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MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SHONTS ANSWERS CRITICS OF CANAL

Chairman of Isthmian Commission Replies to Every Charge Against Government.

WATER SUPPLY GOOD; DISEASE CHECKED

Employees Well Cared For and Work Progresses, Declares Official.

Special to The Journal.

Washington, May 9.—The report of Chairman Theodore P. Shonts, chairman of the isthmian canal commission, was made public today. It covers observations made by Chairman Shonts over a period of weeks spent on the isthmus, inspecting every detail of the work, and the document is most comprehensive. He returned to Washington April 22, and since that time has been putting his report into form.

The document is carefully classified under various heads, which include every branch of the work and answers practically every criticism which has been made upon conditions in connection with the canal work.

The Water Supply.

Regarding the water supply, Chairman Shonts finds that the reservoirs supplying the districts of Panama, Empire, Gorgona and Bas Obispo, contain sufficient water for many months to come. The reservoir supplying the district of Colon, however, had been heavily drawn upon, and Engineer Stevens had made special arrangements for hauling in an adequate supply of water by train. This arrangement, however, is merely temporary until the rains shall again fill the reservoir.

One complaint to the effect that a hotelkeeper at Colon had gone to great expense in providing water for his guests is found to be without foundation, inasmuch as the hotelkeeper desired a particular kind of water and preferred to pay for having it hauled to him, whereas he could have used the regular water supply without cost had he so desired.

Health Conditions.

"Under the direction of Governor Magoon," reports Mr. Shonts, "health conditions on the isthmus are most satisfactory. Notwithstanding the fact that there are more employees and their dependents on the isthmus than ever before (the monthly payrolls showing from 22,000 to 23,000 employees with a daily effective force of about 16,000 or 17,000) there were fewer patients in hospital than for many months past. Dr. Gorgas reported 450 beds vacant in hospitals.

"There has been no authentic case of yellow fever since last November. Mosquitoes are so scarce that many persons sleep in unscreened houses, and discard mosquito netting without incurring personal discomfort.

"Dr. Gorgas is sanguine that he has the health situation so well in hand that no epidemic can arise within the canal zone. The danger can come only from the outside. The question of quarantine is, therefore, of paramount importance, and is receiving the earnest attention of the health department.

"Following a case of yellow fever recently occurring at Bocas del Toro, on the Caribbean coast, 159 miles distant from Colon, an officer of the sanitary department was sent to that port to take charge of its sanitation, at an expense to the commission of not to exceed $500 a month. This action was not taken, however, until after a conference with the officials of the republic of Panama, who are willingly co-operating in the matter. It was considered wise, as an additional quarantine precaution. As an evidence of the general health conditions, Dr. Gorgas stated the rate of sickness was only 20 per thousand."

Company Quarters for Employees.

Employees' quarters have been provided for the existing force with conditions sufficient to care for 300 company laborers. Suitable quarters have also been provided for all American employees. Uncooked food is supplied at reasonable prices by the commission of the Panama railroad to the common laborers.

If the men prefer their meals prepared, however, they may obtain them at the regular mess kitchens at 10 cents a meal, which leaves a small profit to the commission.

Chairman Shonts expresses regret that these common laborers do not avail themselves of the privilege of these mess kitchens. However, this is not due to any desire to save money so much as to an appetite for certain delicacies which are not on the regular bill of fare. Hereafter, all labor contracts will contain a proviso whereby a certain fixed amount will be deducted from the daily wage of the common laborer, in consideration of which he is to receive three wholesome and nourishing meals a day.

The company supplies the American employees adequate refrigerator service by steamer and rail, and a cold-storage plant has been established and American meats and vegetables are being distributed. Nine large messhouses are maintained at different points along the line where excellent meals are served at a cost to employees of 30 cents each. This price involves a small loss to the commission, altho it is expected that under a new arrangement this department will be self-supporting. The American employees also have the privilege of buying such uncooked supplies as they may wish.

Terminal Yard and Track Facilities.

