

PROVE OR NAUGHT  
AGAINST WEBB

Witnesses Give Testimony in Rebuttal at Los Angeles.

Though for the Prosecution, Each Helps the Case of the Defense.

Evidence That the School Director Prevented Several Schemes of Boodlers.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 14.—School Director Webb's prosecutors had their final fight before the Board of Education. They introduced testimony which they claimed was in rebuttal, though no one, but perhaps themselves, could see wherein it rebutted any testimony of the defense. W. A. Cheney, the leading counsel for the prosecution, on behalf of the League for Better City Government, had promised something very interesting, but so far as implicating the accused in anything blameworthy the rebuttal was a fizzle; in fact it was a veritable boomerang for the prosecution, for every witness bore testimony only to the good character, fairness and integrity of Walter L. Webb.

When the proceedings opened Secretary Johnson said he had tried to subpoena J. F. Adams, but the latter had left town and would not return for ten days. It was finally agreed that the board should pay for a transcript of Adams' testimony given in the Superior Court during the trial of Webb, and that this be put in as part of the case for the defense.

Ex-Chairman Mathis and Directors Conroy and Bartlett were put on by the defense, and testified to their having been warned against Adams by various persons, expressed himself as being suspicious of Adams' honesty, and had gone so far in one instance as to suggest to Dr. Mathis, who was then chairman of the board, to put two strong members on all the committees to which he appointed Adams. Conroy, who was chairman of the teachers' committee, of which Webb was a member, stated that Webb had always treated him very kindly and that he had not been dominated by Webb, so far as he knew. He added that there had never been any friction between the members of the teachers' committee, and that he and Webb were always on friendly terms. Their only difference of opinion was over the resignation of Miss Mae Owen and Miss Harden, two of the teachers who were dropped from the list last June.

Deputy Superintendent of Schools Ennis was the first witness put on in rebuttal. He testified that he had marked Miss Mae Owen on one occasion "fair," and on another "poor to fair." In giving her marking to the teachers' committee, he thought of the "fair" as "fair," the marking "poor to fair" was his latest estimate of the young lady's ability. This marking he had given her about three weeks before the teachers were reinstated.

Miss Owen was one of five or six teachers, similarly rated, who had been dropped. Her case was not exceptional. He further testified that a number of the friends who had been called upon to give evidence in his behalf, seeking to have him use his influence to have her reinstated. Among these were Mr. Garland, W. Childs and T. E. Gibson. Some of them called him "than one."

These came one of the witnesses who was evidently expected to develop something interesting. Mr. Gauchaur is a solicitor for the firm of Fuller Company, dealers in oils. He testified that he knew Adams and that he and Webb. His testimony in its most important parts was as follows: "Some months ago Mr. Edwards, another solicitor for Fuller & Co., came to me and said Mr. Adams said there was something to be something for him or we would lose the trade of the school department. I went to Mr. Adams, who told me he had authority to speak for the purchasing committee and he said that during the investigation he had said that he had said something to it for him. I said there could be nothing in it except 2 per cent discount, owing to the low prices. He suggested to see Mr. Axtell. I went to Mr. Axtell and he said to do nothing. I said I saw Mr. Webb. I repeated the result of my interview with Axtell to Edwards, and asked him to see Webb. Adams never came to see why he got no rake-off."

Under the examination of E. A. Mearns, attorney for the defense, Gauchaur testified further as follows: "Edwards went to Webb, and Webb said he wanted nothing but good prices and that he was not in that kind of business."

Edwards was called by the prosecution, and he proved one of the best witnesses for the defense that has taken the stand during the investigation. He testified that he was approached by Adams one day on Main street about oil for the Board of Education. "I told him," continued the witness, "that I was not willing that kind of goods, and I made an appointment for him with Mr. Gauchaur. Adams wanted about 10 per cent, from what Mr. Gauchaur told me. After Gauchaur reported to me that Adams had concluded he had better see Mr. Webb. In the spring I had been informed that Webb was not inclined to give us an equal show with others. He said he was favorably impressed with Fuller & Co. I went to Mr. Webb after I had introduced Adams to Mr. Gauchaur and after he had asked for a rake-off."

