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THE LESSON OF BURTON'S SAD ENDING

THE CASE of Senator Burton who has just been sentenced to six months imprisonment and to pay a fine of \$2,500 on conviction of bribery is one that has attracted and will continue to attract a great deal of attention for two chief reasons. First, from the fact that Burton is a United States senator and secondly because justice has been so swiftly and surely meted out to him. This latter circumstance is gratifying for the reason that men of conspicuous position have so often escaped merited punishment, sometimes very largely through ways that appeared devious. This has been particularly true in Missouri where the tremendous scandals unearthed by District Attorney Folk have resulted in little else than scares, the star performers escaping the punishment which they so richly deserved.

So far as Burton is concerned he never should have been elected to the senate. He is a man of a certain sort of talent, a fluent talker, a lawyer by profession and a politician. All his life he has been a promoter. Some of the enterprises in which he has been engaged were scarcely such in character to raise him in the public estimation. Without the faculty of confining himself to legitimate effort to secure financial independence he had all of the tastes which money alone can gratify. The natural result followed. He was always in debt and, without any inclination to cut his expenses to his real income, he necessarily became a promoter. By a strange freak of fortune he was elevated to the United States senate. Here was an opportunity through which he might have rehabilitated himself if he were only made of the right material. But, deeply in debt, without the strength of character to live well within his means, he weakly accepted a fee in his capacity as attorney which he must have known would be money thrown away were it not for the influence which a United States senator would naturally exert in the government departments. And thus followed exposure, conviction succeeded and as a climax came a sentence of imprisonment, the taking away from him forever the right of civil employment and the accompanying disgrace which will follow him to the grave, a pitiable finale to a career that might have been both brilliant and useful.

In it all is involved a lesson that human experience has taught over and over again. It is that each individual should have the moral courage to live within his means, to spend nothing which he hasn't got and to affect to be nothing but that which he is. No matter how independent a man may be in character and no matter how courageous in facing the world, the longer a man lives the more likely is he to discover that there is no independence which is not based on financial independence. This does not necessarily mean that he must have much money but it does mean that he must have enough to serve his needs and to meet his obligations, besides a little laid away to meet extraordinary requirements or to make him reasonably secure in case of disaster. There were few better fellows anywhere than Burton. He was genial, sociable by nature, liberal, a good public speaker and a charming single handed talker. He had, too, many friends and well wishers who under the right circumstances would have gone far to serve him. But the whole foundation of his career was built on sand, on the theory that two and two were five, that one could forever successfully juggle with conditions and impalpable facts. His election to the United States senate seemed to add proof to his theory while in reality it only furnished a speedier way to his undoing. And what a price the poor devil has paid for expensive habits which his income never justifies!

INGREDIENTS OF GOOD STREETS.

THE PRESENT city engineer, and his predecessor, may be as good men for that position as are ordinarily selected by political conventions. They may have a good and sufficient general knowledge of the routine work of the office, and they may have performed their duties to the best of their ability. Let us go farther and concede that their ability was the best that could be procured at the time and under the circumstances for the office, and that mistakes and failures in street improvements have been others fault as well as, or rather than, theirs.

But when all this is said, the fact remains that street improvement work has been largely a failure. Either the material was not of the best quality, or else it was not used in the best manner, or both. The result is that property owners have paid out very large sums of money for poor work. The city engineer's office may have been somewhat to blame, the street committee of the council may have been to blame, the contractors may have been to blame; but the chief blame is negative rather than positive, and is divided, for this condition of affairs is due chiefly to two things—ignorance of just what was best to do and how to do it, and an old Oregonianish, happy-go-lucky, semi-conscientious sentiment that maybe it didn't make much difference anyway.

What the city should have had years ago, outside, if not inside, the engineer's office and council, is the best expert knowledge and ability on street paving in general and in this climate in particular, to be procured. It would have been big money in the property owners' pockets if they had paid \$5,000 or even \$10,000 a year for several years for this experienced, expert knowledge and ability, which, if they did not exist in the right quarters in city officialdom, should have been imported.

Besides, the most scrupulous honesty and constant vigilance were needed along with this knowledge and capacity, all along the official and expert line. We may say that contractors are to blame, but they cannot be counted on as considering themselves under such moral obligations to the public as its officers and employes should feel themselves to be.

Street paving is yet in its experimental stage, in most

young and growing cities, and improved methods if not materials are constantly being sought even by old and large cities, not only in this country, but in Europe. Knowledge on the subject is nowhere exhausted yet. But there is enough knowledge extant, and purchasable, to have procured incomparably better street improvements than have been submitted here to the test of time. This city has needed, and now needs, the best of that expert knowledge procurable. It would have been a valuable investment years ago. It will be so even yet.

But of course knowledge counts for little without the other necessary ingredient—inflexible, faithful, unwearied honesty in the taxpayer's service.

