

DAILY RECORD-UNION

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The RECORD-UNION and WEEKLY UNION are the only papers on the Coast, outside of San Francisco, that receive the full Associated Press dispatches from all parts of the world. Outside of San Francisco, they have no competitors either in influence or home and general circulation throughout the State.

SAN FRANCISCO AGENCIES. This paper is for sale at the following places: L. P. Fisher's, room 21, Merchants' Exchange, California street; the principal News Stands and Hotels, and at the Market Street Ferry. Also, for sale on all Trains leaving and coming into Sacramento.

Weather Forecast. Forecast till 8 P. M. Friday: For Northern California--Fair weather, except light rains to-night in the Sierras and Western Nevada; westerly winds, cooler in the southeastern portion and extreme northwest portion; fog along the northwest coast.

THE TASMANIA DODGE. The Citizens' party committee Wednesday appointed a committee to see to it that the tickets under the new election law are so printed that the "Tasmania dodge" cannot be practiced.

It is gratifying to find any body of citizens solicitous for the integrity of the law. But had the Citizens' committee reflected a moment, it would not have provoked a smile by its action. The law describes precisely how the blank ballot shall be printed, and there is no power to change or evade it, dodge or no dodge.

But the Tasmania dodge was provided against in advance in the new law. The authors of the bill understood the matter thoroughly. The ballots are numbered on a detachable margin and on the stub from which torn. The number of the ballot as delivered to the voter is returned against his name. On his return from the ballot stall he must show the detachable margin bearing the number still upon his ballot. It is torn off when its identity has been established, by reference to the record, and the ballot is then cast, and not until then.

It will be seen that the "Tasmania dodge" of smuggling out a genuine ticket is therefore not possible without connivance of the judges, inspectors, tally clerk and two ballot clerks, and against such conspiracy no law can prevail. Even then it would be very difficult to vote a smuggled-out ticket, with watchers in attendance and the registered number of record. Under a less complete law that could be done that was done in Tasmania, to wit: smuggles out an official ballot, the smuggler losing his vote by doing so. The ballot then being put into the hands of a boss could be marked to suit him and delivered to a voter to enter the booth, with the stipulation that he should be paid for his vote if he brought back another blank official ballot, thus showing that he had deposited the marked one.

By this means the boss would have possession of an official ballot constantly and could vote any number of votes by that device. But long ago the weakness of a system under which such a feat was possible was seen, and now with the stub numbered and the record of it made, and a detachable strip bearing the number, the smuggling dodge is impossible. A ballot once torn out and delivered is of no use to anyone except returned by the man against whose name appears already the number on the strip. If the ballots for the December election are printed as the law directs Tasmania dodges will be vain. If they are not printed as the law directs the election will fail. No committees of political parties can advise or conduct new ways for the ballots to be prepared, or suggest anything to vary the directions of the law. No fears of Tasmania dodges here need be entertained, for our ballot law is not Australian or Tasmanian, but is a vastly superior and thoroughly guarded American system and eminently Californian.

SAN FRANCISCO'S DESIRE.

The San Francisco Call claims that the RECORD-UNION misrepresents the position of San Francisco when we say that "she wishes her original distributing conditions restored, so that commerce by rail as well as by water shall come first to her, and then be carried back to her customers."

We reaffirm the statement, and, for proof of its soundness, refer the Call to the petitions San Francisco merchants, acting in concert, have filed with rail transportation managements, asking that Sacramento and other interior places be abandoned as competitive or terminal points. One of these petitions, filed but a few years ago, was very voluminous and contained a representative list of signatures.

But the Call has nothing further to advance in support of its charge that we misrepresent the position of San Francisco than this, that combination has put up ocean and rail freight rates for goods that find their point of departure and of receipt in San Francisco. It is scarcely necessary to point out that this explanation is irrelevant and is not an answer to the charge of this journal.

The result of the elections at the East gives comfort on both sides. If we are to judge from the dispatches no one is disheartened nor is there over-optimism. A "late year" the next proves, is not at

certain test of the election in a "national year." If Ohio, by its vote, stimulated by all the power of the National Republican party concentrated upon that State, indorses the McKinley blunder, Massachusetts as emphatically condemns it by electing a Governor who announced his enmity to the McKinley bill. New York, at all times a doubtful State, has gone Democratic. It can scarcely be said that in New York there was such a contest as reflects the probable position of the State in a national canvass. We are inclined to think that the Hill kind of politics will find no friend in the new Governor, who will prove a disappointment probably to the machine politicians. In Iowa prohibition was the overshadowing issue. It suffered a complete overthrow in the election of a Governor who made it the one and only issue of his canvass, in which he fought it constantly. That Pennsylvania and Michigan should go Republican was fully anticipated and causes no political troubling of waters. In the other States, having elections, the lines changed little, if any, the new, or People's, party in the West not cutting any prominent figure, and in Kansas, where the Alliance was supposed to be strongest, it suffered a heavy defeat. The truth is, that except so far as the Ohio and Massachusetts elections reflect upon the public sentiment upon the tariff question, the results are not greatly significant, and in present lights cannot be used as a reliable basis for forecasting the political verdict of next year. The full returns and later news may give some ground for speculation, however.

