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COSTLY BLUNDERS.

According to the so-called American party organ the blunders of one "American" official have cost the city over \$100,000. How much more have the blunders of the others cost? Let the people have the entire record of incompetency and graft.

The "News" has all along told the citizens that the so-called American administration has proved itself incompetent. The paving on some of the streets furnishes an ocular demonstration of this fact. So does the miserable attempt to connect the pumping plant with gravity sewer on the West side. It has also told the public that the administration is extravagant. But both statements have been denied by the organ as coming from a paper opposed to improvements. The "News," hawever, is vindicated by the organ itself, in the showing made that one official alone has cost the City over \$100,000. The Mayor is quoted as having told a friend on one occasion that a business administration could save about \$300,000 a year; if the party bosses would not interfere. Whether the Mayor is correctly quoted or not, does not matter. From the statement made in the organ it does not seem improbable that such a sum could be saved. It seemts very probable that the administration has cost the taxpayers \$300,000 a year on account of blunders.

The organ would not have made this revelation but for the fact that the official referred to has had enough of so-called "American" policy and says he will bolt the ticket. The organ attacks him, not because his blunders have cost the City over \$100,000, but because he signifies his intention of deserting the party. The organ has known of his "blunders" before but not of his intended desertion, and it, true to its instincts, attacks him for not staying

This attack is a warning to others of the party who may intend to leave the engine before the crash comes. If they do the organ will spring upon them like a lynx from its lair. They have got to stay with the crowd, or be publicly horse-whipped. It is the organ's business to see to that. It has no higher ideal of the mission of a newspaper than to flay everyone who dares to disagree with it.

The present attack is rather amusing. though. It says that "City Engineer Kelsey would have the public understand that he does not care for the American party except in so far as the party will maintain him on the payrolls at a fat salary." Well, who does? What did the party spring into existence for, except the payrolls? And it was not the payrolls of the party either, but of the City, that looked good to the originators of that political phenomenon.

The so-called "American" party was originated for the purpose of capturing first the City offices, and then the county, and, finally, the Legislature, for the furtherance of the political ambition of office-seekers unworthy of public trust. Of course the organ denies this. It is its business to deny the truth in this matter and to give some more gentile excuse for the existence of modern "Know-Nothingism," but that was the only reason for calling the party into existence. Had ambition obtained the promises of support it sought, there would have been no "American" party.

Its ranks were filled up with office hunters, with men interested in gambling, saloons, and stockade propositions, and with a number of wellmeaning and estimable citizens whose prejudices against the "Mormons" deceived them into the belief that it probably would be pleasing to God and man to have every vestige of political influence and all offices wrested from the Latter-day Saints. Such was the makeup of the party. It is, therefore, rather amusing to see the city engineer lambasted by the organ for not caring for the "American" party "except in so far as the party will maintain him on the payrolls at a fat salary." It is very

But the fact being admitted now in the organ that the blunders of one "American" official alone has cost the City over \$100,000, is it not time for the citizens to have a change and get a competent and honest administration?

HALLEY'S COMET.

Astronomers are now on the lookout for Halley's comet. It is expected to become visible to the naked eye in the late fall, but it is hoped that it will be caught by the scientific instruments long before it can be seen without the aid of the telescope.

According to data furnished by Professor Service the comet will make its perihelion passage, at a distance of about 66,000,000 miles from the solar globe, on the 13th of next April. Its greatest brightness is expected to occur after the perihelion passage, when It will draw nearer the earth, and be visible in both the evening and the morning sky. But at that time it will be south of the celestial equator from the Southern Hemisphere. About May 18th the comet will be only 12,000,000 or 13,000,060 miles from the earth, although for more than a month it will have been retreating from the

Just what its appearance will be the astronomers do not care to predict. It may blaze with amazing splendor, or

it may be relatively insignificant. But in any event it will fix the attention of mankind, and for astronomers, will he the most interesting phenomenor seen in the sky for many decades.

