

# ALLIANCE HERALD

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Incorporated

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THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 1912

# MAYOR GAYNOR FOE OF GRAFT.



Photo by American Press Association.

Mayor Gaynor in oilskins. The mayor does his inspecting of city work in person and thoroughly. In this instance he was examining New York's great water supply siphon under the Hudson river. Some other city officials declined to descend the 1,200 foot shaft in a bucket.

"Swat," says the editor of one of our esteemed exchanges that is quite a creditable newspaper, except for the lack of originality often displayed in its editorial department, "the fly."

Just now a great deal of interest is manifest in weather conditions in this country. Crops have been doing splendidly so far, but the need of rain is being felt. There are indications that we will get it soon.

Dave Lee is having a strenuous time getting his drink emporium firmly established in the village of McGrew, Scotts Bluff county. Judge Hobart of the district court sustained the remonstrance against the action of the village board in granting a license under his first application, and now he is advertising to make another application.

"Down at David City," says the Scottsbluff Herald, "the local merchants have joined together and are offering to sell their customers all kinds of merchandise at the same prices as Sears & Gummywad sell their goods for. Now there is some class to this sort of a 'stunt.' The Herald might add that the David City merchants have also arranged to properly advertise their stunt—and there is some class to that, too."

The Crawford Courier of last week makes use of a double-column article on its first page to institute a "swat the fly" campaign. Says the Courier: "Swat the fly! Ply the swatter, the poison, the club and the gun." The Herald begs to inform our brother editor that an Alliance man has invented a fly trap that beats "the swatter, the poison, the club and the gun," all combined, in effectiveness in getting rid of the disease-scattering flies. It is Hamilton's Triplicate Fly Trap.

There has been great interest in the assessment of real estate in Box Butte county this year, due partly at least to The Herald calling attention to the fact that speculators holding vacant lands and city lots have not heretofore paid their just share of taxes. To put a premium on leaving lands and lots unimproved by assessing improved real estate higher in proportion to its value than the unimproved, is in our opinion a very poor and unfair policy. We are pleased to see some move made to correct the error. The county commissioners are holding their last session as a board of equalization for this year.

It is still regarded as nothing short of a miracle that any man should have the power to wield such a marked influence over any community, large or small, as is exercised by Mayor William J. Gaynor of New York. The whole spirit of the town has changed since he moved into the city hall. There has been a decided lessening of the nervous strain which was supposed to be a necessary evil incident to life in a great city and a gradual return to a more normal state of mind.

**Set on a Hair Trigger.**  
In former days every administration seemed to be set on a hair trigger, and this nerve tension worked its way into the whole fabric of the city until it extended down to the bootblacks. This was due primarily, no doubt, to the constant criticism of the opposition in municipal affairs and to the knowledge on the part of those who were criticized that much of it was merited. The cry of "graft" which was continually being raised in one direction or another was all that was required to start a panic among all those who were interested, directly or indirectly. No sooner was it stilled than trouble would break out somewhere else.

Those in authority felt that they must do something, and do it quick, and in their hurry to silence criticism they often made bad matters worse. Those who paid the taxes, whether as property owners or rent payers, felt that they were not getting the worth of their money. People who worked for the city or did business with it were required by the time honored law of precedent to pay tribute to some man "higher up." Business men caught the fever and became suspicious of each other, and so it went, with the voice of accusation always in the air. "Do your neighbor or he will do you" became the New York motto.

**Cannot Be Stampeded.**  
Under Mr. Gaynor all this has been changed. The people have learned that at last they have a mayor who cannot



MAYOR GAYNOR AS A YOUNG CRUSADER. (From a photograph taken at the time he sent "Boss" John F. McKane to the penitentiary for election frauds.)

be stampeded or carried off his feet, who regards New York as a great business institution and is determined to administer its affairs with absolute honesty and with no consideration other than the interests of its citizens, who believe that people should be as honest in their dealings with the city as in their relations with each other and who holds the rights of every good citizen to be sacred and inviolate. They have weighed him in the balance—some of them with misgivings at first, through their old skepticism—and they

have not found him wanting. They have seen him correct so many abuses which they had thought never would or could be corrected that they have come to have faith that he will do all things well. And, trusting him, they have come to trust each other. Things have come to such a pass that people speak of the Ten Commandments without apologizing and discuss moral principles in public without blushing.

**"Quietly and Decently."**

This revolution is not due to the fact that the mayor is not radical, for he is radical enough to suit any one but an out and out anarchist, but rather to his wholesome point of view and to his insistence that all things be done "quietly and decently," which is one of his mottoes. It is attributable, too, to the fact that he has always kept close to the people and studied conditions. He knows what the people want and understands their needs.

Twenty times at least he has been told, sometimes by his most trusted advisers, that if he issued this or that new order, upsetting old conditions and smashing traditions in both eyes, "the heavens would fall." But undisturbed he proceeded to lay down the new policy, and the heavens are still as far from the earth as before. The only thing that ever happened when he established one of these radical new rules—radical only in that they were in the interests of the plain people—was that a lot of folks, including some of the early doubters, jumped up and gave three cheers for Gaynor. They have continued to cheer, for one reason or another, until it has developed into a habit.

**Tens of Millions.**

How much annual graft has been abolished by Mr. Gaynor since he took office it is impossible to state or even closely estimate. Certainly it runs into the tens of millions. He found corruption and oppression all about him. Without any blare of trumpets he put into practice the doctrines he had been preaching for years. He first took the police in hand and by vigorous measures put an end to clubbing and all undue interference with the rights of the citizen. He served notice on the saloon keepers, who had been paying \$3,000,000 a year for "protection" through an association, that if they paid any money to the police they would be throwing it away and that if he found it out he would see that they were prosecuted. The police were told that they must enforce the law only in a lawful way, and they are doing it beyond the dream of the most altruistic citizen before Mr. Gaynor moved into the city hall.

**Grafters Promptly Punished.**

He discovered that the dockmasters had been working the richest kind of a gold mine at the city's expense. For many years without any sort of a check on them they had been collecting large fees from steamship companies for the use of the city's wharfs and turning into the city as much or as little as they pleased. In his quiet but thorough way he caught some of them red handed. Availing himself of his right to sit as a committing magistrate, which no other mayor had ever exercised, he had the pleasure of binding one of them over to the grand jury.

**Saved Over a Million.**

In the one little item of city printing he effected a saving of more than a million dollars a year. Other departments were investigated with like results and reorganized with new men at the head of them. Graft was abolished and waste eliminated without regard to who was hurt. In national politics the mayor is a strong Democrat, but he holds that national politics has no place in municipal affairs. Consequently he has not considered politicians nor political consequences, but only the interests of the people.

# THE OUTLET

PERPETRATED BY WALT McDOUGALL

BELIEVE ME, EVERYBODY HAS A CURE FOR YOU NOWADAYS!



# City Meat Market

Having purchased the Roach Meat Market I will conduct it under the above name, at the same convenient location, **Corner Box Butte avenue and Fourth street.**

We have put on our own delivery and will give our customers an unexcelled service. The quality of our meats is guaranteed.

We expect to purchase the best home grown stuff and do our own butchering, thus saving freight to Omaha and back. We will sell steak at the following prices:

- Chuck Steak . . . 15c
- Round Steak . . . 19c
- Loin and T Bone Steak 22c

And other cuts in proportion

We carry also a full line of

# Cured Meats

GIVE US A TRIAL

PHONE 640

# J. R. Barb, Prop.

Formerly of the Drake & Barb Resident Meat Market

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