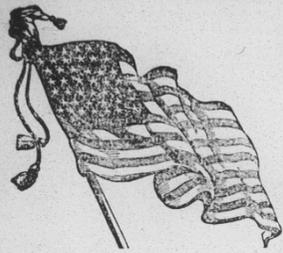


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ELECTRIC LIGHT.

Some Sensible Views on Borough Ownership and Other Important Matters.

EDITOR STAR:—We were somewhat surprised, last week, at reading in THE STAR that the Town Council of Salisbury had refused to grant a franchise to an electric light company that desired to install a light plant there, and that this partly, because a portion of the Council seemed to think that such a plant ought to be under municipal control.

While the power of providing a water supply and light is conferred on the Council by the general borough law, and it is further provided in recently enacted laws that a borough may engage in the business of providing electric light for commercial use, as well as for the lighting of its streets, it is still a serious question whether this power should in all cases be exercised by the municipality.

We have given both the water question and the electric light question a great deal of study, and that, too, from the municipal standpoint. If the people of Salisbury or any considerable number of them really desire to have electric light, it is our deliberate opinion that so far as Salisbury is concerned, that its interests will be best served by granting the franchise for public and private lighting to a private corporation under proper and needed restrictions. We believe it would be a grave mistake for the borough to install a plant of its own, and the chances are, a great deal more than even that, it would in the end prove a very costly one, and we will offer some of the reasons that lead us to this conclusion.

An electric light plant costs money. So will a good system of public water works. But there is this difference: A water plant, properly put in, will have a long lease of life before it will have to be replaced anew—a lease of life far beyond that of the generation that has installed it, and where the water supply can be had by gravity, the expense of keeping it in repair will be but trifling, the wear and tear being but little; and the same may be said of the cost of operating it.

With an electric light plant it is entirely different. It is really a piece of costly machinery that is at all times liable to get out of repair and break down entirely, to be repaired only at a heavy expense. With the best of luck machinery will wear out and will have to be replaced anew. Poles will rot and decay, the wires will corrode and rust, although when first put up they are well covered and protected; yet in a few years the weather to which they are exposed will give the covering a rather ragged appearance, as may be seen in any town where there is such a plant.

Again, the machinery used for this business is far from having attained a state of perfection, and what may now seemingly be all that can be desired, would in a few years be considered antiquated and out of date, and in the market would only bring a fraction of its original cost. And the clamor of the public for an up-to-date service would require it to be taken out and replaced by something better, even if it did go to the scrap heap.

Then there is the constant cost of operating and managing the plant. It won't run itself, and then will come in the question of whether there will be enough patronage to pay the running expenses, keep up the plant and pay at least a part of the debt that must be created. Electric light is a good light—the best within reach—but it is not and cannot, as things are, be a cheap light. Only those who can afford luxuries can indulge in it, and many householders, when they come to consider the cost of it, cling to their oil lamps, even though it be with a sigh. But at any rate the question of how much patronage may be had will be a vital one.

The borough, of course, would need street light; but there is no borough in Somerset county that needs enough street light to justify it in installing a plant of its own and making its own light. Until it would need from 25 to 30 arc lights for the streets, it could certainly buy the light it did need from a private corporation that was engaged in furnishing commercial light, for less money than it could make it for itself.

We are aware that it will be asserted that if such an enterprise will pay a private company—it would also pay the town—that the town could run it just as cheap. That is not so certain. There is plenty of room for "jobs" in a thing of this sort, and always people ready for them, while so far as a private corporation is concerned, if there are any "jobs" in it they are for themselves only. That the original promoters of such enterprises may make it pay them is no reason why the borough could do so.

Again, it would be better to grant the franchise to a private company, for the reason that if electric light is really desired it will be the speediest way of getting it, and also with the least friction. For the borough to take hold of the matter, the town would have to be bonded, and that by a vote of the people. The proposition to do so would

encounter a good bit of opposition, and if the question be fully understood by the people, it may not prevail.

