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The March of Empire

Ever since the day the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Roch, American community building has been intermingled with tragedy and romance, gradually developing into far-visioned, up to the minute business principles.

The sturdy New England pioneers had no choice but to resort to that first law of human intelligence, the grim necessity of self-preservation. The native red men looked with disfavor upon the encroachment of the pale-faced strangers from across the sea. Thus the situation rapidly resolved itself into the survival of the fittest.

Staunch stockades were the first unwritten law of every new settlement. "Safety first" was the main idea in the mind of every pioneer, just as much as it is to his twentieth century progeny, who must make a wager with fate every time he crosses the street in our so-called modern cities.

As these new settlements passed from the stage of small cross roads towns to the more dignified name of city, the stockade days gradually passed and a feeling of security took hold of the people much as civic pride develops in our modern cities. The best blood of peoples have always had a tendency to migrate westward. The land of the setting sun has ever been a land of promise. The men who blazed the trail westward through the seeming endless wilderness were counted super beings by the youth of every hamlet.

As years passed and the land became checkered with thriving towns and cities, business competition developed in the life of the more prosperous communities. If crops were better or trapping were more profitable in another locality a whole town would sometimes be stripped of the major part of its population over night.

History tells us that the people of Jamestown went so far as to plant tobacco in all her streets, and at a later date all the water front streets of Baltimore were paved with oyster shells. And at another time years afterward, during the palmy days of the sunny south, we are told that the principal streets of New Orleans was littered inches deep with cotton and brown cane sugar. The day of economic efficiency had not yet dawned and the world-old law of supply and demand ruled the destinies of planter and merchant with an unrelenting hand, bringing wealth and prestige this year and bitter poverty the next.

Many of us today can remember the boom days of the Middle West, when the railroads were reaching out into the far plains, bringing promise of wonderful prosperity to the ones with stamina and courage enough to stay and conquer the vast stretches of prairie land. Flag stations on the railroad became fair-sized towns in a fortnight. That modern product of up-to-date civilization, who persists to prosper in every community, despite the best efforts of the average citizen. The real estate man was new at the game in those days, and his methods were crude and often short-sighted. A surveyor was usually, but not always, employed to stake off a new addition to a town. Ten steps were often considered sufficiently accurate measurement for the average thirty foot lot.

Grading and oiling of streets were still vague dreams of the future. The first wagon track down the road was religiously followed by those who came after. A few bends and turns in the new road did not furnish any food for thought. Deep dust of summer and deeper mud of winter was often cursed and discussed, but this was too often the end of the matter.

In later days the mining towns became the seat of feverish activity. Streets followed the lines of least resistance. Usually a gulch lent its winding course to the needs of the people and later was dignified with the name of Main street. As the limited building space became congested some were forced to climb the steep hillsides and perch their shack on the edge of the landscape, overlooking the other fellow's back yard. This condition of affairs had some redeeming features. You could throw your garbage an endless array of tin cans down in your neighbor's back yard, and usually get away with it. The two most important items of equipment in these bonanza days were the six-shooter and the can opener. If one was slow on the draw his chance of living to a ripe old age were vague and uncertain, and if he lost the can opener he stood a good chance of starving to death.

The cities of note on the Pacific Coast, Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles, furnish glaring examples of the short-sightedness of the early community builders. Narrow, irregular streets are an everlasting scar on the beauty and symmetry of these modern, populous civic centers.

It is only of recent date that efficient planning commissions have come into being. In our own south land the startling fact has suddenly dawned on us that the March of the Empire is sending untold thousands upon us, that we must begin now to lay plans for a wonderful city that is to reach across the open spaces from the mountains to the sea. Peoples from all parts of the nation and from far lands have heard of our wonderful home life, and the longing of years that has been developing in these peoples will not be denied. We must build for the future. No narrow, crooked boulevards or congested civic centers will do.

Two hundred years of mistakes and short-sighted planning of our forebears lie before us as an open book. And we do not dare to follow in their footsteps. Experience is pointing the way. We must insist that main arteries of travel north and south, east and west, are built wide and sound of construction or we will be overwhelmed by the onrushing tide of humanity that is setting into the sunny south of California. The big question that we must ponder and answer today has to do with large efficient needs of the future, that the numberless thousands that come after may have broad, intelligent plans on which to build their home life. The staggering vision that is unfolding before us calls for the best brain power of our day. It behooves us to search out this leadership and then work diligently for the upbuilding of this great civic center that will become in the lifetime of many of us the greatest city in the world.

DIVIDEND CHECKS COME IN

Over five hundred and sixty-seven thousand dollars in dividend checks were mailed to stockholders in the Southern California Edison Company today (Monday, May 15) from the general office in Los Angeles. These checks represent the forty-ninth regular quarterly dividend on the common stock of the company. A large number of stockholders in Lomita and Torrance are now receiving their Edison dividend checks, Mr. A. N. Kemp, vice-president in charge of finance, said: "We are proud of our record of thirteen years of uninterrupted dividends to our shareholders. The activities of this company during the past year in interesting our people

in becoming stockholders indicate that of all the public service corporations in the country, the Southern California Edison Company is taking the leading in associating its consumers as partners in its organization which supplies them with their electric requirements.

