

**Comment--and
Discomment**

Newspaper wars have their amusing side. We are thinking not alone of the Battle of Alliance, but of an undecided struggle that has just terminated at Holyoke, Col. We have been somewhat at a disadvantage in following this latter campaign, as we receive but one of the Holyoke newspapers, The Enterprise, but its editor is a long-winded as well as long-suffering cuss, and he's reprinted enough of his opponent's drivel to give us a fair insight into what the racket's all about.

It appears that the enterprising editor of The Enterprise started the scrap. The school children in the grades wanted a phonograph, and the thought came to him that they might solicit subscriptions for his paper on a commission basis and earn it. The kids were delighted with the idea, and within two or three days had earned fifty dollars. Then the green-eyed competitor jumped into the game. Complaint was made to the school board, and the principal compelled the children, not only to cease earning money, but to take back all that they had earned. All hopes of a phonograph went glimmering.

Then the opening gun was fired in the War of Holyoke. The Enterprise editor lambasts his opponent as follows:

"The meanest man of the lowest imaginable principles has again sprung up in the shape of dried-up aftermath of political scum and the dupe of little Germany during many campaigns conducted during the black years when a man's vote was controlled by a drink from a bottle or a threat from the 'higher-ups,' who controlled their jobs and their daily bread.

"Being unable because of his past to longer practice his unprincipled and degrading methods on men, he now confines his underhanded political schemes to the realms of purity and innocence—the school room—so that the autocracy of 'little Germany,' who furnish him with a few crusts in return for shouldering the blame for their near crimes in fleeing the public and to hide their efforts to rule the town as did the kaiser in Germany.

"He has now retired to his den, like a yellow cur, gloating over the fact that he and his pack have succeeded in crushing the efforts of a few little children to gain something

of their own, of educational value and a valuable asset to their school."

This frightful indictment was evidently answered. It seems almost impossible that anyone could think up answer to anything so crushing. Almost as impossible as anyone getting King Bennie's goat! But Editor Damewood, the alleged villain, came back with an offer to buy the instrument "with not strings attached." In other words, he agrees to put up \$50 to pay half the expense of buying a phonograph. Here's how The Enterprise swatted that suggestion:

"In your challenge to the Enterprise, in which you pledge \$50 of some one's money for the purpose of purchasing a phonograph for the school children with no 'strings attached,' we, after looking over our books, find that you are indebted to us for \$78. This account is for services rendered and is now past due. Now, we are going to go you one better than your \$50 pledge. You can take the \$78 which you owe us and put it with the somebody's \$50, which makes a total of \$128, enough to buy a phonograph for the children.

"We know you have suffered remorse—your acknowledged \$50 repentance assures us of that fact, and by so doing you have at least made visible a small spark of manhood, which should again entitle you to a limited level among human beings, and an opportunity to raise your head from the shameful attitude to which it has fallen. Yours has been a hard road for the past week, and we pity you for the miserableness which you brought on yourself by your own solicitation. We trust that this one act, though it be a degraded one, be stricken from your record by the Almighty when the great reaper paints '30' over the entrance to your den. You deserve this consideration for your remorse, for even though you be one of the lowly, you have repented publicly, and may the Lord have mercy on your wretched soul."

This time the villain in the plot evidently repudiated the \$78 indebtedness, for the third week of the Holyoke war the Enterprise, under the head, "Bolsheviki Blood of Lowly Pastepot Editor Crops Out" prints these joits:

"Great shades of Trotsky! Holyoke has been invaded by the principles of bolshevism and now all that remains to be done to 'get out from under' a load that not only causes sleepless nights but great anxiety and extreme uneasiness during every waking moment is to repudiate all debts. So did the aspiring members of the Russian soviet, and the 'paste pot' editor of the so-called news-

paper down the street, a person called C. E. Damewood, has availed himself of the simple and convenient method originated by the denizens of Bolsheiland. The method is simple. A mere matter of denying the debt and it's all over with—sometimes. But not in this case.

"We don't intend to resort to the old primitive method of 'taking it out of your hide,' Damewood, but unless we see the seventy-eight dollars coming forthwith by Monday morning we will put our check for \$50 in the hands of the district treasurer, and we will depend upon our rights as American citizens and protection of the courts to get what is due us from you, for we have wasted enough time and paper writing and taking you dunn."

We've looked over the last issue of the Holyoke paper in vain for further news of the war. Not a single word or line. It makes us wonder. Did the villain Damewood come across with the \$78 alleged to be due, and are the children in the Holyoke schools marching in orderly array to the strains from a bright new phonograph? Or did Damewood find a way to cork his opponent up? Or is the whole matter now in the hands of the courts? Oh, well—

Our real idea in printing this, aside from amusing Herald readers, was to assist our own opponent, who finds his editorial pencil a little unwieldy for him at times. We can assure Ben that for wealth and flow of language, for burning words and fiery invective, he need look no farther. Far better to follow the example of the Holyoke Enterprise than the one he is now following.

You can easily entertain the average man if you will let him brag on himself.—Buckshot.

Brennan Says

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