

GOV. FOLK DEFINES THE LAW

Every Law is a Blue Law to the Man Who Wants to Break It.

WIDEOPEN TOWN MEANS A DEFIANCE OF LAW

Partisanship is a Good Thing Sometimes, but Patriotism is a Better Thing All the Time—Be Patriotic.

"The Invincible People" is the title of the address delivered by Governor Joseph W. Folk at the Lewis and Clark exposition this afternoon. The text of the address follows: "Some three and a half years ago a banquet was given in the city of St. Louis, which was attended by some of the leading business men of that city. After the banquet was over the band played 'America,' and the audience stood and sang the familiar words: 'My country 'tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty, Of thee I sing, Land where my fathers died, Land of the pilgrim's pride, From every mountain side, Let freedom ring. As the last strains of the song died away, one of the men, with tears of patriotic delight trickling down his cheeks, said: 'Oh, that I could die for my country.' Just three weeks after that this man was originating at the feast of justice, a municipal assembly to pass a railroad franchise bill. He was willing to die for his country, but he had not been willing to live for his country. He was a traitor of peace."



Missouri Building at the Lewis and Clark Exposition, Where a Reception for Governor Folk Was Held Today.

his good will. If I can please the law-abiding and dispense the lawless I shall be satisfied. Lawbreakers do not know good from bad. All they know is politics. But they do know good politics from bad politics. Teach them that lawlessness is bad politics, and the problem of good government will be near solution. The people can teach them that here and everywhere.

Lawbreaking But Disloyal. "When the lawless get a bad man in office they support him in all the evil that he does, but when the law-abiding get a man in office they are the first to criticize him and leave him to fight the battle without their active aid. That is the trouble. Good men are divided and bad men are united. If good citizens could only be induced to join hands in patriotic endeavor before the election and stay joined after the election the forces of error could be vanquished like evil spirits at the dawn of day.

Take any community and let me know the kind of officials and I will tell you the kind of people there. Corrupt officials represent the people just as honest officials do. The corrupt officials represent the activity of the lawless, and the neglect of the law-abiding. Government is good in proportion as the average morality of the average individual is aggressive, and government is bad in proportion as the average morality is low and lethargic. When good citizens attend to their civic duties their civic energy is represented in good officials. When they are careless their slothfulness is represented by corrupt officials. The character of government depends entirely upon the will of the majority and no government is better than a majority of its voters. If each individual were to give attention to the public business as his own, which it is after all, every good official would have behind him the aggressive morality of his constituents and this would confront every bad official and say to him: 'No farther shalt thou go. Corrupt men fatten and feast on the neglect of good citizens and grow rich on the indolence of electors. To arouse good citizens any make them realize their civic duties is a matter of supreme importance.

Dodgers of Duty. "In a monarchy all authority is in the crown and delegated to those beneath. In a republic such as ours the people are sovereign. Each man is, one, seventy-five millionths of a sovereign on the throne of American manhood. It may seem small, but it marks the distinction between the citizen and the subject. Some may think if the government were left entirely to you public evils would not exist. But you have a portion of the responsibility now. If you are unfaithful in part—would you be more faithful with all? He that is faithless with a portion cannot be trusted with the whole. If each citizen were to leave the remedying of public wrongs to some one else nothing would be accomplished. The state protects the citizen and it is the duty of the citizen to protect the state, politically as well as financially, and the man who avoids his civic duties is no better than a tax-dodger. If each man were to think that it is only one among many, and that it is unnecessary for him to pay taxes because there will be plenty without him, the state would be bankrupt financially if it could not enforce payment. If every man were to reason that among so many his influence for good is not needed, then the state would be bankrupt politically and we would have a government of the few with wealth enough to purchase official favors. There is sometimes too much of a disposition on the part of some to allow others to do the face-saving in civic affairs while they do the bread-eating. Our government in theory gives more rights than any other, but some think so little of their obligations to the general welfare that they are indifferent to being robbed so long as they do not feel the effects directly and are among the many.

