

Editorial Page of The Daily Journal

By HOFER BROTHERS.



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EVENTS FOR FEB. 19.

Wichita, Kas.—Knights of Pythias district convention.

Nashua, N. H.—Y. M. C. A. state Convention.

Defiance, O.—Republican convention of the Fifth Congressional district to select delegates to the republican national convention.

New York.—Opening of annual tournament for the indoor tennis championship of the United States in singles and doubles. To continue five days.

Somerville, Mass.—Fourteenth annual state conference of the boys' departments of the Y. M. C. A. of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

DISCUSSION OF RECEIVERSHIPS.

On the theory that a receivership is a public trust, and the receiver an officer of the court, acting in a public capacity, The Journal has always devoted space to such matters.

In the Williams & England bank receivership it published matters that severely arraigned certain features of the proceedings, and at times was obliged to call things by their right names.

The Journal fought the efforts to get interest on loans of state funds in that bank, and they were defeated largely through its stirring up and making public the efforts of parties to get unjust advantages.

At that time Mr. Bush was greatly pleased to have a newspaper get busy and help fight battles that happened to be in his way of thinking, right and proper.

Now, when shaking up a receivership affects him the other way, there is a roar, and personal abuse is resorted to to silence all newspaper discussion.

The Williams & England receivership was handled by The Journal without gloves at times, but the parties mainly interested never resorted to personal vilification—they were gentlemanly on all occasions.

Receiverships are always involved in disagreeable circumstances, and the duties of the receiver are not pleasant under any circumstances, and the greatest charity and kindness should be shown any man who has such duties imposed upon him.

There are also disagreeable duties imposed upon the newspapers at times. They are called upon by the public for publications that it is not always pleasant to make, but is a duty nevertheless.

SOUTH SALEM STREET IMPROVEMENTS.

Many persons have called at this office to express their approval of the effort to put down a broken rock street improvement on South Commercial street, to connect with the Liberty road of the same kind.

There are three steps necessary to get this improvement under way, and there is no good reason why they cannot be taken up and promoted separately.

First: There must be a grade established by the city of Salem, and the two aldermen from that ward, Messrs. Ahnson and Payne, will be able to have that done through the street committee.

Second: The matter of moving the carting into the middle of the street must be taken up, if it is desired to be done by the property owners along that street.

Third: There must be a committee created to handle the finances, to raise a subscription, and to interview the city and county authorities, as to what help can be obtained from taxes.

These are three independent and separate propositions, each of which must be attended to properly before a permanent street improvement can be obtained.

If they are not attended to, and too many difficulties appear, the property owners on Liberty and High streets

will be justified if they take steps to have those streets improved.

The South Commercial street improvement should be pushed first, as that street is on the direct line to Liberty, and a continuation of the excellent broken rock road already built.

It is to be hoped the people of South Salem will show the proper spirit of enterprise and co-operation to have their principal street made creditable and permanent highway.

REVEREND ERRITT ON SKEPTICS

Chris Ian Minister on Infidelity of Mind and Heart

The services at the Christian church last night were up to the usual standard. A good audience listened to a sermon on "Why Are You Not Saved?" with such attention that many present spoke of the matter in unusual terms. Elder Erritt gave the reasons Christ gave for men and women refusing and rejecting Christ and Christianity. A quotation from the prophets contains the real reasons why many people are not Christians. And the speaker termed this "infidelity of the heart." As a rule the intellect is good enough, but most people go wrong and remain wrong because of disposition of heart. Men close their eyes to the appeals of truth; they close their eyes to the light of revelation; they refuse to accept truth, even when it is presented in the most logical and forceful way. He said:

"There are very few intellectual skeptics, but there are many skeptics at heart. The intellect will usually take a stand for the right, but the heart rises up in rebellion and says no, and the intellect becomes subject to the enemy. And you ask why? Because the heart is the strongest faculty of the mind, and governs and controls all the machinery of human thought. Love and hate are the strongest powers of the human mind, and the heart takes up the one or the other.

The parable of the sower is a good illustration of this truth. The good seed fell in all kinds of soil. It was all heart soil. But in many cases the soil was not prepared for the seed. It rejected the sower's attempt to cause seed to grow from nature. There was some that brought forth fruit, thirty, sixty and a hundred fold. There were hearts ready in more or less degree for reception of truth, but others let it die, or choked it out. One heart responded to the full and brought forth an abundant harvest. The seed was good in all cases, but the soil, which could have been made good, was in a state of rebellion, and said we have no use for the seed. The seed is the word of God, and the soil is the human heart, and this makes the application easy.

What are the reasons many of us are not Christians? Because we will not hear with our ears; because we will not see with our eyes; because we will not understand with our hearts; and because we will not turn again that Christ may heal us.

The services will continue this week and next. The subject for tonight is: "Barabbas or Christ?" And Saturday night: "Where Art Thou?" The public is cordially invited to these services.

A Strictly Leap Year.

Party given by the D. of H. Holman hall, tomorrow night, Feb. 20th. Admission 25c.

THE PROBLEMS OF SEATTLE

Political Conditions, Taxes, Street Improvements, Vice, A Business Programme for the Future

(By E. Hofer in Pacific Monthly for February.)

As life grows more strenuous on the outposts of civilization, municipal problems in Seattle are more striking, and have reached a more acute stage of development. Vice is more flagrant in its public manifestations. Seattle citizenship is not more indifferent; but its quality is more accustomed to shocks, and not so sensitive. From this it must not be concluded that there is less moral sensibility, or any absence of the sterling qualities of character requisite to deal with situations that confront a city. Back of all that is said about Seattle being a "wide-open town," that city possesses a large element of the keenest and most sagacious citizenship that can be drawn by the irresistible magnet of business opportunities from all the brightest American cities of the East, and in the great conflict between human intelligence and obstacles to good government, the latter will be vanquished and overthrown.

