



LAS VEGAS AGE

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REPUBLICAN POLICIES

If the Republican party is to survive as one of the two major parties, it should begin to define its position on various questions and put its policies into words.

However, policies cannot be established as the principles of the Republican party until after full, frank and free discussion by the rank and file of the party and adoption by a convention of delegates elected by the voters of the party.

Without discussing just now the merits of the initiative proposed by a small minority of the Republican State Central Committee, The Age believes that it would be wise for the chairman of the committee to call a meeting of all the members for discussion and settlement of a situation which already promises to become a disrupting issue in the party councils.

If the initiative proposal is so important as to demand instant decision, the members of the Republican State Central Committee for the sake of party harmony may well take the time to meet and attempt to arrive at a harmonious decision.

The Age, with full respect for those at the head of the Republican organization in Nevada, suggests that either the initiative proposal be given the endorsement of the majority of the full committee, or that it be postponed for consideration at the regularly constituted state convention of the party. For a small group at this time to assume authority to declare what is or what is not a principle of the Republican party seems too much like the methods of the Democracy where policies are declared by the heads and accepted tamely and without consideration by the rank and file of the party.

ARTESIAN WATER SUPPLY

For more than thirty years artesian wells in and about Las Vegas have been permitted to flow unchecked, wasting the underground waters of the Las Vegas basin and destroying hundreds of acres of land onto which the water is permitted to waste itself.

After much discussion on the part of Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, the legislature of 1915 was induced to pass an act providing that wells should be capped and kept under proper control.

One excuse after another was given by state and county officials for not making an effort to enforce the provisions of the law and finally, in the effort to place responsibility somewhere, the Clark county delegation in the 1937 legislature undertook to secure proper amendments to make the act effective, and an act was passed apparently for that purpose.

Whatever steps are necessary to bring the matter before the state engineer should be taken and a test made of the

present act to find out whether it is any better than the acts it amends.

The preservation of our artesian water resources as suggested by Mr. Lorenzi at the Chamber of Commerce meeting last Tuesday is probably the most important problem before the community today. Steps should be taken at once to find out whether or not there is authority whereby owners of artesian wells can be required to keep them under control or whether the water resources of the valley shall finally be exhausted through the unnecessary waste of uncapped wells.

The problem is one about which we have been agitated for more than thirty years and it is time that something decisive was done about it.

OBSERVATIONS

By CHARLES P. SQUIRES

OFF TO THE MINES

From the Baker Divide Lodge, where we enjoyed remaining over night, we started in the morning for Maxfield's Herman mine, something like 18 miles distant through the dense pine forests of the American river country, where the most romantic and historic scenes of the "Days of '49" were staged.

Maxfield, driving the Chrysler, had the unusual distinction of puncturing both tires on the left side at the same instant. A jagged, triangular, blade-like piece of steel, projecting upwards from a flat steel base as a piece of steel rail might do, cut a wide, jagged hole in both the tires. We had but one spare, so were delayed in the midst of the majestic forest of that region for several hours, while one of the tires was sent back for repair.

NEW IDEAS IN LUMBERING

I observed many great loads of logs, sometimes three or four, or in the case of the larger ones, two logs to a load, being transported to a mill at Sacramento on trucks.

I had always supposed that it would be economy to saw logs into lumber as near to the place where the trees were felled as possible. However, I found that there are new ideas even in the ancient business of lumbering. It was explained to me with care and in words of one syllable, that it is cheaper to transport the logs more than fifty miles by truck to the mills in Sacramento than to saw them on the ground, because, just as the meat packing houses utilize every part of a hog except the squeal, so now the mills utilize every part of the log, slabs, sawdust and all (except the bark I was about to say, but was informed with much dignity that, unlike the squeal, even the bark is utilized.)

A great new industry has been created in the lumber business in the manufacturing of plywood and plastic wood products for insulation, and various other things for which sawdust and bark are used. So, I am told, the slabs, sawdust and bark, which would be a total loss if the logs were sawed where felled, more than pay the cost of transporting the logs to the mills in Sacramento.

HERMAN MINE

We finally reached the Herman mine, located in a region typical of the Mother Lode, with great outcroppings of white quartz here and there.

I was astonished at the changes which Maxfield has wrought here

in the two years since I last saw the Herman. Then the buildings, many of them, were ruins of snow-crushed roofs. Roads and steep grades were well nigh impassible. The power house and stamp mills apparently hopeless masses of broken timbers and disordered machinery.

We found the power house with its large boilers and engines and electric generators, working as smooth as clockwork. A few hundred feet further down, we came to the mill with the indescribably exciting sound of twenty stamps dropping on ore filling the air and providing a steady production of bullion for shipment to the Selby plant at San Francisco.

The mine itself, full of water in the lower six hundred feet when I was there before, had been dewatered and cars of ore were coming out with well planned regularity.

I was unable to go into the mine because of the lateness of the hour, but was told that, like most true Mother Lode mines, ore bodies are widening and increasing in richness with depth. On this lode, I am told, some of the mines are more than 7,000 feet in depth and producing more gold than ever before.

However, observing the great storage tanks for fuel oil, the pipelines, new buildings, road equipment and improvements, I was more convinced than ever that a mine is not a matter of a lucky strike, but of carefully planned expenditure and a long and painful campaign of development.

Horse Disease Warning Issued

First outbreaks this year of the horse disease, encephalomyelitis, sometimes called blind staggers, brain fever, or sleeping sickness, have occurred in widely scattered parts of Nevada. Dr. Edward Records of the department of veterinary science at the University of Nevada reported this week.

With the onset of settled warm weather, more cases of this disease are likely, and Records advised all horse owners in the state to watch for suspicious symptoms.

Efforts are being made to secure the official postal designation of "Treasure Island" for a station at the 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition.

Social aspects of modern civilization such as recreation and employment of leisure time will be featured at San Francisco's 1939 World Fair.