Chairman Shonts reports that under Chief Engineer Stevens the plan to establish adequate facilities of this kind for the economical reception and distribution of the vast amount of supplies to provide for the disposition of excavating material and site of the power, equipment and machinery for economically handling of same is being carried out with care and vigor. The facilities already established have been remodeled with a view of making them as effective as possible, while other facilities are being constructed at points where the need is indicated. Several miles of the double track have been made on the Panama railroad main line and the need for more is developing rapidly. The necessity for such additional line is becoming urgent as indicated by the fact that 148 train move-

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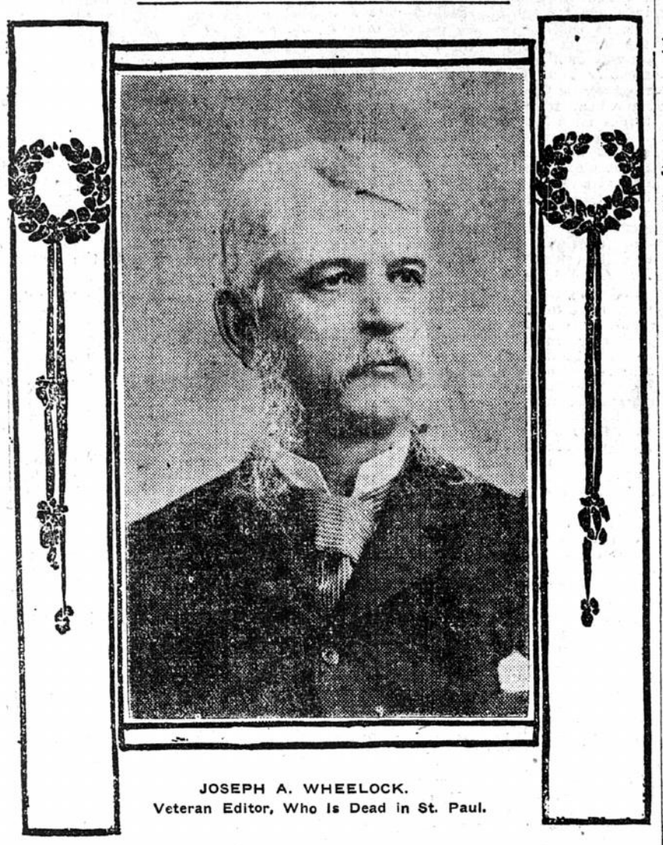
JOSEPH A. WHEELOCK SUDDENLY STRICKEN



JOSEPH A. WHEELOCK.
Veteran Editor, Who Is Dead in St. Paul.

Veteran Editor of the Pioneer Press Passes Away After Long and Distinguished Career.

Joseph A. Wheelock, the veteran editor of the Pioneer Press, whose personality as a newspaper writer was the most prominent in the country west of the Mississippi, died early today at his home in St. Paul.

Fatigue from the long journey from California, where he went to seek relief from asthma, is ascribed as the immediate cause of his death. He was 75 years of age, and for more than fifty years had been an active newspaper writer, having been the editorial head of the Pioneer Press for nearly all that time. He was one of the few old-time editors whose personality in recent years has been identified with his work in the public mind.

His health for some time had been failing to an extent that has somewhat crippled his energies, especially of late, but his death at this time was not expected and comes in the nature of a shock to those who knew him personally.

In former political campaigns he was a conspicuous figure thru his radical editorial writings, which in the pioneer days of the state had an influence that was respected and feared. His reputation was national and he will have a place in memory with such editors as Greeley, Bennett, Dana and Bowles, with whom he was contemporaneous.

Joseph A. Wheelock was a maker of history, and yet it is difficult to find in the local histories very much about him. It was his habit, while contributing ably and largely to the shaping of events, to keep himself so in the background that the bookmakers and local history writers have not made him conspicuous on their pages.

They tell us, however, that he was born at Bridgetown, Nova Scotia, Feb. 8, 1831, so that he was in his 76th year when he died. He was educated at Sackville academy, where apparently the course of study dealt largely with those subjects which make for a liberal culture. At all events, he was a student of literature and appreciated the best things in literature. He was known among his acquaintances around Mendota in the early days for his readiness in quoting from classic authors.

He came to Minnesota in 1850, and secured a position as clerk in a sutler's store at Mendota, then a lively trading post under the shadow of Fort Snelling.

First Editorial Work.

His first editorial experience was as editor of the Read Estate and Financial Advertiser, published in St. Paul, with which he became connected in 1856. Two years later he was employed on the St. Paul Pioneer, where he remained about two years. In 1861 his ability

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GIGANTIC COMPANY TO REBUILD FRISCO

Rockefeller Said to Head Colossal Pool—Newlands Admits Steps Are Taken.

