

the creation of the Northern Pacific railroad. Its site was selected by the promoters of that railroad, who tried to make it the metropolis of Puget Sound. They might have succeeded but for their effort to take in advance, in boom prices for town lots, all the benefits of future settlement. For twenty years Tacoma was a one railroad city. The railroad and town site promoters, working in common and pretending to have the best commercial interests of the city at heart, were permitted by the people to dominate the city government. They conducted it as such interests usually conduct government, farming out vice and crime privileges, and taking for themselves the larger special privileges in franchises. Other railroads were kept out of the field, and the street railway lines passed through bankruptcy and reorganization into the hands of the Stone & Webster interests, one of the tentacles of the national water power trust. Only one public utility function was reserved by the people in this general program of exploitation—that of supplying the city with electric light and power. Under this general scheme of Big Business domination and exploitation, Tacoma, machine ruled, has been a wide-open town.

A little more than a year ago the city adopted a new charter providing for a commission form of government. Since then the people have been making constant trouble for their Big Business exploiters. Unlike Seattle, however, Tacoma appears to have had no well recognized progressive political leaders with a broad understanding of fundamental principles of government; so the efforts to bring about better conditions have to some extent nullified one another. This complication has been aggravated by a parasitic press consisting of the so-called "Perkins papers," the morning Ledger and the afternoon News, owned by Mr. Samuel Perkins, which have fought the battles of the exploiters with both consistency and vigor.

The new charter provides for a government by a commission of five, one of whom bears the title of mayor; but his executive powers are not clearly defined. The Recall power is reserved to the people. No primary election is provided for, but partisan politics is excluded. In case no candidate receives a majority at the first election, a second election is provided for at which only one or the other of the two highest candidates at the first election may be voted for.

The first election under this charter occurred about a year ago, and one A. V. Fawcett was elected mayor. Politically, Fawcett is something of a reversion to an old-fashioned type. While having little sympathy for progressive ideas or policies he is still too strong a personality to act as mere messenger boy for special interests. He is a sort of an insurgent reactionary, if I can by that term make my meaning clear. That is, he is a reactionary in political opinions, but insurgent in action, formulating policies of his own and fighting for them vigorously. Known as a reactionary, and having as mayor earlier in the city's history run an "open" town, he was supported at the first commission election by both the Big Business interests and the saloon forces. With this support, together with that of many deluded citizens, he received a majority.

But Fawcett is ambitious to be Governor. So he started in as mayor to make a record hostile to the

special interests which had made his election possible. He undertook rather vigorously to enforce municipal regulations of public service corporations. He also carried in the Commission an anti-treating ordinance. By these actions he got involved in a wrangle with the "safe and sane" members of the Commission, but was not able to get the confidence of good citizens.

The general dissatisfaction culminated in the filing of a recall petition. But in the recall election the people of Tacoma encountered the one serious defect in their system. There was no provision for a primary or any other popular method of choosing opposition recall candidates. The legislature, then in session, enacted a law especially for use in Seattle where slightly different conditions existed, providing for nomination of opposition recall candidates by petition, and the Big Business interests of Tacoma and their "goo-goo" followers nominated a Mr. Seymour by petition—a typical Big Business good citizen candidate of evasive political principles. The radicals tried to offset this nomination with a third candidate, and the selection fell upon a Socialist of the name of Barth. Had the choice between Seymour and Barth been left to popular vote, Barth would probably have been nominated, and would have probably defeated Fawcett; but there was no primary election, and at the first election all three candidates were in the race. Both Fawcett and Seymour ran ahead of Barth, and this left Barth out of the race at the second election, whereupon the Socialists refrained from voting, and Seymour defeated Fawcett.

Meanwhile the war between Fawcett and other members of the commission has resulted in the filing of recall petitions against all the commissioners. One election has been held with no choice, and a second is pending.

In these elections and campaigns there has been comparatively little discussion of fundamental issues except by the supporters of Barth who, having been defeated for mayor, became a candidate for commissioner. The progressive women have taken the lead in the public quizzing of candidates, and out of this effort the voters are coming now, for the first time, to gain some comprehension of municipal problems.

JOE SMITH.

NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of The Public for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, May 23, 1911.

Peace Plans in Mexico.

Peace terms from President Diaz which were equivalent to a complete surrender to the revolutionists, were made public by Mr. José Yves Limantour, minister of the treasury, on the 17th, as follows:

President Diaz and Vice-President Corral will resign before June 1 and a new election will be called within six months.

Minister of Foreign Relations De la Barra will become president ad interim.

