

or woman wished to open a house of ill fame, he or she went to Ruef. When a saloonkeeper wished a license, he went to Ruef. Everyone went to Ruef, and what Ruef said went. And Ruef never said anything save only for a due consideration.

Ruef was not the saloonkeeper type of political boss. He is a graduate of the University of California, and he was the most brilliant student of his class. He went into law, and great things were expected of him.

The reasons that have led Ruef to promise to make public the whole story of his life are plain. He has been the sacrifice of the bosses. When the graft prosecution became so serious that those who had started it saw they would have to punish someone to save their own faces, Ruef was picked on. And he was sent to jail.

He was offered immunity by the prosecution on condition he told the things that would send those for whom the prosecution was gunning to jail.

Ruef refused, and then they sent him to jail, and when he threatened to tell not only what the prosecution wanted him to tell, but ALL he knew, there was indictment after indictment drawn up against him. Conviction on all of the indictments would have meant jail terms for Ruef adding up to some two hundred years.

Men like Herrin, the attorney for the Southern Pacific railroad, and the road's political agent, rich

and respected; Calhoun, the aristocratic society man and president of the San Francisco Gas and Electric company; justices of the supreme court; judges of lesser degree—these have been holding the indictments over Ruef's head and threatening to keep him in the penitentiary for the rest of his life should he write the full story of San Francisco's shame.

Now, there has been a change. Fickert, the district attorney of San Francisco, has moved the dismissal of all indictments against Ruef. Powerful influences are at work to get Ruef a parole from Governor Johnson.

So Ruef will tell all, and what he will tell will not be a muckraker's story. It will be that of a man who lived and breathed in the atmosphere of graft and rotten politics. Here is his detailed, signed promise:

**By Abraham Rueff.**

I believe much good can come from a straightforward statement of my experiences. I have determined to make such a statement. It will take in all the leading events of my political life.

I shall not try to spare myself, nor to make any excuses for any act of mine. But I shall give, with all the circumstances in detail, all important facts and events, including those leading up to and embracing the San Francisco prosecution.

Whatever civic corruption existed in San Francisco and was within my knowledge, I shall tell of frankly. I shall relate my