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EDITORIAL

MAYOR AND COUNCIL.

The action of the council in refusing to allow the salary of a chief of police to an officer who is not in fact a chief seems to be quite justifiable. For over a year and a half there has been no actual, only an "acting," chief of police, a captain performing temporarily the duties of chief but not legally responsible as such, not being required to file any bond for the faithful and lawful performance of his duties, as the law requires a chief to do. To this state of affairs the council objects, and declines to make an appropriation for more than a captain's salary for the acting chief, and to get a chief's salary he will have to apply to the courts. It is not a question of whether Captain Gritzmacher has made a good acting chief or not; he is considered dependable, though nobody ever accused him of brilliancy; but of his right to draw a chief's salary when he is not so in fact.

In the case of Inspector Bruin, it has been decided by the court that his appointment was illegal, and that ought to be sufficient to insure his removal, at least temporarily, until he qualified himself, if he can, for the position he holds. His office is one created by the mayor, who has kept him in it, though the public is not aware of any very valuable services that he has performed to earn his salary. The mayor arbitrarily removed a bunch of detectives because they were worthless, but it might puzzle him to find anything much better in the record of his inspector.

Firmness within reasonable bounds is certainly a very good quality in a mayor, but obstinacy is not, and the mayor seems to be possessed of an unfortunate amount of obstinacy, of tenacity of opinion and course of action, whether he is right or wrong. That he should sometimes disagree with the council was to be expected, and in some cases he may have been in the right, but in others he was not.

A while ago he lectured the council very severely and repeatedly for vacating two or three pieces of unused street, for the benefit of industries that are building up the city, and one would have supposed that the council had been giving away streets by the wholesale to anybody who asked, but it turned out that the mayor had himself approved most of these measures, and that there was no reasonable ground for opposing the others. He seemed simply to want to muck-rake the council, perhaps with a view of strengthening himself for re-election next summer, but if so, it is to be doubted if this object was accomplished.

Half the councilmen will go out of office next summer, and the mayor with them, and it will be to the interest of the city to elect not only good men to the council but also a mayor who will work in harmony with them, and not be in a perpetual wrangle with them. And while politics should not be the main consideration in electing city officers, it will be advisable, since the council is sure to be Republican in politics, to elect a mayor of the same party, not merely to show that this is a Republican city, but so that the mayor and council can co-operate better for its welfare.

NEEDED THE MONEY.

Brother Paul Rader, who has been going to and fro in the state working the anti-saloon racket, has been accused of collecting and spending a lot of the league's money, or involv-

ing it in debt, and indulging in various imitations of Annanias, but some of the brethren are inclined to stand by him and find him guiltless, and if he appears so to the Anti-Saloon League, it is not much of anybody else's business—unless of those who entrusted him with cash.

Some of his performances are, however, of a little public interest, especially that one wherein he worked Mr. Jonathan Bourne now United States senator, for \$500 with which to influence temperance votes in the primaries last spring. And it is not at all certain that Brother Rader, whatever he did for the anti-saloon cause, did not fully earn the money he got from Bourne. It will be remembered that Bourne received the nomination by only a slight margin, and if Mr. Rader's circular letters to temperance people, urging them to vote for Bourne, as a friend, champion and exemplar of temperance, really influenced any considerable number of votes in Bourne's favor, why, he owes his nomination and election to nobody so much as to Rev. Paul Rader, and that \$500 was the best campaign investment he made. It does not follow that Brother Rader actually spent any of the money in Bourne's behalf, for apparently all he did was to send out these circular letters, which, including stamps, probably cost him nothing; but it seems he sent them out signed by Dr. Clarence True Wilson, and consequently they were likely to have had considerable effect. And it is presumed that Brother Rader also spoke a good word for Bourne whenever he could on his travels in behalf of the league. We do not see that anybody was harmed in particular by the transaction—not speaking of the people of the state as a whole—and that Brother Rader is not to be very severely condemned for thus picking up \$500 easy money, especially when at the same time he could help elect to the senate so thorough an anti-saloon man as Mr. Bourne.

As to other financial transactions, it must be remembered that a man traveling about all the time and living well needs quite a lot of money, and as Brother Rader was enthusiastically engrossed in the good work he should have been liberally supplied and could not be blamed for incurring a few debts. It is charged that his report of an assault at Salem was a fake, but this is a harsh judgment, even if it did not occur; he is a man of tremendous intellect, and as he was walking along he may have been struck with a pointed and edged idea so hard that he thought several things were upon him.

So we are inclined to think that Brother Rader should be exonerated and vindicated, and sent on his reforming career rejoicing and with an ample supply of cash.

AN ERRONEOUS VIEW.

