

THE SAN FRANCISCO CALL

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IMPROVED CITY POLITICS.

THE efforts of the Republican League of San Francisco are increasing, and its membership and influence are extending. As these occur, the need of improvement in city politics is emphasized by almost daily events.

The league intends to take things in the green stick and correct them while reform is easily possible. It has the power to scan its own membership, and prevent its ranks from receiving recruits who join only to disorganize it, and defeat its purpose.

The city has never entirely outlived the ante-vigilance committee reputation that was given its government by that high-handed official combination of political thugs, which made its government a den of thieves.

Nor will this movement stop with a political reform of which the city government is the object. Events of the most pointed character call for extension of that reform to every political action which is influenced by the large vote of San Francisco.

STRANGE BETS ON WAR'S RESULTS

A State Senator from this city is on trial for bribery in the Superior Court of Sacramento. That spectacle alone is enough to shame San Francisco.

The time has come to rouse the people to an effort for the moral welfare of the community. If the material welfare of any part of the State be in peril, how quickly every resource is invoked!

Let every man who wants to do this register now, not to-morrow nor next week, but now, in order that he may vote at the August primary.

THE MYSTIC SWINDLE.

THE law ought to lay a hard hand upon the seers and mediums who make traffic out of the grief or greed of the credulous. A very common form of the mystic swindle is worked upon mourners who are in sorrow for the dead.

There is another class of erotic old men who are the prey of these swindlers. One rich old fool in Chicago a few years ago was led by a medium into a courtship with the spirit of Martin Luther's wife.

Hardly a week passes in San Francisco, or any other large city, without a mystic swindle being perpetrated. Within a few days a lady, mourning the death of her father, resorted to one of these swindlers in Oakland for the purpose of getting in communication with her dead parent.

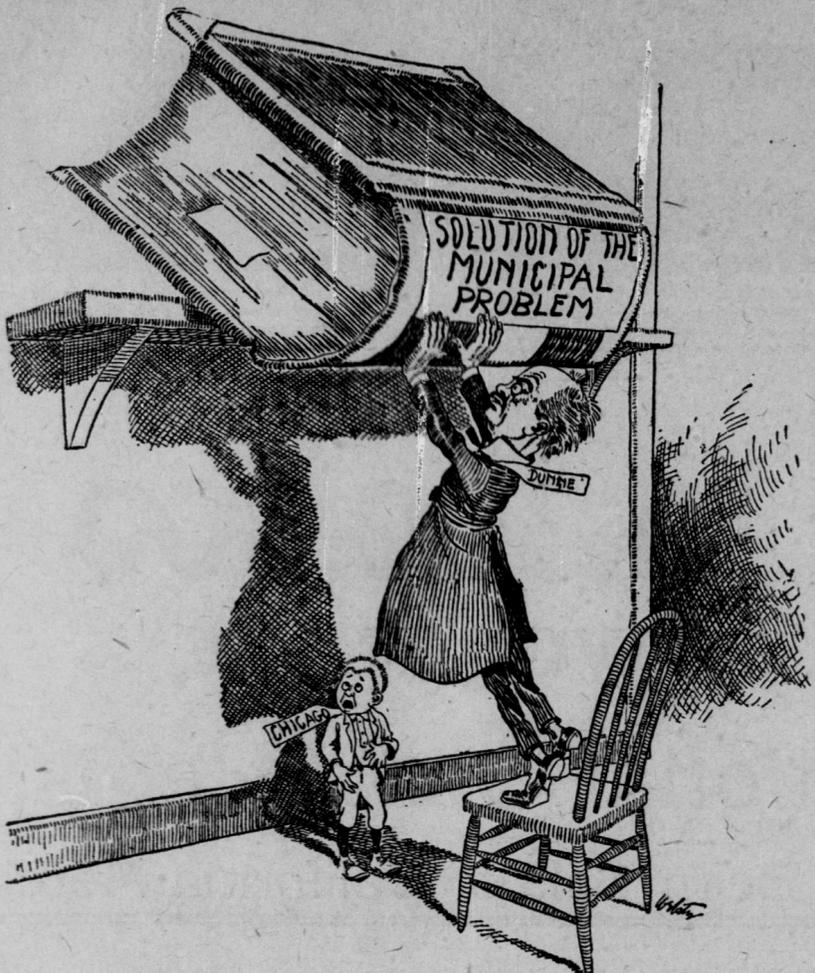
Those who mourn the dead should heed the example of David's noble sorrow and philosophy at the death of his child, when he rose and put off sackcloth and ashes and ate, saying, "I may go to him, but he cannot return to me."

