

The San Francisco Labor Mayor's Rule.

It Has Not Been a Path of Roses or a Glittering Galaxy of Results.

FOREBODINGS of disaster should San Francisco elect a mayor from the ranks of union labor have not been fulfilled, says Francis John Dyer in The World Today. It is now nearly two years since Eugene E. Schmitz, orchestra leader and president of the Musicians' union, was sworn in as mayor of San Francisco. Many conservative and well-meaning persons believed that even to foreshadow a local reign of anarchy; a period of two years, if not longer, during which the rabble would dominate public affairs, when strikes would be frequent and the whole community terrorized.

It may be possible that had the radicals been given full control, the fears of even the most timid would have been realized. But the results, while not wholly satisfactory, have not justified those fears.

Still, Mayor Schmitz has not proved to be the ideal public servant. He has failed to lead the city into the ways of the "practical" politician. His sudden rise from obscurity awakened his dominant ambition and the adulation of sycophantic aspirants for sinecures. Not the least of his faults was that he had been pre-ordained a political Moses who should lead, not only the hosts of labor, but the great people through enthusiastic campaigns to the most glittering success.

FIRST BLUNDER.

Early in his term of office Mayor Schmitz made a serious blunder. He ignored the three members of the board of supervisors (the governing body of the consolidated city and county), who were the only other successful candidates on the labor ticket, and named their ill will.

There had been a clamor against the city government, and Schmitz, in pursuance of his pledge to save money for permanent improvement from the annual income of nearly \$8,000,000, voted items in the budget aggregating something under \$200,000.

The supervisors overrode his veto and accused him of bad faith, pointing out the fact that during the deliberations of the finance committee in making up the budget the mayor had sat with it and had not raised his voice in protest against a single item which he afterward vetoed. It was also remarked that the mayor had aimed his scheme of retrenchment only at those departments of the city government with which he was on bad terms.

When the finance committee took up the consideration of the budget for the following year, the mayor did not attend its meetings, but he again vetoed various items in the budget and the supervisors calmly passed them over his veto, although no doubt some of them might justly have been cut out.

The events which led up to the formation of a local labor party must be known in order to make conditions clear. More than two years ago, when the city was enjoying a business revival (due largely to extension of trade in the west), the Teamsters' union went out on strike. This action had not been taken without ample warning and the interval had been improved by the employers on one side and the laboring men on the other to perfect preparations for a long struggle.

The Employers' association was pitted against the Teamsters' union, backed in a sympathetic strike by the City Front federation, the Porters and Packers' union, and other organizations. The employers engaged men wherever they could get them to drive team at high wages. The strike sympathizers cut wagon tracks, pulled drivers from their seats, lamed horses and killed some "scabs."

HOW PARTY WAS FORMED.

The Employers' association demanded police escorts for teamsters and got them. The unions protested, but in vain, and in time the employers, with police help, broke the strike. The terms of settlement were never made public, but the unions made little direct gain, if any at all. The real benefit came from a crystallization of sentiment and a consequent activity in organization.

People who sympathized with the wrongs of labor but who did not approve of strikes and strike violence, had often urged the laboring men to seek at the polls that redress which was given grudgingly or wholly denied to them by employers and lawmakers. This advice was taken after the big strike had been brought to an end with, out any results of value in the advancement of the cause. A political party was formed. A full local ticket was put up. A determined campaign, with very little money to back it, was carried. Circumstances favored the cause of labor.

Both Republicans and Democrats had made unfortunate selections to head their tickets, which were "ar from satisfactory in other ways. A strong Republican faction went to the support of Schmitz, who with his fine physique, open countenance, ready smile and hearty handshake, proved to be a good campaigner.

His labor friends concentrated their strength on the head of their ticket, and the result was that the city awoke, on the morning after election, and rubbed its eyes in amazement to see that the

labor man's candidate had badly beaten both the Republican and the Democratic nominees.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP.

There was an important issue before the public-municipal ownership of public utilities. To submit this question to the people is made obligatory by the charter. The voters have just declined to sanction public ownership of the Geary street railway, but they voted to issue bonds in the sum of over \$17,000,000 for the acquisition of school buildings, playgrounds, sewers, parks, a public library building and other desirable things.

The city is virtually free from debt, and there is a strong disposition to enjoy the luxury of spending money which some one else will have to provide.

It may be noted that an offer by Mr. Andrew Carnegie to give \$500,000 for a public library building (although solicited by the library trustees) was not accepted, because the labor unions objected, to taking public gifts from a man, who they said, was responsible for the Homestead riots.

CONDITIONS CHANGED.

Time was when labor was organized scarcely at all in San Francisco. Now that condition of affairs is changed. This being a great commercial and industrial center, the field was inviting for the professional agitator, who during the past few years has been exceptionally active. Now almost every municipal election has a "local" with a membership including practically all

900 may be voters out of a total registered vote of about 71,000.

In other words, nearly every other man is, theoretically, a supporter of the Schmitz administration. In practice, as shown by the vote in the last municipal campaign, only one-third of the laboring men voted the labor ticket.

