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SALT LAKE CITY, APRIL 8, 1960.

THE LAW AND THE COUNCIL.

The controversy in the City Council over the affairs of the police department continues, and is likely to become more and more complicated until the main question involved is settled by the courts. Strong opinions are entertained and expressed on either side, and a great deal of unnecessary ill-feeling is exhibited. There should be, however, no attempt to increase the trouble by direct misrepresentations, personal attacks, and perversions of the actions and motives of either party to the dispute.

Our morning contemporaries are greatly exercised over the vote of the majority of the council on Monday evening, against a resolution introduced by Councilman Thomas. They are, or affect to be, highly indignant at the failure of the resolution, and denounce the action of the majority in vigorous language. One calls it without "reason in sense, law or decency," "a dishonest position utterly indefensible in law and subversive of the most ordinary principles of administrative and public morality." The other denounces it as "pigheaded stubbornness," and declares that "no principle whatever was involved" in it. Now let them be reasonable and fair, if possible, and look at the matter with an understanding of the case. Here it is, in brief:

When the payroll of the police department was presented to the council, it was signed by George A. Sheets as Chief of Police. The majority of the council declined to recognize the gentleman as the head of the department, holding that he had not been confirmed by a majority of the City Council, as required by law and the rules of that body. But an order was issued requiring the Chief of Police, as the acting head of the department, to certify to the payroll, when it would be duly accepted, approved and paid. The order was not acted upon. But a resolution was introduced in the council last Monday, authorizing the City Auditor to "waive the O. K. on the police department payrolls for March, and after satisfying himself from other sources as to what each man is entitled to, to draw his warrant to each man in the department below the rank of Chief of Police, for the money to which he is entitled for the month of March, 1960."

The proposition was opposed, on the ground that "the law requires the payrolls to be approved by the head of the department and the City Auditor has an opinion from the City Attorney to that effect." But this does not seem to be noticed by the supporters of the resolution. The members of the council who voted to follow the law as to the payment of the police, are bitterly assailed for doing so, and the spectacle of hardworking policemen with starving families because of the "amazing stubbornness of those hard-hearted and 'pigheaded' councilmen, is held up for public reprobation. Now let us look at the law that governs in this contention. The following ordinance was passed by the City Council June 20, 1953, and duly signed by the Mayor June 22, 1963:

"Be it ordained by the City Council of Salt Lake City, That the chief of head of each department shall hereafter verify, under oath, all payrolls and statements involving the payment of money as to the correctness of such payrolls or statements, and that no payroll or statement shall be accepted, acted upon or approved until verified as above provided."

Now, in the face of that ordinance, how could the council consistently adopt the Thomas resolution? And why should the members who were governed by its provisions be assailed and abused for their lawful action? In view of the language used by one of the supporters of the illegal resolution, what is surprising that the query was raised whether the proposition was designed "to catch suckers"? If it had been adopted, in the face of the ordinance we have cited, it would have been void and worthless. The auditor would not have been safe in issuing his warrant nor the treasurer in paying out the money.

Of course, it is lamentable that the policemen, who have fairly earned their wages, should be kept out of their just dues for awhile. But the hardship will be only temporary. No one wants to deprive the men of their salaries. Any statement of the kind made in the council that such a wrong is contemplated, is not only false but absurd, and raises the question whether the whole scheme of the resolution was not designed as "a grand stand play" and to put its opponents in a wrong light before the public.

It is conceded by our contemporaries that the question of the legality of the Chief's confirmation has "no vital bearing on this particular case," and that it is "without regard to the merits of this contention." Then what is to regulate in its disposition unless it be the city ordinance, framed especially for the purpose, and that has been in force for about ten years? Will the Tribune still assert, in view of that fact, that "There is no reason in common law or

decency" why the resolution "should not have been passed on Monday night"? The eight members who voted against it not only stood by the law, but by consistency and decency. Whether they are mistaken or not as to the validity of the Chief's appointment, they were certainly right as to the wrong of the resolution.

After refusing to recognize the correctness of the theory that five or seven members out of fifteen constitute the City Council, in the confirmation of an appointee to office, the majority of that body would be inconsistent if they served from their position on a side issue. While the legality of the appointment of the Chief of Police is in doubt, how could they consistently recognize his authority to certify to the payroll? They agreed to accept the signature of the Police Captain as the head of the department pending a judicial decision of the question. If no recognized head certifies to that police payroll, the wages of the men cannot lawfully be paid. Whose fault is that? Not the City Council's, which must act if at all as the law provides.

