

Torrance Herald

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London Mayor Wine Seller Storm of Wrath Is Aroused

LORD mayor's banquet on total abstinence lines is something absolutely unknown in all the thousand-year annals of the chief magistracy of London, but "drys" are violently criticising the installation of Sir Alfred Bower as lord mayor. Sir Alfred is one of the biggest wine merchants in England.

His opponents, as one point in their attack, are calling attention to the ancient law enacted in the reign of Edward II, by which licensed victualers and brewers are specifically forbidden to hold any public office in the city of London, the object of the statute being to protect the people from fraudulent administration of the laws concerning food and drink.

Sir Alfred is also a past master and a present governor of the Vintners Company, which has furnished many another chief magistrate to the city of London without encountering any valid obstacles.

Sir Alfred Bower owes his title to the fact that he was knighted by King George as sheriff of the city on the occasion of the state visit of Raymond Poincare, then president of the French republic, to England on the eve of the great war, and he enjoys in a special degree the good will of Queen Mary by reason of his generous interest in the management and maintenance of the great London hospitals, being an active governor and munificent supporter of St. Bartholomew's, of St. Thomas', of Bethlehem hospital, and of Guys. He is married to one of the Blackets of Northumberland, daughter of Capt. Edward Blacket of the royal navy.

Sir Alfred will hold his office for twelve months only, dating from his inauguration on November 9 next, and throughout his term will occupy the lavishly furnished residence known as the Mansion House, a stately building opposite the Bank of England. He will receive a salary of \$50,000, in addition to allowances amounting to almost half again as much.

Came Up From the Ranks Career of Edward Finney

THE man who is chief aide to Hubert Work, secretary of the interior in President Coolidge's cabinet, holds the distinction of being the only man in such a responsible post who has risen from the lowest ranks of the civil service employees to such a responsible position. He is Edward C. Finney.

It is just thirty years ago that Finney, through competitive civil service examination, was appointed a clerk, then the lowest civil service grade in the general land office, at \$75 a month. Since July 1, under the new classification act, he has been receiving \$7500 a year.

His work for the government was in filing papers in 1894. He has been promoted successively through every grade of the service. He has written land patents, done typewriting, examined land claims, acted as commissioner of the general land office, and acted as chief law officer of the reclamation service in the time big projects like the Roosevelt dam were being built. He was appointed to the board of appeals of the interior department by Secretary Lane, under the Wilson administration.

Finney was made first assistant secretary because of his all-round efficiency, his wide knowledge of the law and of the work of the department.

After he was graduated from the law school of the University of Kansas he hung out his shingle, in his home town—Lawrence, Kan.

Finney's first law case was to defend "Old Mose," a picturesque character about town, who was accused of operating a "hootleg" bar. The old darkey was acquitted.

Finney got his fee in the shape of an old slouch hat. He wore the hat the following year to Oklahoma to the opening of the famous "Cherokee Strip." It was in Oklahoma he had his first experience with public land laws, acting as attorney for a number of homesteaders and townsite claimants. It was his intimate knowledge of the land laws that resulted in his being employed by the interior department.

Finney helped more than any other one man to formulate the potash, coal, oil and phosphate leasing laws, the waterpower act, and other legislation dealing with public lands and resources. He has been in charge of the administration of the general leasing law since it was enacted, and it has resulted in an income of from one to two million dollars every month.

Recently he was in the public eye as a witness in the oil investigation. After his testimony Senator Walsh and Senator Kendrick paid high tribute to his character, record, and testimony before the investigating committee.

He has been budget officer for the interior department since General Dawes inaugurated the budget system. He has been reorganizing the department from within, and has brought about big savings by consolidation of work, taking it from four or five bureaus and putting it into one.

'Majority Is Never Right' Stevenson to Goal Seekers

By CLARK KINNARD

IBSEN avowed that the majority is never right. Never, he said. "That is one of society's lies against which a free, thoughtful man must rebel. Who are they who make up the majority in a country? Are they the wise men or the foolish?"

Ibsen's fundamental principle in every field and domain of thought was that the minority is always in the right.

"It is a lie that truth always belongs to the majority. What kind of truths do the majority rally round? They are truths so old that they are positively decrepit with age! When a truth is hoary with years it is in a fair way to become a lie."

"A normally constituted truth," he observed, "will live, say, about seventeen to eighteen, at the very outside twenty years, seldom longer. But such ancient truths are always shockingly emaciated."

At another time he wrote: "I almost believe we are all of us ghosts! It is not only what we have inherited from our father and mother that haunts us. It is all sorts of old, dead ideas, all kinds of old, dead beliefs, and so forth.

"They have no life, yet they cleave to us, and we cannot shake ourselves free of them—and then we are so pitifully afraid of the dark."

Once he opined: "There are many teachers of wisdom, but where is the wisdom?"

HAPPILY we all shoot at the moon with ineffectual arrows; our hopes are set on inaccessible El Dorados; we come to an end of nothing here below.

Thus felt Robert Louis Stevenson. In an essay, "Apology for idlers," he points out that interests are only plucked up to sow themselves again, like mustard.

"You would think, when the child was born, there would be an end of trouble; and yet it is only the beginning of fresh anxieties; and when you have seen it through its teething and its education, and at last its marriage, alas! it is only to have new fears, new quivering sensibilities, with every day; and the health of your children's children grows as touching a concern as that of your own.

"Again, when you have married your wife, you would think you were got upon a hilltop, and might begin to go downward by an easy slope.

"But you have only ended courting to begin marriage. Falling in love and winning love are often difficult tasks to overbearing and rebellious spirits; but to keep love is also a business of some importance, to which both man and wife must bring kindness and goodwill.