Francisco I. Madero, revolutionary leader, will be called to the capital to act as De la Barra's chief adviser. This will be virtually a joint presidency.

The cabinet will be reorganized. The minister of war will be named by De la Barra. The foreign office will be in charge of a sub-secretary named by De la Barra. Other cabinet members will be chosen by De la Barra and Madero, acting jointly.

Political amnesty will be recommended to the Chamber of Deputies.

While the cabinet was in council over the foregoing terms President Diaz was too ill to sit with them, according to the reports, and lay in an adjoining room. The clause providing for amnesty was proposed in a bill introduced into the Chamber of Deputies on the day following. Explaining the measure, the author of the bill, Manuel Calero, said that the revolution had triumphed in all the country, not alone in a military sense, but in a political sense as well. Francisco I. Madero, as the leader of the revolution, received a telegram from President Diaz on the 20th, suggesting that some one in whom Mr. Madero had confidence be sent to the City of Mexico to treat with Mr. De la Barra concerning the minor terms of peace. Mr. Madero appointed Alfredo Roblez Dominguez, who was already on his way to the City of Mexico. Mr. Dominguez was to handle only secondary points, the main points of negotiation being already under consideration by the peace commissioners. On the 22d Mr. De la Barra telegraphed Mr. Madero that he appreciated an offer from Mr. Madero to co-operate with him, and that he would receive Mr. Dominguez with pleasure. In the meantime the main points of negotiation were finally covered with a general peace agreement arranged by the peace commissioners at Juarez. This agreement was signed at 10 o'clock at night on the 21st, by the light of matches and automobile lamps, on the steps of the custom house—the meeting place of the commission which at that hour was found closed. Telegrams announcing the signing of the agreement were immediately dispatched throughout the country to revolutionary and Federal leaders alike. The text of the agreement follows:

In the city of Juarez, on the 21st day of May, 1911, in the customs house, Senor Don Francisco S. Carbajal, representing the government of General Porfirio Diaz; Dr. Francisco Vasquez Gomez, Don Francisco I. Madero and Don Jose Maria Pina Saurez, as the representatives of the revolutionary forces, having gathered to treat about the method of effecting a cessation of hostilities in the entire national territory, and considering:

1. That Senor General Porfirio Diaz has manifested his resolution of resigning the Presidency of the Republic before the end of the present month, and

2. That bona fide news is at hand that Ramon Corral will resign the Vice-Presidency of the Republic within the same period, and

3. That by the administration of law, Senor Francisco Leon De la Barra, at present Minister of Foreign Relations of the government of Senor General Diaz, will assume, for the interim, the power of the executive of the nation and will call the general elections according to the terms of the Constitution, and

4. That the national government will study the conditions of public opinion in order actually to satisfy these conditions with the provisions of the Constitution, and will come to an agreement conducive to indemnifying the losses directly caused by the revolution; therefore, the two parties represented in this conference, in view of the previous considerations, have agreed to formulate the following agreement:

From today on hostilities which have existed in the entire national territory of the Republic shall cease between the forces of the government and those of the revolution, these forces to be dismissed in proportion as in each State the necessary steps are taken to re-establish and guarantee tranquillity and public order.

Transitory provision:

As soon as possible the reconstruction or repair of telegraph and railway lines hitherto interrupted shall be begun.

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While the revolutionary party has been fighting the domination of President Diaz, counter movements and re-alignments have been creating new political parties or strengthening old ones. Madero calls his party the "Progressives." Another advance party, supposed to be anti-clerical, has just made its appearance under the name of "Liberals." Men of more than ordinary prominence are said to be identified with it. They promise to maintain "the laws of reform." More important as a future factor, however, appears to be the newly formed "National Catholic" party—the church party, which presumably has in its program the nullification of the separation of church and state effected by old President Juarez.

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The Lorimer Case.

Prior to adjournment of the Illinois legislature, the Helm investigating committee reported on the case of Senator Lorimer with an extended statement of fact to the effect that—

William Lorimer was elected to the United States Senate by bribery and corruption; that Edward Hines telephoned to Lorimer a few hours before his election that he would furnish all the money necessary; and stated shortly after the election that he had raised \$100,000 to bring about Lorimer's victory; that a large sum of money was raised and used for the specific purpose of corrupting and bribing members of the General Assembly; that it was used to purchase the vote of at least one former member of the Senate, D. W. Holstlaw; that D. W. Holstlaw, Charles A. White, Michael Link, and Herman J. C. Beckemeyer received money, not only for their votes for Lorimer, but also for their action or inaction on