There is also this to be considered: The town needs a water supply, for fire protection at least, and while we would be against municipal ownership of a light plant, we have no hesitation in saying that the water works, when they do come, as come they will in the fullness of time, should be owned and operated by the borough. But if the town would be bonded for a light plant, it would prove a hindrance to the getting of water works under municipal control, as the town could not be bonded for an amount sufficient for both a light plant and a water plant. One or the other would have to be turned over to a private corporation, or be delayed for long years until the debt created for the one could be paid. Such being the case, the Council will do well in our opinion to grant a franchise for the light, and when the times are auspicious they can deal with the water problem to the better advantage.

Let no one for a moment suppose that this is written in the interest of those who are seeking this light franchise. We really do not know who these parties are. It is a matter of indifference to us who they may be. We may fairly say that we are writing this in our own interest, and also in what we believe to be the best interest of the town in every way. And we think that while we are not a resident, we still have such interests in it as fully warrant us in saying what we have said.

We really would like to see the town have electric light. When we visit it we would like to see its streets well lit up at night, so that they may be traversed as readily as by day. But let the Council turn this matter over to the parties who seem to be willing to invest their money in a venture like this. If they can make it pay, all right. If it does not pay, better they than the borough to pocket the loss.

More than twenty million free samples of DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve have been distributed by the manufacturers. What better proof of their confidence in its merits do you want? It cures piles, burns, scalds, sores, in the shortest space of time. P. S. Hay, Elk Lick.

THE GRAVE OF LA FAYETTE.

Something of Interest to Every School Teacher, Pupil and Patriotic Citizen.

In the city of Paris there is a convent and garden known through the immortal Hugo's "Les Miserables." It is the convent of the Petit Piepus. In the grounds of this convent is a small cemetery where nearly 1,500 victims of the guillotine were buried indiscriminately. Here also repose the bones of La Fayette beside those of his wife, who wished to be buried there. The resting place of La Fayette, generally unknown and forgotten, is marked only by a plain granite slab. Upon a register kept by the concierge of the convent there are inscribed the names of but a small number of casual visitors.

In view of these facts the "La Fayette Memorial Commission" has been formed for the purpose of erecting a monument to the memory of La Fayette as a twentieth century tribute from the people of this nation, to be unveiled with fitting ceremony July 4, 1900, and thus grandly celebrate United States Day at the Paris Exposition. It is proposed that the cost of the undertaking, which is estimated to approximate a quarter of a million dollars, shall be defrayed by small contributions secured through the agency of the school children of our land.

The dedication of this monument, secured and built through the efforts of the young people of America, will make conspicuously resplendent our United States Day at the Paris Exposition of 1900. No other country will find such a basis for the celebration of its national day in Paris; but all the nations of the earth will unite with this republic in the dedication of this beautiful memorial, a tribute which shall forever mark the grave of La Fayette, whose memory is consecrated in the hearts of men.

It requires no argument to convince the liberty-loving people of America of the far-reaching value of this most fitting, opportune and significant movement. It will promote patriotism and implant in the minds of our young generation, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, a broader knowledge of their country's history. It is asked that October 19, 1898 be observed as "La Fayette Day" in every school district throughout our land, when our children will be told the story of our struggle for liberty, and they may then contribute their help and pennies in memory of their nation's defender.

The following is a brief recital of the recognition shown La Fayette by our nation in the past: "By Congress, upon the occasion of his departure from America in 1784, it extended him a national farewell. "By the States of Virginia and Maryland, in the same year, passing acts making him and his heirs forever citizens of their respective commonwealths. "By Washington, when, constrained as chief of a nation to be silent and passive toward a family power, he broke all precedents, and personally addressed the Emperor of Germany in

behalf of the release of La Fayette from the dungeons of Olmutz.

"By Congress, when it voted him a sword and passed resolutions commending him in the highest possible terms to the King of France.