THE PORTLAND-TILLAMOOK RAILROAD

THE COUNTRY is somewhat interested in the reported struggle between Mr. Hill and Mr. Harriman for the control of the Northern Pacific railroad, though under present conditions it probably makes little difference to the country generally or to this portion of it in particular which one wins. By the addition of the Northern Pacific to their interests, the Harriman people would immensely increase their already vast system, but it is impossible to make an intelligent guess as to whether it would be advantageous to Portland and the territory of which it is the chief center or not. Distant results of the contests, combinations and manipulations of the railroad magnates are something not easily to be predicted without rashness.

One thing, perhaps in a measure connected with this contest or involved in it as at least a minor, though of itself not a small item, is of great importance to Portland, and to northwestern Oregon. The big roads, one or more of them, have so far not only neglected to build a railroad into the Nehalem-Tillamook region, but have succeeded in thwarting all efforts of others to build it. We have heard from time to time for years, the last time only a few days ago, that this road was sure to be built soon by an independent company, that the money was ready. But remembering past experiences, the public's hope that this final report is well founded is rather faint.

That road, with Portland as the direct terminus, ought to be built. It would traverse a region of vast resources and undeveloped riches. It would add in a few years tens of millions to Oregon's wealth of products, and tens of thousands to its producing population. It is easy to say "ought," easy to say that it is a shame that such a region should be so long isolated and undeveloped; but it is not easy to get the road built, so long as these giant corporations stand in the way, awaiting their own good time and method.

If the people owned these great trunk railroads, they could force the building of such a line as this from Portland to Tillamook and Nehalem whenever its building became desirable. But now they have to wait on the good pleasure of the railroad and financial kings.

THE ONLY WAY.

THE MAYOR'S appearance before the grand jury, to make an argument against the finding of any indictments against the owners of buildings leased for illegal purposes, illustrates how one piece of official deviation from the straight and narrow course of the law's observance and enforcement leads to farther law-breaking, and apology therefor and protection thereof.

Perhaps it would be Quixotic to attempt to indict all owners of buildings leased for gambling and other unlawful or immoral purposes; it will be said that they could not be convicted; yet it would be well for the moral health of the community if examples were made, and public attention drawn to a few people who pose as examples, but who knowingly rent buildings for the basest of purposes and as places where vice and crime hold sway with impunity.

The mayor pleads to the grand jury that gamblers are licensed; why, then, did he not urge that they, who pay some of their hard-earned money into the city treasury, be exempt from indictment? Should not his official protection extend to them, as well as to the property owners? And if protection is accorded on the score of license paying, how does this apply to some of the noisome and noxious dens? Are they also licensed?

As soon as an official, however learned and personally upright, begins to compromise with crime and make an official partnership with unlawful vice, he involves himself in various discreditable tangles. All human experience goes to prove that the only clear way is the right way.

INJURIOUS INHARMONY.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT and essential to the success of the Lewis and Clark fair that the corporation managers and the state commission should work together in harmony, as they seem not to be doing. The corporation should keep in mind that the state commission is responsible to the people of the state for the proper expenditure of the \$500,000 appropriated by the state, and accord it due consideration. The corporation has the freer hand, the state commission being restricted by the terms of the law creating it, but such rights and privileges as the law confers ought to be promptly and cheerfully conceded and accorded. Most if not all the members of both sets of managers are broad-minded business men, who certainly will greatly disappoint the public, as well as injure the prospects of the fair, if they do not work harmoniously together on all important details. This is indeed a high duty that they owe to the subscribers of the corporation fund on one hand, and the taxpayers of the state on the other. Any jealousy, animosity or working at cross-purposes, will lessen the prospect of that success for which all are striving.

Small Change

Milwaukee likes its blooming Rose. It has elected him mayor for the third time.

Why should anybody complain of the cost of living when oranges are so cheap?

Indiana Prohibitionists are to hold a 10 days' convention. My, how dry they'll get!

Will Uncle Adlai E. Stevenson be ready for the vice-presidential nomination again?

Governor Dockery says there is no boodling in Missouri. Has everything been boodled?

Comparatively few people of Portland realize the amount of building going on and projected.

Parker suits Cleveland. Then there is no doubt that he is especially obnoxious to Bryan.

Perhaps the Democratic nominee will wish afterward that somebody else had been nominated.

For the first time in six years Woodburn will be legated "wet." It will also tolerate the town cow.

Not a war vessel is anywhere near Port Arthur. It appears to be about the quietest city on the map.

The cause of woman suffrage nearly always meets defeat, but its advocates refuse to become discouraged.

Some eastern publishers are inclined to "run amuck" a little in the case of the paper trust, if Mr. Knox won't.

Even people who are opposed to war for any reason wish the Japs and Russians, if they must fight, would begin.