"We have twenty-four thousand consumer stockholders in our twenty-eight districts, in addition to approximately forty-one hundred employee stockholders, bringing the total stockholders residing in the territory served to 28,165.

"Over the past several months in line with the demand for other high grade securities there has been a heavy demand for the company's stock in the eastern market

TORRANCE NEWS

New tenants in the El Prado Apartments are Mr. and Mrs. A. Shriner, who are moving there from Arlington avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Kite have returned from a motor trip through the desert and to Barstow, and, returning, spent the week-end with friends at Lake Elsinore.

Mrs. M. F. Bartlett and two boys, of Buffalo, N. Y., are visiting in the homes of Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Bartlett and Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Bartlett of South Gramery.

Among those in the audience at the Mother's Day services at the Redondo Elks' Club were Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Ainsworth and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Miller.

RADIO FANS TAKE CHANCES

Radio fans in their anxiety to get into the air frequently attach their aerials to power poles, according to R. E. Cunningham, in charge of the Edison distribution lines. This practice is extremely hazardous, Cunningham says, and may lead to serious injury and even death if the aerials are brought too close to the high voltage power wires.

The Edison inspectors are ordering all aerials removed from their poles as fast as they are discovered, and the radio enthusiasts can save themselves from a lot of trouble as well as possible danger by observing Mr. Cunningham's suggestions.

THE BONDS OF FREEDOM

By F. MARLIN

The keynote of Keystone is "B." "In giving freedom to the slaves we assure freedom to the free," said Lincoln, and it is equally true that in giving education to the child we are expressing and insuring the commonsense and sound judgment of the adult. For education is, above all things, progressive, and no one can hope to advance or to even hold his own intellectually who does not take an active interest in the schooling of the growing generation.

This, however is no intimation, much less an intimidation, that a citizen has no choice but to vote for the proposed school bonds. He has an equal right to vote against them, and he should be respected in the honest exercise of that right. But he has no right to refrain from voting or to remain away from the polls under any pretext whatever. For next to the suicide who decides that his "life does not count," is the refractory voter who whines that "his vote will not count."

Every vote does count, one way or other, whether it is cast or not. Elections, like battles, have been lost or left indecisive only because of those who did not go and "do their bit." It is not opposition that is to be feared, but lack of interest is very much to be guarded against. Every progressive measure that has been defeated has been defeated not by reactionaries, but by inactionaries.

Whoever does not help to bear the burden of the world becomes a part, and perhaps the worst part, of that burden. If you do not labor against ignorance you work for it and its awful consequences. You must shed your light or cast your shadow on the little buds and blossoms as they grow.

Tack this article or a better one, on your door and remember the date, June 6. Then vote as you, yourself, know best. Once at the polls we can trust you.

Far called, our school funds melt away;

Our teachers marry and—retire. Lo! many youths of yesterday Have missed their "grades" and must perspire;

Light of the World, be with us yet, Lest we forget! Lest we forget.

O YOU MISSOURIANS!

All who ever lived in the "Show Me" State are called to a jolly picnic all day Saturday, May 27, 1922, in Bixby Park, Long Beach.

Didn't Care

"Oh, I say, waiter, you have your thumb in the soup."
"That's all right, mister, 'tain't hot."

and through the country at large, which has materially strengthened the position of Edison capital stock. However, the heavy local sales to consumers preclude large blocks being taken outside of the territory the company serves, and places the Edison Company in the situation of being a California utility owned by California people."

Patronize Our Advertisers!

AMERICAN LEGION BREVITIES

Have you a ticket to the athletic show tonight? Gonna be a regular time at the Legion Hall tonight. Come on along and bring your buddy.

The Mother's Day services at the Auditorium was very beautiful. The Post and Auxiliary wish to thank Rev. Swift for his sermons. We also appreciate the kindness of Mrs. Bennett and Mr. Jones for the rendition of solos. To Mr. and Mrs. McVey also goes our thanks for their kind courtesy and to the organizers for a beautiful election and accompaniment.

Memorial Day services will be held in the Post's headquarters. All are welcome.

Comrade Jones has opened up shop in the insurance game, with real estate as a side line. When we get our bonus, Johnny, we may be in the market for some of your wares. The partnership of Babcock—he's our adjutant—and Jones is bound to be a success.

Comrade W. H. Reeves has been busy all week erecting a boxing ring in the hall. Till we see a lot of service, we'll wager. Wait until Wallace Post and Sam Levy go on for four rounds! 'Tis rumored that this is likely at the next show.

Comrade Scott is rarin' to go tonight and has promised to get a fall in less than no time tonight. Scotty is in fine fettle and wrestles for the pure love of it.

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