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March 16, 1934.

Mr. Bernarr Macfadden,
1926 Broadway,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Macfadden:

I have received your telegram of the 12th. You state therein as follows.: "The only thing that we can do this late hour would be to publish our intention to expose the rotten condition of Kansas City politics in first available Liberty article am strongly urging our supervising editor to act upon your suggestion".

I very much hope that your Supervising Editor will agree to make the announcement or your intention to expose the conditions in Kansas City immediately. Could you not give the announcement to the press associations and have it stated therein that your representative is on his way to Kansas City to look into the situation.

It is doubtful whether there has ever been an election in this country where there is more excitement and the interest aroused more than in that now pending in Kansas City. A primary was held on March 5 under a charter which prohibits the use of any political designation in connection with the ballots. The Democratic machine, the Citizen's movement and the Republicans ran tickets in the primary, although none of them carried any party label. The vote was - the machine 104,000, citizen's 66,000 and the Republicans 4,000. The Republican ticket was eliminated and the election will take place March 27 between the other two tickets. There were 70,000 registered voters who did not participate in the primary. The machine rolled up its total of 104,000 by the use of ballot-box stuffing, crooked counting and brutal methods all over the city.

A movement among the young people has been in progress for a months for the

express purpose of overthrowing the machine. It is known as the National Youth Movement and has been incorporated. It has 30,000 members in Kansas City and 10,000 ward and precinct workers. It is supporting the Citizen's ticket.

Within three or four days after the primary, the Citizen's

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Committee had secured 3,000 affidavits of abuses and irregularities at the primary. Strong demand was made to the Governor to come to Kansas City and have an open hearing of the conditions set in the affidavits but he refused to take part in the matter. Thereupon the Citizen's Committee set up a hearing of their own. It is presided over by an eminent minister and conducted by two lawyers. Witnesses are produced, sworn in and examined. Their testimony is taken down and it is being published daily in both Newspapers.

I enclose herewith copies of two Grand Jury reports which will give you an idea of conditions existing in Kansas City. If you intend to have this condition exposed in "Liberty", it is most important that you get your representative or representatives in Kansas City immediately so that they can get a true picture of the situation while the campaign is at white heat.

I shall be glad to know what you do concerning this matter.

I do not know whether Mr. Russell F. Greiner who was Foreman of the Grand Jury desires to have his letter, which I sent you, given publicity. Therefore, I shall appreciate your kindness if you will return it to me on receipt of this letter.

You have an opportunity here to render great service to Kansas City, to the rest of Missouri in particular and to the whole country in general. I am sure that the Government of Kansas City is among the rottenest by odds that exists in the whole United States.

Sincerely yours,

E. Y. Mitchell

Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

Enclosures

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