

THE RICHMOND PALLADIUM AND SUN-TELEGRAM.

Published Every Evening Except Sunday, by
Palladium Printing Co.
Masonic Building. Ninth and North A Streets
R. G. Leeds, Editor. E. H. Harris, Mgr.

In Richmond, 10 cents a week. By Mail, in advance
one year, \$5.00; six months, \$2.00; one month, 45 cents.
Rural Routes, in advance—one year, \$2.00; six months,
\$1.25; one month 25 cents.

Entered at the Post Office at Richmond, Indiana, as Second
Class Mail Matter.

Ex-Mayor Hunt on City Government

H. T. Hunt, former mayor of Cincinnati, handed a number of surprises to the natives of Indianapolis in his address to the Bar Association of that city last Wednesday. He actually told those folks, whose own mayor recently denounced commission government, that the root of municipal misrule lies in having a wrong system of government.

Quit prosecuting bosses and eliminate opportunities for graft. If all the bosses in America were in penitentiaries for long terms, the causes of our civic disorder would not be removed nor would a democratic form of government be substituted for a dictatorship."

Of course, Indianapolis people don't believe that. They still pin their hopes of better conditions to the jail and the workhouse! If things go wrong, it is because the officials are crooked and not because the system is crooked! The way to cure the disease is to jail the offending official. He's the fly in the ointment.

Indianapolis people may be a long time coming to understand the real facts about city government, but ex-mayor Hunt gave them a few things to think about meanwhile. Note a few of them:

"Use the Civil Service."—As things now are, a man is appointed usually because he belongs to the ruling party and has been a "worker." The job is for him a little "velvet" to reward faithful services. Whether or no he is fitted for the place doesn't matter.

"Eliminate national politics."—What connection there may be between removing garbage and the national tariff or the Mexican question is pretty difficult to discover, but the enemies of commission government profess to know what it is.

"Centralization of authority."—It is easier to catch one thief than a dozen. The more authority is divided, the more difficult it is to find the guilty man. By making four or five responsible for the conduct of affairs, the public can always keep its eye on them. When forty or fifty are in control, it is usually impossible to spot the man guilty of malfeasance.

"Lengthen term of office."—We leave a man in office barely long enough to enable him to learn something about his job. When he is able to do his work efficiently, we kick him out. This is very much appreciated by the "interests." They are always on the job.

"Give salaries commensurate with duties."—If the city bids for efficient men, it must be willing to pay as much for them as do private corporations. If private corporations find it economy to employ high-priced men, so will the city.

"Employ municipal experts."—The administration of public affairs requires in many cases special training. Any Tom, Dick or Harry can't do the work. The notion "that practically any man can fill a public job" is, as Hunt said, pure fallacy.

"Educate the public."—If a man fails to look after his own business, he needn't expect that someone else will look after it for him. As long as the people remain indifferent to their own public interests, they have no room to growl when those who do look after them pocket a little now and then to pay for the trouble.

We will never have efficient city government merely by scolding the men in office or by sending one now and then to jail. The only way to get it is to put in the right system. Mayor Hunt understands what that system is.

Wayne County Farmers Organize

Harrington Emerson taught industrial workers the secrets of efficiency whereby they are able to save mints of money every year. Louis Brandeis showed the railroads how they might save a million a day. Hugh Chalmers, "the world's greatest salesman," made the National Cash Register Company one of the greatest factories in the world.

All three of these experts used the same method—scientific management. Scientific management means elimination of guess work. It calls for attention to details. It is a method of borrowing other men's brains. It means that one must slough his prejudices and try to learn what he does not know. It is the use of the experimental method common to all sciences. It means attention to details and the doing of work according to method instead of "by guess and by gosh."

Scientific management has saved men in business and industry barrels of money. Why can't it do as much for the farmer?

Why not?

The federal Department of Agriculture sees no reason why. It is now trying to teach the farmers of the country scientific farming and it has under way a scheme of legislation which will make all the knowledge of agricultural science available to the remotest tiller of the soil.

Our farmers, as a class, say the authorities, need to learn scientific management. So far as results are concerned, they are far behind Euro-

ope. Where we can get but 80 bushels of potatoes per acre, Belgium gets 226, France 190 and Russia 135. Our average wheat crop is 13.7 bushels. Europe's ranges from 26 to 40. Europe's crops as a whole average two and one half times our return on the same area of tillable soil. This is not due to better land or climate, but to better methods.

Wisconsin is handicapped in many ways. A large proportion of her area is covered with brush, her central counties are clogged with sand and she has a rigorous winter climate. Yet in spite of this, she has forged ahead and now stands with the leaders among the states. The secret of her success is nothing else than that she found a means of carrying her State University, and all the agricultural knowledge which it contains, to country dwellers in every county within her borders.