Webb said he did not want anything of the kind done. He added that if anything further of that kind occurred he would bring it to the notice of the Board of Education, and he asked me to let him know. I said some time afterwards I did not believe the charges made against him, as his transactions with me were always straight."

George M. Trowbridge testified to having had nothing to do with the writing of the anonymous note sent to Webb, reading as follows: "You need the Times. Trowbridge needs money. See Trowbridge, 500."

That this was in rebuttal was not made plain, though one of the attorneys for the prosecution stated that he wished to disprove a certain part of Webb's signed statement published in The Call. It was that part in which Webb charged the Times with having been unjust to him.

In the course of his testimony this witness said that Webb had never accused him of having written the note. He said that he had said to him that he expected to prove his innocence, and he hoped the Times would give the same prominence to the proofs of his innocence that it had given to the statements of his guilt. The wit-

THE CALL'S STAND FOR DECENCY IN JOURNALISM

COURAGE AND RIGHT PRINCIPLE.

SONOMA, Jan. 8, 1898. To the Editor of The Call: Please accept my sincerest thanks and congratulations for the courage and high principle manifested in editing to-day's Call without these most horrible and degrading illustrations of the execution which seemed to be a prominent feature of the other dailies. I rejoice to see a daily of such a kind as yours. Most truly, O. E. HOTLE, Pastor M. E. Church.

ONE DECENT MORNING PAPER.

To the Editor of The Call—Dear Sir: I want to express my good feeling toward you for the way in which you have handled the account of Durrant's execution in this morning's issue. It is a new departure for a morning paper to publish such sensational matter in such a business-like shape, with nothing repulsive to the general reader—no unnecessary cuts and detail. I thank you for showing us that we have a morning paper which can be decent, and you will continue in this direction. Very truly yours, CHARLES PENNELL, San Francisco, January 8, 1898.

NOT MINISTERING TO MORBIDITY.

To the Editor of The Call—Dear Sir: I wish to thank The Call most sincerely for the wise and patriotic manner in which you have handled its business interests to the higher interests of the community in presenting the facts of the Durrant execution without accompanying illustrations, which, at best, would have but ministered to depraved and morbid cravings. Yours truly, WM. H. O'BRYAN, Altruria, Sonoma County, Jan. 8, 1898.

MERITS PUBLIC APPROVAL.

Alameda Encipol.

In its report of the Durrant execution The Call inaugurated a new departure which is as sensible as it is refreshing. It gave a plain, straightforward account of the gruesome affair, but did not have a single illustration. The other papers, the afternoon ones in particular, vied with each other in seeing how horrible and beastly they could be in the pictorial line, and it was refreshing to turn to The Call and find a page unmarred with hatchet-made cuts, but typographically as neat as good taste could make it. This new move on the part of The Call is an evidence that the picture craze for daily papers has about reached its height. We shall be greatly mistaken if the public does not bestow warm approval upon this new and needed departure.

SITUATION VERY GRAVE AT HAVANA

Continued from First Page.

bor, the post and telegraphic address will be Key West. The foregoing dates of sailing and rendezvous are subject to change, due to the completion of repairs to the vessels at New York or to heavy weather. Should the Brooklyn, Maine or other vessels participate in the drills on the Florida drill grounds detailed orders will be given. It is not intended that any of the battle-ships or armoured cruisers (except the Maine) shall enter the harbor of Key West except by special order of the commander-in-chief or in case of emergency. SICARD, Rear-Admiral Commanding United States Naval Force on the North Atlantic Station.

ACTIVE INSURGENTS CONTINUE TO RAID AND BURN PLANTATIONS.

Ranks of the Rebels Being Swelled, While General Gomez Declares That Blanco Can Never Defeat Cuba.