There is something in these deep sea races which appeals in a much higher degree than the racing of hastily constructed machines off Sandy Hook in the presence of scores of excursion boats.

It appears that Dr. Osler was married after he was forty years old. He is the gentleman who insists that the mental decline is very rapid when a man has passed the fortieth milestone.

Secretary Hays says he finds Nevada most pleasant. No, it is not a paradise of any sort, but a town in Italy.

A CRITICAL SITUATION



CAN HE GET IT DOWN WITHOUT HURTING THE BOY?

—BY THE CHICAGO INTER OCEAN.

STRANGE BETS ON WAR'S RESULTS

AN Odessa paper published early in July details of the reckless wager of Captain Ilinsky, a St. Petersburg dragon officer.

Ilinsky succeeded. Disguised as a Chinaman, he sauntered calmly through the Japanese army in broad daylight.

Morphe's tragic was the result of a Japanese bet recorded in the Viennese. A captive Japanese officer, imprisoned at Omsk, in Siberia, bet the Russian officer in charge of the prisoners a kopeck for every minute that Port Arthur held out after June 1.

A member of the English Club at Moscow made a bet with a fellow clubman that the Czar's troops would win a victory within a week of the birth of an heir to the throne.

A correspondent of the Frankfurter Zeitung declared that the patriotic Japanese were so determined to die for their country that some officers made bets that they would be killed in battle.

The money was to go to their widows. "An officer named Motono," says the correspondent, "on starting for the front in May made the following wager: If he was killed within a month his heirs were to receive 1000 yen (\$500)."

A Lyons paper records the queer war bet of M. Ouisseau, a local resident. This gentleman undertook to march three times around the town, carrying a Japanese flag and shouting, "Vive le Japon!"

The Moscow fund for supplying warm clothing to the troops organized a sweepstake on the relief of Port Arthur. A hundred tickets, dating consecutively from June 1 were issued, each costing \$50.

An official of the Russian imperial court was severely censured in August by the Czar for making a bet that his Majesty would go to the front before Christmas.

Another court official, it came out, had bet that Kuropatkin would be driven back to Harbin before next Easter. The parties to this bet were expelled from their clubs.

The Melbourne Argus recorded a bet, made by a gentleman named Knowles, that Japan would annex all of Eastern Siberia.

ANSWERS.

PENSION—J. O., City. If you will call at the United States pension office, 101 Sansome street, this city, you will be informed as to what rights, if any, you may have to a pension.

LEGAL ADVICE—C. R., City. This department does not give legal advice. The question asked is one that calls for such advice, and as the party affected has her case in court she should be guided by the advice of her attorney.

LIVERPOOL—J. A. F., City. The Encyclopedia Americana, issue of 1904, says of Liverpool: "It is a seaport of England. After London it is the largest city and most important commercial port of the British empire and in the number of its shipping and aggregate tonnage is the first in the world."

POLL TAX—Subscriber, Chula Vista, Cal. The law relative to the collection of poll tax in California has not been repealed. The collection of poll tax is made obligatory by the constitution and the law requiring the collection of such a tax cannot be repealed so long as the constitution says that such a tax of not less than two dollars shall be collected from all male inhabitants except from paupers, idiots, insane persons, Indians not taxed, and males under 21 and over 60.

THE SMART SET

BY SALLY SHARP.

To-day wedding bells will ring over the hills and glades of Ross Valley, for at noon will Miss Isabel Kittle become the bride of Benjamin Harrison Dibbles.

The service will be performed in the little Episcopal Church at Ross and will be witnessed by the close friends of the interested families.

The attendants at the wedding will be Miss Luddington, Miss Natalie Coffin, Miss Emily Carolan and Miss Frances Allen, who is soon to be married.

To-day Miss Susie May Hayes will entertain at cards at her Oakland home in honor of Mrs. A. P. Hotaling Jr.

Mrs. J. E. Birmingham will be the honored guest to-day at a reception given to her by the Papyrus Club.

Charles P. Neilson will be "at home" at the Sequoia Club, 554 Sutter street, on Saturday from 3 to 6.

The clever chap is showing some splendid work in water color, notably his Mexican and old California scenes. These especially appeal to him, as is shown in the exquisite sympathy of their presentation.

Miss Laura Baldwin will be hostess to-day at luncheon at her home on Buchanan street, the guest of honor the much-courted fiancee, Miss California Cluff.

To-morrow the Council of Women will present their "jinks" at the Majestic Theater, and from whisperings that have floated hence it will be a stunning performance.

Mrs. F. W. Croudeau and Miss Ellen Croudeau entertained 300 guests at a tea yesterday at their home on Vallejo street.

Mrs. and Mrs. Emil Pohl leave this week for their summer home in Mill Valley.