It is now known that meterorites often represent fragments of comets. Biela's comet has disappeared since 1852. But a belt of meteorites has taken its place, approaching the orbit of the earth each year on Nov. 27. The relationship between comets and meteorrites is also established by spectroscopic analysis, proving that the main constituents of both are the same. The meteorites come to our earth as messengers from other solar systems, carried from one part of the universe to another by the wandering stars, and they tell us, by giving us samples of their chemical composition, that other suns and planets are composed of about the same elements as our own earth and sun. They speak to us of the unity of the universe, and therefore of the Power that sustains and governs all

Before the days of Newton and Halley the heavenly bodies were thought to exert some mysterious influence upor the weather on this earth and therefore upon the fate of the children of men Before anything of importance was undertaken, the stars were consulted. But Newton proved that the movements of the planets were attracted by the sun with a force that could be calculated with the greatest precision, and Halley applied the same law of gravitation to the comets. Thus the world got rid of a superstition, through the light of science. Man was freed from the shackles of star worship. And Halley's discovery has always been regarded as one of the greatest triumphs

OLD AND NEW SCHOOL BOOKS.

Mr. E. A. Winship, editor of the New England Journal of Education, publishes in his magazine a strong article on the improvement of school books by the regular publisher, and the lack of Improvement whenever the legislature tries to provide the books.

Mr. Winship claims that the change in school books in seventy years is as great as the change in any phase of

American life. Seventy years ago, the school arithemetics, for instance, abounded in such problems as the following vicious samples taken from books of the time If 9 cats have killed 18 birds, how many has each killed?

If a cat divides 4 birds between 2 kittens, how many will each kitten

One hundred and nineteen persons died from drunkenness in New York, and 137 in Philadelphia. How many

A man had 7 children; 2 of them were A man had 7 children; 2 of them were killed by the fall of a tree. How many had he left?

Three score and ten kings had their thumbs and their great toes cut off and gathered under the table of Adonibezek. How many thumbs and toes were under Adonibezek's table?

The geographies of seventy years ago vied with the arthimetics in repulsiveness. They were very small in size but filled with things silly to learn and with pictures horrible to see, Says the writer just quoted;

"Indian massacres are common. Selling female slaves is an attractive picture to authors. Slave catching in Africa is another delectable experience. Of course bull fights are a necessity Persecutions of early Christians with burnings at the stake are in order.'

Mr. Winship finds it impossible to represent or describe the best new books. They are sold, he says, for a smaller price than the miserable books of the the olden time.

"They are beautiful and highly artistic. The maps and charts are works of art. They are clean and wholesome. They are accurate as to information. They are literary. They are interesting. They are easily taught and from them the child learns

readily." As to who is responsible for this marvelous transformation of school books from the ugly, cheap, and pitiful old style to the beauty and utility of the texts of today, Mr. Winship declares that it has all come from teachers, superintendents, and publishers. The general public has been silent, the politicians have sought merely to cheapen books by legislation, and the non-educational business men have not advocated better books. Only the educators and the text book publishers deserve praise for this notable achieve-

AN OPTIMIST'S VIEW.

The true optimist can find a cause for gratitude even in the fact that a city is in the hands of grafters. At least that is the case with a correspendent of the New York Evening Sun. He quotes Macaulay:

"That there are 10,000 thieves in London is a very melancholy fact. But looked at from one point of view it is looked at from one point of view it is a reason for exultation. For what other city could maintain 10,000 thieves? What must be the mass of wealth, where the fragments gleaned by lawless pilfering rise to so large an amount? St. Kilda would not support a single pickocket. The quality of theft is, to a certain extent, an index of the quality of useful industry and judicious speculation."

And then he exclaims:

"One hundred million dollars of graft and blackmail! How many New Yorkers must have proudly smacked their lips when they slowly pronounced this sum! Thus Garrick once lisped in the gaberdine of Shylock: Three thousand ducats—well, as if he tasted them. What plunder! What an amount of unholy and illegitimate business behind this blackmail! And yet, what an insignificant fraction when com-pared with the colossal bulk of legiti-mate business and honest gain. As the great number of rogues in this city and their immense booty are a natural index of the wealth and prosperity of the community, Gen. Bingham's state ments ought to awaken the highest exultation and civic pride among our citizens. The Mayoralty would be the only proper reward for the man who glorified our city far beyond the 10,000 thieves of London."

