

Daily Morning Post

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY

PITTSBURGH: WEDNESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 21, 1903

Reading Matter will be found on each page of this paper.

By S. M. FITZGERALD, A. C. KENNEDY, Advertising Agents, 112 North Second Street, Pittsburgh, Pa.

MORNING POST JOB OFFICE.

We would call the attention of BUSINESS MEN to the fact that we have just received from Philadelphia a number of fine new Job Types, and are now prepared to fill orders for Cards, Circulars, Bill Heads, Paper Books, Posters, and Programs for exhibition. All orders will be promptly filled.

EXECUTIVE PATRONAGE.—The people of this country in the vast amount of patronage wielded by the national and State executives.

One of the greatest political evils that afflict this country is the vast amount of patronage wielded by the national and State executives. The number of offices, and the amount of patronage, within the gift of a president for a single term is not far too great. The foreign ministers and consuls; the Judges of United States territories; the United States marshals; Custom House officers; Navy agents; army and hospital surgeons; more than 20,000 Postmaster district attorneys; and almost innumerable other offices, are all appointed by each incoming administration as vacancies occur or in making for the purpose. In dollars and cents the patronage within the gift of a president for a single term is not far from one hundred million dollars. It is not surprising that so splendid a prize is regarded by a vast array of those who are indirectly or otherwise interested in the office.

To distribute all the offices within the gift of our national administration, judicially, and to our national administration, would require one-fourth of the time of an administration during the term of its existence. Yet so much amount of time are devoted to it, and the consequence is that appointments are made in haste and are of frequent recurrence. The appointing power is misled, and the cunning lies of office seekers prevail over the voice or preference of the people. Men are frequently appointed who are not qualified to perform a certain part of support if before the people for an election to the same office. There follow frequent reports of defalcations; embezzlements; Post Office and Custom House robberies; and frauds and Galpinisms. The people are robbed of their money. The political parties are demoralized and broken down. The president is demoralized for his appointments are governed by fraud and falsehood that he knows nothing about. And the people are disgraced by the success of sycophancy and mediocrity over intelligence, ability, and fraud and cunning over public virtue and integrity.

This evil, great as it now is, is every year increasing. As our population increases, and extends over new domains, new territories are formed, new post offices established, and new and additional offices created. The disbursement of money by the Federal Government are larger each year than in the preceding year, and necessarily so. And they continue to increase until the Republic is fully peopled, its far stretching coasts and almost innumerable harbors fortified and improved, its navy enlarged and strengthened to the limit of its resources, and its post routes extended to every region where the people may dwell. If with but twenty-five millions of people, and but little more than half the domain of the republic occupied, the patronage and expense of the Federal Government are already so enormous, what must they be when our population reaches a hundred million, and the whole complicated machinery of the Government is extended over the whole area, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from the Northern lakes to the tropics? If sixty million dollars per year is the actual ordinary expense per year will be a safe estimate of the expenditure then, it is eight hundred millions during a presidential term. The public offices will be almost innumerable.

But this is not all. We have now thirty-one State governments, and thirty-one Governors of States. Each Governor has also a large amount of executive patronage; and at each State capital is periodically enacted, on a smaller scale, the same scenes that are witnessed every four years at Washington: An inauguration ceremony, an oath of office; an inaugural address; an inaugural ball; and then a fierce and "fire fight" scramble for offices. The Government of Pennsylvania collects and disburses nearly six millions of dollars annually; and a considerable portion of that sum passes through the hands of the State officers, and into the pockets of those whom the Government appoints to office. And it is these good things that pass through those hands without "paying toll" or going into the pockets of such as are faithful public officers and worthy of public notice. If we add up the receipts and disbursements by the State governments of all the States of the Union it will make a round sum of some eighty million dollars per year. If we add to this the cost of county, city, borough, and township governments, it will make a round sum of one hundred million a year. The vast and complicated machinery of the national, State and municipal governments, it is thus seen, are expensive affairs. In fact it costs annually seventy million dollars per head for each man, woman and child in the country to support the government, local and national, that govern and protect them. And a great portion of all these enormous disbursements are at the will of the State and Federal executives.

We believe the amount of executive patronage is far too great. It is demoralizing in its tendency; and is sufficient in itself to destroy the purity, the efficiency and the stability of any political party, however sound and salutary its cardinal principles may be. Since 1838 neither of the great political parties of the country has had control of the Federal Government for two successive presidential terms. The distribution of the offices and "spoils" weakens each party by turns. From ten to twenty applicants appear for each office of value. All are not equally disappointed in each case, and many of them rush into the opposition for revenge; or in the hope of better luck in the future. With the best intentions, the appointing power cannot always select the best men. Such men are not the foremost to urge their claims, or the most clamorous for place and public employment. The most important reasons, and those who will pay office seekers the largest bribes, generally succeed the best; and the public affairs suffer the consequence.

This is an evil which, to a considerable extent, may be remedied. In this State a remedy has been found in the C. C. C. Bill, and it might be further used. In our State, formerly all the judges were appointed by the people. Justices of the peace were formerly appointed. How the people elect them; and so of inferior officers. Other instances might be named. Notarials pub-

OFFICIAL.

Proceedings of Select Council.

January 20, 1903.

Present: Messrs. Agnew, Allen, Alexander, Beach, Clarke, Corbett, Drumm, Egan, Egan, Hendon, Pollock, Steyer, Taylor, Weaver, and Wilson.

Mr. Agnew, on motion of Mr. Taylor, moved that the minutes of the previous meeting be read and approved.

Mr. Clarke, member elect of the First Ward, being present, was duly sworn in by Alderman Taylor.

Mr. Hendon presented a communication from B. E. McGowan, with a proposed act now before the Legislature relative to making the city the manager to grading and opening streets, with Resolution authorizing the President of Council to memorialize the Legislature.

Read twice and laid over.

Also, Bill of R. E. McGowan and Assistant for \$600,00 for streets rendered.

Read and referred to Committee on Claims and Accounts.

Mr. Hendon, petition for grading and paving Clark street.

Read and referred to Committee on Streets.

Also, one for repairing Lewis' alley from Penn to Liberty streets.

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Mr. Wilson, petition for grading and paving Clark street.

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