It took 140 ballots to nominate a candidate for mayor of Superior, Wis., and yet he may not be a superior candidate.

Seaside weather prophets predict an early and unusually fine summer. But the wish may have inspired the prediction.

The mayor of Seattle has stopped "box-rustling." If this can be done in Seattle, might it not be done in Portland?

Nobody ever supposed that Attorney-General Knox would "run amuck," or run at all, in the prosecution of criminal trusts.

Why should a lawyer who is not a judge never be a judge, and probably never will be a judge, be called "Judge"?

If the summer and autumn correspond in lateness with the spring, the crops will be harvested about the same time as the votes.

Boston has a 9-year-old boy ready for college. But what is the use of such a kid, who can't play ball or row yet, going to college?

Sailing-wagons, for use principally on sea beaches, are the latest vogue. The sea-beach summer girl can sail without them, if necessary.

If Senator Brownell can control the Chickamauga county delegation, he may be able to name the nominee for representative in the first district.

The Chicago Journal is worrying over "the pitiful plight of the Democratic party." But at least it is not carrying any national scandals just now.

At the Eugene city election a councilman wound up a heated debate with a preacher by striking him in the face. The preacher did not turn the other cheek.

Now the streetcar straps are accused of being loaded with disease-breeding microbes. But so is everything else, so people won't all walk on account of micro-organism straps.

During 1903 the different states and territories of the union passed 14,394 laws. There is too much lawmaking and not enough observance of good laws and rules of conduct.

Some zealous friends of the two leading candidates for representative in the first district are waxing warmly with the anti-trusting man remarks about Hermann and Harris back and forth, but maybe nobody is badly hurt thereby.

East Oregonian: The Multnomah county delegation can't ignore the news from eastern Oregon. The machine cannot surely stand against the wishes of the mass of the voters. It would be a most heartless and inexcusable injustice for eastern Oregon counties which have received such benefits from the labors of Mr. Moody, to consent to his defeat by the Portland machine. Results alone, count.

Roseburg Plaindealer: Four different representatives were promised the bribe of the Roseburg land office, as register, if they would vote for Senator Fulton. We wonder what has been promised the Salem crowd to turn traitors and attempt to slay Binger Hermann? Such scandalous practices and promises are a disgrace to the Republican party.

Condon Globe: The nomination of Mr. Williamson will in all probability be made by acclamation, as it was two years ago, and as was Mr. Moody's nomination for his second term, four years ago.

Sound Sense. From the Omaha Bee. Chicago ministers have decided to refrain from joining in the pupil attack upon the National League of Women's Organizations of America. The Chicago preachers declare that in their judgment it is inadvisable and that they believe congress can deal with the Smoot case without them. In this conclusion their judgment is eminently sound. The Smoot case is not to be disposed of by a hysterical appeal to popular sentiment, but upon constitutional law and established precedent.

It's An Awful Disease. From the Brooklyn Eagle. An American physician has discovered that the blues are only a form of splenic neurasthenia due to intra-abdominal venous congestion. Now if that doesn't make a patient with the blues bluer than he was before he could be jolly with hyperpyrexia, or with metastasis of the epithelium.

From an Exchange. "I was traveling down south," said John S. Fishery, manager of the Mesaba, "theatre of Xanthus," and driving in the country I saw a ducky under a tree by the roadside. He was gazing lazily up through the branches, while by his side was a hoe. Weeds were growing in the corner of the field, which stretched their acres into the distance.

"What are you doing?" I asked the negro. "I've out heah to hoe dat corn," said the ducky.

"The answer was given in an inimitable drawl. Then what are you doing under this tree? Resting?" I persisted. "No, sah, I've not restin'," was the answer. "Ah'm not tided. Ah'm waitin' for the sun to go down so ah kin

From the Medford Mail. The Jackson County Improvement company intends this year to offer farmers along the line of its ditch an opportunity for the practical demonstration of the value of irrigation. To this end they offer to give to any one, owning land covered by the ditch, all the water they wish to use, without any cost whatever to the consumer in any application. The consumer is not restricted to any stated quantity, but will be allowed all the water he deems necessary. This offer is made with the expectation that the result will cause the company to gain many steady customers. However, there is no obligation on the part of the consumer to use the water after this result, but the company relies upon the results it feels sure the use of water will accomplish to hold the majority of the users.

The water will be used upon the 5,000-acre tract owned by the corporation this summer, and a piece of land upon which to use Mark Twain's remark about a New Hampshire hill farm—one "couldn't even raise a disturbance," is expected to produce bountiful crops.

Consolation. From the Chicago Record-Herald. The world's fattest woman is dead. But there are plenty of fat women left.