Journal Special Service.

New York, May 9.—Headed by John D. Rockefeller, it is said a number of American multimillionaires have considered plans to form a gigantic company for the rebuilding of San Francisco.

Among those at the meeting yesterday were Senator Francis Newlands of Nevada, who owns a controlling interest in the Palace hotel; President H. S. Black of the United States Realty & Construction company; Thomas A. Magee of the San Francisco relief fund committee; Franklin K. Lane of San Francisco. Senator Newlands and Frank A. Vanderlip of the National City bank represented the Rockefeller interests.

$250,000,000 in Pool.

According to the tentative program, at least $250,000,000 will be subscribed by backers of the colossal undertaking. As Senator Newlands and his San Francisco conferees admitted, however, the actual sum involved may reach $350,000,000 or $400,000,000 before a new San Francisco rises from the ashes.

Among other persons of great wealth who are interested in the undertakings, and who are expected to back their interest with cash, are D. O. Mills, Edward H. Harriman, who is now hurrying to this city from San Francisco; Clarence Mackay, George Crocker, Mrs. Collis P. Huntington, Frederick Vanderbilt, George, Edwin and Howard Gould, Francis Burton Harrison, and nearly every wealthy property owner in the stricken city.

"While our plans today began to assume tangible shape," said Senator Newlands, when seen at the National City bank—the Rockefeller bank—"there are many details yet to be completed. I am prepared to say, however, that vigorous, practical steps are being taken to rebuild the destroyed sections of San Francisco on a more permanent and comprehensive scale than ever before."

LEITER'S "SON" CONVICTED.

Vienna, May 9.—An Englishman named Frazer was sentenced to two years' imprisonment at hard labor for representing himself to be the son of Joseph Leiter of Chicago, and drawing checks in Mr. Leiter's name on Brown, Shipley & Co., bankers of London.

BROTHERS FIGHT TO DEATH.

Richmond, Ind., May 9.—Isaac Mackey, 65, last night crushed the skull of his brother, David Mackey, 75, with a hatchet and then took poison in an effort to end his own life. The assailant is dead and his victim is not expected to survive.

GOLD STRUCK IN POOR MAN'S WELL

Michigan Blacksmith, Formerly of Bark Falls, Wis., Strikes Precious Metal.

Journal Special Service.

Marshall, Mich., May 9.—John McNames, a poor blacksmith, formerly of Bark Falls, Wis., while digging a well at the rear of his residence struck a bright, yellowish mineral in the soil six feet below the surface today. Chemical tests reveal that the mineral unquestionably is gold. Excitement in the neighborhood is intense.

FAMOUS BEAUTY TO SEEK DIVORCE

Mrs. James G. Blaine Will Join the Sioux Falls Colony Next Week.

Journal Special Service.

Boston, May 9.—Mrs. James G. Blaine, formerly Miss Martha Hichborn, the famous beauty of Washington, will leave this city on Saturday for Sioux Falls, S. D., for the purpose of obtaining a divorce.

It has long been known among Mrs. Blaine's most intimate friends that she contemplated such action, but it was only today that announcement was authoritatively made. When seen today Mrs. Blaine said:

"Yes, it is true that I am going to Sioux Falls to obtain a divorce. I am not familiar with the divorce laws of South Dakota, and so I cannot say definitely on just what ground I shall ask for a final separation.

"I cannot say anything more definite about by future or the details contemplated in the proceedings, because my lawyers have instructed me not to do so. There is one thing I can say, however, and that is, I am not thinking of getting married."

VESUVIUS BELCHES CINDERS AND SAND

Great Volcano Again Active, Hid by Huge Umbrella of Smoke.

Naples, May 9.—Vesuvius is again showing considerable activity. A dense column of smoke is rising from the crater like an umbrella accompanied by loud detonations and electrical discharges, which are especially noticeable from Resina. The main crater is discharging sand and cinders.

An English engineer one Mozer yesterday ascended to within eighty yards of the crater, which now is 400 feet lower toward Resina than it was before the recent eruption.

TRUST OF DRUGGISTS ALLEGED BY MOODY

INJUNCTION ASKED OF INDIANA COURT

Attorney General Acts Against National Associations for Alleged Violation of Laws.

