

THE SAN FRANCISCO CALL

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THE INDEPENDENT PRESS.

SINCE the St. Louis convention the tendency of the independent press of the country is to the support of President Roosevelt. The Chicago Chronicle has long been the only independent Democratic paper in that city. It is a strong paper and under the able management of the late Mr. Scott it achieved a reputation and influence that even survived its support of Bryan in 1900. Since then it has repented of that one false step and has been a constant advocate of sound finance and common sense. But the St. Louis convention was the last straw that broke the back of its patience with a party that it had tried to discipline without avail.

When the convention left out of its platform any reference to the monetary standard and said that the standard was not in issue, and that Judge Parker advised it that the gold standard is so much in issue that he would not run for the Presidency if the party did not accept his views on that subject, the Chronicle said there was too much jackdawing and it would carry its support where all issues are considered and all principles are firmly declared without reservation or sinister multiplication of words, and it supports President Roosevelt. This leaves the Democracy without a newspaper in Chicago. The anarchists, socialists and dynamiters have an organ in Hearst's paper, which the party will probably use as an occupant in common with the gang of social disturbers of the peace.

In this State the most influential of the independent press is the Sacramento Bee. It has supported Bryan twice and was prepared to support an honest Democratic nomination this year. But the St. Louis convention was too much for it. A Belmont candidate on the head of a ticket, with an anti-trust platform and a member of the Standard Oil trust for the second place is a combination that may be overlooked by some who have the same view of the game of politics as David B. Hill and Belmont, but the Bee is not that kind and declines to shout anti-trust while supporting a Standard Oil candidate.

The Bee is to be complimented on its consistent honesty. It has criticized President Roosevelt and recalls nothing it has said, but it finds in him an honest and courageous man, who may in some matters of administration be wrong, but who does things aboveboard and takes the consequences. The Bee prefers to do its full American duty rather than support D. B. Hill's candidate. Mr. Hill's surrender to socialism in the last campaign in New York is not encouraging. Then with his expropriation platform he was out in the open crying to the people:

Slaves and fools,  
Pluck the grave wrinkled senate from the bench,  
And minister in their steads!  
Bankrupts, hold fast;  
Rather than render back, out with your knives  
And cut your trustees' throats!  
Pleety, and fear,  
Religion to the gods, peace, justice, truth,  
Domestic awe, night-rest, and neighborhood,  
Instruction, manners, mysteries, and trades,  
Degrees, observances, customs, and laws,  
Decline to your confounding contraries,  
And yet confusion live!

Now he is smirking under Belmont's wing and shed tears when the two accomplished "a sane and safe" nomination. No more offensive personality could grin and gambol as the power behind a Presidential candidate than he. He long ago lost the confidence of the people of his State and the distrust of him is general throughout the country. Judge Parker is unfortunate in his Warwick. The situation affects not only the independent press of the country but the independent voters and thinkers. Bourke Cockran said that he left St. Louis with not a ray of hope of the election in sight, but Judge Parker's telegram on the gold standard dispelled the gloom. Why it had this effect is not explained. Judge Parker is not the hero of the gold standard battle. He is a camp follower. The heroes of that battle are the Republicans who made the fight at St. Louis in 1896 and the Democrats who were the come-outers in the same campaign. Governor Flower and John R. Fellows, John G. Carlisle and Senator Caffery were leaders in that great group who were battling for the gold standard while Judge Parker and Hill were voting for Bryan and free silver.

Not all independent men hark back as far as 1896 in giving reasons for opposing Parker. Mr. Timberlake, Democratic nominee for Congress in the Steubenville district, Ohio, who had begun his campaign, resigns from the ticket, giving as a reason the raw work of the St. Louis convention in nominating a trust ticket on an anti-trust platform. David B. Hill is cunning beyond most men, but his artifice has overreached itself this time.

Within a year plans for the general adornment of San Francisco will be placed at the disposal of the public spirited citizens that have set in motion a worthy agitation for the betterment of the town. The time is, therefore, short for discussion and preparation for active and definite work to develop these designs for civic beauty into realities that will attract visitors and be of permanent advantage to us.

CANDIDATE PARKER, SWIMMER.

