

From

Date

THE PASSING OF THE FERGUSONS.

We read in the Holy Writ that Nebuchadnezer, King of Babylon, after running things to suit himself for a season, and while having a time with some friends one night, he saw a luminous writing on the wall which read: "Mene tekel upharsen." No one in the crowd knew what the words meant, so the king sent for the prophet Daniel to interpret the strange writing. When Daniel came, he told the king that the words meant: "Thou art weighed in the balances and found wanting." When Nebuchadnezer heard what Daniel said, something told him that he was a goner. Not long after this occurrence, and while everybody was drunk and soldiering on the job, the enemies of Babylon broke into the city and tore up things. They kicked Nebuchadnezer off the premises and sent him out to pick green grass with the chickens.

As king, Nebuchadnezer did all right at first, and most everybody thought he was making good; but he got too big for his breeches and went crooked, and when he was weighed in the balances, he was found to be a very light wad—and he passed.

When Jim Ferguson entered the race for governor back in the 'teens, very little was known of him; and as he recommended himself very highly, we took stock in a part of his statements and elected him. For a while, Jim apparently made good; but by and by, he got too big for his breeches and it was proven to the satisfaction of the senate that he had gone crooked and they kicked him out.

Jim raised a mighty howl about losing his job, and said the whole bunch was a set of dirty liars. At that time we were all either antis or pros., and calling each other liars and horsethieves; and as Jim was anti and most of the senate pros., the antis were inclined to take stock in what he said about the pros. and were inclined to overlook the alleged crookedness that had cost him his job.

Jim said in his paper: "To

President of the United States on the American party ticket—and sure enough, he failed. So he dismissed the American party and recommended himself very highly to the Republican party. As the Republicans had already on hand a full supply of such men as Jim, he did not make much headway with them.

Later on, Jim recommended himself as a Ku Klux fighter. He told the folks that if they didn't elect him (by proxy) that the Ku Klux would get 'em. Jim worked this racket for all it was worth. He got a lot of folks so scared of the Ku Klux that they lost their minds for the time being and they elected him (by proxy). They gave a big shindig at Austin in honor of the occasion. Everybody had a good time.

To make things nice for Jim, the legislature passed a damnasty act, which was intended as a whitewash for the dark spots which the senate of 1917 had smeared on his escutcheon for past sins. Jim was now ready to do business in his wife's name. A big crop of suckers was ready for the sic-

kle, and Jim lost no time in the reaping. In his wife's name, Jim turned bootleggers, thieves, highjackers and murderers out of the penitentiary almost as fast as the courts and juries could send them there. Of course, we wouldn't for a moment insinuate that Jim got ang coin for these acts of mercy, even if they do say it on the streets.

Then, in order to see that the seventeen million dollars highway fund went into the right (?) pockets, Jim took a prominent part in the Highway Commission as chief advisor, and had his wife appoint a couple of lambs, Joe Burkett and Frank Lanham, as Commissioners. Frank looked after the interests of the American Road Company, while Joe entertained the people with speeches which served to keep the public from watching that big, fat road fund. However, Dan Moody, the Attorney General, was watching, and when these boys were in the act of passing a big wad of money over to the American Road Company, Dan reached out and snatched about \$600,000 of it and put it back into the treasury where it belonged. This made Jim mad, and he hired some lawyers to stop Dan from interfering, but the court told Jim that there was nothing doing, and at the same time told Dan to go ahead with his rat killing. Joe and Frank, the poor, persecuted (black) lambs, quit, and Jim got mad some more. Jim always gets mad when interrupted in a rich harvest of coin, for he loves coin dearly.

About this time, we began to get over the Ku Klux scare which Jim had thrown into us during his campaign, and we began to see things. We could see that the dry weather in East Texas had cracked the white wash with which our solons had decorated Jim, and the copious rains of West Texas had washed it off; so the poor sucker's iniquities are exposed to the cold eyes of those who so fondly hoped that he had a "comeback" through his wife.

When the legislature meets on January 4, 1926, we shall see the passing of the Ferguson dynasty. Whether or not they impeach Jim (by proxy) makes but little difference: Jim is a goner. For the second time Jim has been weighed in the balances and found to be a very light wad. No man in history has ever had the opportunity for making good that Jim Ferguson has enjoyed, and no man has made as little use of it.

The Fergusons are passing, and there are but few to block the passage.—Sterling City Record.