THE MUNICIPAL LEAGUE.

An Impartial Statement of Its Origin and Purposes—Americans Who Support It Should Do So With Their Eyes Open.

SAMOSET IN THE SADDLE

Whatever Its Purposes the Roman Catholics are the Controlling Spirit ---Jesuit W. A. L. Gibbon's Threat That He Would Defeat Protestant Principles and the A. P. A. With the Municipal League.

A LARGE BOODLE FUND RAISED TO DIVIDE REPUBLICANS.

(Republished from last week.)

THE AMERICAN desires to be entirely fair in the discussion of the Municipal League of Omaha. Whatever seeks to improve government, in any department, is worthy and will receive the support of the American Protective Association, whose object is the upbuilding and perpetuation of the American system. Whatever tends to disintegration in that system will meet with disapproval and condemnation, and it makes no difference what pretexts or schemes are offered as a mask to cover up the real purpose of the promoters.

Last spring there was organized the Municipal League of Omaha. The plan of the league was previously discussed and agreed upon in the Samoset Democratic club of this city. One of the conditions of membership was that no one who was an active worker in the Republican party should be permitted to become a member of the central council, now called the "inside ring" by those who are familiar with the workings of the institution. Another condition was that no member of the A. P. A. was to be allowed to grace the inner circle of the league. The importance of these limitations to the organizers of the league become apparent when the constitution is looked into. In that document it is declared that the central council shall consist of twenty-seven members "to be selected by the organizer" and two delegates from each ward council. This body is the dictator and arbiter of all vital questions. It thus appears that in this land of representative government we have had introduced into our midst an institution essentially dictatorial with a central power, self-constituted and self-perpetuating. George W. Doane was elected president and Gregory J. Powell secretary, before any of the ward councils were organized, or represented, and these gentlemen have continued to serve to the present time. The different working committees were selected at the outset from the original twenty-seven, and they remain the same today. So that practically the representatives sent by the ward councils are mere surplusage, having very little voice in the management of the league. But, strange to say, very few of the Roman Catholic politicians who were present when the central body was organized, allowed their names to be selected as members of the central body. Why? Because that would have exposed their plan too early.

The spontaneity with which this body came into being, rising up like a spectre from the ground, would have challenged less attention if the membership of the central power had been somewhat different from what it was. In the list of names is found several Roman Catholics and a Jesuit, and yet in its published literature it is declared that the league is non-partisan and non-sectarian. No active Republican, no A. P. A! But many active Democrats, all haters of the A. P. A., several active Populists, and a president and secretary both opposed to the A. P. A. Is it to be wondered that a "scheme" was suspected? Can any loyal citizen conceive that an organization controlled by a Jesuit could be non-sectarian? Could an organization made up of a number of defeated office-seekers and active Democrats and Populists, and a few luke-warm Republicans, with no A. P. As., be a non-partisan body? Let us see. Judge Doane, the president, ran for congress two years ago, and Dave Mercer defeated him. The judge has nursed his feelings in a becoming manner, but in various ways it has been learned that he blames the A. P. A. for his defeat. Guy Doane, in his impetuosity, has proclaimed it from the house-tops that the A. P. A. must be "downed." Gregory J. Powell, secretary. What of him? Well, he was a candidate for the school board a year ago, and being on the ticket of a minority party, was defeated. Still the A. P. A. must be blamed. There are other gentlemen in the central council who have grievances, feeling that they have been injured directly, or else labor under a sense of oppression because some friend and political ally has failed to reach the goal of his ambition. We refrain from mentioning all the names. There are gentlemen there who, for the first time, have hazarded their barks on the political seas. They will know more when they get through

Nor do we now wish to go in detail into another aspect of the central body, to-wit: The intimate relations which some of the members bear to the managers of some of the great corporation interests of our municipality. Time will develop these matters, so the people can judge for themselves.

It is interesting at this time to know that W. A. L. Gibbon, Jesuit Roman Catholic, is reported to have said that he would use the Municipal League to defeat and destroy the A. P. A. In this work he has some able lieutenants, notably C. J. Smyth, Roman Catholic manager for Bryan and Holcomb, and member of the Ninth ward league; also T. J. Mahoney and the entire active membership of the Samoset club. How is it to be done? Facts are at hand which tell the story, and the truth of history must be vindicated.