WE are beginning to learn more about Alton Brooks Parker. The latest is that the Democratic standard-bearer is an enthusiastic swimmer. Nothing interferes with his Honor's daily dip in the waters of the Hudson. No matter the size of the Judge's mail—and it is growing every day—it remains untouched until Mr. Parker has enjoyed his swim; delegations are compelled to wait in blessed patience until the personal pleasure of the leader of the Democracy has been indulged to his heart's content. We do not blame him for postponing the tasks of the day until after his natorial exercise, for he is then in more desirable condition to withstand the many Democratic shocks that daily fall to his lot.

It must be an inspiring sight to behold candidate Parker standing on the bank of the river at Esopus preparatory to his matutinal plunge. Clad in a woolen bathing-suit of attractive hue the physical picture must be fair for Democracy's hosts to look upon. And when the standard-bearer makes his already celebrated dive into the waters of the historic Hudson there must be enthusiastic thrills up and down Democracy's backbone, that is, if there be any remaining after the physical torture its poor old decrepit body has endured during recent years.

We suppose that long ere this the kodak enthusiasts have taken many shots at the Judge, and that the magazines soon will permit us to feast our orbs upon half-tones of the athletic proportions, accoutered in swimming garb, as the sphinx-like celebrity of Esopus. And then at the vaudeville houses the moving pictures will give

us the Judge in action. That, indeed, will be both highly interesting and instructive to the followers of the Democratic band wagon. If their leader makes a graceful dive, as indicated by the moving pictures, all good Democrats should attempt to do likewise. If the Judge shows a preference for the side stroke in cutting through the water all loyal Democrats should follow his example.

If the Judge seems to find pleasure in "fetching" under the water all good Democrats should make every effort to do likewise. In Democratic swimming circles we now expect to hear of the "Parker dive" and the "Parker stroke," both of which assuredly will become popular, and no one will be considered in the swim until he has added them to his accomplishments. Democrats, who have always had a happy faculty for "pointing with pride" when they have not been roundly condemning, will now point to the Democratic standard-bearer and say with an excess of pride: "Behold the man, not of words, but of action—the swimmer."

Mexico is evidently striving to demonstrate that in her tremendous industrial progress she has reached the stage of the marvelous and is able to challenge the world for a duplication of her fortunate condition. It has been announced on what appears to be good authority that the gigantic smelter trust of the southern republic is in such serious difficulties that it is about to dissolve.

DAIRIES AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

THE attempt of the San Francisco Board of Health to make sanitary the dairies that supply milk to the people of this city is responsible for a threat, by certain dairymen, to increase the price of milk to twenty cents a quart if they are compelled to conform to the regulations of the board. At the same time these dairymen aver that they are willing to comply with all reasonable rules and provisions that may be devised to keep milk wholesome and fit to be consumed. It is safe to say that the threat to double the price will not be carried out under any circumstances. When an advance was made in the cost to the consumer, some months ago, families curtailed their quantity for daily use. A practically prohibitive price will throw into disuse, at least partly, plants of large size, and capital invested locally in dairy cows and dairy equipments will be, to a considerable extent, dead money.

There can certainly be no justification for a threat to cinch customers 100 per cent unless it can be clearly shown that the cost of production will be doubled when sanitary conditions are enforced. At any hazard, health is the first consideration. The State Board of Health has recently reported that 10 per cent of the deaths in California are unnecessary and that they can be traced to bad milk. The connection between bacteria and diseases of deadly effect is too clearly established to be open to reasonable questioning. In legitimate precautions for the preservation of the lives and health of the people the health authorities ought to be upheld by every good citizen. The Health Board is appointed for the purpose and draws pay from the citizens to safeguard their homes by compelling hygienic conditions, and such officials have no other excuse for taking salaries derived from taxation.

What public sentiment can effect for the general good is manifested forcibly at Seattle at this immediate time. The dairies in the country surrounding Seattle were discovered to be filthy and to be conducted in a slovenly way, with no regard for anything except direct profit to the dairy owners. A popular outcry was occasioned. At first the parties who were supposed to be responsible for the making of proper analyses of milk declined to act. A change has been wrought. The King County Medical Society has been stirred to action and has just made a report.

