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WHEN INDEPENDENCE SHOWS

(From the Hollywood Citizen.)

The state machine politicians have joined the ranks of those who found out that Friend William Richardson, Republican nominee for Governor, is independent.

Succeeding in dominating the Republican State Committee in California, the machine politicians are informed by Mr. Richardson that he will have none of them and that his newspaper friends will conduct his campaign for the final election just as they conducted it at the primaries.

Whereupon a great political storm breaks loose in California.

Some of these machine politicians are attempting to say that the so-called progressives of California will switch their support to Woolwine.

Others are loud in vowing vengeance on Richardson. We think the politicians are taking themselves too seriously.

We think the politicians are quite unmindful of the fact that it will take something other than mere politics to swing the votes of the people.

In the first place, where would the State Central Committee gain anything for principle by supporting the Democratic nominee because the Republican nominee insists that he will have his campaign conducted by the men who are in sympathy with his principles and his purposes?

The machine men will not contend that Richardson is less a Republican than the egotistical friend of booze who has the Democratic nomination.

Certainly they will not contend that Richardson, with a record unblemished by either private or public acts, is less worthy of support than the District Attorney of Los Angeles, who lets the most damning charges of a woman employ against him go uncleared.

Let's admit for the purpose of this immediate argument that Richardson has committed a breach of party in refusing to allow a gang, which he promised to kick out of control in the state government, to run his campaign.

But what breaches of party loyalty would be committed if the state organization leaders should come out and support a Democrat?

That idea is impossible. Richardson refuses to let Al McCabe run his campaign. Richardson promised to kick Al McCabe out of politics.

Richardson saw the effects of McCabe running the politics of the state when Stephens was Governor.

He promised to change the very conditions for which McCabe has been responsible.

He either had to violate his pledges right at the start or he had to take the very action he did take, namely, that of refusing to submit himself to the leadership of an organization controlled by McCabe.

One thing the politicians should know by this time and that is that Richardson is independent.

The Old Guard of California tried before the primaries to break down that independence with tempting offers of campaign contributions which were politely but firmly refused.

Just as the Old Guard has no control of Richardson, so the old state machine has no control of him.

If he is elected Governor, and he will be, for the people and not the politicians have the most votes, he will be free to inaugurate his policies of economies, having no political debts to pay, no friends for whom he must provide positions.

This is the type of public servant we should have. If this type is so unusual that it causes a great political storm, let's welcome the storm.

It's the best thing that ever happened for the politics of California.

In the meantime let's not worry about the politicians controlling our votes or dictating the way we should go.

It is our happy privilege to be able to go to the polls and mark our ballots according to the dictates of our conscience.

TOWN WITHOUT TAXES

For ten years the town of Gridley, Butte county, was a taxless town because of the profits of the municipal water and light system. From 1910 to 1920 the people of Gridley paid no taxes to the general fund.

Gridley has a population of about 2000. Its municipal plant consists of an electric distributing system and water works. These plants furnish free street lighting for the city and water for street sprinkling and yower for sewage disposal without charge to the taxpayers.

The power is furnished to the city by a private power company at about 1 1-2 cents per kilowatt hour. As a precaution in case of fire, the lighting plant maintains without cost to the city a stand by steam pump for emergency use.

Even with these free services to the public under the public ownership plant, the rates were much less than those charged under private company control in nearby communities and in addition, the municipal plant was enlarged and im-

Resolution For Vets
Adopted by Editors

Ex-service men of all wars in which the United States has participated, and who entered service from California, should be given the opportunity to purchase farms and homes through the use of state credit and at low rates of interest, according to a resolution adopted by the Southern California Editorial Association, of which the Torrance Herald and Lomita News Letter are members.

Action was taken by this organization at the Hotel Alexandria last week, and followed the presentation of the two propositions by Buron R. Pitts, a disabled platoon leader of the Battle of the Argonne. Mr. Pitts is deputy district attorney of Los Angeles county, a past commander for California of the American Legion, and is directing the campaign to aid his disabled comrades. Although his right knee was completely shot away by shrapnel, Mr. Pitts is recognized as the most dynamic force for veteran legislation in the state. A few minutes after his talk to the editors he started on a tour of the entire state.

