

A CONTRACTING COMBINE.

How Fortunes Are Being Filched From Tax-Payers.

McDONALD'S FIGURES TESTED.

A Fair Field for Competing Contractors Must Be Secured to Prevent Fraud.

The Call's expose of the monopoly that was to be fostered by the innocent-looking order passed by the Solid Eight of the Board of Supervisors...

Then the same order was introduced as a resolution, was adopted, the veto message of the Mayor ignored and it now stands on the books as law.

The City Street Improvement Company and the San Francisco Paving Company are "in" on the deal with the Santa Cruz Rock Paving Company.

They form a combine under the protection of the Solid Eight of the Board of Supervisors, under which the cost of street-paving has gone away up; the law which requires that all work for the City shall be advertised and let to the highest bidder is wholly ignored...

In a statement before the Street Committee of the Board of Supervisors on the 14th inst., concerning the street work on Van Ness avenue, J. W. McDonald, president of the City Street Improvement Company...

To get the full force of these statements it should be understood that Van Ness avenue is an "accepted street." That is to say, the work has once been done and approved by the City. Streets are improved originally at the expense of the property-owners...

Van Ness avenue was macadamized; it was not satisfactory to the property-owners; it is dusty; the people complained...

Following were the bids: Warren & Malley (for the City's half).....5 Cents Santa Cruz Rock Paving Company.....10 1/2 Cents J. W. McDonald.....14 Cents City Street Improvement Company.....14 1/2 Cents

The Call has told the story of how that contract was juggled. Warren & Malley bid for only the City's half, which was not the only bid. For that their bid was not accepted, although it was on a basis of 10 cents for the whole work.

The Santa Cruz Rock Paving Company was the lowest bidder. But the McCrossan bid had a bond attached, providing that under the street would be kept in repair for seven years. It was deemed that this was a very valuable feature and the contract was let to McCrossan.

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The contract was for paving five blocks—from California to Pacific streets. Only one block was paved. Then the contract was apparently allowed to pass. The new board came in with its Solid Eight, the bituminous rock monopoly was formed, and the Superintendent of Streets was "directed" by this Solid Eight to "enter into a private contract" with the Santa Cruz Rock Paving Company...

The law requires that all work let by the City shall be advertised and given to the lowest bidder, but that made no difference with the Solid Eight.

Now comes J. W. McDonald of the City Street Improvement Company and explains that he figures this bond feature of the contract at 2 1/2 cents and that he is only making a profit of 1 1/2 cents per square foot.

For a difference of 2 1/2 cents, then, the contract was taken away from Mr. Walrath, who bid 10 1/2 cents last September, and given to McCrossan, who bid 14 cents. Then McCrossan sold it back to Walrath for a percentage of 13 cents a foot.

Walrath, having the influence of McDonald in getting jobs through the board, stops doing the work, drops McCrossan and they (McDonald and Walrath) take the majority of the board, without calling for bids, directs the Superintendent of Streets to enter into a private contract with them.

This is done despite the fact that the Jordan Bituminous Rock Company makes a formal offer, backed by a bond, to do the work for 11 cents a square foot. That is the story of Van Ness avenue.

The story of Fell street, along the panhandle of the park, is even more remarkable in its way. A resolution passed the board directing the Superintendent of Streets to enter into one of those private contracts with the City Street Improvement Company...

Of course this communication was simply placed on file, but knowledge of it came to the ears of the property-owners on Fell street, which is parallel along the other side of the panhandle.

WRECK OF THE RAPHAEL.

She Drags Three Anchors and Goes Ashore in a Fierce Gale.

BROKEN UP ON THE BEACH.

How Louis Gomez, a Sailor Boarding-House-Keeper, Collects His Money.

Word has been received by Captain A. Z. Trask, managing owner of the ship Raphael, that the vessel went ashore in a gale at Tanglefoot Bay, near Karluk, Alaska, July 7, and is a total loss.

The reported transfer of Company A has had a most demoralizing effect upon its membership, as it is one of the largest and richest in the State.

The Raphael left this port April 24 under charter of the Alaska Packers' Association discharges will be granted to those members who do not want to undergo the process of consolidation.

The guardsmen elect their own officers, however, and the question arises, can they be made to perform involuntary service under officers whom they do not elect.

"We have done the best we could for the guard," said General Barrett, "and have mustered out only such companies as we thought could be spared.

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The Comparative Merits of Allison, Harrison and Cleveland Discussed.

General J. A. Williamson, who was appointed Commissioner-General of the Land Office during the second term of President Grant, and continued in office throughout the entire administration of President Hayes, and served several months under President Garfield, came as near serving in the Cabinet as any man ever did who was not appointed Cabinet Minister.

He is sojourning at the Palace Hotel, having been obliged to forego the pleasure of a summer voyage to Alaska by reason of an attack of rheumatic gout.

In a talk yesterday on the topics of National politics and Presidential timber, the general said: "Cleveland is the logical candidate of the Democrats for another term, and I believe that he will be nominated by that party.

There are not many available men in the party. It must be taken into consideration that the brainiest leaders of the party are in the South, and the ablest of them served in the Confederate army.