It is found that all the dairies supplying milk to Seattle are filthy. Samples of milk from thirty-six dairies have been examined. Each contained multitudes of germs of disease. Judged from the lowest acceptable standard of purity, fully two-thirds of the milk furnished to Seattle is unfit for use. According to the standard adopted in Boston, Seattle receives absolutely no good milk. The majority of the methods of Pasteurization employed in Seattle are farcical for inefficiency. Dirty water is used to adulterate the milk.

The King County Medical Society has therefore submitted recommendations for an ordinance to govern the care and sale of milk in Seattle. Very likely this ordinance will be fought by the dairymen of King County, whose willingness to comply with health rules may be estimated by their neglect of all such rules in the past. The question of reasonableness in the formulation of regulations in this regard should be judged only from the standpoint of efficiency to protect the children, the invalids who are compelled to have a milk diet and the public at large. Of that medical men are the best judges. It lies in their profession to know what conduces to and what injures health. To leave the question to laymen and to reach a "compromise" based on any ground other than the welfare of the public is a sin against the community.

The Board of Health has once more been arraigned by the Board of Supervisors for serious and various alleged delinquencies in connection with a proper respect for the civil service law of the city. The only glaring flaw in the arraignment is the palpable fact that the Supervisors know no more about the secret policies and purposes of local civil service than the rest of us do. It is evident that in the administration of local civil service no man shall know it by its virtues.

The Mexican Government has ordered ten murderous robbers, who had dishonored Mexican citizenship, to be shot to death for the assassination of three Americans. The news should be sent broadcast among the South American republics as an object lesson in the treatment of outlaws who commit a double crime in assaulting strangers within the borders of a civilized nation.

It has been announced with authority that Alton B. Parker will make few campaign speeches and will remain at his Esopus home most of the summer and during the fall. And the American people will demonstrate to him in November that there is nothing in their affairs that will disturb the continuity of his residence at the New York hamlet far into the spring and summer of next year.

Several attempts have recently been made by desperate military convicts to escape from the prisons to which Uncle Sam's military arm has consigned them. In every instance death has been the penalty of these offenders. Military guards shoot quickly and accurately. It is a pity that even by example they cannot teach a lesson to the custodians of some of our State penitentiaries.

TALK OF THE TOWN AND TOPICS OF THE TIMES

The Original Hoodlum.

"Hoodlum," that word which has found place in the vernacular of the local lexicon, is well understood to apply to a class of objectionable young toughs who have no respect for sex, age or the rights of decent people and no sense of what is proper or becoming in the character of him to whom the epithet is justly applied—a hoodlum to-day, a criminal to-morrow.

While the meaning of the term is well understood by the people few there be who know the derivation of the word and how it came to be forced into our language. It is this: It was in 1872 when the Odd Fellows held a picnic at Redwood City. On that occasion a gang of toughs "batted in" with the otherwise orderly attendance. Among the gang who went from San Francisco was one whose name was Hood Lummix. National would seem to have been a clerical part in the creation of the original "hoodlum," for Hood Lummix was a most peculiarly formed creature. Clumsy, big-footed, with a big mouth and protruding teeth, thick lips, a big bushy head of hair of a dirty brick color standing out like the quills on a porcupine, this almost malformed specimen, as is usual, attracted the attention of a lot of young rowdies who picked upon him as being an "easy guy" for a day's sport. Go where he might, he was followed by a gang who hooted and yelled and, in brief, made things unpleasantly lively during the day, but more particularly in the afternoon when the steatite beer commenced to do its work.

The amusement of the gang did not confine itself to the picnic grounds; on the contrary they went outside, broke into orchards and flower gardens, destroying valuable property and finally wound up the day by shooting a valuable horse belonging to a rancher. This last act was more than the Sheriff of San Mateo was prepared to stand and as a result he bagged a couple of dozen of the chief offenders. When the cases came up before the Justice of the Peace in Redwood each and every one of the accused laid the entire blame on Hood Lummix. Poor, simple-minded Hood got six months in jail and in sentencing him the Justice, who was very much displeased that he could not send the entire gang to State prison, delivered a lecture to the offenders, in which he said: "I now warn you to keep out of this county; we want no more of Hood Lummix or his gang to visit us." Hence the word became coined by dropping the last syllable of the name, making the word as now used, "hoodlum."