The resolution adopted is fully explanatory of the proposed legislation, and is as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS—Propositions 1 and 3 appearing on the ballot in November have to do with the welfare of all veterans of any war in which the United States has participated, and

WHEREAS—These proposed measures are for the purpose of making the credit of the State available to veterans enlisted or inducted into service from this state, thereby making it possible for veterans to purchase homes, homesteads, or farms on a system of long-time payments and at low rates of interest, and

WHEREAS—This organization proposed loans, principal, interest and administrative and incidental

expenses are to be borne by the veteran and that no part of bond issue or expense of administration is at any time borne by the tax-payer, and

WHEREAS—There is no feature whatever of the proposed legislation that provides for a bonus, or a gift to the veteran, but that it is entirely a business transaction which will bring about the rehabilitation of ex-service men first and other ex-service men second, and will improve and make more valuable a great amount of property in the state.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this organization is heartily in favor of the passage of propositions 1 and 3, and does recognize in general that they vote in the affirmative on these propositions at the November election.

(Signed) JOHN E. KING, Pres.
(Signed) J. J. CONRAD, Sec.
Per order of Board of Directors, Name of Organization, Social Editorial Association.
Dated, Los Angeles, September 25, 1922.

There is nothing impractical about the work of uplifting done by the elevator man.

The mistake many make is to think that anything that earns ten per cent a month needs to beg for money.

A woman should blame only herself if she picks a husband from the rummage counter.

It is not easy to frighten a man to tell him he will be punished on the day of judgment.

A good story well told does not require much time in telling.

The really big guns on the lyceum platform are not the ones who shoot over the heads of their auditors.

We can't call the name of a single American who remained at home and attended to his own business, being killed in Mexico.

THIRTY SOLDIERS BLIND
FROM DRINKING BOOTLEG

Thirty soldiers of the Presidio have been sent to the hospital stricken with blindness. Two civilians dropped dead in one San Francisco point. All this occurred in the past few days as a result of drinking bootleg. Who are the persons that dare to sell this poisonous stuff within the very shadow of the buildings occupied by representatives of the civil authority of the Government of California and of the Government of the United States? They are criminals, many of them having a prison record. They are amassing enormous profits out of the sale of the stuff that in one month in a single city sent two victims to the morgue and robbed thirty of their sight. They are doing it in violation of the Constitution of the United States, and are flaunting their crime in the face of Governmental authorities.

What can be done to make the arrogant bootlegger fear the arm of the law? Commissioner Haynes says, in a recent interview, that the padlock remedy inspires fear. This makes the building where bootleg is sold a nuisance, and gives the court power to order it padlocked. Samuel F. Rutter, Prohibition Director of California, likewise says the padlock remedy is the one effective weapon, but his statement also shows that the Federal Court alone cannot make it a terror because there is but one Federal Judge for all of Northern California to try padlock cases, and he can only give part of his time to them. The bootlegger knows this and does not fear the padlock remedy if confined to the Federal Court. He does fear the Wright Act, because it gives the State Judges in every county the power to padlock his poison factory.

Whether the bootlegger shall bow down to the law or the law bow down to the bootlegger is the issue made by the organizations that are directing the campaign against the Wright Act. These are the California Grape Protective Association, which referendated the Wright Law, and the Association Against the Prohibition Amendment, the national organization that has recently come to California to assist the Grape Association. At the recent meeting at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco, called by them to launch the campaign against the Wright Act, their leaders explained why they opposed this Act which makes the law of Congress the law of the State. The Sacramento lawyer who wrote the official ballot argument against the Wright Act, which appears in the printed election pamphlet, and who is a spokesman of the California Grape Protective Association, is quoted by the San Francisco press as saying in that meeting:

"The Volstead Act destroys virility, encourages lawlessness and invades our personal liberty. We are disregarding this law openly and flagrantly."

Giving this remark a practical application, W. H. McCarthy, vice-president of the California branch of the Association Against the Prohibition Amendment and a member of the campaign executive committee, is quoted by the San Francisco press as follows:

"The Volstead Act should be observed the way it is being observed today."