Increasing Tax Levies.

What is termed the "Humes" administration is nearing the end of the third term of two years. Elected as Republicans, Mayor Humes and his political colleagues have always maintained underground connections with the opposition, both in newspaper influence and with local political managers that made their success possible, although, at the last election, the Humes party went in by a narrow margin. On his first term, Mayor Humes showed a reduced tax levy, but in the past three years city tax levies have gone up from 8 mills to 12½ mills in the old city limits, and proportionately in the new. In that time the county taxes have also been increased 2 mills, and as the city pays over three-fourths of the county taxes, there has virtually been an advance of 6½ mills in taxes on city property under the Humes administration. The school taxes have not increased, but the city school board has met all the demands for a growing population, have bought real estate and kept up repairs and made new building possible on a levy of 5½ mills the past five years.

Increased Revenues required.

The following table from the reports of the city comptroller shows that the demands for revenues have increased out of all proportion to the assessed valuations of property:

Year.	Assessments.	Estimated Expenditures
1901	\$42,890,924	\$ 904,234.43
1902	51,668,653	1,197,841.12
1903	56,674,672	2,263,084.50

This year, being a presidential election year, and a business depression being anticipated, the estimated revenues required have been reduced about a quarter of a million dollars, being only \$2,015,920.09. But the city tax levy remains the same for 1904, that is, 12½ mills on the valuation of 1903. Mayor Humes explains the small increase in assessments by the fact that real estate values are fixed only once in two years, and will show a great increase next year. The city is run on a cash basis, and the general plan seems to be to have a large cash surplus, with liberal transfers from the water funds whenever they are needed to replenish the city exchequer.

Expensive Street Improvements.

On a rough estimate, the city and private property owners have spent two million dollars on streets the past year. Every street has to be literally made, whether it is a 40 per cent grade on one of the soft blue and yellow clay hills, a fill-out into the sound, or a piling and plank structure over one of the lakes. Deep cuts and heavy fills are the rule. Then gravel and broken rock is hauled in for a foundation, with eight inches of concrete, and then asphalt or brick. The later is confined to the business streets. "An asphalt street is the best thing in the world," said an enthusiastic property owner on Broadway. The latest improvement there was ordered by a three-fourths vote and the assessment on a corner lot is \$675. There are miles of these streets, and the city has almost gone mad on the subject of street improvements. The city is now paying for the intersections, and in some cases as high as 25 per cent of a new grade and permanent pavement falls upon the general taxpayer. This fact is used to explain the unusual increase in the municipal budget, and does explain it in part.

Revenues From Vice.

The enormous expenses of policing this city and meeting the demands

from rapid growth have largely been met from saloon revenues and a direct tribute from vice. Mayor Humes admits that the felony statute has reduced the income from this source. Seattle has been the worst advertised city in the world in respect to vice, and yet the actual facts are that the city is no worse than any other sea-port of its size. The famous deadline, where decency does not intrude, can be found in any harbor town from Nagasaki to Liverpool. The district devoted to degenerate humanity grows blacker as you approach the tropics or the poles, and the "tenderloin," as it is known on the Pacific Coast, grows obsolete in cities of the same size in the temperate zone. The whole system of collecting revenues from vice is attended by demoralization of public sentiment, and debauchery of the public service. At present it may be a theory, but there is a growing disgust and wholesome repudiation among cleaner-handed people at sharing in the profits of vice, even in the indirect form of public revenues. The forward cry of the century is, "No partnership with vice."

Is Clean Administration Possible?

The difficulties in the way of better government at Seattle are the two partisan machines. The political battles in King and Pierce counties emphasize the importance of party loyalty. While Seattle is Republican by three thousand majority in a presidential year, the opposition to the dominant party almost wipes out that majority in city campaigns. A nomination system puts another premium on the regular ticket. Under a "brace" primary law, a caucus of the ringleaders is held the night before the primary to make the slate of delegates, and then the "push" sees that it goes through the next day, as independent slates are very difficult to get on the official ballot. There is almost no way to get any but the regular ticket of the old parties in the field. The Republican party is so strong that its organ bolsters the regular Democratic organizations, knowing if it can only keep it in the field it has a walkover to continuance in power. To take the power of making nominations out of the hands of the gang is the only avenue to better municipal conditions. Now the taxpayer has to stand for the primary and election expenses on top of all the city, school, county, and state taxes.

There is no way out of the present increasing mire of municipal corruption but an absolutely non-partisan business administration. The application of civil service rules under partisan spoils-government only strengthens the crowd in power. The city attorney's office under civil service control is no check upon a corrupt combination in the city hall, because it is the creature of that combine. When asked what would be done if matters got worse, Mr. Will Parry, the president of the city council, replied that the people would have to throw them all out and run the city for awhile under a business administration. He is a strong partisan himself and can tolerate no muckwumpery, but he was one of a crowd that did overthrow the machine in the palmy days of a corrupt era of the past, and admits that it may have to be done again. He takes a hopeful view of the city's future, saying that they are attempting to accomplish in a generation what Eastern cities have done in a century.

Meerschaum.

The color of meerschaum has nothing to do with the quality and ranges from pure white to a light yellow or a bluish white.

Caviare Sandwich.

Take a small quantity of caviare, add to it a little butter, some finely chopped onions or chives, a little lemon juice, and a little paprika, mix well and spread on thin slices of buttered bread; add a leaf of lettuce, now the other slice, press gently, trim and cut in two.

What Shall We Have for Dessert?

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