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HAVANA, Jan. 14.—Insurgents destroyed 1,000,000 tobacco plants growing under the protection of the forts at Camajuani, Santa Clara province, on the night of January 5. They also destroyed 25,000 plants within sight of the forts of Sisto Grande. The Herald correspondent has made a journey from Havana to Sagua la Grande. He reports that not one sugar mill is grinding. The estate Isabel near Media Luna, coast of Santiago de Cuba, which is strongly fortified, was attacked by rebels under General Salvador Rios. The rebels had field pieces and were doing great damage to the buildings and forts when a Spanish column from Manzanillo appeared. After a brief fight the rebels retreated, but were not pursued. Reports from Santiago de Cuba province state that many persons are leaving town to join the rebels. Two filibustering expeditions have recently landed, one near Mayar Abjo and the other near Sancto Spiritus. Both were met by rebels and escorted inland. The commander in chief of the rebel army has ordered the following persons, whenever caught, to be court-martialed for murder: Benito Carreras, Alejandro Oloarista, Eugenio Layo, Pedro Mora Ledon, Gabriel la Torre, Francisco Garcia, Manuel Canada, Pedro Robau, Felix Cuevillas, Hilario Alvarez, Ramon Menendez and Domingo Roldan. The last named is a naturalized citizen of the United States.

In a letter to a friend in Havana General Maximo Gomez says: "Let Blanco come to this district and he will have plenty to do. It seems to me that the task of pacifying Cuba with so many combatants to subdue is impossible of realization. Two hundred thousand men under the general who did not spare even animals have been unable to accomplish it; much less

APPROVED BY PRESS AND PEOPLE.

THE manner in which The Call reported the execution of Durrant has found prompt approval from the intelligence of the people and the press. This is made evident by the host of letters which have come to us, and from the commendation given by many of the leading papers of the State. Some of these we publish this morning in order to make known the extent to which popular sentiment revolts against the morbid sensationalism so often shown in cases of this kind, and the degree of satisfaction with which it notes in The Call the proper treatment of such subjects.

The Call told the story of the execution of Durrant as a matter of news, without straining to make the horror more horrible still by ghastly pictures of the gallows and of other incidents or accessories of the execution. It recognized that in this case from the first day of the arrest of Durrant degenerate journalism had overdone itself in its vicious, foul and demoralizing efforts to make this crime a source of profit to itself by pandering to all perverted tastes and the morbid craving for sensationalism among the lowest classes of the people.

To mark out a clear and unmistakable distinction between legitimate journalism and that of the unspeakable yellow, The Call published no picture of the execution. It set before the public a contrast with sensationalism and left it to the people to judge for themselves which is best. The people have noted the contrast and have given judgment. The Call has been commended by all whose commendation is worth having. Public sentiment has repudiated degenerate journalism. It has shown that it does not share the morbid tastes of criminal pervers, nor approve of the shrieking panders of the press who disgrace decency in order to profit by that taste.

The Call is gratified by the prompt approval which has come to it, not so much because of the praise given to itself as because of the unmistakable proof it gives that the tone of our people is higher than degenerate journalism would have the world believe.

FOR PURER JOURNALISM.

COTTONWOOD, Jan. 10. To the Editor of The San Francisco Call: I wish to express to you my personal appreciation and thanks for the absence of sensationalism in the report of the hanging of W. H. T. Durrant. It is certainly a step toward a purer journalism. Sincerely, S. R. WOOD, Evangelist.

DESERVES CREDIT FOR THE DEPARTURE.

Oakland Enquirer. "It is by design, and after mature deliberation, that The Call prints the story of the Durrant execution without any illustrations, and with no attempt at embellishment of the plain facts." So says The Call of this morning, and it deserves credit for its departure from the usual custom, whatever our own judgment of the merit of capital punishment may be, whenever he sees in a newspaper a picture of a man on a scaffold with a rope around his neck, he feels like saying with the poet— "The gallows tree! Breath of Christian charity, Blow and sweep it from the earth!"