A wedding at Port Townsend, Wash., yesterday is of interest to San Franciscans. Miss Frances Hastings, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Hastings, was married to Lieutenant Harry G. Hamlet of the United States

revenue service. He will return with his bride to this city to reside.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Toy entertained informally at a dinner last evening at their home on Green street.

The wedding of Miss Olive Hamilton and Winslow Beedy will take place Saturday afternoon in Sausalito. It will be a church affair and all the appointments white.

The "musical tea" to be given on Saturday for the benefit of the Episcopal Old Ladies' Home will include this interesting programme.

Mrs. Edward McNeil Moore will spend the summer at Ben Lomond.

Mrs. E. de Noon Lewis and Miss Mabel de Noon have taken apartments at the Pendleton, where they will remain until their departure for the summer.

Miss Louise Messick of Portland, Or., who has been visiting friends at the Hotel Pleasanton for the last month, will return home Wednesday night.

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Howell, Miss Maylita Pease and Arthur Watson returned yesterday afternoon from a short automobile run to Del Monte.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Deming will close their home in town on May 1 and go to Menlo Park, where they have rented the H. M. Spencer home for the summer.

Colonel and Mrs. R. A. Eddy (Mrs. I. S. Lewis) returned yesterday from their wedding trip. Their apartments at the Palace were filled with flowers as a welcome to the travelers.

The annual spring exhibition of the San Francisco Art Association closes to-night. There will be a promenade concert and musical programme, under the direction of Henry Heyman.

THE SHEARING.

The day they cut the baby's hair The house was all a-didget; Such fuss they made, you would have said

He was a king—the midget! Some wanted this, some wanted that; Some thought that it was dreadful To lay a hand upon one strand

Of all that precious head! While others said, to leave his curls Would be the height of folly. Unless they put him with the girls And called him Sue or Molly.

The barber's shears went snip-a-snip. The golden stuff was flying; Grandmother had a trembling lip. And aunt was almost crying.

The men folks said, "Why, hello, boss, You're looking five years older!" But mother laid the shaven head Close, close against her shoulder.

Ah, well; the nest must lose its birds. The cradle yield its treasure; Time will not stop a single day For any pleader's pleasure.

And when that hour's work was weighed, The scales were even, maybe; For father gained a little man When mother lost her baby! —St. Nicholas.

MUCH THE SAME.

"The strawberry," remarked the moralizer, as he looked at some early specimens in a glass case, "is said to be more than 90 per cent water."

"In that respect," rejoined the demoralizer, "the strawberry is like a lot of other good things in the stock market." —Chicago News.

MAN'S SUCCESSOR.

Professor Williston says man is doomed to extinction and that a bird may take his place. The Chicago Post says: We herewith nominate the American eagle.

COSTLY FLOWERS.

The prices paid for a new variety of rose recently in Paris, when single buds sold for thousands of francs, recall the high figures which tulips once fetched. In Holland in one year the sales aggregated 10,000,000 florins.

Thereafter the variety was known as the marriage-of-my-daughter. At Rotterdam a hungry sailor happening on a few mistook them for onions and ate them up. The repeat became as famous as Cleopatra's pearls and probably exceeded it in cost.

Still he refused. Cascades of gold were poured before his resisting eyes. Finally, tortured and tormented, he succumbed. There and then the deputation trampled that tulip under their feet. Afterward it appeared that the syndicate had already grown a gem precisely similar, and, unable to bear the idea that a rival existed, had authorized the deputation if needful to offer ten times the amount which it paid.

Townsend's Cal. Glass Fruits, in artistic fire-etched boxes, 15 Kearny st. and new store now open, 757 Market st.

Special information supplied daily to business houses and public men by the Press Clipping Bureau (Allen's), 30 California street. Telephone Main 1042.

DON'T BE GRAVE, BE GAY AND DRIVE DULL CARE AWAY



A MISTAKE.

Mr. Knowsitt—Well, another political rumor was killed to-day. Mrs. Boardman—I hope it wasn't one of my political lodgers.



SORRY SHE SPOKE.

Henpeck—I married you for sympathy. Mrs. Henpeck—Did you get it? Henpeck—Yes, for everybody pities me now.



WANTED TO KNOW.

Magistrate—What is your occupation? Prisoner—O'im a washerwoman. Magistrate (absently)—Where do you hang out?



NATURALLY.

Barnes Torner—Eggs are like some men. Knight Stands—How so? Barnes Torner—When they aren't good for anything they go on the stage.



FEMINE AMENITIES.

Miss Passaye—Papa always gives me a book for my birthday. Miss Cutting—You must have quite a large library by this time.