are unimpeachable, should be among the first to insist on such an investigation as is now proposed.

If the taxpayers of the city of Portland and the county of Multnomah are being robbed by conscienceless contractors, they ought to have courage enough to pursue the matter to a satisfactory conclusion—and that conclusion can be reached only through official investigation, indictment and summary prosecution of those guilty of purposely ignoring their sworn obligations.

The New Age can see no other honorable way out of the mess.

Let the inquiry be complete in every detail; and then, if rogues be found feeding on the fat of the public treasury, let them be punished to maximum limit.

THE LEWIS AND CLARK FAIR WILL ATTRACT A MILLION.

The manner in which the people of the Great East will be attracted to the Great West during the Lewis and Clark Exposition and Oriental Fair next year will, according to estimates carefully made and figures compiled thereon, exceed anything ever recorded in the way of attendance at an international show so far away from the great centers of population. Secretary Henry E. Reed of the Fair Commission himself concludes that more than a million people from distant parts of the country will come; and he arrives at this conclusion through a careful study of his correspondence and the general demand for hotel accommodations so far in advance.

There can be little reason for doubt that the attendance, especially from the states of the east and middle west, will be enormous. Tens of thousands of people who are anxious to find homes in the west will be attracted by that fact alone, while many more,

who have leisure and means, will come on their annual vacation to see the big show and to enjoy the admirable climatic conditions prevalent at the time of the exposition. Many of the latter class have been here before and know that, barring untoward accident, their vacation ought to be one continual round of pleasure. Then others will come purely on matters of every-day business, on account of the low rates of transportation, enjoying the great centennial sights and ceremonies merely as an incident of the trip.

By far the greatest and most permanent advantage to be derived by the northwest from these distant visitors will be from those who come on business—that is, the business of seeing the country for the purpose of investment if they find the proper inducement. Few of this class will return in disappointment.

Saying nothing of the number of people who will visit the fair, the millions of dollars that will be carried here for permanent investment (and will find the attractive chance to remain here) will be a great factor, as one important result of the exposition, in the more rapid and substantial growth and development of the vast resources of the great northwest.

Director-General Goode and other prominent officials of the fair management discover at this time reason to believe that the Lewis and Clark Centennial will be the greatest international exposition ever held—especially so in the matter of permanent result for the promotion of the best interests of the country at large and the vast northwestern empire in particular.

ANTI-GRAFT MOVEMENT.

The anti-graft element of business men to meet tomorrow at 3 o'clock at the Marquam Grand opera house have a most excellent opportunity to accomplish much desired results if those who conduct the organization be sincere and substantially interested in the outcome of their work. The purpose of the meeting is said to be to endorse and encourage the movement now on foot looking to a better enforcement of the law, the elimination of graft from our public affairs and the betterment of the general moral tone of the community. It is the intention to extend encouragement to all those who are now engaged in this great fight, regardless of politics or religious affiliations, and to meet together on the common plane of the public welfare.

Really prominent business men of the city are earnestly engaged in the promotion of this movement and there is good reason to anticipate an interesting discussion of public affairs, especially in connection with recent disclosures of apparent official nastiness.

To obtain access to the star-chamber council of dishonest officials is, however, frequently difficult, for the reason that rogues who are brave enough to attempt to rob the public are generally shrewd enough to organize against popular invasion, such as that proposed; but it has been shown that the task is not an impossible one. Some progress has recently been made in this city in that respect—enough to encourage the new anti-graft sentiment among our business men to make a determined effort to succeed better than some of their predecessors have. There is some degree of excuse to hope that they may. It is a worthy cause and ought to be encouraged, at least, by a large attendance.

POPULAR RAILROAD MAN.

The building and successful management of railroads have become one of the greatest industries of the age. Therefore, to become great in the matter of the development of railroad business is to acquire a notable distinction in the important affairs of the world.