Gluten in Wheat.

Merced, July 18, 1904. Editor of The Call—Dear Sir: In your editorial of the 15th you mentioned the fact that the millers of the State are not pleased with the wheat grown here because of the fact it is deficient in the quantity of gluten compared with that of the starch in the California wheat. You think that the flood of scientific knowledge, based on experience, will in the long run be of value to wheat growers.

While I have no scientific knowledge of wheat growth I have had plenty of experience. Twenty years ago or more, as I remember, the millers desired wheat containing a great deal of starch, as white flour was the kind they most desired. I think there is no wheat raised in the East that contains more gluten than the variety formerly raised extensively in this State. The only objection to this wheat was that it shattered very badly when ripe, which could be prevented by using self-binding reapers, and cutting the wheat before it was thoroughly ripe.

H. J. OSTRANDER.

Where Science Fails.

The new science of criminal anthropology has done much to disclose the cause of criminal disposition in men, but it has no suggestions to make as to the prevention or punishment of crime. It can only classify the facts it observes. Suggestions from expert criminologists are of no more value than suggestions from any other kind of men. The criminologist can tell us (and small comfort it is so to be told) that the professional thief is born and not made, and that thief he will be by nature his whole life long. The criminologist can tell us that it is impossible to "reform" the criminal's character without reforming his brain. The counterfeiter who has spent forty years in prison and is returned thither at the age of 73 does not argue much hope for the reform of criminals. But what is to be done with him? How is it possible to prevent a typical primitive, reverse man such as the late Czolgoz, from using political methods which were quite common and natural with the savage ancestor of whom he was a type born out of time? Czolgoz did not slay because he was an anarchist. He slew because he was a primitive man. He was not an habitual criminal, and it was possible that he might never have acquitted himself in an extraordinary manner had not his environment, joined with his reverse brain, set up the association of ideas and the consequent chain of circumstances that culminated in his amazing deed. The normal man is stupefied by the conduct of Czolgoz and his kind; nor can the normal man understand the conscienceless burglar or highwayman who slays to rob. If these things are to be remedied, it is not anthropology that can tell us how.

From "New Dawn of Knowledge," by M. A. Lane, in National Magazine for July.

Cleveland No "Quality."

The late General John B. Gordon was a brilliant raconteur. He had a fund of anecdotes and stories, not only of his war experiences, but dealing with the most prominent men and women of to-day with whom he was thrown in personal contact. Among his warmest friends were ex-President and Mrs. Cleveland, who on one occasion visited Georgia as his guests. The general, who was at that time Governor, was very fond of telling how "Aunt Susie," his family washerwoman, snubbed the Cleverlands. Wishing to show the President something genuine

and entirely of the old South, he sent his carriage out to his country home for old "Aunt Susie," an ex-slave and a lifelong servant of the family.

When the coachman reached her cabin he found the old woman hanging out her week's wash. He told her that the general had sent for her to come in to see the President of the United States.

"Who's he?" asked the old woman. "Who's he?" replied the coachman. "Why, Mister Grover Cleveland—who you see?"

Aunt Susie looked at him a moment. Then, in a mingled tone of dignity and scorn, she said: "Cleveland? 'Cleveland'? I ain' never hurt ern tell Mars John he ca' fool dis ole 'oman. Dem Cleveland's—must be some er his 'election friends—dey ain' no qual'y, en' I ain't gwine fol wid um."

The conversation, much to the amusement of Mr. Cleveland, was repeated in his hearing, the general happening to question the coachman while the President was near—Harper's Weekly.

Seppuku.

A vast amount of misconception prevails in Europe concerning what is vulgarly termed harakiri. This word is never used by any other than illiterate persons in Japan. Among the educated classes the term employed is seppuku. It is wrong to suppose that Japanese soldiers and sailors are prone to throw away their lives vainly. Seppuku, in ancient times, was an honorable death, but it is only resorted to in extreme circumstances. As the Japanese proverb puts it, "Sei wa katashi, Shi wa yasushi"—"Life is difficult, death is easy." For any person to commit suicide merely as a way out of a difficulty was esteemed, and is still, a cowardly act. To take one's own life is easy enough as a means of procuring relief from trouble, but to die on, despite difficulties, being a harder matter, is the more creditable, and this is the meaning to be attached to the proverb, which has quite as much force to-day among Japanese as it ever had.