Under the charter the mayor has authority to remove officials for cause, and it was the intention of Mayor Schmitz to make practically a clean sweep early in his administration. The board of public works was early unpractical, its work being almost hopelessly involved in an unending quantity of official red tape.

Its big appropriation went largely for salaries and wages. It was organized as a bureau, with chiefs, assistants, to assistants, and assistants to chiefs, superintendents, inspectors, time keepers and a few "privates."

The whole department was a circumlocution bureau. To get a report on a simple application for a side sewer or a crossing pavement sometimes took several months. Moreover, the head of the department being a retired colonel of engineers (since deceased), the military idea that the public had no right to know what the department was doing until after it had done it, if at all, obtained to the uttermost, and every attempt to raise the curtain of secrecy was resisted.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION.

There were other commissions which were not satisfactory, the greatest

the county clerk, in whose office scandals are continually coming to light. The courts, however, decided that the county clerk was a county official, and that the mayor could not remove him.

In the case of the board of health, a ready injunction issued out of the superior court has restrained the new members appointed by the mayor from taking their seats, and the slow movements of the judiciary make it reasonably certain that by the time the case is decided it will have ceased to interest the men against whom it was brought, and the mayor will have abandoned his direct policy and fell back on the more devious course made famous by one Fabian.

SOME SCANDALS.

Mayor Schmitz's administration has not been without mistakes, not even without some scandals. Some of the mayor's misdeeds have been caused by inexperience, others were due to bad or self-interested advice. Such an one probably was the error of appointing James R. T. Mershon on the board of civil service commissioners, and securing his election as president of that board.

Mershon was an oil stock manipulator and he bore a very doubtful reputation. Being asked why he appointed Mershon the mayor is said to have replied that he had put \$4,000 into the municipal campaign. And yet it is probable that this was but an evasion, and that the blame for Mershon's appointment lay in another quarter. Mershon lived up to his reputation when in

Winch, who was active in the labor cause, will represent the fifth district in the next Congress. Both the Democratic and Union Labor parties nominated him, largely on his record as a labor supervisor.

THREE FACTIONS.

There are three factions in the Union Labor party. They are headed by Mayor Schmitz, Michael Casey and P. H. McCarthy.

Casey, president of the Teamsters' union, the board of health and the board of public works, was business agent of the Teamsters' union during the big strike. He was appointed to the board of public works by Mayor Schmitz, whom he soon "threw down" and began planning for his further advancement.

He was made president of the board, and by virtue of that office he became a member of the board of health. There was difficulty about reorganizing the health board and finally Casey accepted the office of president of that. In his dual role on both boards Casey is able to do a great deal for the party, and he is materially strengthening his position. He was reputed to have his eye on the shrievalty, but being significantly defeated in a trial of strength with Schmitz at the primaries, his star waned and he is now merely one of the malcontents.

P. H. McCarthy, a Democrat, is at the head of the third faction, which is also inimical to Schmitz. He is employed at one of the big hotels as carpenter, and is president of the Building Trades Council, which has about 18,000 members and is growing.

McCarthy was appointed a member

of the civil service commission when that body came into being. His personal ambition has not yet been disclosed. Being forceful and determined, but diplomatic when occasion requires, Mr. McCarthy is regarded as a veritable Napoleon by many workmen. It is rumored that he is aiding the Republican candidate for mayor.

SCHMITZ' ANTECEDENTS.

As for the mayor himself, he is a native of this city, thirty-eight years old. His father was born in Germany and his mother in Ireland, but she was reared in Georgia from an infant, and was married in New York.

The family came to California in '49. The father engaged in mining, but chiefly devoted himself to music. He directed for such celebrities as Jenny Lind, whom the miners showered with gold coin and nuggets; for Patti, Mrs. Anna Bishop, Mme. Blanchi, and many other famous cantatrices. Mayor Schmitz is a Catholic. He was educated in the public schools and married a lady of Irish extraction but San Francisco born. They have three children.

At the time of his election the mayor was not only leader of a theater orchestra, but he was also secretary and manager of a gas engine factory, which position he resigned that he might devote all of his time to the duties of his new office. He has appointed one of his brothers, Herbert, a member of the board of public works, and another brother was appointed superintendent of public buildings.

WHAT HE HAS ACCOMPLISHED.

In his personal capacity Schmitz is a

man who makes friends and keeps them. Schmitz as an official is a different person and is no less open to criticism than other officials who "do politics" in the hope of perpetuating themselves in positions of power and emolument.

While the mayor has been made to realize in various ways the limitations of his office, he still feels that he has accomplished a great deal. He points to the fact that not in ten years past has there been done so much work in extending school facilities as during the past year and a half. With a \$1 limit to taxation for general maintenance the city cannot expect much new street work, but something has been done in repaving and repairing. Some success has come to the mayor in settling labor troubles. Soon after his inauguration, 2,800 street car men went out on strike. The mayor insisted on peaceful conduct as a condition for his mediation. Every one of those 2,800 men were informally constituted a special policeman, and reports were made to the mayor every six hours for the ten days the strike lasted. The public was with the men and they won a signal victory. New differences which arose between the men and the \$40,000,000 corporation owning most of the street railways are now being arbitrated. Another thing accomplished by the mayor was the institution of eight-hour watches in the police department. He has kept his pledge to give a conservative administration, and he has largely overcome the distrust of the commercial interests. He is almost constantly acting as an arbitrator or mediator in labor disputes.