MANLY AND HUMANE REPORT.

Solano County Courier. The Call is to be commended for its decent, manly and humane report of the execution of Durrant. Its columns were not contaminated with disgraceful pictures which are calculated to make crime famous and cause red-handed murderers to pose as the heroes of the period. We hope to see The Call continue to hold up the banner of common decency.

YELLOW JOURNALISM REBUKED.

San Bernardino Free Press. The San Francisco Call did not publish a single illustration of the execution of Durrant. This was a relief to its readers and a strong rebuke to yellow journalism.

NO PICTURES OF THE HANGING.

SAN DIEGO, Jan. 9, 1898. To the Editor of The Call: Yesterday's number of your paper was a model. It was not polluted by sensational pictures of Durrant's hanging, but it kept to the facts, and this is a credit which should be recognized by every moral newspaper reader of California. Yours truly, JAMES SMITH.

AIMS TO GIVE THE NEWS, NOT FILTH.

THE PARSONAGE, COTTONWOOD, Jan. 10.—Manager The Call: Sir: I cannot refrain from writing a line to you to express my thanks to you for the object lesson which you gave to the people of California and through them to the world in your Saturday edition of The Call. For some time I have noticed and favorably commented upon the absence of all vulgar sensationalism in your paper, but I was particularly pleased on Saturday with the absence of illustrations of the Durrant execution.

I thank you for thus proving that San Francisco can and does produce a clean, pure paper whose aim seems to be to give news and not filth to its customers. Hoping that you will receive the support you deserve, believe me yours faithfully, WILLIAM D. KIDD, Pastor Congregational Church.

THE GRAND CONSISTORY

That Organization of the Scottish Rite Has Been Dissolved.

In Place Thereof There Has Been Organized San Francisco Consistory No. 1.

The Grand Consistory of Masters of the Royal Secret No. 32 Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry in the State of California has passed out of existence, and in its place there has been established a particular consistory known as San Francisco Consistory No. 1. The old consistory was the governing body of all the organizations that are embraced within the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, including the particular consistory of Los Angeles, the Knights Kadosh, the Knights of Rose Croix and the Lodge of Perfection, and it was the body between these organizations and the Supreme Council, but hereafter these bodies will deal directly with the Supreme Council. The organization of the new body was effected last Thursday night by the selection of the following officers: V. Conlisk, commander; John Leslie Munroe Shetterly, first lieutenant commander; John Hobe, registrar; Samuel Wolf Levy, treasurer; Simon Baum, prelate; Frederick William Gustave Moebus, master of ceremonies; Henry Green Grauerholz, senior expert; James H. Goldman, junior expert; Peter Christian Miller, captain of the guard; and John D'Arcy, clerk. The members of the consistory that has been dissolved and were residents of the city outside of San Francisco have taken demit cards. The members of the new consistory there will be a number of candidates presented who will ask that the first-second degree be conferred upon them.

Full House All the Time.

The Michigan furniture sale is attracting all parts of city and country to the big furniture house of Patterson Co., corner Sixteenth and Mission; 400 rolls of carpet, 300 rolls of linoleum came to-day. Linoleum will go at 45c yard, 4 yards wide; Brussels carpet, 50c.

ROTTANZI PLEASSED THEM.

Precita Valley Improvement Club Made Happy Over the Proposed Park.

The resolution offered by Supervisor Dr. Rottanzi to build a new City and County Hospital on the Alhambra Tract and turn the present hospital site into a park has so pleased the members of the Precita Valley Improvement Club that it passed a resolution indorsing the movement, and also commendatory of the zoo hubguboo which was attempted to be foisted on the innocent taxpayers at the instigation of a handful of real estate sharks. The Superintendent of Streets was requested to place a sign board in Bernal Park designating that place as a park, with the hope that at some future time not too far remote, the city will be generous enough to fill it in and sow a handful of grass seed over its surface. The grading of Alabama since Folsom street to Cortland avenue and Ridley street was reported as progressing. Not far from the corner of Cortland avenue, Twenty-sixth street, for Contractor Buckman has for some reason not made manifest, delayed the work to an unreasonable length of time.

