

# Tacoma Times Publishing Company

768 COMMERCE STREET  
NEAR NINTH

## BUSINESS OFFICE

TELEPHONES SUNSET M 733  
HOME A 1733

## EDITORIAL

TELEPHONES SUNSET M 794  
HOME A 1733

WANT ADS THAT REACH MOST EVERY  
ONE IN TACOMA AND VICINITY  
1c A WORD

SUBSCRIPTION RATES  
30c A MONTH  
BY MAIL OR CARRIER

TACOMA, WASH., May 10, 1911.

Ida M. Tarbell,  
New York.

*NT to  
Miss Tarbell*

Dear Miss:-

Your letter of April 21 to Ex-Mayor A.V. Fawcett asking the real causes of his recall he has handed to me with a request that I answer it. That you may know something of him from whom the information comes I will state I am now political writer for the Tacoma Times, having been here five years. Prior to that I was engaged in editorial work in Ohio for 20 years. In 1904 I was candidate for secretary of state on the Prohibition ticket in that state. Mr. Fawcett is a Republican, so you will see that politically I have no bias in his favor.

I did not vote for Mr. Fawcett when he was elected. I later discovered, however, that he seemed to be animated by a real desire to work for the people. In the last six months he frequently consulted me on movements for the advancement of municipal ownership and other enterprises for the people and I am I believe at the present time able to give a clear view of the real animus back of his recall as well as the element that made the recall effective.

Fawcett was elected a year ago when the city was in the throes of a determined battle with the street railway company. The settlement ordinance of former years held the street car company to five cent fare throughout the city. The company boosted fares outside the city abnormally and I wrote an article the day they did it urging the suburbs to come into the city and force five cent fare. Fern Hill and a large section adjacent did so. Then the company refused to give the five cent fare the law required. They flew to that recess of corporations, the federal court. The city flew to the state court. In the meantime the people were trying to force the issue themselves outside of court.

In this crisis they demanded a mayor that would fight. They remembered Fawcett had fought corporations when he was mayor before and in a field of seven candidates they elected him with a clear majority over all.

He immediately got busy and although handicapped by the new charter taking the police force from him his aggressiveness soon brought the company to terms and the people finally won their battle. The state court later legally confirmed it.

This fight showed the corporations that they could not control A.V. Fawcett.

He soon launched a fight to shatter the waterfront monopoly that had held Tacoma in its grip ever since it was a city. He proposed a municipal dock. The waterfront corporations and the Perkins press which always represent the corporations battled to the limit but the people backed the mayor, voted the bonds, and the dock was launched and immediately was a wonderful winner and tremendously popular.

The mayor was busy considering the establishment of municipal telephones and had he remained in office would probably have brought this about later but in the meantime something else happened.

Before he was elected Fawcett had confided to a few friends that he had a solution for the evils of the saloon. He said he wanted to abolish treating.

# Tacoma Times Publishing Company

768 COMMERCE STREET  
NEAR NINTH

## BUSINESS OFFICE

TELEPHONES SUNSET M 733  
HOME A 1733

## EDITORIAL

TELEPHONES SUNSET M 794  
HOME A 1733

WANT ADS THAT REACH MOST EVERY  
ONE IN TACOMA AND VICINITY  
1¢ A WORD

SUBSCRIPTION RATES  
30¢ A MONTH  
BY MAIL OR CARRIER

## TACOMA, WASH.,

He had the promise of the support of Roys, commissioner of public safety in this but after they were elected Roys refused to support him. He said nothing about it then until he got two others on the commission and then he launched the ordinance and after a bitter fight carried it.

The saloons immediately called for a referendum. They were later beaten at the polls and the people by a tremendous vote approved the ordinance.

The activity of L. J. Roys for the saloons and for the corporations and his efforts to aid the street car company in the five cent fare fight caused a popular uprising against him and charges were drawn ready to file for his recall when the six months of immunity granted by the charter expired. The day the charges were to be filed he went home saying he was sick. He remained away three weeks and sympathy saved him at this time.

By the time he returned the corporations, the corporate press whom he served and the saloons he had served in fighting the anti-treat ordinance had arranged a campaign to attack the other commissioners. When he came back there was a general onslaught on the rest of the commissioners and the mayor to distract attention from Roys and save him from recall. It worked for a time. Then the saloons discovered they were going to be beaten on the referendum on the anti-treating ordinance and they rushed in with recall petitions against the mayor. They were slow in signing and every indication pointed that they would fail to get the 3100 signers necessary to demand an election.

Then on the even of a prize fight when 3000 persons had bought tickets Mr. Freedland of the commission introduced a resolution to have the law enforced and it was carried. The fight was stopped and the fight fans were marched from the arena to the recall headquarters and that fight made it possible to get enough signers to demand an election.

Then began the smoothest political game ever worked. The Royal Arch, the corporations and the Perkins press that stands for both, began a campaign that I have never seen duplicated in my long political observation. They dropped out of sight themselves and had organizers put to work among the women and the churches after first getting a candidate who had no political past and who was what is known as a "nice man".

Back 15 years ago A. V. Fawcett had domestic trouble with his first wife. Just the cause of it is not known of course. At all events he sued for divorce. His wife filed a cross bill. The court threw both out. Months later he sued again. She again filed a cross bill and then a settlement was made a divorce granted.

Charges were made on both sides but in the election a year ago although the people knew he had had this trouble no one raised it as a campaign issue. But the shrewd corporation and saloon politicians saw a chance. The women had become voters. So they started women organizers on the basis of Fawcett's domestic trouble 15 years ago.

And it was this that beat him.

Left to the men he would have won easily. As it was he lost in 21,000 votes by only 723. The saloon, the corporations silk stocking wards went for his opponent. The workingmen's wards went for Fawcett. But the four or five to one of the silk stocking wards was too much for him to overcome.

# Tacoma Times Publishing Company

768 COMMERCE STREET  
NEAR NINTH

## BUSINESS OFFICE

TELEPHONES SUNSET M 733  
HOME A 1733

## EDITORIAL

TELEPHONES SUNSET M 794  
HOME A 1733

*ans 5/6/11*

SUBSCRIPTION RATES  
30c A MONTH  
BY MAIL OR CARRIER

WANT ADS THAT REACH MOST EVERY  
ONE IN TACOMA AND VICINITY  
1c A WORD

## TACOMA, WASH..

The campaign against him was utterly disreputable in its conception and in its propoganda. It was just such as could be expected from the corporations and saloons. But it caught the churches easily. The preachers, always gullible were swept off their feet and their pulpits became political rostrums from which they harangued the people against the mayor.

The peculiar situation was apparent. Church workers admitted the saloons were with them. They admitted they were fighting the only mayor who had ever taken a stand against the saloons, yet they followed blindly in the wake of the Royal Arch and corporations and removed the mayor from office.

I have seen the church and saloon vote together often. My old friend M'Kinley in Ohio who was a neighbor, used to have the art of driving the two together very finely developed but I never have seen a parallel to this campaign when every saloon in the city, every vice syndicate agent and every crook was lined up solidly with the church to remove a man who had fought against the saloon and was being recalled by them.

The opponents to the mayor had unlimited money. They had hundreds of automobiles and these influenced enough voters who were thoughtless to change the result.

It was a remarkable campaign. The people will vote next Tuesday again on the recall of the rest of the commissioners. The corporations and saloons are now lined up to save Roys. It remains to be seen whether they can work the game twice.

Sincerely,

*Harold Jung Rockhill*