Last Friday night the central council of imperial power met in secret session. The "dickey birds" that nestled behind the pictures on the walls tell a story of surprising interest. It was agreed that a ticket should be indorsed, but very little progress could be made until the A. P. A. came up for discussion. And the A. P. A. had no friends there. Samoset had decreed otherwise. So when the question of a school board came up, is it any wonder that a motion was made to indorse the whole Democratic ticket—the Roman Catholic and all? Some one with a scruple of conscience and an eye for business, suggested that it might be said that the league was not non-partisan in character if it took the ticket all from one party. There were several good names on the other ticket and the Republican ticket was above reproach. Then came the rub, and the subject of the Republican candidates was laid to rest with the quiet remark of Lyman Richardson that it was reported that they "are all A. P. A. and that don't go here!"

And then the "dickey birds" wondered what was the matter with Lyman Richardson? Surely he is not a Roman Catholic. Surely he wants to see the "bulwark of the republic," our public schools, protected from the insidious foe of Romanism. But the fact remained that Lyman Richardson, in a moment of factional spite, had struck at the movement which must succeed in saving American institutions, or they will never be saved.

Well, the ticket for the school board was completed by striking off Mr. Mullen and substituting Mr. Gilmore, a Roman Catholic, and the august central council threw itself back in their chairs and felt that a good job had been done—because Samoset had been placated.

But before we leave the school board question allow us to call your attention to two very amusing things. You remember the central body of the Municipal League endorsed Jonathan Edwards as a suitable man for the city council—he was nominated for the school board. It also endorsed Rev. T. E. Cramblett as a competent man for the school board. He was nominated. Now, do you find either Rev. Cramblett's or Mr. Edwards' name on the school board ticket it has endorsed since the nominations were made? Oh, no; they were Republicans! The whole Republican ticket is said to be A. P. As.! Samoset endorse an A. P. A.? Never! Samoset endorse a Republican? Well, we guess not. They and the league are "agin" the Republicans and the A. P. A. And won't they make them sweat? Oh, my!

So much for the board of education.

Now, let us see what it has done for the Republican party and the A. P. A. in the endorsement of councilmen.

How do we find things down in the First ward? The local branch, before the nominations were made for the council, endorsed Tom Lowry, a Roman Catholic Democrat, and Jonathan Edwards, a Protestant Republican, for the position. Edwards was not a candidate for the council, so the league's endorsement went to Lowry, and as there has been no effort to set that endorsement aside, does it not naturally follow that Lowry is the favored candidate in the First ward?

In the Second ward the Samosets were assured that Flynn would have no trouble in knocking out his Protestant opponent, so the league was advised that it need not show any marked preference for the Roman Democratic nominee of that ward over the Protestant Republican. In other words they had the pins so arranged that they had a "dead mortal cinch" and didn't want them "monk yed" with.

In the Third ward Mr. McAndrews, a Roman Catholic, was playing an uneven game with Sol Prince. It would never do for Sol Prince to get back into the council, and so J. R. Getty, Republican, was indorsed on a Citizens ticket to divide his vote and insure the election of McAndrews.

In the Fifth—well that was a knotty question. In that ward a Roman Catholic had been nominated on the Democratic ticket, and Samoset wanted him elected. But the Republican nominee was too strong. How would they break him down? Who was the man to divide his vote? It would not do to nominate a Democrat on a Citizens ticket: not at all. The question was to find a Republican who could carry the Democratic vote that would likely go to Saunders. And the solution was found when A. T. Rector came into the field.

In the Sixth ward C. L. Jaynes had received the Republican nomination and Geo. Tierney, Roman, the Democratic. The great Sixth ward was liable to elect Jaynes by 700 or 800 majority, and that would never answer the purpose of Samoset. Who could best divide the vote? was the question. When the name of Mr. Gould P. Dietz was suggested it was thought he might succeed, and so Mr. Dietz was indorsed on the Citizens ticket. Thus another sacrifice was offered up to his country.

The indorsements thus made will no doubt be officially made public before election. In the meantime the ward-heelers of the Roman Catholic church are straining every effort to make the scheme for dividing Republicans succeed. While professing to be a movement to reform municipal politics, it is already known that a large boodle fund has been raised to help the league nominees. Jim Creighton was discussing the local situation on Farnam street Wednesday afternoon and seemed quite jubilant over the prospect, saying: "We have got the d—d A. P. A. down for once." Why was Creighton so confident? Perhaps he knew of the amount of boodle that had been placed at the disposal of the candidates put up as aids to the Roman Catholic nominees of the Democratic party. Take for instance the Sixth ward, where the Dietz organization has had $800 placed at its disposal to divide the Republican vote. On Thursday morning, October 25th, a committee representing the league and its candidates called on Milk Inspector Bruner, and asked him to hire the workers in the Tenth district, offering to give him $80 to pay the bills, and saying that was the amount apportioned for that district—one-tenth of the whole. The committee also assured him that if he needed more money he would be supplied. Plattner is said to be treasurer of the Municipal League boodle fund in this ward and Plattner's son is Dietz's book-keeper.

