

UNDOING A BAD MAN AND HIS PERFDY

Wage - Earners Learn the Truth of Hearst's Friendship for Them.

THE HIGH PRIEST OF BLACK-MAIL REVEALED AS HE REALLY IS.

The Cotton-Mill Employes Protest Against the Operation of His San Quentin Jutemill.

Some Very Caustic Criticisms From Business Men on the Faker "Examiner's" Convict Connections.

The Labor Council and Unions Preparing to Investigate the Methods of the Viper Journal That Betrays Them.

The undoing of a bad man has begun. The story of his double-dealing has been given to the world, and the signs of the reckoning are already visible. The mask behind which he has been so long masquerading has been lifted and those who have eyes may see him for what he is worth. Already the finger, that finger that somehow or other always has a tendency to point at the guilty, is directed toward him. A wrong is in a favorable way to be righted. A hypocrite has been exposed and people now know W. R. Hearst as impersonated and spiritualized in the San Francisco Examiner for what he really is.

There is no tendency on the part of the public to interfere with this apostle of blackmail and high priest of thug journalism in his business methods. If he cares to buy his supplies in Jericho or San Quentin there is no law that can stop him. There was no disposition to criticize the action of his business manager, T. T. Williams, in making a special contract with Warden Hale for Examiner twine supplies. Williams, of course, was doing this for the millionaire who employed him. The prison authorities knew this, and now that the world may read Mr. Hearst as he really is there is no tendency to cast odium upon the man who actually engineered the deal.

Already the "Monarch" of hypocrites has begun to prepare for the wrath that is to come. It is preparing to explain that it was forced to buy twine goods from San Quentin because it was unable to get a similar article made by free labor. Already it is preparing to declare that it was not a desire to save 2 cents a pound on jute goods that led it to make a special contract for convict-made articles, but rather to explain that one of the purposes in establishing the jutemill was to protect the people of the State from the operations of a trust in this class of goods.

There is little to be said in reply to these arguments. The goods that the Examiner uses are to-day and have been a special article of manufacture by the local cotton-mills. The Examiner, it is true, saved not a large amount in buying the convict output, but the issue is not a matter of dollars and cents, but of principle.

The moment Hearst sees fit to repudiate his prison contract by paying 2 cents more a pound for his goods there are on sale in a score of places in this City tons of twine similar to that he now purchases from the convict jutemills.

The Veil Falls From the Eyes of the Workingmen of San Francisco.

By 1 o'clock yesterday nearly every workman in the City had read THE CALL'S expose of the Examiner's hypocrisy in masquerading as the champion of free labor while it was in reality a patron of convict labor. The proof was so conclusive that it was not even questioned, and many expressed curiosity as to what apology or excuse the jutemill monarch would make, if any. To many the plain, unvarnished disclosure of facts was a painful surprise, for they had heard the Faker's profession of friendship for free labor so often that they really believed it was sincere.

At the meetings of the unions and in places where workmen are accustomed to congregate the unmasking of the hypocrite by THE CALL was generally discussed last evening. The expose was an eye-opener, and judging from the expressions of those who have been deceived, the matter will not pass without some further notice.

The duplicity of a large daily newspaper in pretending to be the friend of free labor and dealing in convict goods was heartily condemned by all.

At the Granite Cutters' Union, at 1159 Mission street, the secretary read to the union THE CALL'S expose.

It will be remembered that when this union was sitting the park scandal—the Grant monument being dressed by Folsom felons—the Examiner was loudly championing the union's cause. It did so in its publications of May 12, 13, 14 and 15, 1896. At the same time its mailroom supplies were being made by convicts' hands.

As Cotton-Mill Workers View the Examiner

OAKLAND, CAL., March 10.—William F. Doig, the assistant manager of the California Cotton-Mills, said to-day: "Some of our employes took a ball of our twine this morning, as soon as they read THE CALL, and called upon R. M. Fitzgerald, President of the Board of Prison Directors. They were going to ascertain if our twine was not as good and in fact the same material, and then urge him to stop such work. He is a friend of the laborer, and has shown it in more ways than one. In fact, he and Warden Hale have been very favorable to us, and whenever they received application for goods that we manufactured have sent us the order. Mr. Fitzgerald has assured us on various occasions that the prisoners were making only sugar and grain bags, and would not be allowed to compete in our business. I firmly believe that he was not aware of this gross perfidy on the part of the Examiner."

"Mr. Fitzgerald was not in his office to-day, but the men will appeal to him to protect their bread and butter. They propose to keep at this until the works at San Quentin are either stopped by law or the products are refused on the markets."