Such has been the success of the career of Assistant General Passenger Agent A. D. Charlton, of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, who has for twenty years been one of the prominent spirits in promoting the growth of the passenger business of that great transcontinental line. In the several capacities in which he has served that company he has given eminent proof of the fact that he is naturally a railroad man, an ability which he inherited, his father having years ago achieved distinction as a railroad man.

Aside from having extended great services for so many years to the interests of the Northern Pacific in their growth, Mr. Charlton is one of

the most popular railroad men on the continent, not only in railroad circles, but with everybody who may have enjoyed the good fortune to have become acquainted with him. He is eminently a man of modern business ideas and methods, the soul of honor in every walk of life and a most genial man to meet.

The land-fraud cases in the federal court have been postponed until next year. While the purpose of the public prosecutors seem a little bit mysterious to the average layman, who isn't supposed to understand the case as well as those who ought to know all about it, it may be that it is the purpose of the government to make an attractive exhibit of the whole matter at the Lewis and Clark exposition. In that event the moral of the result would, of course, have a much wider circulation than through any other existing medium.

Over one million dollars will be required to meet the public expenses of Oregon next year. That sum is so enormous as to prompt the secretary of state to urge officially that expenditures must be reduced. There is no doubt that the secretary is eminently right; but who will submit the plan on which the reduction may be made? Not the secretary, nor the great coterie of officials who are enjoying the graft, nor anyone else, so far as heard from at this writing.

Canada does not take kindly to the proposition to establish a navy from which Great Britain could recruit her own. Somehow or other, the colonies are beginning to grow restive under the complimentary insinuation that the children of the empire are too dutiful to let their old mother work, and that the latter will fondly allow them to assume as much of her burden as she can get them to accept.

Port Arthur is about to fall again. The last of the Russians' great warships, Sevastopol, has been sunk. The Japanese forces now have much less to fear in their siege of the great Manchurian stronghold. But Stoessel is still there—and as long as he remains we will hear no Japanese fire crackers.

The grand jury, which has recently done much important work, is anxious to adjourn. Just what it has really done is not fully known to the public and may not be for some time yet; but it has been a busy body and has succeeded in frightening a good many bad people.

An English writer says that American wealth is vulgar, and that our millionaires are uninteresting. Perhaps that is why they show such respect for our millionaires over there, and display such strong desire to annex our wealth.

Professor Jacques Loeb of the University of Chicago is said to be able to make the dead seemingly alive. Professor Jacques Loeb will please stop the practice. There are enough of those seemingly alive ones walking around now.

A Northwestern university professor has decided that "heavens" is a cuss word, but he is kind enough to leave "bah Jove" off the index expurgatorius.

The north Missouri Father who has an eighteen-ounce pear in his orchard and a twelve-pound boy in the nursery is glad that the boy isn't a pair.

There is talk of putting a heavy tax on beer in Germany. Apparently they make no exceptions over there in favor of the necessities of life.

Columbus had another funeral the other day. If Gabriel finds Christopher when the time comes he will have to look sharp.

A Minneapolis woman fasted for thirty-nine days to get rid of apoplexy. She'll never have it again.

Darwin concluded that the earthworm in five years brings up soil enough to cover the ground one inch thick, and that, therefore, the result of its labor is of vast importance. I reckon that the pocket gopher does in the same way or so effectively, because the earthworm actually digests the substance of its castings; but it is evident that the pocket gopher's method of answers the purpose of fully integrating and mixing the dead vegetation with the soil to produce a rich and fertile black loam.—Century.

A Good Rule. Look for goodness, look for gladness. You will meet them all the while, if you bring a smiling visage. To the glass, you meet a smile.—Alice Cary.

OLD FAVORITES

Bingen on the Rhine. A soldier of the Legion lay dying in Algeria;

There was lack of woman's nursing, there was death of woman's tears; But a comrade stood beside him, while his life-blood ebbed away, And bent with pitying glance to hear what he might say.

The dying soldier faltered as he took that comrade's hand, And he said: "I never more shall see my own, my native land. Take a message and a token to some distant friends of mine; For I was born at Bingen—at Bingen on the Rhine!