Republic's Life Threatened. "A state consists not of fields, forests and cities, but of laws. Take away the laws from the state and there would be

no government left. No man loves his state who deliberately disobeys her laws. The sin of republics is lawlessness. In a monarchy the government is sustained by the power of the crown; in a republic the government rests entirely upon the law which a majority of the people make for themselves. If all the laws were ignored anarchy would be the result, there would be no government at all. When any portion of the laws is not enforced the government is weakened to that extent. Laws that are not observed add just as much to the human body. Disregard of one law breeds contempt for all laws, and laws to be effective must be respected. There is entirely too little respect for the majesty of the law in America. This inevitably leads to corruption, which will, if tolerated, eat into and destroy civic life. If a dramsop is allowed to remain open at a time the law demands it be closed, then the gambling house cannot be consistently enforced; then other offenses denounced by the law must be tolerated; then comes grafting by officials for overlooking these violations; then legislators, imbued by the same spirit, sell their votes for bribe money, and a reign of corruption follows. The perpetuity of our government depends upon the manner in which our laws are carried out. Nearly every state has laws on the statute books to which no attention is paid, and they reap the fruits by having all laws broken. I am not an alarmist when I say if these conditions be tolerated the republic itself will sooner or later fall by the wayside of the laws on which it rests being weakened and decayed.

People the Destroyers. "Americans are accustomed to regard a republican form of government as a natural condition. The government is mortal and can die. It is thought utterly foreign to our conditions that it is fully in the minds of some to discuss it. A glance at history does not lend encouragement to this cheerful view. Our republic, though the best, is not the first nor the oldest. We have lasted now 132 years. Venice had a republican form of government for 1,100 years; Carthage 700 years; Athens, with various intermissions, for 900 years; Florence 400 and Rome 500 years. These governments have long ago passed on to the stage of the world, and some of them are little remembered. If our government were to last three centuries longer and then die it would go down into history as one of the most splendid and shortest lived among the wrecks with which the shores of time are strewn. What caused the downfall of these governments by the people? The people made laws until the laws became so many the people began to disregard their own laws. The laws of Rome were not right, and the laws were not obeyed. When the laws ceased to reign, the government, resting upon that foundation of law, commenced to topple over.

People's Reign a Reign of Law. "The reign of the law means the rule of the people, for a majority of the people for good is practically a majority of their will, crystallized in the form of statutes. We need a revival of the rule of the people. Four years ago the laws against bribery in all of the states were considered as practically a dead letter. Up to that time for the 40 years preceding there had only been about 34 cases of bribery reported in the books in all the United States. Not because the people were not right, and the laws were not common, but because it was uncommon for officers to be prosecuted for it. When the prosecutions were commenced in St. Louis, the members of the house of delegates denounced the bribery law as 'blue laws,' and as dead letters because it had not been enforced before. They argued that members of the house of delegates, having been taking bribes from time immemorial, they had acquired a right to do so, and it was just as proper for them to sell their votes for a merchant to sell his wares. Here was a crime worse than the other, for bribery strikes at the foundation of all law, yet the law denouncing it was not enforced. Men gave bribes and thought nothing of it; men took bribes and boasted of the fact; corrupt men feasted and fattened at public expense; laws became merchandise on the market, and all the time the public conscience was asleep. When the revelations came and the people saw how they had been plundered, and realized that a government by bribery was a government by the wealth of the few and not by the people, they saw the offense in all of its enormity, and from one end of the land to the other there was a civic awakening. Now everywhere officials are made to give account at the bar of public opinion for all official acts, and those who prostitute their trusts and sell the powers that belong not to them but to the people are being made to answer for their offenses. And yet four years ago the bribery law was denounced as a blue law by those against whom it was sought to be enforced. Every law, I

have observed, is a blue law to the man who wants to break it. Every state in the union, except ten, is now engaged in prosecuting graft and bribery. This does not indicate a moral degeneration, but it shows a moral awakening. For years prior to one city where the public attention was on the subject of slavery.