"The true love story begins at the altar, when there lies before the married pair a most beautiful contest of wisdom and generosity, and a life-long struggle toward an unattainable ideal.

"Unattainable? Aye, surely unattainable, from the very fact that they are two instead of one."

"There is only one wish realizable on the earth; only one thing that can be perfectly attained: Death.

"And from a variety of circumstances we have no one to tell us whether it be worth attaining."

A strange picture we make on our way to our chimeras, ceaselessly marching, grudging ourselves the time to rest; indefatigable, adventurous pioneers.

"It is true that we shall never reach the goal; it is even more probable that there is no such place; and if we lived for centuries and were endowed with the powers of a god, we should find ourselves not much nearer what we wanted at the end," ventures Stevenson.

"O toiling hands of mortals! O unwearied feet, traveling ye know not whither! Soon, soon, it seems to you, you must come forth on some conspicuous hilltop, and but a little way further, against the setting sun, descry the spires of El Dorado.

"Little ye know your own blessedness; for to travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive, and true success is to labor."

Sewing a White Seam By JEAN INGELOW

As I came round the harbor buoy, The lights began to gleam, No wave the land-locked water stirred, The crags were white as cream; And I marked my love by candlelight, Sewing her long white seam. It's aye sewing ashore, my dear, Watch and steer at sea, It's reef and furl, and haul the line, Set sail and think of thee.

I climbed to reach her cottage door; Oh, sweetly my love sings! Like a shaft of light her voice breaks forth, My soul to meet it springs, As the shining water leaped of old When stirred by angel wings. Aye longing to list anew, Awake and in my dream, But never a song she sang like this, Sewing her long white seam.

Fair fall the lights, the harbor lights, That brought me in to thee, And peace drop down on that low roof For the sight that I did see, And the voice, my dear, that rang so clear, All for the love of me. For oh, for oh, with brows bent low By the candle's flickering gleam, Her wedding gown it was she wrought, Sewing the long white seam.

IT WAS HIS TURN

Little Jane had just received a bright new dime and was starting out to invest it in candy, when the minister, who chanced to be calling at the time, asked: "Why don't you give your money to the missionaries, Jane?" "I thought about that," replied the child, "but I think I will buy the candy and let the candy man give the money to the missionaries."

State Senator Issues Attack On Power Plan

A. H. Breed Attacks Spreckels Scheme in Letter to Official

The following argument by State Senator Arthur H. Breed of Alameda county against the water and power act has been filed with the secretary of state and, in accordance with law, will be made a part of the biennial booklet on proposed new laws that is sent to all voters in the state:

"The pending water and power constitutional amendment is the same measure which the people rejected two years ago by a majority of nearly 354,000.

"It pledges the state's credit to an issue of \$500,000,000 of tax-free state bonds. A board of five persons, appointed by the governor, would spend the money in acquiring, operating and maintaining such water-management projects as it deemed necessary or convenient.

Hite Control Plan "This political board would operate the projects from Sacramento, fix rates and determine conditions and quality of service, all without regard to the railroad commission. Consumers and communities would thus be at the mercy of five politicians with a virtually unrestrained control of industry. Should incorrect estimates, inadequate service or political mismanagement prevent projects from paying expenses or meeting interest charges, or requirements for repayment of principal out of rates, explicit provision is made to meet deficits and losses out of the general funds of the state.

"The board is empowered to appoint such employees as it may require and fix their compensation. These employees are exempted from the state civil service law, so that the board can build up a great political machine through patronage. "This year advocates of the measure seek to take political advantage of the drought by masking the water and power amendment as a water conservation plan, but public ownership will not increase rainfall. Finding the existing dams and storage basins are almost dry, what California needs is more rain, not more empty reservoirs.

Sees No Need "There is no public need for the state to embark in the power business and no good reason for adding half a billion dollars of tax-free bonds to the huge volume of such securities outstanding. Many advocates of the water and power measure, undismayed by the failure of North Dakota in the wheat and banking business, favor the act as a first step toward the nationalization of the taking over by government of essential industries and the redistribution of private wealth through taxation. There is no more reason why the state would adventure into the power business than into the flour or automobile business.

"Less than fourteen years ago the state undertook effective regulation of public utility companies. As a result the rates, investments and service of such companies are now controlled by a public agency. To scrap the policy of regulation and substitute public ownership would be unjust and foolish. Even those who assert that regulation has failed cannot logically offer as an improvement a new commission appointed like the railroad commission by the governor and given

the insufficiently restricted power of expending the taxpayers' money and hiring armies of employees. "Private initiative and effort developed California. Political mismanagement is usually wasteful and inefficient, and to compel taxpayers to provide enormous amounts of borrowed money for the financing of unspecified ventures by a political machine would be to invite disaster. "The voters should rebuke by a majority larger than before the restless agitators who refuse to accept the decision of the people so emphatically expressed. Repeated submission of such measures is a public nuisance and tends to bring the initiative into disrepute. "A. H. BREED, "President pro tem. California Senate."

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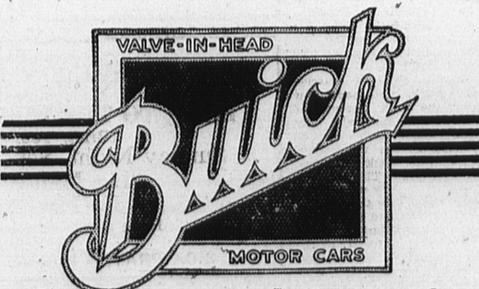
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