In its practical consequences, the meaning of these statements is that the arrogant bootlegger who is reaping a harvest from the sale of poison that is sending victims to the morgue and inflicting blindness and paralysis on the living shall not bow down to the law.

proved to meet the growth of the town.

In 1910 the town had a population of about 900 with 200 water and 250 electric accounts. Ten years later it had grown to about 2000 and there were 495 water and 475 electric accounts. Electric rates were recently reduced 10% while water charges were cut from 20 cents to 15 cents per thousand gallons.

Gridley is simply another instance to prove that public ownership in the distribution of water reduces rates.

Boy's Adventures In Jungle

True Story of Thrilling Experiences of Torrance Resident in the Wilds of Florida Everglades

(Continued from Last Week.)

Abandoning our futile attempt to count the turtles in sight we concentrated our attention on the leader of the herd. She was a big one, weighing probably from one to three hundred pounds and would measure approximately five feet from tip to tip. After searching around in the sand, much like a dog would for the lost hiding place of a bone he had buried, Mother Turtle found a spot to her liking and began digging with her front flippers and gradually her body entirely disappeared in the soft sand. This plan of preparing the nest was followed until hundreds of them had entirely "dug themselves in" while still hundreds of others were leaving the surf.

Despite our cramped position that actually made movement impossible, the sight of these hundreds of mothers making a nest where they might lay their eggs was so absorbingly interesting that we literally held our breath until the last of the turtles had laid her eggs and after carefully covering the nest and so arranging the dry sand that it was not possible to see where it had been disturbed had slowly waddled off toward the water.

Then we arose and with a shout that must have terrified the turtles we hastened after them but fleet as was the Indian and the negro we were unable to overtake them before they plunged into the surf.

Retracing our steps we made a search for some of the nests hoping to secure some fresh turtle eggs. In this we were successful for with the aid of a long sharp stick with which we prodded the most likely places in the soft sand we soon found the point of the stick covered with the yolks of eggs and began digging.

At a depth of about two feet we discovered the eggs numbering about fifty. They were snow white in color and almost round in shape and about the size of a pullet's egg with a soft shell that was rough to the touch. Later in camp we cooked them in many styles and while of a peculiar taste we thoroughly enjoyed them and during our trip down the river never failed to secure some when the opportunity came. On one of these "egg excursions" we caught a monster turtle and mother had a ride on its back—but that's another story, as Kipling would say—that I'll tell at another time.

And now boys, comes one of the most interesting episodes of the whole trip. While not perhaps as exciting as many I have already related and will relate farther on, to me, as I look back on it, the capture of the manatee, or "sea cow" as it is called down south, was the most thrilling event of the entire trip.

The manatee, or as it is usually called "manatee" is, to use the big words of the encyclopedia, an "herbivorous aquatic mammal" that is, it lives on vegetation and not flesh, is at home only in the water and is a warm-blooded animal. It is from nine to thirteen feet in length and has a divided tail and two fore flippers that serve the creature in the place of limbs. It is whale-like in shape and is found only in Florida, Mexico, Central America and the West Indies. It has been for many years, so rare that at the time I saw one captured at the Barnum & Bailey circus had a standing offer of \$50,000 for a live specimen that could be delivered in New York. To my knowledge they have never had to pay the money for the animal usually dies soon after being captured though one was once

sent alive to Europe where it was exhibited in an aquarium for sixteen months before it died.

While its flippers have no "fingers" each show three distinct nails as though nature intended it to have fingers. Its big eyes are very small considering its bulk and are placed on each side of its ugly head. The skin is a dark gray and finely wrinkled and does not glisten in the sun like that of a whale or seal. It prefers the shallow waters of a bay or lagoon and feeds off the vegetation growing on the bottom. A peculiarity of this rare animal is its habit of carrying its young under its arm much like a human mother would carry a baby. It is never known to voluntarily leave the water even when attacked is easily frightened and perfectly harmless even when carrying its young. Its courage is not in proportion to its weight and one would imagine a creature weighing from three hundred to five hundred pounds would show more fight when attacked and perhaps this very gentleness was responsible for its being called the "sea cow."

While their capture is very rare even in their Florida home mother and I were fortunate to witness one and will never forget the sight.