War Delayed the Awakening. "Little attention was paid to civic matters. For nearly 40 years after the war public thought was engaged in settling the problems arising out of that fierce contest, while attention was directed to other corrupt matters corrupt men made of public office a private graft. The people were oblivious to the sowing of the seeds and the gradual development of corruption. Especially was this true of the rural districts, for after it all it must be admitted that the germ of bribery has its beginning in the populous centers. At length the truth became known, and the knowledge spread that bribery was ruling in many municipalities. At first it was thought that this condition was confined to the cities. Then came another awakening, and the people learned that the people now demand that public office be a public trust and not a private snare; that public office shall not be held merely as a means of making a livelihood easier than in private life; that bribery is becoming the first requisite. Brilliance and wit in an official are well enough, but common every-day honesty is much better. Unless the spirit of civic righteousness be infused into the hearts of the high ideals; from evil to good, and from darkness into light. The ambition of young men should not be so much to get rich as to get right and stay right.

Honesty is the Best Policy. "Political parties are beginning to learn that honesty is not only the best policy but the best politics. The people will no longer respond to the sounding brass of mere party names, but a party must stand for something, and mean something. Corrupt men will no longer hide behind the party dress, and whenever attacked would cry out the party was being assailed. A rascal is a rascal whether he calls himself a Democrat or a Republican—lawbreaker is lawbreaker. If there is any difference made by reason of party I should say prosecute the Democrat who does wrong first because he should know better. Under our forms of government political parties are necessary, for it is through them that men come to an agreement on political questions and announce their principles and intentions, but political parties should be the servant of the people, and not the masters. Any man who puts party interest above the welfare of his state is a traitor to his state. Partisanship is a good thing sometimes, but patriotism is a better thing all the time. The better the party the better the policy above mere party advantage. It may not matter so much whether New York goes Democratic or Republican, but it does matter a great deal whether New York goes honest or dishonest.

A Word for Portland. "But there are other laws plainly made to please the moral element, and the moral element is constantly and fairly, but the laws are not enforced, while in the latter the laws are observed. The granting laws in many places are permitted to be disregarded, and the laws regulating dramsops are nullified. It has been claimed these laws could not be enforced in the large cities, but they are enforced and faithfully observed in the large cities of Missouri, and they will continue to be so long as I am governor. In fact, Missouri is the most law-abiding state in the union, and in yielding nothing to law has set an example for other states to follow.

"There is in practically all of the states a statute requiring dramsops to close on Sunday and election days, yet in some states it is constantly and flagrantly violated. In most states dramsops are permitted six days in the week, but on Sunday they are outlawed. A majority of the people of these states, acting through their representatives in the legislature, have decreed that the dramsop is more dangerous to the peace and welfare of so-

Laws Are Life of State and Law-Breakers Are Enemies of State.

RAILROAD PASSES FOR LEGISLATORS DENOUNCED

It is More Honorable to Correct Civic Evils Than to Bear Them in Ignoble Silence—Exposure Helped Missouri.

city on Sunday than any other day, and prohibited them from operating on that day. With an executive official the question should not be whether the law is a good law or not, but it is his duty to enforce it as he finds it. When one enforces the law he is the law, the same 'old' law heard about 'blue laws' and 'dead laws.' Those interested in having the law violated set up the specious plea that it interferes with personal liberty. It is no more an interference with personal liberty than any law that restricts the acts of men in accordance with the rules of civilized society. If one would like to see men go on with absolute liberty, let them interfere with and then find them in abundance. They are there because they offended in some respect against some law regulating their conduct. There can be no such thing as absolute liberty without law. There is in this country once such so-called liberty, but that was before Columbus discovered it.