Washington, May 9.—Attorney General Moody today made public the following statement:

"The government has today filed in the circuit court of the United States for the district of Indiana a petition for an injuction against certain associations, corporations and individuals, comprising what is commonly known as the 'drug trust of the United States.'

"The parties defendant specifically named in the bill have voluntarily combined together to control the prices at which proprietary medicines and drugs shall be sold to the consumer thru the retail druggists in violation of the Sherman anti-trust law.

"The parties to the combination include the proprietary association of America, the National Wholesale Druggists' association and the National Association of Retail Druggists."

"The plan by which such object is effected," charges the bill, "is in brief as follows: No retail druggist can obtain goods from a wholesale druggist or a manufacturer of a proprietary medicine unless such retail druggist becomes a member of the National Association of Retail Druggists, and in order to become such member he must agree to observe the established price at which such proprietary article is quoted."

ATTORNEY GENERAL MOODY,
Who Charges that Druggists are in a Huge Trust.

CONFESSED CRIME TO SHIELD FRIEND

Tottering Veteran Moves Judge to Tears with Explanation of Embezzlement.

Journal Special Service.

Sterling, Ill., May 9.—In the United States district court here today a pitiful scene was enacted when C. K. Northrup of Ashton, accused of embezzling the sum of $700, was asked to make a statement to the court.

Mr. Northrup, who is an old soldier, and crippled by wounds received during the civil war, arose trembling and told Judge Kenesaw that the confession that he made some time ago that he embezzled the funds was false and that he made the confession to save a friend.

The statement moved the judge to tears. He said that, as the defendant was a helpless cripple, and had served his country well, he would withhold decision to some other date. Mr. Northrup is at liberty.

Many friends believe that the money was taken by some one that Northrup knows and that he has been trying to shield him.

REDS PLOTTED TO SLAY WILLIAM?

Five Anarchists Arrested and Dynamite Found Near Emperor's Palace.

London, May 9.—A dispatch to the Central News from Berlin says that five anarchists charged with high treason have been arrested at Urville, near Metz. The men had explosives in their possession and a quantity of dynamite was found near the imperial palace, where Emperor William is expected to arrive tomorrow.

RIFLE MAIL CAR, BUT MISS RICHES

Canadian Robbers Lose Nerve When They Find They Got Wrong Coach.

Vancouver, B. C., May 9.—The Imperial limited was held up on the main line of the Canadian Pacific railway, near Kamloops, 250 miles from here, early today. The robbers compelled the engineer to uncouple the mail car from the rest of the train and haul it a mile away, where they rifled it of the registered letters.

The robbers were under the impression that the express packages were in the mail car, but when they found that the express was in another car, they had not nerve enough to go back for it, and slipped away into the hills.

The robbery occurred near a small station called Furrer, between Kamloops and Ducks.

LOBBY WARS ON THE ALCOHOL BILL

Foes Work Hard to Kill Legislation, but Measure's Friends Have Little Fear.

By W. W. Jermane.

Washington, May 9.—The wood alcohol lobby has reached Washington in force and is frantically working to secure amendments to the free alcohol bill which will prevent the farmers from benefiting by the legislation for a long time.

Soon after their arrival, the wood alcohol people became convinced that there was no hope of defeating legislation and they began immediately to suggest amendments. One was to have the law go into operation a year after its passage, instead of three months thereafter, as provided in the house bill. A second proposition on which they are working is to have a tax imposed on the denatured product.

The latter proposition is one advocated by Secretary Shaw at the beginning of agitation, but which has been lost sight of and apparently abandoned since then. It is one thing which the friends of the bill say they will not accept and which they say will be refused by the house conferees if the senate should adopt it.

The wood alcohol lobbyists are also seeking to delay the bill in its progress toward adoption by having unlimited hearings. Friends of the measure in the committee on finance, however, say they will be able to prevent protracted consideration in that committee and they predict that the committee will act after one or two of the opponents of the legislation have been heard.

Another line on which the wood alcohol people are moving is to have the bill amended by requiring retail dealers to pay a tax of about $50 a year and requiring them to keep a record of their sales. This proposition will be fought by the friends of the bill, who point out that if such a provision were inserted in the bill, it would preclude its sale by many country storekeepers, who would not go to the trouble of keeping the necessary records, and who would, therefore, prefer to sell gasolene, to do which they are not required to pay any tax.

