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No Peace at the City Hall

Little Hope of a Reconciliation Between the Mayor and Solons

Twice during the past week the refractory solons have dealt body blows unto his honor the mayor. Twice they have “dropped” to his plans and twice they have scored what they look upon as victories, and today, owing to their success, or in spite of it—opinion on this point differ—the municipal muddle is on the way to a solution and the municipal squabble is ended.

No matter how the Court of Appeals decides the case instituted Friday, all excuse for a continuance of the mayor-council battle will be wiped from the slate. The status of the ordinance of estimates will be defined; the tax rate will be fixed and the question of right and wrong will be decided. And in this way the casus belli will fade into nothingness.

Solons Will Fight

But even though there be no more reason for the war, there is little hope that either the mayor or the council will cast aside their armor. The events of the past week which led up to the peace protocol have widened the breach rather than bridged it. The mayor’s two efforts to beat the solons by craft have placed them utterly without the circle of his adherents, and until after the May election there can be no reconciliation.

Didn’t See The Joke

The “kidnapping” of Councilman Touchton, at Monday’s council meeting, though as ludicrous an incident as the funniest situation in the funniest farce on record, did not appeal to the humorous senses of the solons. While their sleuths were hunting Touchton they stormed. Next day, when they heard how the deed was done, they vowed vengeance, and if it is possible to secure it they will do so.

The Mayor’s secret preparations for the court case have also irritated the solons. As soon as they heard of what was in the wind they made a demand for a hand in the game. This was given them and all their subsequent objections were allowed, but, nevertheless, they feel “sore” and may be expected to make trouble.

Empty Vengeance

From present indications it would seem that they must be contented with an empty vengeance. It is pretty generally conceded that they will beat the mayor in the coming primary contest, for the organization is behind them and the leaders have vowed to annihilate his honor.

His recent declaration against an extra session of the legislature virtually placed him outside of the uttermost frontiers of his party.

But even if the councilmen succeed in downing the Mayor's friends in the primaries, they will have rather uphill work downing their republican opponents at the election. The voters of Baltimore have come to a pretty unanimous conclusion that the belligerent solons have been found wanting and the election returns will probably tell the story of their relegation to private life.

Thus the mayor and the council will lose and the winners will be their mutual enemies—the republicans. But with two and a half years more in office his honor will be able to smile broadly. During all of that while he will enjoy the pleasure of seeing his opponents fade gradually, but surely, from the public view. And during all of that time the municipal patronage will belong to him and his friends.