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Friday, March 27, 1925.

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To Be Or Not To Be

It is apparent that the city man-
ager plan of government is to be
a real issue in Rochester.

While there are many enthusiasts
who are honestly enamored of the
new idea there are many who think
that the present plan is as good—
some think better—and these are
equally honest in their convictions.

There is a third class—those with
open minds.

It is evident that there are intol-
erant persons on both sides and if
these are to dominate the discussion,
acrimony may result and bad feeling
be engendered.

Is it not possible to have the facts
presented in orderly manner and
have the discussion proceed with
good feeling?

What Rochester wants is the best
form of government for all the tax-
payers and if intolerance is evident
at the start, the aim and purpose
of the campaign may be defeated.

Let the discussion be calm and
orderly.

Congress

There are points of similarity be-
tween Congress just adjourned and
the New York State Legislature of
1925.

Neither accomplished any great
material good for the people at
large.

Both were at sharp divergence
with the views of the executive.

Both were in such a snarl at the
finish that many measures of public
importance were unacted upon.

The people heaved a sigh of relief
when both adjourned sine die.

Is it not possible that the eleva-
tion in talent and capacity of legis-
lators, nominated and elected by
direct primaries, urged by the spon-
sors thereof, has not proven the suc-
cess it was predicted it would?

Or is there another reason?
No matter what reason, Legisla-
tures, both state and national, are
set in high repute now.

Queer Condition

Not in years has there presented
such a peculiar condition as was
seen in the New York State Legis-
lature of 1925.

True, there have been other years
in which the Governor and the
Legislature have been of opposite
political faiths.

But in such cases there has been
leadership, constructive even if par-
tisan, in the Legislature. Political
party principles have been exempted
and an understandable opposi-
tion has been in sight.

But in the session just closed the
Legislature has been leaderless, in
the sense that no one seemed able
to define issues and stick to them.
First the Legislature was against
any tax reduction. Then it opposed
reduction in income tax but urged
it on real property, then it yielded
to the Governor but tried to make
it appear that he had cut out neces-
sary state activities in order to bring
about a fictitious tax reduction for
political advantage.

There will tell whether the Legis-
lature of 1925 accomplished any
material good for the State.

Convincing

We wish that space permitted
publication on this page in full of
the strong and convincing arguments
before the United States Supreme
Court in opposition to the Oregon
law to suppress Catholic parochial
schools but this concluding para-
graph of Judge P. J. Kavanagh's
argument will indicate the quality
and strength of the pleas made:

"We submit, therefore, that the
measure under review bears no re-
lation to the public health, morals,
safety or welfare; that it is not a
statute of regulation, but of prohibi-
tion, that it deprives appellee
of its property without due process
of law. Its real purpose, in the
guise of police regulation, is to
destroy private primary schools in
Oregon. That would be its imme-
diate effect. But the principle in-
volved is of vital interest to all
private schools in this country of
every grade and class. If the State
can thus destroy the primary school
it can destroy the secondary school,
the college and the university. How-
ever inveterate our habits of classifi-
cation, there is no real basis for
distinguishing a primary school from a
university in the matter of inter-
ference by the State. Every argu-
ment advanced in support of this
measure could be urged with equal
propriety and force in favor of a
similar measure aimed at univer-
sities under private management and
control. Harvard, Yale, Columbia,
Princeton, or any of the other great
private institutions of learning
would be quite as amenable to this
sort of interference as the humblest
primary school in a remote district
of Oregon. All could be swept away,
and with them would depart an in-
fluence and an inspiration that this
country can ill afford to lose. The
whole province of education would
be taken over by the State, and only
these subjects taught and those the-
ories and doctrines expounded to
which the State should give its ap-
proval."

"The legislation is revolutionary
in character. The power assumed by
its enactment has never before been
asserted in America. It cannot be
that such a power really exists, or
is compatible with the spirit of our
free institutions."

Czar Rule

Just what Czar-like tactics are
employed by the Ku Klux Klan to
coerce their members into abject
submission on any and all matters,
is told by Mrs. Martha E. Long, of
the Colorado Legislature, in the
following statement:—

"I joined the woman's ku klux
klan last summer. That is the of-
ficial name of the organization.
Women friends of mine told me to
join and I did. It is a wonderful
organization as far as ideals taught
in the ceremony are concerned.
Among the principal things I remem-
ber were able addresses delivered by
the members about patriotism and
loyalty to the country. Especially do
I remember an address that was de-
livered one night on Table Mountain
by Governor Morley. Mrs. Morley
and the governor are both members
and I have often heard him talk
before meetings of the klan and also
before klan caucuses of the Denver
members of the legislature. . .

"Following the election the klan
members from Denver held many
caucuses. I attended some of them,
but not all. When Governor Morley
spoke before us at these meetings
it was always on what he believed
would be best. After the session
opened we were told that we had
to follow the program. In fact that was
the order all the time. When the
bill abolishing the state board of
nurse examiners came up I realized
that I could not support it. I indicat-
ed that much in one of my votes
one day. That afternoon Mr. Atch-
ison handed me a note which read:
'Go straight down the line. No excu-
ses taken. (Signed) Atchison.'

"Mr. Atchison was at that time
floor leader of the klan. I went to
him and told him I could not vote
for that bill. He said I had to fol-
low the program. I told him I would
go to Governor Morley and get ex-
cused from voting for that bill. He
told me Governor Morley had noth-
ing to do with it; that I had to get
my excuse from Dr. Locke (grand
dragon of the K.K.K.) that he was
handling the excuses of those who
wanted to be excused. I told him I
would not go to Dr. Locke on that
matter.