We had left the turtle feeding grounds many miles astern and were looking for a likely place to camp. Selecting a wooded promontory across the river we made for it and as we neared the spot we heard a noise on the opposite side of the strip of land that resembled the squeal of a pig about to be butchered, intermingled with the guttural exclamations of several Indians.

As we rounded the point of land we saw what appeared to be a whale thrashing about in a rope net that was being slowly hauled toward land by several Seminole Indians, whose squaws and children added to the din by their screams and shouts of encouragement. Struggling to free itself from the mass of vegetable rope with which its huge bulk was enmeshed and lashing the water to a foam with its flat tail, the creature in the net seemed to my boyish sight more like a deep sea monster than a fish or animal.

Squealing and emitting the most plaintive sounds the manatee, for so it proved to be, was finally brought to shallow water and at last hauled by the combined efforts of the male Indians, women and children to the dry beach, where it still struggled so fiercely that I was frightened and ran to a nearby bluff where I could watch the proceedings in safety.

After tugging and hauling for perhaps thirty minutes the monster was brought into shallow water, still encased in its net. Not until it was "hog-tied" and I knew that it could not escape would I descend from my perch where I had watched the proceedings with the greatest interest.

The huge animal, weighing perhaps four hundred pounds lay perfectly passive after being "trussed" like a fowl and for fear for my own safety changed to fear for the fate of the manatee, that I knew would be killed for its delicious meat and the great amount of fat that its well fed body contained. So keenly did I feel sympathy for the dumb creature that after we had seen preparations being made for its killing that I suggested to mother that we leave the scene, which we did, much to the amazement of the Indians who naturally expected us to stay and share in the division of the meat.

Continued Next Week)

A POLITICAL TRICK EXPOSED

A very clever attempt is being made to deceive the people as to what took place at the meeting of the Republican State Central Committee in San Francisco on Saturday, September 23d. Interested parties are spreading the statement that there is inharmonious between Senator Johnson and Friend Richardson, candidate for Governor, that there is a split in the Republican party and that Richardson has "bolted."

No such thing has happened. Richardson is not against Johnson and Johnson is not against Richardson. On the contrary, Johnson has publicly declared he is for Richardson and Richardson has publicly declared he is for Johnson.

What has happened is this: For many years Richardson has been State Treasurer and as such has received and paid out all the money of the state. In this position he has learned that vast sums of the people's money are being wasted in unnecessary expenses and the payment of salaries to unnecessary and incompetent state employees, and in his primary campaign he promised the people that if elected Governor he would stop this waste and cut off these unnecessary officers.

This, of course, was notice to these officers that if Richardson is elected Governor they will lose their jobs. By shrewd political manipulation of the Republican State convention these public office-holders secured the appointment of a considerable majority of the State Central Committee. At the meeting of the committee on September 23rd notified the committee that if it put office-holders and those who had fought him in the primary election in control of the coming campaign he would not take the risk of entrusting the management of his

fight for election as Governor to his political enemies, but would carry on his campaign independently of this organization. The committee organized by electing his opponents as its officers. As a result the issue is clearly made and it is this:

The unnecessary and wasteful state officeholders have organized to fight Richardson and to defeat him, if possible, and have obtained control of the State Central Committee. As a result Richardson must fight for his election independently of this organization and against the useless state officials.

The fight for the election of Governor is not a fight between Richardson and Johnson, for there is no such fight. There is no split in the Republican party. The split is between Richardson and the unnecessary and wasteful state employees and this same crowd. The story that Richardson has turned reactionary is not true. He has always been progressive and is now. This organization of greedy office-holders will use Woolwine the Democratic nominee for Governor, if by doing so they can hold their jobs. This talk of a split in the party, of a break between Johnson and Richardson, and of Richardson turning reactionary, is only a "smoke screen" designed to hide the manipulation of these office-holders through which they hope to accomplish the defeat of Richardson and the continuation of their hold on the money in the state treasury.

The voters of the state should not be deceived. Richardson is making that he is for the schools and every necessary and forward-looking state improvement. He is against waste and extravagance and against allowing a lot of useless, incompetent state office-holders to squander the money of the state.

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