SOME time ago a Chicago man purchased in Paris the famous picture, "The Corsairs," which so appealed to the French patriotic spirit. The French Government wanted the picture, but not having the money in the proper department delayed its purchase, and the Chicago man walked off with the prize. All France then went into a rage, and raved and wept over the loss, until the Minister of Fine Arts was compelled to officially confess that he had no means, and could not raise them, with which to stop the progress of the painting toward Yankee land. So Bouver's great painting was shipped, and French patriots sobbed in press and upon the rostrum, and deplored its ill luck. Thereupon Worth, the man milliner of the Rue-de-la-Paix, went up to the Art Bureau and planked down the necessary sum to redeem the treasure, stipulating that in due time he should be repaid. The Government promptly accepted the offer, the Chicago man accepted the money, and when a week or more ago the painting arrived at New York, it was an once reshipped to France, and will presently adorn a wall in the National Gallery at the Luxembourg. In the meantime the French are thanking Worth profusely and pointing to the Government with scorn that could not rustle about and raise so small a sum as \$7,200, and in consequence had to become the debtor of a man dressmaker, who has proved that he is of more worth than had been supposed.

THE pastor of the American chapel in Berlin writes that the anarchical element in socialism is rapidly gaining in influence in Germany; that it preaches revolution, fire and destruction, and that many thoughtful people fear that the result will be attempts to realize the preaching. We are not disposed to look at the matter so seriously as that. The military arm in Germany is too strong to admit of it; the new policy of permitting the radical Socialists to preach their doctrines in large part mitigates any evil of their teachings. The wisdom of this policy is vindicated by the results. The Socialists are not one-half so dangerous as the Socialists restrained. The truth is that the recent socialistic congress held at Erfurt proved to the Anarchists to be in a woeful minority. That body fulminated a platform of demands that, in this country, would in the main be conceded, such as restriction of the power to declare war to the legislative arm of the Government; the freedom of the press and of speech; enlargement of suffrage; separation of church and State; local self-government; compulsory education; abolition of tariffs; abolition of indirect taxation; minority representation, and some others. That body represented fully the Socialistic element, and it certainly did not do anything or declare anything indicating anarchical growth. Evidently the Emperor so regarded it, and he does not appear to be at all disturbed.

It is actually true--it is humiliating that the necessity exists to assert what every one except the San Francisco press long ago knew--that the Atchison road has a perfectly free independent entry into San Francisco, and is in every respect a free, independent competing carrier with the Southern Pacific, having all the terminal facilities of the latter at San Francisco. This is incontrovertible, simply because it is true; of record; is known of all men except the ignorant few who are hoarse just now with columns of demand for construction of a competing line from Mojave to San Francisco. In the light of this fact, it is almost inconceivable that a proposition to assist in the construction of a railroad track from Mojave to San Francisco is mooted in the interest of securing competition from that construction.

The United States District Court at Los Angeles has disposed of the chief of the Itata cases by dismissing them. It is held that there is no evidence that the ship was to be armed in violation of the neutrality laws. The arms sent out in the schooner were for insurgents in Chile and not for the Itata's army as a cruiser or to commit hostilities. The decision we believe to be sound. The defendants, Trumbull and Hart, could not be held unless it could be shown that they attempted to arm the Itata. The arms were put aboard on the high seas to be conveyed to Chile and not to be used on the sea in hostility to any one. The decision will go far toward cooling Chilean wrath against the United States and will tend to convince the people of Chile that preju-

dice is not held against them, and that in our courts even-handed justice is done even those who manifest animosity against us. EMPEROR WILLIAM having shaved off his whiskers, in common honesty, and he is an honest man, owes the photographers and print men a round sum in damages. They tore up their stock of smooth-faced imperial portraits and smashed the plates; now the Emperor returns to the razor, and the print men are left lamenting over their losses. William should make them good, or submit to retray while he cultivates a new crop.

FEARFUL souls may compose themselves; all the evidences are that the Chilean war cloud has begun to disintegrate and that it will soon disappear from the Governmental sky. Chile is not ready for any war, and the United States does not seek one.

THE story that the Chileans intend to attack the Baltimore in Valparaiso harbor is absurd. The Chileans are hot-tempered, but are by no means fools.

NOTE AND COMMENT. The Fall River Mail has changed hands. W. W. McMillan retires and Charles E. Wright takes charge of the paper. The Lassen Mail has entered upon its sixth volume. It is a live paper and has done much for the advancement of every material interest of Lassen county. Its fight against land monopolists has been persistent and well directed. It deserves the liberal support of the people of Lassen County.

GOVERNOR MARKHAM EXONERATED. A Faithful, Economical and Honest Administration. [San Jose Mercury.] At the time of the investigation of the contracts for fitting up the Whittier Reform School, an effort was made by some of the opponents of the present State Administration to make use of the facts elicited for the purpose of attacking Governor Markham. The charge was made that inasmuch as the furniture of the school was supplied by a manufacturing company of which Markham is a member that therefore the contract had been given to that company through Markham's influence at a much higher price than the furniture was worth. It will be seen that the charge of the kind of the kind of thing, but weak as it was it served the purpose of some people, and several of our Democratic contemporaries circulated it far and wide. 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