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MACHINERY AND WORKMEN

The duty of the worker, no less than his personal self-interest, dictates the whole-hearted and unhesitant acceptance of whatever labor-saving devices the inventive faculty of man can produce. But if the workman is to rise to truer conceptions of labor's duty to the community by getting the best results from his employer's property, the employer must offer the incentive.

In these words Frank H. Rose draws his conclusions as to the "effects of labor-saving machinery" in the English textile industry for March. Mr. Rose is an exponent of the best and most influential element in British trade unionism, and his position as defined in the paper is characteristic of the modern British labor party. Mr. Rose does not declare his sympathies are with his class, but he declares that no amount of sympathy can blind him to the facts he sees. He declares that he believes that the British employer should revise his code, and in the same breath tells the workman that it is his duty to see that he gets the best results of the machine by his own effort, it being equally the duty of the employer to recognize that effort with the highest reward, minimum and maximum wages notwithstanding.

He says in part as follows: "Machine appliances have revolutionized every industry; but in almost every case their best results have been minimal, rather than their natural development. Impedement is either the workman's hostility, or the employer's narrow conceptions of their possibilities. The most ardent defender of trade union methods would insult his own conscience by pretending that a heavy share of culpability is associated with the workman himself."

"I am frankly taking the position that machine appliances are not only blessings in themselves, but are the source of manifold benefits to all men. When the workers in labor in Great Britain we find manifestations of the workers' opposition to the machine, the root cause is the same. There is no essential difference between the anarchic excesses of the old Luddite, and the subtle and modern reluctance. In one case the machine is destroyed, in the other its benefits are sterilized."

In front of the workman today are all the vivid proofs of the uselessness, as well as the mischief, of the resistance to the inevitable. However unpopular may be such a declaration, I know that no honest inquiry into this question is possible which does not take cognizance of the prejudice which still exists in the workman's mind against new appliances for increasing labor's productivity. Whatever may have been the outward manifestations on this prejudice, their results have been uniformly mischievous and consistently productive of strife and waste. Yet the growth and development of the machine system is as certain and as remorseless as death. No attempt to resist it has ever been crowned with even a temporary success.

The British employer, on the other hand, is neither a blameworthy man nor a suffering martyr in connection with this question. While he has hung on to his old-world methods and beliefs, he has been forgetful of the fact that the workman's prejudices are more the result of his hostility than of his disposition. Nor has this conception of the machine been one whit more liberal than that of his employe. The machine, I fear, has been regarded less as an agent for increasing labor's value

and productivity than as a convenient implement for curtailing labor's reward.

The unity of interest between capital and labor has long been duty as a pious opinion—even as an abstract economic proposition. There is nothing so certain as the fact that the usual capital works for profit and labor for wages, both will work for their own ends with more or less disregard for each other's interest. The machine appears to me to provide a medium by which not only ends may be served if both parties will settle down to make the best possible use of it.

We may leave the allocation of blame due to employers and employes respectively an open question, but we have to admit that, whoever deserves the larger share, the machine so far has not had a fair field for its natural development in Great Britain. Yet, in spite of this, the benefits that have accrued are almost incalculable. I can not trace a single social or industrial evil to its use. I can trace many to its misuse. I regard the machine as the first potential of all that valuable work of our age, the valuable commodity, a frank recognition of its virtues by the workman, and of his endeavor to get its best results.

I have frequently said to English engineers that there is but one labor question—the question of wages. Whatever complexities we discuss as industrial topics, the question of wages or reward is the one that must be considered in the end. The only incentive to work is its reward. We occasionally hear of pure-souled and unmercenary persons who need not work, but who do work because they love it, or because they have valuable command assets, which they serve as shining examples to the rest of us who are fashioned of common clay.

The struggle between wage-earners and wage-payers is as natural as any other struggle in the material world, and will go on in spite of any shifting of venue or alteration of method. But machinery has reduced its virulence and softened its acerbities. The machine has been a better peace-maker than either the man or his machinery.

But what machinery has done has been to cheapen commodities of daily use and so to raise the actual labor value of operatives.

Our clothing is a machine product from the raw material to the finished garment. We are better dressed than our fathers and there are many more tailors. But in our homes—I speak of workers' homes—the difference between what was and what is, is even more marked.

In conclusion, Mr. Rose declares that he does not believe that the "physical degeneracy of England as indicated by the British army statistics, can be traced to labor-saving machines," as has been asserted. He says that 50 per cent of Britain's young manhood in industrial centers is not good enough for her army. It is not merely the man who is shriveled and the faculties dulled, but lingering disease has attacked them as well.

In the opinion of Mr. Rose, "the influence which has transformed the stunted, scrawny man of the past into a man of stunted weaklings is assuredly not that of the machine. I am convinced that to bad housing chiefly, our physical decadence is due. Physical deterioration, it is not merely the man who is shriveled and the faculties dulled, but lingering disease has attacked them as well.

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