"By the reception given La Fayette upon the occasion of his visit to America in 1824, on which occasion Congress gave him an official reception in the hall of the House of Representatives; and when, as the historian states, the people contended with the horses for the honor of drawing his carriage, and when, finally, Congress presented him with an appropriation of \$200,000, a township of land, built and named in his honor a man-of-war, the Brandywine, and tendered the same to him for his conveyance home.

"And also by the action of France, which, having through the influence of La Fayette, loaned us 27,000,000 livres, said in regard to its payment, 'Of the 27,000,000 we have loaned you we forgive you 9,000,000 as a gift of friendship, and when with the years there comes prosperity you can pay the rest without interest.'

PLAN SUGGESTED FOR CO-OPERATION OF SCHOOLS IN RAISING OF FUNDS.

The Commission has decided upon October 19th, the anniversary of the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, as the day which the schools of the United States are asked to recognize as "La Fayette Day." (Official public announcement of the day will be made later on.) On this date, it is hoped, by concerted effort ample funds will be secured to build the monument on a scale commensurate with the occasion.

In the universities and Colleges of the land, the heads of the institutions are asked to appoint committees from their students to arrange and carry out public exercise suited to the idea; embracing perhaps historic drama, patriotic orations, etc., etc.—charging an admission fee for collecting voluntary contributions as local conditions may suggest, and turning the proceeds over to the president of the college, who shall forward it to the treasurer of the Memorial Commission.

In the higher grades of the public and parochial schools the same general plan so far as possible should prevail as in the universities and colleges.

In the primary grades and district schools, the children may be asked to solicit from their parents or acquaintances small contributions of from one cent to ten cents, to be given to their teacher and thence forwarded to the treasurer of the Commission.

The foregoing suggestions are tentative only and should be changed to meet local conditions and sentiment.

ROBERT J. THOMPSON,

Sec. La Fayette Memorial Commission, Chicago, Ills.

Note.—Superintendents, Principals and Teachers who may have charge of the funds in their districts are requested to forward the same Oct. 20th, to Hon. Chas. G. Dawes, Treasurer, Washington, D. C.

You invite disappointment when you experiment. DeWitt's Little Early Risener pleases, cures, through little pills. They cure constipation and sick headache just as sure as you take them. P. S. Hay, Elk Lick.

Carnegie Gun Factory.

Plans are now being prepared by the Carnegie Steel Company for a gun foundry, which will be located at Homestead. It will employ 2000 men. The parcel of land purchased contains 35 acres and cost \$350,000. The Carnegie company is preparing for the construction of a railroad to tide water. The Monongahela Belt Line, part of this system, is now almost completed. It connects with the Pittsburg, Bessemer & Lake Erie. The tide water line has been surveyed up the Monongahela and Cheat river valleys, through the mountains of Virginia, and strikes the seacoast either at Norfolk or Newport News.

When you call for DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve, the great pile cure, don't accept anything else. Don't be talked into accepting a substitute for piles, for sores, for burns.—P. S. Hay, Elk Lick.

A Solution.

The question of perpetual motion has been solved by an up-to-date philosopher.

Rags make paper.

Paper makes money.

Money makes banks.

Banks make loans.

Loans make poverty.

Poverty make rags.

Rags make—well, you stop here and commence over again, and keep on going until the cows come home.

Dewey Pardoned Him.

It is said that William Savage, one of Dewey's sailors, found a considerable quantity of liquor at Cavite the day after the sinking of the Spanish fleet and made such use of it that when found by his superiors he was only able to utter one word—"Hurrah!" The subsequent court martial sentenced him to 15 days in chains, but when the finding of the court was passed up to Admiral Dewey he wrote on it: "The proceedings of the court are approved, the sentence is disapproved, and the accused, William Savage, is ordered returned to his post in consideration of the glorious victory won by the fleet under my command."

There May be Others.

