

THE CHIEF

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Tyranny and Crime.

The people, as a rule, common or high bred, are prone to condemn a political party when one of its members becomes a public servant and prostitutes his office his to own interests. They stop not to consider that a man may be honest in his convictions upon his election to a public trust and that he may turn renegade without regard to sacrifice of his party. They then heap abuse and condemnation upon that party, more so than upon the individual who is guilty.

If we would reform the public service in fact, as well as in plausible theory; if we would make good government in federal, state and municipal departments; if we would maintain universal good government; if we would aid moral progress in public affairs; if we would substitute method, order and good men for chaos, crime and criminals, our impulses must be stirred into deeds by the recollection that every citizen, rich or humble, is responsible for the common welfare. The individuals composing the aggregate voting strength are bound by obligations of conscience and their natural duty toward one another to cause the enactment of proper laws and to compel their enforcement.

Crime in public office is a double crime. It is tyranny and treason. It is a crime of tyranny and treason for the author, a crime of tyranny and treason for the instigator, and a crime of tyranny and treason for all persons who are accessory to its performance. The public official who deliberately and flagrantly violates his duty is a traitor to his trust; the instigators and accessories are traitors to their suffrage. They are all tyrants in that, by their crimes, they oppress the government and the people.

Absolutism is classed as tyranny, being the extreme despotism of supreme authority. "Taxation without representation is tyranny" was the inspiration that accomplished American independence. But the despotism of democracy, which may become extreme to absolutism, is the tyranny of licenses in offices of public trust. Absolutism is the tyranny of military power; crime in public offices is the

tyranny of fraud.

Which is worse? The despotism that is professed, established and open tyranny; or the despotism that is accomplished by illicit acts under the mantle of democracy through treason to country, state or city? The one is tyranny without representation; the other is tyranny through representation. Tyranny without representation, in an absolute government, is plain, frank tyranny; tyranny through representation is the tyranny of deceit and theft.

Valuable franchises are granted under liberal conditions to private corporations. The privileges bestowed are larger and more valuable than the voters would allow and the remuneration to the public corporation is relatively insignificant. The legislators are paid, personally, for granting the franchises. There is the treason. The insufficient compensation increases the people's burden of taxation and the lack of protective provisions in the special law makes the public subject to private domination. There is the tyranny.

The voters of today, in every city and state, must realize that the tyranny and treason of peace can become worse than the tyranny and treason of war; that the perpetrators of crime in offices of public trust are the despots of democracy, the foes of society and the destroyers of government. Benedict Arnold was more loyal to the colonies, though he was a traitor, than the criminals in public office, who are tyrants as well as traitors, are loyal to republicanism.

Love of country, state and city; respect for principal and public morals; detestation of treason and tyranny and the aspiration of freedom toward progress are the motives which alone can effect a radical change in the public service. And these motives must not only be felt, but acted at the polls. The citizen who neglects to vote at all elections, although appreciating his individual duty as a citizen, helps to make crime in public office a virtue, gives honor to treason and pays tribute to tyranny.

Cost of Hauling the Mails.

The order of the president directing an investigation of that branch of the postal service which has charge of the transportation of the mails will naturally revive discussion of the much debated question of railway mail pay. At no time since 1884 have the receipts of the postoffice department equalled the expenditures. In 1902 the total expenditures of the department were \$124,785,097, while the revenue amounted to \$121,848,047, leaving a deficit for the year of \$2,937,050, which was small compared to some of the deficits of previous years.

Of the total expenditures of the department \$60,533,217 was paid to the railroads for the transportation of the mails. The annual recurrence of a postal deficit has naturally led to an agitation for a reduction in the rate of compensation for carrying the mails. It has been claimed that the rates received by the railroads are excessive, that they average more per ton per mile than they receive for hauling express matter, and more in some instances than is received for transporting passengers. It is noted, for example, that in many instances newspapers may be sent by express at half a cent a pound, though the mail rate is a cent, and this certainly raises the presumption that the express companies have a better contract with the roads than the railroads.

The railroads claim that the rates of compensation are not excessive; that under the law of 1873 the rates rapidly decline as the volume of mail increases; that it is practically impossible to ascertain the exact cost per ton per mile of the hauling of the mail on account of the introduction of the modern railway mail car or "moving postoffice," in which the mail is received, separated and delivered as the car travels from station to station; that a distribution of the mails in this way makes comparison with passenger, freight and express traffic unjust and unscientific; that over half the mail transported goes free; that the costly equipment furnished by the roads for the fast railway mail service is not charged against the government; that the wiping out of the abuses of the second class mail privileges would not only do away with the annual deficit but would leave the department with a handsome surplus each year.