"I am not surprised after all that the Examiner has done this. I believe it to be capable of doing anything. It is absolutely without principle, and this matter of purchasing twine is only in line with its daily course. The abominable, home-destroying agency is not apparently contented with trying to ruin the minds of our children, but is anxious to rob them of their means of support."

"For many years, in fact ever since that jutemill at San Quentin was opened, our people have been doing all in their power to prevent the competition from becoming disastrous, and so long as it was confined to bag-making we did not feel it, but if the prison is being encouraged by the Examiner to make goods in competition with our people then the condition is indeed serious."

"At present we employ 350 people, and when the new tariff is in effect we expect to employ another hundred, but not if we have to pit our honest employes against the product of convicts."



THE UNDOING OF A BAD MAN.

Great crowds congregated about the Business Office of THE CALL yesterday to discuss the expose of Hearst's Examiner as an exclusive patron of convict supplies. It was a sullen and angry throng. In their indignation at being betrayed, business men and workers forgot the humorous side of the story. The expose of Hearst's convict connections was posted on the bulletin-board, about which the people surged all day.

The workmen have good memories, which served them well last evening when they made a careful comparison of these tell-tale dates. Much of the session was consumed in discussing the matter, and it is needless to say that no flowery resolutions to the Examiner were passed. The Examiner's representatives, usually present with ready-made resolutions complimentary to itself, showed the good judgment to keep away from the labor unions last evening.

The Labor Council to Investigate the Viper Journal That Betrayed It.

The "Jutemill Monarch" must answer for its sinning and double dealing to the San Francisco Labor Council. The members of that organization understand that they cannot prevent Mr. Hearst from buying his supplies where he pleases, but they ask that they be not hoodwinked by the paper he owns. They realize that they, in company with all other wage-earners, have been betrayed and deceived. The leaders of the council are so indignant that they can not trust themselves to speak. "I can tell you this," said a prominent member of the council, "that something

Wage-Earners Oppose The Hearst Jutemill

OAKLAND, CAL., March 10.—C. D. Rogers, President of the Alameda County Federation of Trades, when seen at his home to-night said:

"I was greatly surprised at THE CALL'S expose this morning in regard to the Examiner purchasing its twine supply at San Quentin. If this is true the Examiner has certainly given the laboring men a hard blow. We considered it our friend, for on its face the Examiner is anything to help the laborer. The trade unions have fought San Quentin products ever since the State began to compete against them. Resolution after resolution has been passed and appeal after appeal made to protect themselves and their against prison products."

"If the Examiner has prayed for us and fought against us all of this time and it is capable of proof I think the federation will undoubtedly take the matter up to-morrow night at its meeting. We may have the whole San Quentin fight to make over again."

will happen in the council before many days. The labor unions have been betrayed; they have been nursing a viper in their midst, and they have discovered it, and I am very much mistaken if they do not take action to set itself right."

The Labor Council is composed of representatives of certain of the labor unions of the City. It has kept itself free from interference with affairs not directly connected with labor interests, and especially, as the members say, from "newspaper controversies," but they feel that a San Francisco business concern, regardless of its character or by whom conducted, that deals in prison-made goods is one that calls for an investigation. It is proposed that an investigation shall be held. The Labor Council meets Friday night.

The California Labor Convention, representing over thirty trades unions, formed in December for the purpose of proposing and amending labor laws, will hold a meeting, probably its last, on Sunday evening. It presented some twenty-two labor bills to the Legislature. Among the bills proposed was one touching this matter of prison-made goods. It was "An act to provide for the branding of all articles manufactured in prisons."

This act, however, was stricken out as the report of the work of the convention says, because "the convention placed itself on record as being unalterably opposed to manufacturing or producing any article in the penal institutions of this State that will come in competition with free labor. We recommend the passage of a law branding goods manufactured in other States."

This is high ground for the labor convention to take. It refuses to recognize the fact that the great State of California could be guilty of knowingly manufacturing goods in its prisons that would enter into competition with its free labor. It is not likely that this convention will adjourn without taking cognizance of the fact that the so-called champion of free labor is discovered to be covertly taking advantage of the cheap labor and machinery of San Quentin to save a few dimes.

James Rose is president of the labor convention and Guy Lathrop is its secretary.

Did Hearst Violate the Law in His Contract for Convict Goods?

The fact that the Examiner people were not required to file an affidavit in accordance with law that the twine was for their own use is due to the courtesy extended the paper by Warden Hale. As the guardian of the prison the Warden did not believe that Mr. Hearst was going to resell the twine. The Warden believed Business Manager Williams desired the convict-made goods for the Mission-street journal, and it can be said to Mr. Hearst's credit that the confidence of the prison manager was not violated.