"Tell my brothers and companions, when they meet and crowd around To hear my mournful story, in the pleasant vineyard ground, That we fought the battle bravely; and when the day was done Full many a corpse lay ghastly pale beneath the setting sun. And 'midst the dead and dying were some grown old in war, The death-wounds on their gallant crests the last of many scars; But some were young, and suddenly beheld life's morn decline; And one had come from Bingen—fair Bingen on the Rhine!

"Tell my mother that her other sons shall comfort her old age, For I was still a trusty bird that thought his home a cage; For my father was a soldier, and even as a child My heart leaped forth to hear him tell of struggles fierce and wild; And when he died, and left us to divide his scanty hoard, I let them take what'er they would—but kept my father's sword; And with boyish love I hung it where the bright light used to shine On the cottage wall at Bingen—calm Bingen on the Rhine!

"Tell my sister not to weep for me, and sob with drooping head, When the troops come marching home again with glad and gallant tread, But to look upon them proudly, with a calm and steadfast eye, For her brother was a soldier, too, and not afraid to die; And if a comrade seek her love, I ask her in my name To listen to him frankly, without regret or shame.

And to hang the old sword in its place, my father's sword and mine, For the honor of old Bingen—dear Bingen on the Rhine!

"There's another, not a sister, in the happy days gone by; You'd have known her by the merriment that sparkled in her eye; Too innocent for coquetry, too fond for idle scolding; O friend, I fear the lightest heart makes sometimes heaviest mourning. Tell her the last sight of my life (for ere this moon be risen, My body will be out of pain, my soul be out of prison). I dreamed I stood with her, and saw the yellow sunlight shine On the vine-clad hills of Bingen—fair Bingen on the Rhine!

"I saw the blue Rhine sweep along; I heard, or seemed to hear, The German songs we used to sing, in chorus sweet and clear; And down the pleasant river, and up the slanting hill, the chanting choir, The echoing chorus sounded through the evening calm and still; And her glad blue eyes were on me as we passed, with friendly talk, Down many a path beloved of yore, and well-remembered walk, And her little hand lay lightly, confidently in mine; But we'll meet no more at Bingen—loved Bingen on the Rhine!"

His voice grew faint and hoarse—his grasp was childish weak; His eyes put on a dring look—he sighed, and ceased to speak; His comrade bent to lift him, but the spark of life had fled; The soldier of the Legion in a foreign land was dead!

And the soft moon rose up slowly, and calmly she looked down On the red sand of the battlefield, with bloody corpses strewn. Yes, calmly on that dreadful scene her pale light seemed to shine, As it shone on distant Bingen—fair Bingen on the Rhine!

—Caroline E. Norton.

WAR RAGING FOR 100 YEARS.

Dutch seem bent on the extermination of the Achinese. With slight intervals for refreshment and rest the war of the Dutch against the Achinese has been going on for more than a century, and, though the once powerful kingdom of Achin is now confined to the northwest corner of Sumatra, the natives are still unsubdued. Each expedition sent against the Achinese, though temporarily successful, has been followed by little lasting benefit except that attrition has gradually worn away the ancient kingdom.

This long war, always conducted with great ferocity on both sides, now seems to have degenerated into a struggle of extermination, in which women and children share the fate of their sons and fathers. The Dutch regard the Achinese as barbarians, but little can be said for the civilization typified by the Dutch commander who calmly announces as a detail of his victory the slaughter of 221 women and eighty-eight children.

Strangely enough, this announcement, instead of being suppressed by the government of the Netherlands, is sent broadcast over the world, accompanied by no adverse comments or a hint of official action against the commanding general of the expedition. And the Dutch capital is the seat of The Hague tribunal, the place from which rules for the amelioration of the conditions of war, its avoidance and its final extinction are supposed to emanate.

A Mean Snag.

Miss Olden (copy)—When he proposed I kept him in suspense for at least ten minutes.

Miss Sharp—Oh, I guess not! I suppose it merely seemed that long to you.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Old age can dye its whiskers, but old age can't look young.

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