Bar Association Officers.

The Bar Association has elected the following officers for the ensuing year: President, W. H. Fifield; secretary, W. J. Herrin; senior vice-president, A. C. Freeman; junior vice-president, A. Comte Jr.; corresponding secretary, Frank Otis; treasurer, John M. Burnett; trustees, Robert Harrison, Joseph Hutchinson, G. W. Towle, T. Z. Blakeman, Alfred Wheeler; committee on admissions, M. H. Myrick, J. B. Mhoon, Vincent Neale, E. H. Risford, A. A. Plunkett, C. P. Pomerooy, S. G. Kellogg.

NEW TO-DAY.

When the Alice Blanchard got to Astoria the last time the constable was waiting for Captain Warner with a warrant for his arrest on a charge of threats to kill. The steamer, however, got away before the warrant was served, and on the way back from Portland Captain Warner again avoided the constable by putting to sea without calling at Astoria.

The Blanchard is to be withdrawn from the Portland trade on the completion of her next trip. She will then go to Los Angeles and will carry miners from that point to Copper River. She will leave on the first voyage on February 10, and will be kept in the business during the summer. A great many of the miners who will go to

Stockton, Jan. 14.—Deputy Sheriff George Black, who went to Jamestown to bring E. A. Jones back and found that his expected prisoner had made himself scarce about the jail during the night, followed the escape to Sonoma, where he found that he had been during the day. The fellow had not been rearrested up to 8 o'clock this evening.

JONES STILL AT LARGE.

Escaped Prisoner Followed From Stockton to Sonoma.

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 14.—In the trial of the Creede will case this morning, Mrs. Creede's attorneys called Dr. H. G. Brainard to testify regarding the effects of morphine on the system. Dr. Brainard did not regard Mrs. Creede as mentally sound when she signed away her interest in the big Creede estate for \$20,000. Other witnesses were called to testify to the peculiarity of Mrs. Creede's actions at the time of the signing of the contract.

MRS. CREDE ACTED QUEERLY.

Witnesses Believe She Was Insane When She Signed Away Her Rights.

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THE HENROOST ON THE BARK KILMORY ROBBED BY TELEGRAPH HILL SNEAKTHIEVES.

Captain Warner of the steamer Alice Blanchard will be glad to hear that his vessel is not to remain very long on the Portland route. The Marshal at Astoria wants to see him on urgent business, but Captain Warner refuses to be seen. In fact, so anxious is he to avoid the interview that he passed Astoria on his homeward voyage, although there was freight awaiting him there.

Two trips ago, when the vessel arrived at Astoria, Captain Warner engaged eight stevedores to discharge the cargo. When it came to settling up he paid off four of them at the usual rate of 20 cents an hour and 40 cents an hour for overtime. The other four stevedores refused to accept their pay, saying they were entitled to 40 cents an hour and 50 cents for overtime. A row followed and the stevedores decided to threaten the captain with a strike. The latter went below and getting his Winchester drove the men ashore to cast off the steamer's lines, but the stevedores assaulted him and the sailor was glad to get back on the steamer with his life. Captain Warner then ordered First Mate Kearney ashore to throw off the lines and at the same time cover the fighting stevedores with his rifle. The mate cast the lines off and the vessel got to sea.

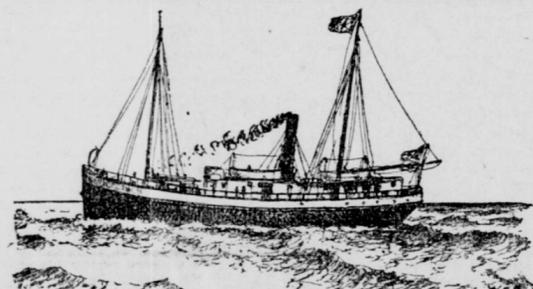
IS LODGING A WARRANT

Captain Warner of the Alice Blanchard, now in the Columbia River trade, is to be put on the wanted list for the Klondike.