But according to the strict interpretation of the Ostrom act, Mr. Hearst should have been obliged to file an affidavit, when his paper made its contract for twine, the

same as any other customer of the jutemills. Section 3 of the act fixing the conditions of the sale of jute goods, passed in 1893, is plain in its meaning, and Mr. Hearst's manager, but for the Warden's courtesy, would have been obliged to abide with its conditions. Here is the clause that covers the case of Wanton Willie:

Section 3. All orders for jute goods must be accompanied by an affidavit setting forth that the amount of goods contained in the order are for individual and personal use of applicant; said affidavit to be subscribed and sworn to before some Notary Public or by a Justice of the Peace residing in the township in which the applicant resides; provided, that any applicant, as heretofore provided for, who falsely and fraudulently procures jute goods under the provisions of this act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

There was evidently no intent on the part of Mr. Hearst to commit a misdemeanor, so he could have made the required affidavit with good grace. Still possibly the case was such an awkward one that the young millionaire was anxious to keep himself dark as far as official records might go.

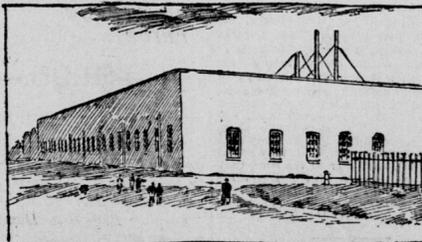
"I do not regard our action as a violation of the law," said Warden Hale yesterday. "Even if it should be so considered it would only be a technical violation. The purpose and meaning of the act is to prevent the Prison Directors selling grain or other bags to the middlemen. The latter might, if no restrictions were placed on the sale of the bags, either buy openly or get others to buy all the grain sacks that we have and corner the market. In the case of grain or other sacks we require the prospective purchasers to make affidavit as to the use to which the goods ordered are to be put. This has invariably been done, as shown by our books."

"With the sale of wrapping twine to the Examiner the case is different. We know that the managers of the paper purchased the twine for the use of the paper and not to resell. When the Examiner people first wanted us to furnish them with twine we did not have the sizes they wanted. Ours was not quite heavy enough, so we made the size that was desired. This is an extra heavy and an odd size and the very nature of it precluded the possibility of its being used for any purpose except to tie up Examiner's twine."

"As I said, there may have been a technical violation of the letter of the law, but there was no violation of the spirit of the act, which only contemplates the preventing of middlemen handling or making profit out of goods manufactured by the State. We occasionally make exceptions of this kind. For example, suppose some one wanted a few yards of burlap for some purpose such as it is occasionally used for, we would not require an affidavit. We do not regard the sale of a few yards of this stuff as a flagrant offense, simply because no affidavit accompanies the order."

Hearst's Convict Contract an Injustice to Dealers in Twine.

C. M. Osborn, of the firm of Neville & Co., manufacturers and dealers in bags, twine, etc.—I am strictly opposed to anything in the way of prison-made goods. If the Examiner had not been able to get that twine from the prison mill it is fair to suppose that it would have patronized some of the local firms dealing in such articles. We have, at different times, supplied newspapers with such twine for wrapping purposes, and if I am not mistaken, we have furnished the Examiner with some. We could not, nor could our factory, however, sell it for 3 1/2 cents a pound. That is where the competition of the convict-made twine does both dealers and manufacturers an injustice to the extent practically of controlling the market. There is no fiber so cheap as jute, and when the prison-made jute twine can be put on the market for nearly a third less in price a pound than can be offered by any factory, there is no chance to sell either jute or other cheap twine. We, as dealers, cannot of course, ac-



OAKLAND OFFICE SAN FRANCISCO CALL, 908 Broadway, March 9.

In a little pamphlet relating to Alameda County, thousands of copies of which were distributed at the World's Fair, is found the following paragraph:

The California Jute Mills, at Clinton Station, on the north arm of the estuary, cover an entire block of ground and give employment to upward of 400 men, boys and girls, with a payroll of about \$10,000 monthly. Nearly 1000 bales of jute are monthly manufactured into burlaps for grain, potato, flour and borax sacks, twines, jute matting, horse blankets, etc. There are 3000 spindles in the mill and 135 looms. There are 250 machines in the factory, and the cost of the plant was \$250,000.

One year after the above paragraph was written the mills were closed down and the 400 men, boys and girls were thrown out of employment, because of the ruinous effect of convict competition.

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