The difficulty, after all, centers on the simple question of the confirmation of the Chief. That, it is agreed by all parties, will have to be decided by the courts. Let it be taken there, then, as soon as possible, and meanwhile let the complications that may grow out of the dispute be viewed on their own merits and as the law provides. As the Herald concludes: "There need be no bitterness in such an action. It should be a friendly proceeding with the simple object of ascertaining whether or not it is possible, by a majority vote of a quorum of the council, to confirm an executive appointment." That is all.

A GREAT WAR GAME.

Recently a great naval war game has been played at Portsmouth, England, under the presidency of Admiral John Hopkins. In this game the conditions of naval warfare are represented as faithfully as possible. The pieces are models of ships, and the rules are so framed as to cover the contingencies of actual warfare. It may appear foolish to some to fight sham battles, but there is no other method of giving the commanders the desired exercise in strategy.

The war in question was supposed to have been fought between this country and Germany. The first battle raged in the Atlantic ocean between cruisers. In this, four American ships were sunk, two were captured, one of these being the Olympia; and two escaped. On two German ships were destroyed. It was a decided German victory.

Another engagement was fought in the far east. The New York was put out of action, and other American ships were badly damaged. As an offset the Kaiserin Augusta was captured by the Americans, and other ships of the enemy were disabled. It was a drawn battle.

Somewhere off the South American coast another battle was fought, which was an American victory dearly bought. The battleship Iowa and the cruiser Atlanta encountered two German cruisers, Freya and Vineta. The Atlanta was sunk, but the Iowa destroyed the Vineta and captured the Freya, but suffered very much damage herself.

The next move was a German squadron through the Suez canal to the Philippines, where it defeated the American ships and blockaded Manila. Here ensued the most destructive naval battle on record. Six German and five American cruisers, and four German and five American destroyers were engaged. All the cruisers on both sides were sunk by the torpedo craft in less than five minutes, and only one damaged American boat remained to tell the story of the conflict.

After this, our North Atlantic squadron pursued the German ships in Chinese waters and practically annihilated them off the port of Kiaochow.

The final battle was fought off Havana, where the Iowa, the Texas, and other ships were almost destroyed, when the submarine boats saved the day and sunk the German fleet.

The game is supposed to have demonstrated the necessity for a navy large enough to be spread out over the greater part of the globe, without being materially weakened. This is perhaps true. Yet, in this case the supposed enemy was under the necessity of covering as much water, as we were, and the conditions were then equal as far as that goes.

It was a great game, and the result is interesting at a time when Admiral Dewey and Count Reventlow have paid their respects to the naval forces of the respective countries supposed to have been engaged in the conflict.

MONROE DOCTRINE AGAIN.

That there are two sides to every question, is a generally recognized truth, but most people will be surprised to learn that there are those who regard the Monroe doctrine—our own American doctrine—as a menace to civilization. But that view is set forth by a contributor to the North American Review.

This gentleman, who signs himself "An American Business Man," says he has lived in South America for years. He characterizes the South Americans, or at least the ruling classes of the South American republics, as "adventurers, ambitious and unprincipled military men, and many outright criminals; altogether the most aggressive, pretentious, good-for-nothing, non-descript, villainous, treacherous set of semi-bandits ever organized on the face of the earth." Under their rule, he says, very little consideration is shown for the rights of foreigners, because the rulers feel confident that, if the government of foreigners should interpose in defense of their rights, the United States would take part. The writer in the Review continues:

"The United States should adopt a sane and practical policy, consonant with the requirements of modern civilization. Whether it acts alone, or in conjunction with other powers, is immaterial. The important thing is that stability and security should take the place of anarchy, despotism and destruction. Until that is done, there can be no permanent peace upon the earth. Every country of Congress will witness calls for additional naval appropriations, with the undisguised intention of mak-

ing common cause with the banditti of South America against those great and civilized powers with whom we chiefly trade, who are related to us by ties of blood, literature, religion and commerce, and whose friendship we ought not lightly to throw away. Such a war would cover with eternal infamy the administration responsible for it, and would make a blot on the fair page of American history which time could never efface."

The inference of this "American business man" is that but for this country some European power would overthrow the rule of the "banditti," protect the foreigners in their rights, and, we presume, establish European forms of government where now republicanism is the rule. How any "American" can contemplate such a contingency with tranquility is not easy to understand. The writer quoted claims to speak for a number of business men who have invested money in the South, but that can hardly be correct.

The condition in the republics to the south of us, or in some of them, may be deplorable. But the remedy is certainly not in the extension of European monarchism upon the ruins of American republicanism. The remedy is in the extension of the influence of American principles of government. The Monroe doctrine reserves these continents for that influence. It may be slow in spreading, but as long as that doctrine is maintained the way is open for American principles to penetrate and expand in this hemisphere. How long would it take for European powers to close South America to American principles, if they were permitted to colonize, "protect" their colonies, and draw to themselves the control of government and business affairs? Surely, not many Americans can contemplate such an eventuality with pleasure.