What this co-operation did for Wisconsin, it will do for Wayne county, a truth of which the farmers of "Old Wayne" are already cognizant as is proved by their enthusiastic endorsement of the proposed Wayne County Farmers' Commercial Club. That organization should be a kind of clearing house for scientific farming and it should be to the country people what the Commercial Club is to the city. It should be even more. There are some interests in the city which can receive but very little attention from the Commercial Club. There are no interests in the country which could not be benefited by so splendid a method of co-operation as the proposed organization.

Cartoonists

Because of ability in making cartoons, E. B. Johnson was paroled from prison the other day by Governor Hiram Johnson of California. Of two hundred drawings made during his incarceration, a number of the most powerful found their way to the Governor's hands, who released the man in order that he might place his gift in the service of the public.

If this convict is a genuine artist in the cartoonist line, we don't wonder that Governor Johnson couldn't keep him in jail. The wonder is he remained bottled up as long as he did. Cartoons, if they are worthy the name, usually are able to break through anything, even ivory plated skulls.

It was the cartoonist, Thomas Nast, who, in the seventies, bombarded the notorious Tweed ring with such vigor the people of New York, who had been robbed of more than one hundred and sixty million dollars by that biggest of political crooks, hauled him down from his place of power and sent him to jail, where he died.

It was F. Opper who, fifteen or sixteen years ago, helped so much to launch the tide of popular indignation against the trusts. Opper's knowledge of human anatomy, to judge from his figures, is scant, but he so contrived to set the fat monopolies before the people as to make them believe they were the veriest ogres of thievery and cruelty.

It has been held by some that Opper's cartoons are to be held partly to account for McKinley's assassination. Some say Czolgosz became inflamed against the President through seeing him always represented as following on Mark Hanna's heels in his dollar-coated subservience to the big interests. Whether there is anything in that or not, Opper's "readers" are usually inspired to kill something, so clever is he in arousing antagonism to objects of his satire.

The cartoon, spite of its apparent simplicity, is a flexible instrument, susceptible of an astonishing variety of uses. In the hands of Caesare of the New York Sun, it becomes a force that fairly prostrates one. His cartoons during the last New York municipal election were almost brutal. He seems to work with the stub end of his pen.

In the opposite extreme is the work of Frank Fox of the Washington Times, one of the cleverest of all the masters of the difficult art. His take-offs on the fads of the day are deliciously funny.

Perhaps the most influential of all living American cartoonists is McCutcheon of the Chicago Tribune. He has the gift of putting a world of meaning into a line. His panel cartoon of Wilson's message to congress was a better criticism of that document than many of the labored interpretations printed alongside it in the news columns.

FAITH

We tread the paths their feet have worn,
We sit beneath their orchard-trees,
We hear, like them, the hum of bees
And rustle of the bladed corn;

We turn the pages that they read,

Their written words we linger o'er,
But in the sun they cast no shade,
No voice is heard, no sign is made,
No step is on the conscious floor!

Yet Love will dream, and Faith will trust,
(Since He who knows our need is just),
That somehow, somewhere, meet we must.
Alas for him who never sees

The stars shine through his cypress trees!

Who hopeless lays his dead away,
Nor looks to see the breaking day

Across the mournful marbles play;

Who hath not learned in hours of faith,

The truth, to flesh and sense unknown,

That Life is ever lord of Death,

And Love can never lose its own!

—Whittier in "Snow Bound."

Exacting Tenant.—Mr. Longsuffer—"Say, janitor, it's down to zero in my flat."

Janitor—"Down to zero, is it? That's nothing."—New York Globe.

The Original One.—Bessie swung from the clapper of the curfew-bell.

"I see," remarked the sexton old and deaf, "that you are not in favor of free tolls."—New York Press.

ORCHESTRA TO PLAY ANNUAL CONCERT

Members Practice Diligently
For Entertainment Sched-
uled to Be Given April 15.

The Richmond Symphony orchestra, which has been rehearsing since last November, is about ready for its annual concert. This year it will be given in the high school auditorium on the evening of April 15.

This orchestra, which has gained much prominence abroad for its achievements, has been doing diligent work during the last six months to further mastery of the art, under the direction of Lee B. Nusbaum.

Patrons of the concert will be surprised at the marked progress and accomplishments of this splendid or-

ganization. It has gone steadily forward and is now stronger than ever before. Such work as this being done by local people, who do it for the love of art and their public spirit, should stimulate the pride of the citizens to give it support in every way possible. This will be quite a triumph for Mr. Nusbaum, who is not a professional, and gives gratuitous service.

The program will be more popular than ever this year. While the numbers will be from classics, they will be shorter and of greater variety than heretofore.

Miss Carolyn Hutton will partici-

pate with violin, and Mr. Frederick A. Thomas, a splendid baritone, of New York city, will sing. Tickets will sell for 50 cents.

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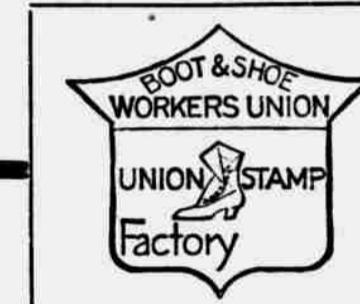
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