The argument is that, as the 10,-000 thieves of London could only make a living where there is an abundance of wealth, so the grafters of a community can only succeed when the treasury is so full that abstraction of the graft, whatever it is. escapes public notice. On this showing,

graft is but an index of prosperity. But is that always the case. We know of a city that borrowed a million dollars for the improvement of its water system. Seventy-five thousand

money was given to the contractor for aid rendered during the election, and thousands of dollars more were squandered in the broad daylight. The citizens did not seem to care not because the city was wealthy, but because they were indifferent to the public welfare. They were like the passenger on the ship that was sinking in mid ocean, "It is not my ship," he said, "let it sink." Municipal graft is sometimes an index to civic indifference among citizens, and not always to an abundance in the public

A kick in time saves nine.

Curtiss flew like an American eagle.

Where marriage is a fallure life is

In aerial racing it always pays to act Curtiss-ly.

"Free hides are tough," says the

cattleman.

Count Zeppelin is the great aviating

"Speak before you think," is the common practise.

The Utah team at Camp Perry comes

All people are more or less vain; most of them more.

It is an easy matter to "soak" a waterproof rain-coat.

The incubator baby has grown to be quite a chick of a child. Without the aid of good crops no

tariff can produce prosperity.

In the divorce court such a thing as the law's delay is unknown.

The observation car is especially made for looking backwards.

All the aeroplanes have to take a flying start before they can fly.

President Taft is said to have lost sixty pounds. His loss is his gain.

The coal famine will follow the ice famine just as soon as it gets chilly enough for a fire.

If people did unto others as they would like to be done by, what an immense lot of bowing and scraping there would be.

When a man cannot swallow a ticket he has but one alternative: he must bolt it.

A good many Moors are paying the debts of nature if not their debts to

There is this to be said in favor of those who try to discover perpetual motion: it keps them perpetually busy.

The operator who sent the dispatch from Seattle calling it the Conversation congress was not so very far

"What would happen if we were all nillionaires?" asks L Georgia paper. It will never happen, so why ask such foolish questions?

Mr. Justice Brewer of the United States supreme court says that his wife will not let him resign. She does better than he would if she would let

The charges of the Tribune, the organ of the "American" party, against the city engineer of the "American" administration, area beautiful illustration of dear old Dr. Johnson's saying that Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel."

The comments of Mr. McHarg, assistant secretary of commerce and labor, on conservation of natural resources contain much common sense. There has been a great lot of panicky and hysterical talk on the subject but there will be less in future.

"It is whispered that Mr. Roed Smoot is to be Senator Aldrich's successor as chairman of the Senate Finance Committee when the latter gentleman retires. It must be admitted that Mr. Smoot has made a most excellent understudy," says the Washington Herald.

VALUE OF UNION RULES.

Philadelphia Press. Besides being a model of courtesy and comfort this war game is also strictly up to the minute in being fought on union lines. Boston was only saved from capture Tuesday by the invaders throwing down their guns when the eight-hour whistle blew.

IF THIS IS LAW, DARN IT.

Pittsburg Dispatch. To deprive of his adopted nationality a Chinaman who served in the navy during the Civil war, was wounded five times in the service of the country, and has held citizenship papers for thirty-five years, must be in accord with the law, since the courts say so. But it leaves a liberty of opinion as to what sort of law it is thati nflicts such re-

PREPARING FOR BEST EVER.

sults.

Buffalo Express.
Chairman Knapp of the interstate commerce commission, proclaims in cheerful tones that prosperity is upon the country, and more than that the railroads are pepared for it. The scarcity of cars suffered in 1907, he says, is not likely to occur this year. The railroads have seen the boom approaching and have made their plans accordingly.

POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE.