To make home bright—use vermilion paint.

Art is long—and something else at times.

Sufficient unto the day is the foolishness thereof.

In Fargo, N. D., it was hail and snow to the chief.

The presidential tour is a long lane that has many turnings.

Don't tie the buffalo up as the bear was tied up in Mississippi.

The clean sweep in Chicago yesterday does not refer to the streets.

Few if any have a good word for the man in front of the gun.

Perhaps the President intends to take fencing lessons that he may foil the designs of his enemies.

Anarchist Johan Most has been released from prison. He comes forth a wiser if not a better man.

The house in which President Roosevelt was born has just been raised as a poolroom. To what base uses we come at last.

Considering the very strenuous contest for the judgeship the successful candidate is entitled to be called Lewis & Land.

Carter Harrison has been re-elected mayor of Chicago. This will be his fourth term. He is getting to be a regular Diaz.

When a young woman reaches the age when she no longer has birthdays it is not a good time to begin to learn to say "No."

The plan to have the school children pay two dollars a piece for instruction during May was not an inspiration, but an in-tuition.

When Mr. J. P. Morgan predicted good times ahead he expected to sail for Europe but did not sail on the date fixed. What kind of times will he predict now?

In the French chamber they have renewed discussion of the Dreyfus case. In this case the participants, like the village schoolmaster, "even though vanquished could argue still."

A news item says that Minnesota is to have a state capital worth four and a half million dollars. If it is worth that amount it will cost the state not less than twelve million dollars.

Lord Kelvin predicts that Niagara Falls will disappear in time. Tyndall was of opinion that they would cease to exist in about eleven thousand years. But the way various power companies are taking out water from them indicates they will disappear in about a decade.

It isn't a very profound solution of the school problem to suggest a tuition tax of two dollars a head for each pupil to continue the school's another month, but that is better than to close them and deprive the children of a month's schooling.

The President cast his race suicide bread upon the waters a few days ago and now it is beginning to return. A North Dakota man has sent him a picture of himself and 19 children and forty-eight grandchildren. This is but the beginning of the evidence that the American race is not on the road to suicide.

"Newspaper correspondents will be accorded every courtesy," says Major Pitcher, as long as they obey the regulations that have been imposed. In case any of them attempt to enter the park or follow the president they will be arrested and placed in the guard house, there to remain until after the president shall have finished his visit and departed. That comes very near, as near as may be in fact, being a case of permission to learn to swim with an injunction not to go near the water.

THE PRESIDENT'S JOURNEY.

Springfield Republican.

President Roosevelt begins his western journey close to the second anniversary of President McKinley's start on that far-western trip which ended so abruptly in Mrs. McKinley's sick-room. The latter's outward journey lay through the south, where he was received with the utmost enthusiasm. Mr. Roosevelt will keep well to the north.

San Francisco Call.

Whether presidents travel or stay in Washington they are criticized. But

no harm has ever come to any for following the example of Washington and visiting the different parts of the Union. President Roosevelt shows his fondness for the west by taking this trip. His early career was in the west, and he found that health and rugged physique which now serve him so well in bearing the great burden of the presidency on the plains and mountains of Dakota and Wyoming. It will be his first visit to the Pacific coast, and he has anticipated it with all the zest of a boy freed at last to realize a desire long cherished.

Indianapolis News.

So the Hawaiians want to see the president, do they? Well, it seems as if they ought to be gratified, but, on the other hand, if they are, the first thing we know he will have demands from Guam, the Philippines, Porto Rico, Alaska and Trinidad that he can't ignore, and he will have to do more stunts than a traveling salesman to cover his territory, leaving him scarcely any time to devote to the office-seekers and politicians. And then what will happen?

Worcester Spy.

The president starts on his journey to the western states. Ere he returns to Washington he will have delivered several carefully prepared speeches and many impromptu addresses. There is no doubt that whatever he says will be regarded with great interest everywhere. Moreover all the incidents of the trip will be closely followed. We believe that the president's tour will be beneficial to him, to the people he visits and, in truth, to the people of the entire country on whom his words have ever a wholesome and tonic effect.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The public is sure to profit by Mr. Roosevelt's utterances and it is no less certain that he will be enlightened by this contact with the people. The benefit will be mutual. Recent events have shown that the president is quick to respond to any manifestation of public sentiment. He knows and reads the people and his brief period in office has shown that he is more at right to interpret their wishes than most of his party's leaders in either house of Congress.

Los Angeles Express.

President Roosevelt disappointed no one the first day of his journey. He rode in the engine cab, shook hands with the train crew, told citizens along the route they had the greatest state in the Union, and, in fact did not make a single mistake. Teddy is all right.

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