FOR THE KLONDIKE.

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DOCTORS ON DIPHTHERIA

Is the Use of a Swab Necessary or Injurious?

Dr. Mahoney to Test the Constitutionality of the Ordinance.

He is Charged With Not Applying to the Board of Health for a Swab.

LET THE GOOD BE PICTURED.

The Call did a very satisfactory turn in journalism when, in giving a full account of the Durrant hanging, it refrained from illustrating the scene with those terrible pictures such as other San Francisco papers printed. Now let The Call keep on in the good work. Certain pictures of certain events are all right, but look please at this. It is needless out of sight. Picture the good.

RAISEWORTHY EXCEPTION.

Watsonville Fajaronian. The Call was the only one of the San Francisco papers which reported the execution of Durrant without the use of pictures and large scare heads. It gave a complete account of the execution without padding, and the absence of the pictures of the drop, etc., was one of the most commendable departures made by the San Francisco press.

Handel H. Zobel, assistant secretary of the Board of Health, was called and testified that Dr. Mahoney had reported a case of diphtheria but did not apply for a swab for bacteriological examination.

Dr. Buckley was then called for the defense and was asked "How is diphtheria diagnosed?" This was objected to by McEnerney, and an argument followed, Smith contending that he was entitled to introduce evidence to show that the introduction of a swab into the throat of a patient was a detriment and caused the disease to spread. The disease could be diagnosed without a swab, which was simply done by the Board of Health for scientific research.

On the other hand, McEnerney contended that the unreasonableness of the ordinance could not be impeached by evidence, but must be determined upon the evidence itself. The Judge overruled the objection, and Dr. Buckley answered the question that the way to diagnose the disease was by the eyesight. He would not use a swab under any circumstances, because it aggravates the disease and leads often to the death of the patient.

Drs. Kuhlman, Perry and O'Connell testified practically to the same effect. Dr. Kuhlman said that in New York in 1884 out of 6511 cases of diphtheria treated bacteriologically in only 50 per cent was bacillus found.

The defendant testified that he had long since abolished the swab and used a spray instead. The introduction of a swab might, he testified, be a detriment to the health of the patient. For that reason he did not apply to the health office for a swab. It took him about three minutes to diagnose the case.

For the prosecution Dr. Spencer, bacteriologist for the Board of Health, testified that nearly all the advanced bacteriologists of the present day used the swab for a diagnosis of the case. The object was to primarily and fundamentally check the spread of the disease. He differed with the doctors for the defense as to the injurious effect of using the swab. Dr. O'Brien, Health Officer, Dr. J. M. Rosenau and Dr. Clarke corroborated Dr. Spencer.

It was decided to argue the case on Tuesday and it was continued till then.

Local Physicians

Will be interested in the editorial in this week's Town Talk upon Professor Schenck's discovery. The San Francisco Saunterer tells some good stories, and the other departments are not a little interesting. Town Talk's musical department has been the best in the city. There is a strolche by "The Rounder" that will set everybody a-guessing.

The Hilton Revival.

The revival meeting at Howard Presbyterian Church, corner Oak and Baker streets, conducted by Major George A. Hilton, continues with increasing interest. Many have publicly expressed a desire to lead a Christian life. The evangelist is deeply in earnest and moves his audience to tears with his tender appeals. His addresses are not stilted. Often he provokes a smile by some apt characterization of hypocrisy or amusing reference. His great power lies in his peculiar ability to make plain the great truths of the Bible. The meeting will continue every evening during the coming week at 8 o'clock Sunday afternoon he will hold a mass-meeting for men only at this church.

NEW TO-DAY.

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