PHIL MARGETTS AND HIS SURVIVING SONS AND DAUGHTERS.

Interesting Experiences in the Career of the Veteran Actor and Pioneer.



The above group represents the well-known citizen, veteran actor and pioneer, Mr. Phil Margetts, and his surviving sons and daughters. Mr. Margetts left England Jan. 6, 1850, for this country. On June 9th, of the same year, he set out from the Missouri river for Salt Lake with Livingston and Kincaid's first train of goods, driving three yoke of oxen as far as the upper crossing of the Platte. From this point the young man, with his brother Henry and another companion, started for Salt Lake afoot, which they reached on September 1, 1850, after a walk of about four hundred miles, each of the travelers being laden with bedding and such food as could be obtained. Soon after his arrival, Mr. Margetts commenced work in the Church blacksmith shop, then situated on northwest corner of the Temple block. Here he assisted in making some of the first grist and saw mill irons, sugar-cane mills, etc., all of which were made from wagon tires; he was also one of three who made the first casting produced in Utah.

On the 6th of November, 1850, Mr. Margetts married Miss Elizabeth Bates, who became the mother of the above group of sons and daughters. She died June 11, 1898. Soon after his arrival in Utah Mr. Margetts joined the Nauvoo brass band. He was one of those who organized the first dramatic association in Utah, and played in the first piece produced by that company in this city. The plays were given in the old Bowers and Social Hall. He also organized the "Mechanic Dramatic Association," and played with it and others on the boards of the Salt Lake Theater regularly from the opening night, March 8, 1862, for about twenty years. Mr. Margetts took the first dramatic company through the southern settlements, going as far as Manti, Sanpete county, and was at the head of the company that gave the first dramatic performance in Ogden, Brigham City and other settlements in Cache valley.

During his theatrical career Mr. Margetts has appeared before a Salt Lake audience in over 300 different characters, appearing with and supporting some of the greatest and brightest stars of the dramatic firmament during the last half century. Among them were such brilliant artists as E. L. Davenport, Junius Brutus Booth Jr., James A. Hearn, Joseph Jefferson, Edwin Adams, Niel Warner, George Fawcett, C. W. Coudock, Salvini, Edwin Booth, Lawrence Barrett, Julia Dean Hayne, Adelaide Neilson, Ristori, May Anderson, Lucy Weston, Mrs. Landry, Mrs. Bowers and many others. He has not altogether given up the stage even yet, making professional visits now and again to different cities throughout the state, and being well received wherever he goes.

In 1857 Mr. Margetts walked to the Missouri river from Salt Lake City, pulling a handcart behind him a distance of 1,053 miles, this being a most interesting part of his journey on a mission to England. He was also, in the early settlement of Utah, one of the "Minute Men," and figured in several of the Indian wars with courage and effect. Like many others he is now waiting upon the government for a long-delayed but well-earned pension.

He resigned under fire, having been charged with giving out in advance the questions for the examination for promotions in the fire department, and with having altered the markings on an examination paper for a friend, who sought a place in that department. The latter fault Mershon sought to justify.

He was arrested for it on an indictment by the grand jury, and admitted to bail. Mayor Schmitz incurred criticism because he did not actively assist in prosecuting Mershon, but it is probable that here again he was only following the counsel of his political allies, who hold that a man in politics must keep so busy getting friends and supporters out of jail that he will have no time to be getting any one in.

Another of the mayor's appointees and one of his most active supporters, Fire Commissioner Purdy, was investigated on a charge of petty graft, but the evidence was not strong enough to convince his friend, the mayor, who held the investigation, that there had been any wrongdoing.

RENT BY DISSENSIONS.

Although the labor party has made a great deal of noise and has compelled respect, its course is beset with reefs and hidden rocks. It was only rent by dissension. It lacks coherence. Nearly one-third of the voters of this city are foreign born, representing 50 different countries.

Another third contains representatives of every state and territory, while 23 may be called true sons of Neptune, men, without a country, being born at sea. And so there are many leaders of great and small degree, and almost every tongue.

Among the big leaders is Rev. Peter C. Yorke, a Catholic priest, locally famous as a controversialist. He is a free lance and has a large following. Andrew Furuseth, a Finn, with the gauntness and hollow eyes of the ascetic, is the chief spirit in the City Front federation.

He opposes the mixing of the unions in politics and has thus far declined to accept any political office, which, perhaps, may be the explanation of his following among the toilers. Furuseth, thin, high-pitched voice, and his blunt, forceful language, never fail to hold the tense interest of his audiences. Brilliant and erratic, a journalist and lawyer, E. J. Livernash is popular as a leader.

He was the opponent of Hon. Julius Kahn in the fourth congressional district, and although he had both the Union Labor and the Democratic support he won by so small a plurality that his seat is contested. William J.

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The Delineator

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