The subject is one that has been gone into extensively by postmasters general and expert statisticians. If the investigation should result in a more scientific and satisfactory method of establishing a basis of compensation through the weighing of the mails it would be well worth the trouble and expense, to say nothing of the irregularities it might disclose. In one New York court the other day was a longshoreman who had whipped seven policemen. In another court was a woman who had been arrested for beating her husband, another longshoreman. These two incidents go to show that there are different kinds of longshoremen, different kinds of policemen and different kinds of women in this world.

PARAGRAPHS

The Nebraska Home.

When the mellow haze of evening crystallizes into night
And the earth is bathed in softness
From the moon's effulgent light,
And the stars that gem the heavens
Peer at us with kindly eyes
From their distant azure setting
In the bosom of the skies,
What a flood of contentment
Through the being seems to play,
What a sense of blessed freedom
Drives all thought of care away
Where the breezes are the purest
And the fairest flowers bloom
In the restful peace and quiet
Of the dear Nebraska home,
Where the whippoorwills are winging
Through the starlit azure deep
And the gay treetoads are singing
All the little birds to sleep.

Here we live close to nature, seem to indolently rest
In the mollifying magic of care-de-stroying breast,
Listen to her soothing breezes breathing whispered lullabies
As her gentle mother fingers touch our slumber-heavy eyes,
And the red glow of the heavens where the sun has sunk to rest
Far beyond the shadowy mountains rising yonder in the west,
Tinging with all its vivid beauty all the edge of heaven's dome,
Adds soft color to the picture of our dear Nebraska home,
Where the whippoorwills are winging
Through the starlit azure deep
And the gay treetoads are singing
All the little birds to sleep.

The forest of vice presidential timber extends as far west as Omaha.

John M. Ragan of Hastings is being groomed for the governorship next year.

Judge Barnes seems to have been particularly lucky in the enemies he has made.

It will be ex-Judge Sullivan after November 3, and there will be no flags at half-mast.

Herr Most says he is for peace and obedience to the law. Why not try the jail cure on a few others?

The doctors say fat babies are not healthy. Is this to be construed as a deadly blow to the nursing bottle?

One New York poolroom has been raided eighty-five times and still exists. Why not try dynamite?

King Peter has threatened to descend from the throne of Serbia. Perhaps the ghost of his predecessor is haunting him.

The lower house in Serbia is called Skupstina. This, it seems, is one name that the sponsor of the Pullman cars has overlooked.

For general attractiveness the position of prosecuting attorney in a Kentucky feud district is about equal to the Serbian throne.

Two hundred thousand Chinese are starving in the province of Kwang-si. As there is no Chinese vote to look after, we need not worry.

The last idiot who started to cross the Atlantic in a small sailboat has come back from midocean a sadder and dum sight wiser man.

Adams county is on the political map of Nebraska. The populists and democrats have nominated a man from within its borders for regent.

Our relations with Russia are strained, and if things continue as at present we may quit putting up Russian caviare at Sandusky, Ohio.

An eastern divine calls them "peek-a-boos"—those shirt-waists for ladies, you know, with fishnet tops that reveal far more than they conceal.

It costs some young men \$25,000 for a four years' course at Yale. These same young men would spend that much even though they were not at Yale.

The barbers of Peoria, Illinois, are charging fifty cents for a hair-cut. That may soon be a ripe field for a populist evangelist in search of converts.

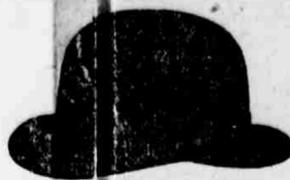
Sodawater, so one college professor has announced, is a by-product of the breweries and should be shunned. How about the root beer that mother makes?

Peary says he will undertake another North Pole expedition if \$150,000 can be raised. People with money to congeal now have an opportunity to subscribe.

It is almost as dangerous at Findlay, Ohio, for a constable to stop a Sunday ball game as it is in some parts of the south for a negro to shoot a white man.

A Michigan farmer has written the authorities at Washington asking that the government clean out his mail box, as a polecat has taken possession

Hats Good Hats



A great many people think all Hats are alike in quality. If they go into a store and a clerk tells them that it's a good Hat, they never stop to inquire "How good?"

THERE ARE HATS AND OTHER HATS

Hats that are Good Hats.

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