These proposals by the wood alcohol people show that they are desperate and that they are making a "last ditch" struggle, with little hope of carrying any of their proposals thru.

Salonica, May 9.—A Bulgarian band has massacred fourteen Greeks between Kniranitsa and Niausta. Several horsemen wearing Bulgarian uniforms killed three Greeks at Lagovan.

TRIAL OF BECHTEL NEARING A CLOSE

Clash Over Admission of Evidence as to Further Alleged Misappropriation.

STAR WITNESS OF STATE IS ATTACKED

A. F. Timme Details the Disposition Made of Insurance Chief's Statement.

With an attempt to introduce evidence of another alleged misappropriation of funds by the defendant to discharge a part of the same debt that he is alleged to have paid with the $3,500 check he is on trial for stealing, the state's case will be complete against W. F. Bechtel, the former insurance company president on trial before Judge F. C. Brooks.

The county attorney made an offer of this evidence immediately before the noon adjournment today and the question of the admissibility of the evidence is being argued before the court, the jury being excluded. Outside of this evidence the state has completed its case against Mr. Bechtel.

Judge Robert Jamison was expected to open for the defense this afternoon, and the case should go to the jury tomorrow. What the exact defense will be is somewhat of an enigma to those outside of the defendant's counsel, but Victor Welsh said today: "We have a perfect defense," and judging from the number of prominent attorneys representing Bechtel and other of the former insurance company officials now under indictment, in earnest conference during the noon hour, a strong defense is expected.

Paying a Private Debt.

From the cross-examination of A. F. Timme this morning and from various admissions and statements made by defendant's counsel, it seems that the defense will admit the taking of the check and the paying of a private debt with it. It will, however, be contended that the company owed Bechtel much more than this amount in return for his payment of "legislative expenses" and for his other official services.

An attempt will be made to show that the directors and the insurance commissioner knew of this $3,500 check deal and that there was absolutely no concealment about the transaction.

This defense will, it is almost certain, be backed up with a strong play on the irreproachable character of the defendant, sworn to by prominent business men, by allusions to the official's great work in building an auditorium, and by an attempt to break down the evidence of the state's star witness, Timme, by showing him up in the light of a betrayer of his benefactor and best friend.

A. F. Timme, former actuary of Mr. Bechtel's company and later superintendent of agents, was the principal witness of the morning. He continued the testimony begun yesterday afternoon and told of discovering the $3,500 check alleged to have been illegally appropriated by the defendant.

The witness swore that he included a statement of this check in his report made to the board of directors in July, 1903.

"Were you present at the meeting when this report was read to the directors?" asked the prosecutor.

"Yes, sir."

"Was there any explanation made of this check affair by Mr. Bechtel at that time?"

"No, sir. There was no explanation asked for or made."

Judge Jamison then took the witness for cross-examination.

Timme Cross-Examined.

Counsel for the defense brought out the fact that the witness had had several conferences with the county attorney, besides appearing before the grand jury, and that he did it all of his own volition.

"Now," asked Judge Jamison, "during your employment by the company you and Mr. Bechtel had a great deal to do with each other, didn't you?"

"Yes, sir."

"Mr. Bechtel gave you your position, didn't he?"

"Yes, sir."

"He befriended you, didn't he?"

"Yes, sir."

"Treated you like a father would treat a son?" An objection to this question was sustained.

"Now, in regard to Mr. Bechtel's written statement in reply to a Tribune editorial:

"Mr. Bechtel showed you that statement, didn't he?"

"Yes."

"And after he had left you had a copy of it made, didn't you?"

"Yes, sir."

"Now, Mr. Timme, tell us why you took this copy?"

"Because it contained the early history of the company."

"Now tell us the real reason, Mr. Timme."

"I have given you the only reason I had."

"What did you do with that copy?"

"I put it in my pocket."

"That is the one the county attorney had here yesterday, isn't it?"

"Yes, sir."

Denial by Timme.

"Isn't it true that you made a copy of that statement and kept it secret from Mr. Bechtel for the purpose of using it some time to his detriment?"

"No, sir; it is not."

"When did you give this copy to the county attorney?"

"Last November."

"Didn't you say at the time of your conversation with Mr. Bechtel relative to this statement, that you thought there ought to be some publication of a statement of the company's affairs?"

"I might have; that was my sentiment."