The cause of so many soldiers and sailors—take the case of the Kin Shilu Maru as an example—preferring death to capture was something widely different from that which has been assigned. The people of Japan at large, soldiers and sailors included, had heard so much of the Russian atrocities at Blagovestchensk, of the Russian treatment of the Chinese at the time of the Boxer troubles, and of General Mitchenko's famous utterance that the Russians had "no ropes but arms," that significant of the short shift that would be given to captives, that the prospect of falling alive into Russian hands came in reality to be regarded as far worse than death. It was the firm belief that barbarous treatment would be meted out to them that led so many, despite the injunction conveyed in the proverb, to shoot or stab themselves when capture was inevitable.

Cases of seppuku, as a matter of fact, were extremely rare, and cases of ordinary suicide, though more frequent, were the expression of a widespread conviction that only in this way could an ignominious existence be avoided.—London Morning Post.

Answers to Queries.

DRAW POKER—W. M., City. If in a game of draw poker A deals and antes 1, B goes 2 blind and C and D put up 4 each, A is required to put up 3 more and B 2.

GANS AND M'GOVERN—A Subscriber, City. When Joe Gans and Terry McGovern fought in Chicago, December 12, 1900, the former pulled down the scales at 134½ pounds and the latter at 133.

CARNATIONS—A. H. F., Slippyford, El Dorado County, Cal. The carnation is one of the finest of florist's flowers, being a double variety of the clove pink, existing only in a state of cultivation. The carnation is not devoid of fragrance any more than the clove pink. Many people confuse the ordinary pink with the carnation.

ROUND ROBIN—City. "A round robin" is a circle divided from the center like the famed Arthur's table where it is thought to have originated. In each compartment of the robin is a signature, so that the entire circle, when filled, exhibits a list without priority being given to either name. It is, however, stated that the round robin, without which a sailor would think himself deprived of his right of petition, was first invented in Athens, on the occasion of the conspiracy of Aristogeiton and Harmodius against the tyranny of Pisistratus. The Romans, in imitation of the Greeks, not to indicate their preference to any, either among their guests or friends or selves, wrote their names in a circle in such a manner that it was impossible to say which was first, second or last in their choice.

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MEN and MATTERS IN THE FORE as the WORLD MOVES



An Anarchist's Ruse.

for fuel and fence posts. The forests are exceedingly important as furnishing a cover for the soil and abundant food for stock. The mesquite pods are eaten by cattle in summer, as they fall to the ground from the trees, and are gathered and fed dry all through the year. Because of these uses and the wonderful powers of reproduction and extension which the algaroba forests possess, they are a most valuable asset of the islands.

The native forests are those of the mountain slopes, and are all essentially of a tropical character. About three-fourths of the native forests are composed of lehua. This tree is found in regions of heaviest rainfall and under best conditions attains a diameter of four feet and a height of 100 feet. Commercially, except for fuel, the wood has little value, for in drying it checks and warps badly. Its importance is as a protective forest. Its stand is thin, but the most luxuriant undergrowth is always found beneath its small-crowned trees. Indeed, so luxuriant is this undergrowth of le-le vine and similar climbers, fern growth ranging from a few inches to thirty feet in height, and mosses, that virgin forests of lehua are often impenetrable, dark jungles. Thus an ideal condition is created for water conservation.

The present forest area is about 20 per cent of the islands—a small fraction of what it was a hundred years ago. The destruction of the forests can be traced to three chief causes: Clearing for agriculture, stock grazing and grass encroachment. Cattle were taken to the islands in the eighteenth century and for years were protected by rigid laws forbidding their slaughter. By 1815 they had so increased in number as to become a menace. The anti-slaughter laws were repealed and gradually their number has been reduced to the needs of the islands. But their work of destruction has been accomplished. Much of the undergrowth of the native forests was of a succulent character, peculiarly agreeable not only to cattle, but also to goats, pigs and deer; all of these preyed upon the forest and year by year their trampling and grazing showed more plainly in forest areas wrecked and ruined. The encroaching grasses occupied the ground and prevented reforestation. In the rainy districts the Hilo grass and in the drier sections Bermuda grass was the offender. Between them they occupy vast stretches of country that were once well forested.