"Did you read that denunciation of Senator —, published in a New York paper a few weeks ago?" asked one Pennsylvania publisher of another. "Yes, I did," was the reply, "and you ought to commend the courage of that paper in your columns for asserting what it did in regard to machine politics."

"Oh, I could not do that," said the first party, "I receive 75 cents per line from the very people whom that New York paper denounced."

Although the public does not countenance such journalism as is referred to above, yet is the publisher always to blame?

Delinquent subscribers and unprogressive merchants who might benefit by advertising, sometimes so embarrass the publisher that oftentimes he is tempted to receive money from unworthy sources. Money which he would not accept, did he but receive proper encouragement from the local field.—Ex.

The Liberated Life Convict.

Pittsburg Times.

A touching story is that of the aged man yesterday liberated from prison after a term of 26 years. Henry Briceland, the oldest inhabitant of Riverside, is out, having been granted a pardon. His sentence was for life, the crime of which he was accused being an atrocious murder. As the evidence was entirely circumstantial there is a reasonable doubt if the man was ever guilty. Yet guilty or innocent he comes from the prison, a man of 70 years, into a different world than that which he left a vigorous man of 44, in 1875. When we stop to consider what the changes have been in 26 years, and the wonderful difference between the surroundings now and then, the change that will greet the gray-haired stranger in a city in which he has lived for more than a quarter of a century without seeing the outside of his prison walls, is almost beyond the scope of the imagination.

Briceland went to prison before the day of electricity—the electric light, telephone and trolley car. He went to prison before the day of the improved steam engine, or the perfecting press that has made one-cent papers possible, or before the day of type-setting machines. He went out of the visible world before the tall building came, before natural gas had revolutionized American manufactures, before the era of development had rightly begun which has already made of the United States the first of industrial nations of the world, and the wealthiest. All this and much more, which is old and commonplace to those who have grown up amid the changing scenes, is new to the man from whose life 26 years of the busiest history of American advancement has been lost. His emotions as he sees the new world must be interesting in more directions than one.

He Deserved it All.

Atlanta Constitution.

"What's this?" exclaimed the justice of the peace in Arenac county. "Do I understand, professor, that you was hissed an' bombarded with eggs and vegetables while you was a playin' the 'Star Spangled Banner'?"

"That's what I say, judge. 'Span'ards couldn't have abused me no worse. I was about the worst lookin' object you ever saw when I reached the brush an' crawled inter a hollow log."

"What have you fellows to say 'bout this high treason?" shouted the court as he fingered a Dewey button and looked daggers.

"I represent these gentlemen," said a bright young lawyer. "All we ask is that this 'professor' play one of his selections for your honor. We offer it in evidence."

Not a dozen squeaking, screaming, loath-filing notes had been tortured from the violin before the court yelled: "Halt! Do you call that infernal racket fiddlin'?" Is that the way you massacred the glor'us anthem of this here glor'us nation? I fine you \$3 an' costs for contempt of court, disturbin' the peace, maintainin' a nuisance and insultin' the flag. Now you kiver groun' lively till you git outen this jury-diction." Then some good-hearted citizen pointed the nearest way to the railroad.

The Girl to Marry.

The girl who takes as much pride in learning to dust the rooms properly as she does in learning to draw, who broils the steak with the same nicety she embroiders a rosebud, who makes the coffee as carefully as she crochets, is the girl who will make the economical, cheery wife, loving mother and delightful companion. It is not a crime to know how to keep house. Every girl expects to have a home of her own, some day, yet the girl and her mother, when circumstances permit, too often act as though there was no such thing as a servantless home and that food grows on bushes, ready for picking.—Ex.

YES, WE CAN!—We can supply cuts suitable for any and all kinds of advertisements and job printing. Call at THE STAR office and see our large assortment of specimens. We can show you cuts of nearly everything that exists and many things that do not exist. No matter what kind of a cut you want, we can supply it at a very low price.