Out in the Seventh ward the Municipal League endorsed Geo. N. Hicks, the Democratic aspirant for the council, before the nominations were made; and that endorsement stands today. Mr. Hicks is the league's choice for councilman, and it will attempt to turn down that old soldier, the old tried, true and honest Charles L. Thomas, so that a Democrat who will vote as the Democrats dictate may sit in the council chamber for the next two years and dole out pap to the "only true church."

But why need these details be prolonged? What more evidence is wanted as to the purpose for which the Municipal League is being used? The well-meaning members of that body, of which there are a few no doubt, have simply been made the cats paws of the Samoset club, which is dominated by Roman Catholics who turn everything to the advantage of their church. They are trying to use the livery of heaven to serve the devil in. We yield to the spirit of prophecy to say that the people of Omaha will not ratify this essentially partizan and morbidly sectarian scheme.

PROOF POSITIVE.

The Photograph of the Fish Better Than an Affidavit.

In these days of sophisticated advancement no one believes a fish story unless the proofs are at hand.

A Chicago artist who is much given to angling makes periodical visits to Wisconsin lakes and invariably brings back large and terrifying yarns regarding his catch. Formerly one of his favorite yarns was that he pulled out a black bass that seemed to be eighteen inches long and just as he was taking it in over the side of the boat it got away from him.

One night at his club he related how he and a man from Milwaukee went out before breakfast and got over 120 pounds of croppies.

"What became of them?"

"Well, we ran out of ice and had to give them away," which explanation was greeted with derisive laughter.

He brought home once a long pine stick on which were two notches, indicating the length of a pike taken one evening just as the sun went down, and which lasted the camp three days.

"Anybody can make a couple of notches in a stick," said the skeptics.

It is very trying. He would return from an expedition full of enthusiasm and large claims, only to meet some alleged friend who would take him aside and ask, seriously: "Now, between you and me, did you catch anything?"

Finally, driven to an extremity, he adopted the scheme which gave him reputation. He painted on a screen the picture of a small house, such as may be found at any fishing camp.

Against this screen he would hang a six-inch fish, the average size of his catch, and would then take a photograph of the fish and the background. According to the photograph the fish would reach from the eaves almost to the ground. The length would be, apparently, anywhere from four to six feet.

When they hoot at his claims and discount his narratives he says: "Gentlemen, the camera tells no lies. Here is a photograph of the monster, the largest ever taken from the lake. See for yourselves."

Ask your friends to read THE AMERICAN.

HISTORY MADE BY LUCK.

Many Notable Events Have Occurred Because of Trivial Happenings.

Dr. Lafferty, of New Orleans, recently delivered a lecture on "Lee's Lack of Luck." The doctor told how two English snobs, at a restaurant in Paris, by their sneers drove Murat out of service as a waiter and through this accident Murat became marshal of France and king of Naples. Samples of lucky accidents were numerous in ancient and modern history and there were also many examples that went to show how many of the ancients believe in good luck or good fortune. Napoleon had lost Waterloo through the mere accident of bringing on an attack of sick headache through eating onion and lamb against the advice of his physician.

In 1866 a quarrel between Conkling and Blaine decided the presidency of the United States many years afterward, when Blaine ran against Cleveland.

Abraham Lincoln, after being a member of congress, desired to secure a clerkship in Washington, but he was defeated by Justin Butterfield. He was disappointed, but had he not been defeated he would have spent his life in obscurity instead of becoming president of the United States.

Oliver Cromwell was once on board a ship bound for America, but he was taken back by a constable, and the result was that he became one of the greatest men England ever knew.

Ulysses Grant would not have been a military man had it not been that his rival for a West Point cadetship had been found to have six toes on each foot instead of five.

The great silver mine, the "Silver King," had been discovered by the lucky accident of a prospector throwing a piece of rock at a lazy mule.

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"We are purely and simply Catholics, and profess an unreserved allegiance to the church, which takes precedence of, and gives rule to, our allegiance to the state."—*Catholic World.*

Rev. J. Hogan, of Kansas City, Mo., says: "That the sacraments are to be refused to Catholics unworthy of the name, who in the education of their children patronize the public schools."—Judges of Faith, page 103.

"It will be a glorious day for the Catholics of this country when under the blows of justice and morality our school system will be shattered to pieces. Until then modern paganism will triumph."—*Cincinnati Catholic Telegraph.*

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