Why do not the people who, because negroes occasionally commit crimes, feel like lynching and exterminating them stop to think how really few crimes, in proportion to population, conditions and all circumstances, negroes of the country really commit? Instead of accusing, abusing and anathematizing the whole race on account of the crimes of a few, why not look at the other side and consider how many, what a vast majority, are not heard of in this way, but go on through life pursuing a peaceable, quiet and commendable way, injuring nobody and benefiting some? Do these people ever stop to think that there are some 9,000,000 colored people in this country, about one-ninth of the total population, and that only 42 years ago they emerged from slavery, untaught, untrained in self-reliance or self-restraint, or in self-support, ignorant, and almost helpless? Considering these things, would it be strange if negroes were more inclined to commit offenses against the law than whites? And yet it does not appear that they are. It has been repeatedly shown that accusations against negroes of assaults on women in the South were false or unproved, and aside from these cases wherein do the negroes show up as being more criminal than white people? Accounts of their crimes are noticed more, and as a rule given more prominence in the papers, but

we are not aware that the record is so black against them as some people seem to suppose. A fair-minded, broad-viewed man will concede that under all the circumstances the colored people have in these 42 years done remarkably well, and will be encouraged by the progress they have made, and ready with friendly feeling for their further enlightenment and advancement as citizens of the great free republic.

"POWER OFF."

Perhaps the high water had something to do with the power for the street cars being "off" more than usual this week, but if it had not been high water it would have been something else. Any little old thing will stop the cars, or delay them so that people cannot travel as they wish. Early Wednesday evening, for instance, many ladies were waiting alone Morrison street for a long time, but no cars came, and finally they walked home or went down to Washington street, where just at that time the service was not quite so completely knocked out. But on either street, or on any other, high water or low water, nobody is sure about being able to get down town in the morning, or home in the evening, by means of a car. And if he can, the chances are that he will do so only after delays that would render walking a rapid mode of travel by comparison. What the company ought to do is to have a large number of men traveling along the principal streets and by-crossings advising people waiting as to what time, within an hour or so, a car might be expected along—but, of course, the company can't afford to hire anybody to do this, for it can't afford to hire enough men to do the work absolutely necessary to be done, or pay decent wages to those it does hire.

The legislature is being urged to revoke the franchise of the gas company on the ground that it has not treated the people fairly, and if this be a sufficient reason the franchise of the railway company ought to be revoked too, or some means taken to compel it to give the people decent service.

SHOULD BE CAREFUL.

Oregon cannot afford at this time to enact any drastic anti-railroad legislation. The railroads are doing a good deal just now, and that without any threat or compulsion, to develop Oregon, and if let alone will do a great deal more. They are building into Wallowa valley, over to Coos Bay, to Tillamook, and will build extensively in other parts of Oregon, and, of course, in their own interests will supply all the necessary equipment possible, and as fast as possible. It is very foolish under such circumstances to pass a law that will discourage the railroad builders and investors, and very likely will prevent them from going ahead with contemplated enterprises.

Except for the car shortage, which the roads will remedy on their own motion as soon as possible, the people of Oregon have but little complaint to make. A few cases of freight overcharges, if they exist, are but a very slight evil compared with that which the railroad owners could inflict upon the state if they are burdened and harassed unreasonably with hostile legislation. To antagonize the railroads now would be a great calamity to Oregon, and the legislature ought therefore to be very careful of the measures it enacts.

We do not mean that the railroads should not be subject to any control or supervision whatever, or that the people should take no measures to remedy any grievous abuses, but in going too far and making laws that will prove disastrous to the railroads, the disaster will inevitably react on the state itself, which needs above almost anything else to encourage railroad building as the chief means of developing the state.

THE WILLAMETTE LOCKS.

The substitute for the Jones bill to appropriate \$400,000 to buy the locks at Oregon City or construct new ones, by which it is proposed to raise \$300,000 providing congress will appropriate as much more, or

enough more for the purpose, is far preferable to the original bill. It is unlikely that the \$400,000 provided for would have been nearly enough, and the state might have had to appropriate as much more before getting the locks, which would be altogether too much for the benefits to be derived, which are, after all, not likely to be nearly as much as is represented by some newspapers.

But what the state and government, if they can undertake the job by a joint appropriation, ought to do, is to calculate on digging new locks on the east side of the river, for there is no likelihood that the General Electric company will sell its locks for anything like their real value unless it knows that otherwise new locks will be built, and it will take some chances that they will not be built. It sets its price at \$1,200,000, which is probably about three times what ought to be paid. If under condemnation proceedings the locks can be had for half a million or less, it might pay to buy them, but the electric company will try to get double their value, at least, and so new and competing locks would be best, and then let the electric company keep its locks and get what it could out of them.

It would serve the company just right to render the locks comparatively valueless to them for its exactions of these many years, and its hoggishness in asking three prices for the property.

R. A. Preston, whom the voters of the First ward honored with an election to the city council two years ago, will not, we understand, be a candidate for re-election this spring. Mr. Preston has probably had his ear to the ground and heard things that were not encouraging to his future political aspirations. The voters of the First ward should get together and induce some one of the numerous old and popular residents to stand as a candidate for the primary nomination on the Republican ticket. At any rate, they want no more of Preston.

Supt. Gardner, of the Boys and Girls' Aid society, has been down to Salem, presumably in the interest of an appropriation for his institution. Mr. Gardner secured some \$8,000 from the session of 1905 to make certain improvements and extensions. The people would like to know whether these improvements have been made or not, and if not what has become of this money.