Liberty Versus Law. "The liberty of one was the unrestricted liberty of every other, and perpetual warfare resulted, as the wants and desires of one country, conflict, and every man had equal right to take or hold what his strength or cunning could secure to him. That was the liberty of barbarism, for there was no limit to the conduct of an individual except his whims. Life, liberty and property can only be safe where there is law to which obedience is given. Security can only come from fixed rules, which the people, as they become familiar with them, habitually respect. Restrictions which seem to the individual to be hardships are but the means of liberty operating through legislative acts. Liberty to make laws does not give license to break laws by any means. If each man were allowed to say what laws are good and what laws are bad and to ignore the laws he considers bad there would be no laws at all. The trust magnate looks with abhorrence upon the pickpocket who violates the larceny statute, but thinks he has a right to break the law against common law and monopolies; the hotelier detests the lawbreaking of the trusts, but considers the law against house-breaking as an interference with his personal liberty; the bootlegger wants the law enforced against the man who robs his property, but looks on the statute against bribery as an unwarranted regulation of his conduct; the dramsop-keeper calls loudly for the punishment of the man who robs his cashdrawer, but detests the law which requires the dramsop to close on Sunday as tyrannical and unjust. So it goes. Men will observe the laws they like, but feel they should be allowed to ignore those they do not like. The individual should be permitted to judge for himself as to the wisdom of laws, for that would put in the power of each person to nullify the will of the majority. The only safe rule is, if the law is on the statute books it must be observed. If it is objectionable the remedy is to repeal it, not to ignore it. If one man can violate the dramsop law with impunity another can break the larceny law, another can violate the larceny statute in name only. If after the legislature enacts laws and adjourns no attention be paid to the laws, the government becomes a nullity. If after the sentiment of the majority is crystallized into laws those laws can be defied by those having a selfish interest in breaking them, then state government is as a rope of sand.

Laws Are the Life of the State. "The laws of the state are the life of the state, and the man who deliberately disobeys the laws of his state is a traitor to the state. Those who oppose the enforcement of law do so either through the prejudice of ignorance or the prejudice of interest. The prejudice of ignorance cannot be removed because it comes from the heart; but the prejudice of interest cannot be changed for it is self-willed. Those having a selfish interest can break the law against them, always weak some other ground upon which to put their protests. To place it on the ground of self-interest would render ineffectual their arguments, so they resort to subterfuge. Despairing, the maker of shrines for Diana at Ephesus, saw in the new religion that Paul came to preach an end to his profitable business as a maker of shrines of Diana. He did not dare put his objection on the ground that his business was being interfered with. He raised a mob against Paul by warily appealing to the religious patriotism of the people, crying out that to enforce the law against them, not that their business is being hurt, but that the liberty of the people is being taken away. This has always been the way of error. It does not come out in the open and make the issue fairly, but combats the truth on false premises. Those who oppose the enforcement of any particular law do not usually come out boldly against the enforcement of that law, but they claim to find some other law that is not observed, and thereby attempt to discredit the enforcement of any law. From the lawbreakers' standpoint no law could ever be enforced, and no criminal could ever be punished, because all criminals cannot be punished. Such arguments in opposition to the enforcement of the law are not sincere and are made to hinder the enforcement of the law, not to help it.

Remember the Fair Deal. "One of the chief causes of corruption in legislative bodies is the free railroad pass. I have seen instance after instance where men have gone to the legislature imbued with the high and

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patriotic purpose of serving their constituents honestly and well; by the acceptance of a railroad pass they put it into the knowledge of the representative of the railroad that they had violated the law, and if after that the legislator should be elected to the legislature, the railroad representative he had only to suggest that the number of the pass could be published and the legislator would bow his head live a slave, that is scorned and do his master's bidding. Many legislators are first seduced by a railroad pass, and often wind up by accepting bribe money. Where there is a law against officials accepting free railroad transportation it should be strictly enforced. Where there is no law, of course, it is purely a question that must be left to the individual conscience. It is no unusual thing in American states to find legislators absolutely controlled by railroads through the medium of the free pass. Legislators have no more right to accept free passes than they would have to take the equivalent in money. In mentioning the free pass as one of the causes of graft, I do not de-

It is to be understood as being in favor of legislation unfair to the railroads or any other interest. They, of course, should have every right the law gives to them the same as individuals, but rights and exact justice, but no special privileges. They have rights under the law that should be preserved, but they have no right to demand special favors. It is proper that railroads and all interests should have the right to appear

(Continued on Page Nine.)

The Colonel's Waterloo.
Colonel John M. Fuller of Honey Grove, Texas, nearly met his Waterloo from Liver and Kidney trouble. In a recent letter he says: "I was nearly dead of these complaints, and although I tried my family doctor, he did me no good; so I got a 50c bottle of your great Electric Balm, which cured me. I consider them the best medicine on earth, and thank God who gave you the knowledge to make them. Sold and guaranteed to cure Dyspepsia, Biliousness and Kidney Disease, by Skidmore Drug Co., 121 Third Street, at 50c a bottle."

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