"Did you put it in the strongbox you spoke about?"

"I'm not sure."

"Wasn't that strongbox the storehouse in which you kept ammunition to be used against your friend Mr. Bechtel?"

"No, sir."

"Now, at the time of the proposed examination of the company by Mr. Wolfe, wasn't it commonly known that he was inimical to the company?"

"That was the general belief."

"Wasn't it believed that he was in-

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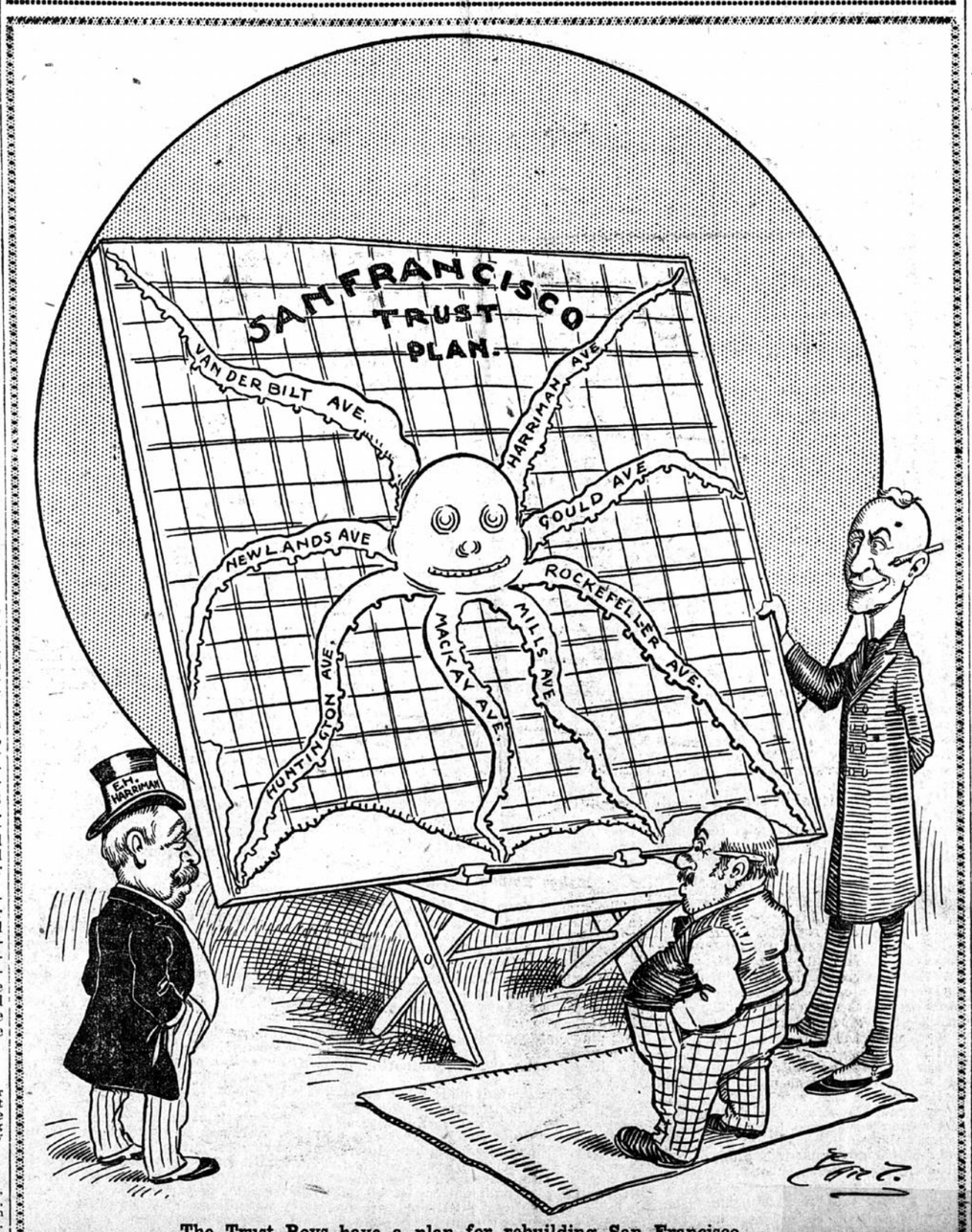

The Trust Boys have a plan for rebuilding San Francisco.