Councilman H. A. Belding, the popular representative in the city council from the Sixth ward, has the reputation of being one of the most vigilant members of that body. Mr. Belding has made a splendid councilman and the people appreciate his efforts to serve them well and faithfully.

If some of the legislators had to run a railroad up along the Columbia these days they might not think it quite so easy and cheap a job as they had imagined.

Hon. W. C. Bristol, the efficient United States attorney for Oregon, has gone to San Francisco to argue a case before the United States court of appeals.

The legislature is nearly two-thirds out and not much done yet. But there has been a good deal of getting ready to do something.

People who have time to walk and don't mind doing so are in luck; it is an aggravation to try to get a ride on the street cars.

Quite a lot of bills have been properly killed, and no harm would have been done if a few that passed had met the same fate.

Mr. Bristol is indeed the most active and competent man who ever served as United States district attorney in Oregon.

Of course the lights have been out a lot more. But the electric company collects the bills just the same.

No use for Brother Paul to strike Brother Jonathan again now. Brother Jonathan has done got there.

Who is the Republican that is going to beat Mayor Lane—for there isn't any doubt he'll run again?

The Bailey proposed amendment to the primary election law is sensible and reasonable.

Better be moderate with that railroad legislation, gentlemen. It might be a boomerang.

Senator Fulton cannot afford to defeat District Attorney Bristol.

OUR CHICAGO LETTER

(Special to Portland New Age.)  
Lawyer E. H. Morris has returned from Philadelphia, Pa.

Dr. McDowell, a prominent physician of St. Louis, has located in Chicago.

The National Defense League of the United States will meet at Ann Arbor, Mich., July 5, 1907.

Mr. George W. Murrey, former member of congress of South Carolina, has permanently located in Chicago.

Miss Blanche Wright, public stenographer and court reporter, is now to be found at her office, 171 Washington street, room 708.

And the National Conference of Colored Men has been called by several colored men in Chicago to meet at Ann Arbor, Mich., July 6, 1907.

There is a movement on foot in this city to urge Rev. Jesse Woods, pastor of the St. John's A. M. E. church, to be a candidate for bishop at the next general conference.

The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Illinois met last week and elected officers. The names of the officers will be given in the next issue of the paper.

The National Federation of Friendly Society among the colored people in the United States held a special meeting here last week, and the next meeting will be held July 8, 1907, at Buffalo, N. Y.

Mr. Jullus F. Taylor, editor of the Chicago Broad Ax, secured a judgment of \$18,000 in the circuit court of this county against Mr. Poney Moore on the charge of false imprisonment.

Mrs. Walter M. Farmer addressed the evening service of Bethesda Baptist church at their sacred concert last Sunday evening on "Idealism." The subject was well handled by Mrs. Farmer, and she has proven her reputation of being a brilliant woman and speaker.

Chicago Lodge of A. F. & A. Masons meets in regular meeting on the second Monday evening of each month at Sixteenth and State streets. Mr. S. Clay is the worshipful master. Brother Clay is a brilliant Mason and one of the grand officers of the St. John's Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. Masons of Illinois.

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 28.—The Mount Zion Baptist church at 1437 State street is doing a splendid work. The Rev. S. W. Whalen, the pastor, is to be congratulated upon the excellent work which he is accomplishing for the benefit and advancement of his race. He is ably assisted along those lines by Mrs. Mollie Hart and several other prominent members of the church. Mrs. Mollie Hart is a great worker in church work.

Judge Max Eberhardt, one of the judges of the municipal court in Chicago, is a model judge, and is regarded as one of the very best judges of the municipal court in Chicago, and when the Republican party nominated him and the people in Chicago elected him to be one of the judges of the municipal courts in Chicago, they did not make any mistake; they selected the right man for the right place. Judge Eberhardt is a man that has no prejudices against people on account of nationality or color, and every person who comes before him, whether they are black or white, rich or poor, are all treated the same and alike. Judge Eberhardt is a man who is learned in the law, and pleasant and courteous to all persons who come before him. He is now presiding as one of the judges of the municipal court on the corner of Harrison and Griswold streets, and the people in Chicago, without regard to party, have made up their minds to re-elect him to that position as judge of the municipal court as long as Judge Eberhardt wishes to stay.

Relative to the Order of Elks among colored men in the United States, that so much has been said of late in reference to them being clandestine and having no legitimate origin, your correspondent wishes to state that he is not in any sense whatever prejudiced for or against any society, but wishes to state the facts as he knows them and finds them. One faction of the spurious order of Elks is led by Mr. Howard, of Kentucky, and last year a number of the members of his faction were expelled out of the order and they met at New York City and organized a body of their own, of which I believe Mr. Watkins is at the head. So it will be seen that neither one of them have any legitimate origin whatever, and if any person has any doubts about it, these statements can be verified beyond any possible doubt or excuse, because your correspondent was right in Cincinnati when Mr. Riggs found the ritual of the Order of Elks, and soon afterward conferred the degrees upon some other colored men and that is the way the Order of Elks among the colored men started in this country, which stamps them as being illegitimate and self-constituted.

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