Los Angeles Express This castor you see flung yonder in the New York ring of politics was shied by Jerome, who declares his purpose of making another independent race for the office of district attorney he now holds. For an individual, sushe now holds. For an individual, sustained by whatever support, to launch an independent candidacy in New York in opposition to the party organizations there constantly maintained is a proof at least of courage. An individual's personal acquaintance, fet it be as extensive as it will, counts as nothing in that great horde of people. That such an independent candidacy should have been once successful was a fine proof

that the people of New York possess qualities of which they were not before suspected. What Jerome endeavors in New Yorrk, Heney will doubtless essay in San Francisco. In the late primaries he took no part. His name was not printed on a single ballot. Despite that fact, thousands who honor him wrote his name on their ballots as their can-didate. So many of the Democrats did that that Heney received a majority of their votes, but because he did not re-ceive a majority of the Republican bal-lots in a primary in which thousands of voters refrained from participating because Heney's name was not on any because Heney's name was not ballot, the pro-graft papers indulged in rejoicings as ludicrous as they were premature.

THE OPTIMIST'S CORNER

By George F. Butler, A.M., M.D.

Youth depends to a great extent upor our ability to keep the blood and circulation in a healthy condition. The best method of doing this may be briefly summarized as follows: Take plenty of exercise in the open airpienty of exercise in the open and preferably in the country, away from the city. The best exercise is a long walk in the country, and the benefit of such a walk is increased if only a a very small quantity of fluid and food be taken during the walk. A good because the country is a sandwich in the country of the country is a sandwich in the country of the country is a sandwich in the country of the country of the country is a sandwich in the country of lunch for such a walk is a sandwick and an orange.

This walk in the open air not only carriches the blood with oxygen, but it

strengthens the skin and nervous sys

flesh food, should be practised, particularly by old people. There is no longer any doubt that a vegetable diet, or at least very moderate meat eating after middle age is reached, prolongs life. Drink water and plenty of it after the age of 40 years is reached. Most water is too "hard" for drinking purposes without being boiled. A glass of hot water gently sipped is a splendid stimulant and blood purifier.

JUST FOR FUN

Full of confidence and splendid self-assurance, she entered the big cloth-ing establishment, where good-look-ing gentle men in wark wore suits tick-

ted \$12 and upward.

man."
"If you can give me some of his measurements, madam, perhaps I might be able to help you."
"Oh, yes," she cried, with enthusiasm as if suddenly struck with a bright idea, "he takes a 15 collar."
But the assistant was found wanting.—New York American. ing.-New York American.

Jack-Well, there is one thing I can say—a man never wastes all the time a woman does putting on his hat.

with mercy," was the Philadelphia Inquirer,

He stands forth in the public eye; "I want a pair of trousers for my husband," she said to the shop walk-And yet some close observers think, As he goes proudly stepping by, The public gives a knowing wink.

"Certainly, madam. Can you tell me what size he takes?" "No; but he's just an ordinary-sized Hyker—Have you heard the results of the boseball game today?
Pyker—Yes.
Hyker—Which won—the home team

Delayed Ceremony.

em, and through this the digestive Jeanette—Oh, I don't know. Did you ever notice a man putting on his hat Great moderation in the amount of in the vestibule while he bids his fian-

cee "good night?" Sometimes he takes an hour,—Chicago News.

How Hard They Work. "They say that Stevenson frequently worked a whole afternoon on a single

"I hope so, too—justice tempered the mercy," was the response.—

The Notoriety Seeker,

Baseball Query.

or the umpire?-Chicago News.

Optical Demonstration.

Father—I must study that young man of yours, daughter. I want to see how he takes hold of things that in-

terest him.

Daughter—All right, dad. Just you pop out on the piazza suddenly some night.—Boston Transcript.

The International Match.

'All the world adores a lover,

Suffragett,—We believe that a woman should get a man's wages.

Married Man—Well, judging from my experience, she does.—Tit-Bits. "That's nothing; I know a man who has been working the last six years on one sentence."—Judge,

"I am going to have my photograph taken; I hope it will do me justice," said a man to a friend who was con-spicuous for cander. Wait for the big I X L auction sale commencing September 7 at 10 a. m.

And a lot of people hover,
'Round the same
Like the moths around a candle,
When he has a titled handle
To his name.—Washington Herale,

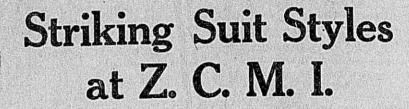
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