Clearing for agricultural and homestead purposes is responsible for very much of forest destruction. Since the best use to which the lands of the islands can be put is agriculture, no fault can be found with such cutting, provided it is not carried so far as to curtail the water supply on which agriculture itself depends. The rainfall of the forested portion of the islands is from 50 to 200 inches a year and the native forests furnish the best floor conditions for storing away this water for future use. But when the forest area is made smaller the storage supply of water is lessened. In addition, it appears to be true in Hawaii that forests influence the amount of moisture precipitated. Where the mountains, with their cooling atmosphere, do not extend their elevations above 3000 feet, forests are especially needed. The trade winds bring in fogs and mists and the forests perform the excellent function of changing these to water and leading it to the ground for storage. Thus continued forest cutting means danger both to the amount of water precipitated and to the supply husbanded for the crops. Both the principal crops, sugar and rice, require much water for their successful growth. Already public opinion in the islands has taken form in practical forest preservation work. Sugar companies have established reserves for local protection, the area in one case being as large as 50,000 acres. Tree planting has been done on a large scale by a number of land owners. The Government began tree planting twenty-two years ago, with an appropriation of \$12,000. A conclusive step was taken when the last Legislature provided for a forest policy and entered upon determined work to protect and utilize the forests to the best advantage. The first act to this end must be the establishment of forest reserves, which should include practically all the mountain forests. Fortunately the Government owns most of these forests, although at present they are largely under lease to private individuals, mainly to cattlemen. It is thought, however, that an exchange of these lands can be brought about. When the reserves are established, a first necessity will be the extermination of the wild cattle and goats and the creation of a ranger service to keep out fire and stock.

As a preliminary to the formulation of a far-sighted policy in the interest of the islands as a whole, the Territory a year ago asked for an examination of the whole question on the ground by an agent of the United States Department of Agriculture. The report of William L. Hall of the Bureau of Forestry, who made the examination, is now being printed as bulletin No. 48, "The Forests of Hawaii." Both from a scientific and practical standpoint it gives much information concerning these Hawaiian forests and their uses.

Only five of the eight islands are large enough to be important in a forest study. In these there are two distinct kinds of forest; one near sea level in the drier portions of the islands, the other in the regions of heavy rainfall on the mountain slopes. They never blend or even meet. The forest of the sea level is made up exclusively of mesquite, so prevalent in the drier sections of the southwestern part of the United States. In the Hawaiian Islands, however, it grows much denser, taller and straighter than in the States, having changed its habit of growth in response to altered conditions. It is not native, but was introduced in 1837 by a seed planted in Honolulu. The tree still stands in a healthy condition, having a diameter of two feet and a height of fifty feet. From it have sprung 50,000 acres of mesquite, or, as there called, algaroba forests, divided among the several islands. The wood is chiefly valuable

Chronometers on Ice.

Each year the time chronometers of the United States navy are subjected to a test to determine their accuracy and to correct any irregularities. This operation commences in January and usually lasts until the middle of June, and during that time it is no uncommon sight to see 100 of these delicate timepieces on ice at the United States Naval Observatory. It is not for any fear that these timepieces will spoil that they are subjected to this frigid experience, but it is necessary for the purpose of accurate adjustment that they should all be maintained in a constant temperature.

The necessity of having the ship's clocks all absolutely alike will be realized by the layman when he is reminded that an error of four seconds in the chronometer means an error of a mile in calculating the vessel's location. The temperature varies at different times of the test from 50 to 90 degrees and the losing or gaining qualities of the chronometers under these conditions are accurately kept. Thus, with a chart expressing in curves just what he may expect from his chronometer under different conditions of climate, and with his thermometer and barometer close at hand, the sailing master may calculate to a nicety the correct time and get his location to a certainty.

"Misery likes company, don't he?" "Yes; but when I sees him comin' I never is at home."—Almanac Constitution.