Now in the light of good politics, a man who served in the rebel army, be ever so capable and popular, is not an eligible candidate. Democratic political managers fully comprehend this fact, and so they are compelled to take a leader from Democratic ranks who ought to have been in the Confederate army, but were not there.

"Democrats require strong personality of leadership," continued General Williamson, "and Cleveland represents that personality. He has been able to guide the party to the support of his own policy as no man ever before directed a party.

The elements composing the organization must have leadership of that character. Again, it must be admitted that he is what we call a safe man and is governed by fairly good judgment. He is, it is true, a monometalist, believing in the single standard of gold. His party is not with him in this question of the Government.

We must give Cleveland credit for nerve and strength of purpose. In calling out the troops to suppress the railroad strike he knew that a majority of the men who were bent on the work of wrecking trains and burning cars belonged to his own party.

He used the force of the Government to restore order, and it indicated a happy state of feeling in the Nation that Congress acquiesced in that exercise of executive authority.

"The great corporations of the country, and especially the railway companies, regard Cleveland, therefore, as a safe man, one whose judgment can be trusted, and that counts a great deal in a party which has scant material of leadership."

General Williamson was asked to explain the reason why so many people in the East were speaking so confidently of President Cleveland's chances of getting the Republican nomination.

"In the Republican party," remarked the General, "not so much weight is attached to personality, but Harrison, like Cleveland, is a great deal more than a name. He has been in the East since after the railroad strike he was reported to have criticized Cleveland's policy of calling out the troops, but he hastened to deny the report. Harrison's strength is simply this: He is a safe man, and while at the head of the Nation. Men knowing him best know that he is cold, unsympathetic and in some respects narrow minded.

Let his judgment be good, his intellect clear and his character patriotic. In a word he is a safe man. The country knows that he will make no mistakes—do nothing rash or hasty. A comparatively small number of people know him personally. The rest know him by what he has done in his record in office. Like Cleveland Harrison is a monometalist. Both parties will nominate simple standard men, and each go into the contest under the old banner.

"As to Harrison himself, he firmly believes, no doubt, in the divine right of kings. He is convinced that it was ordained millions of years ago that his grandfather should be President and he should be President himself."

Speaking of Senator Allison, General Williamson said: "In my judgment, Allison is the safest man of all. He has been thirty-two years in Congress, and is serving his fourth term in the Senate. He has known him since 1860. Of all men in public life he would be the last one to act in haste, or to do anything rash. He is deliberate in his judgment by nature, and his long training has taught him the value of calm reflection. He has been so long in public life and has been so closely identified with the settlement of great National questions that he feels the pulse of the people more intelligently than any other man mentioned. Allison is a patriot—a broad man—broad in his sympathies and charities. He understands the sentiment of the people of the country on the silver question, but perceives the difficulty of this Nation alone settling the problem.

"The Presidential contest," continued General Williamson, "will be made on the tariff. Both the leading parties will unite on the single gold standard. There is no time and there is no leadership to organize a silver party. If the right kind of leadership for organization could be found a silver party would sweep the country. The fight will come on the tariff. In my judgment the Republican will win. For some time longer American labor must be protected. Even if the import duties were not absolutely necessary to support the Government the levy of the duty should be made to protect American industries.

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Military Entertainments. Troop A, First California Guard, will celebrate its forty-sixth anniversary in the army, 1615 Pacific avenue, this evening. The programme includes drills, sports and games on horseback and a broadsword contest between Captain J. Dillman and L. Troutman, and a sword fight between Judge Groezinger and the troop with a guide.

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The Second Artillery will be allowed to remain as it is now, no changes being made at present. Those are all the local changes. In the interior the Stockton Signal Corps will be mustered out, and the corps at Sacramento will be made larger.

The order, when issued, will contain a little joker which is causing no end of consternation among such officers as hear of it. It states that next January all companies which will not show an average attendance at drill of fifty men will be mustered out. This line officers say means the end of the guard if the order is carried out, for reports for years back do not show anything like an average attendance of fifty men on drill nights. Thirty, thirty-five and forty is nearer the mark, but fifty is unheard of.

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It will mark an epoch in this city's merchandising, for we shall have strictly one price and shall resort to no "guesses," no "Wholesale-Retailing" tricks to gain your trade.

You shall have your money's worth, or your cash back quick.

Will you help us to establish a legitimate clothing business in Frisco?

To-day we want visitors. Come and look around. We won't press you to buy. This is our Reception Day.

To-day

COME EVERYBODY

H. ROMAN & CO., IN THE BUILDING FORMERLY OCCUPIED BY THE KENNEDY DRY GOODS CO., COR. FIFTH AND MARKET STS.

NOW ON SALE AT FIRST LIST PRICES. SAN MATEO HEIGHTS, The most beautiful residence portion of the City of San Mateo.

LARGE AND SIGHTLY LOTS, WIDE AVENUES, PURE WATER AND PERFECT SEWERAGE. The Finest Suburban Investment in This State.

C. E. KNAPP & CO., Sole Agents SAN FRANCISCO OFFICES: Room 20, Seventh Floor, Mills Building. San Mateo Office, Union Hotel Building.

COME QUICKLY. OUR FIRE AD HAS DOUBLED OUR SALES. WHY? DESKS ARE MARKED IN PLAIN FIGURES AND SOLD AT