"The next day I voted against the
bill. That afternoon Miss May Ran-
kin Fox, secretary to Carl De Lochte,
came to me and asked for my klan
membership card. I asked her why
and she said I failed to follow in-
structions on the nurses' bill. I asked
her who sent her and she said the
leaders of the klan. I told her it was
at home but I would bring it the
next morning. I brought it as I had
promised and she came to my desk
and I gave it to her. Since then all
the bills I have had have been killed.

They told me they were going to
kill them just to punish me as they
punished Representative Payton of
Pueblo."

Rather Silly

This is the way the "Democrat
and Chronicle" ridicules the latest
tax proposition emanating from the
fertile brain of the former Union
college professor who is now vacan-
tizing in legislative halls:—

A bill before the Assembly gives
cities authority to have the state
impose a personal income tax for
their benefit. The measure was of-
fered by the Republican chairman
of the Committee on Taxation and
was favored by a joint committee on
taxation last year.

With the exception of the holdings
of religious societies, all other forms
of tangible property have been taxed
as heavily as party managers at Al-
bany consider it expedient. In cities
of the state the plan of raising the
tax rate one year and the assessment
the next having been carried close
to the limit of practicability, recourse
is had to the annual earnings of citi-
zens as the remaining unworked
field. Would municipal inheritance
taxes be the next move if this bill
became a law? In that case three
jurisdictions would take toll of the
earnings and savings of citizens in
order to keep their elected spending
bodies in funds.

One thing in favor of Rochester:
we are not troubled with tornadoes
even if we have not a city manager.

Marquis Curzon was a big man
but he never could reach the British
premier ship.

One point in favor of anti-vivisection
is that it has not produced a
Leopold or a Loeb.

Perhaps None Wanted

We should say "no children want-
ed" in commenting on the following
editorial in a secular exchange:—

London has just built an all-steel
house and opened it for public in-
spection. The prospectus calls atten-
tion to special features which the all-
steel construction makes possible.
Everything is steel, so no bricklay-
ers or plasterers are needed; the
steel walls and ceilings are in panels
and are ornamentally stamped, so
that interior decoration is not need-
ed. And the jointless floors have the
appearance of linoleum, so that no
floor coverings are needed. The house
can be put together by unskilled
labor and London seems to feel that
a contribution to solution of the
housing problem is at hand.

Somehow the efficiency of this
thing is so great that the suspicious
mind looks for lurking drawbacks.
Suppose this metal house stands in a
treeless locale and the summer sun
pours full upon it. Perhaps such
things are not likely in England, but
an all-steel house in dog-days pre-
sents a vision of torrid possibilities.

But most of all, it is plain that
this is not a house in which children
are expected to live. A good, healthy
three-year old, bent upon business
appropriate to his or her age, would
have an awful time in such a house.
The economic appearance of steel
masquerading as linoleum would
make it no softer, when the tumble
brought the bump. Steel is a great
and splendid thing, but it is no kind
of stuff for the floor of a children's
playroom.

No doubt the steel framework
could be padded and swathed to
make an interior that would promise
all the comforts of a home. But this
would cost money, and the purpose
of the all-steel house is to greatly
lessen the amount of money needed
to build a house.

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It does seem that if parents knew
their children better, these awful
tales of youthful indulgence and dis-
cretion could not be written.

Senator James L. Whitley lists
himself as a real Independent.

James L. Hotchkiss is a canny
politician.

That spring is high is evidenced
by the renewed rivalry over street
paving.

It looks like the future battle will
be between the cities and the rural
communities.

Let us hope that March does not
fool us and go out like January is
supposed to go.



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joy than receiving that engage-
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will give YOU more joy than
giving it to her. Don't delay
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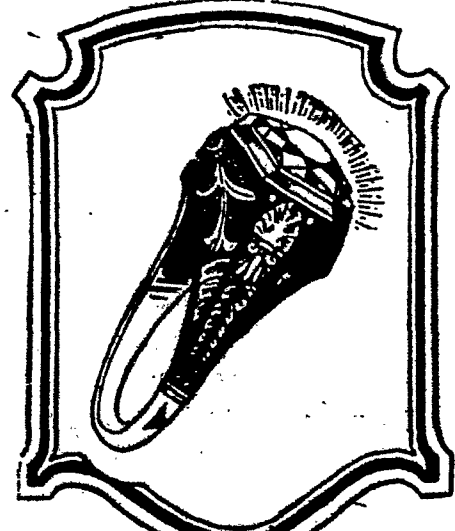


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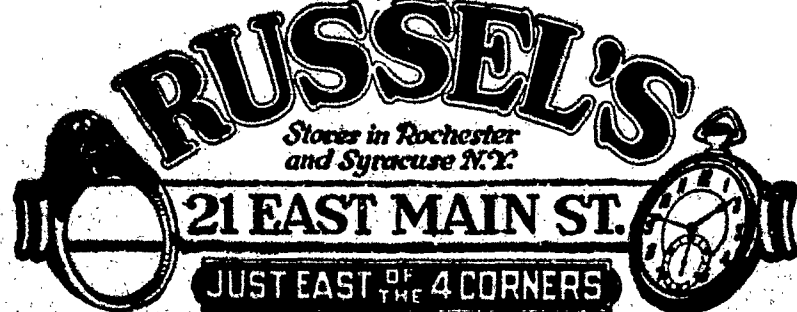
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