

THE SAN FRANCISCO CALL

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LIGHT ON PUBLIC OWNERSHIP.

An American professor who has made a study of public ownership of public utilities in Europe, and especially in the British isles, reports that the system does not appear to be justified by results, and that the tide is setting against it.

When the subject is discussed in California the proponents of public ownership have numerous illustrations to quote in favor of the change they seek to effect. The leading one is the ownership by Alameda of its lighting system.

It is a feature in the advocacy of public ownership that its proponents substitute prophecy and supposition for facts, and that they brush aside such infirmities as are apparent with an explanation that "if" such a thing or such other thing had not happened the results would be gratifying, and that now the difficulty was known all would be plain and prosperous sailing.

Mr. L. A. Redman, a citizen of Alameda, determined, with the assistance of an expert accountant, to find out just how the municipal ownership of the electric lighting stood, and to trace its effect upon taxation, and to follow it in all directions, by comparisons of neighboring systems under private ownership.

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Includes 'Cost of plant, maintenance and construction', 'Operation', 'Interest', 'Total', 'Credits are: Receipts from private consumers', etc.

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Includes 'Receipts from private consumers', 'Value of light used by city', 'Present value of plant', 'Total', 'Net loss to taxpayers'.

Now for the reason of this difference between this expert report and the official reports. The official reports all assume that a private corporation would have charged the city \$7.50 per arc light per month for street lights, whereas Oakland and Berkeley are furnished street lights by a private corporation for 20 and 25 per cent less than that price.

Mr. Redman's paper, which is published in the Alameda Argus of December 2, is so exhaustive of the subject that its striking points cannot all be covered in one review. For the present a statement of the effect of public ownership on public taxation must suffice.

MISSOURI'S INSURANCE CENSURE.

W. D. VANDIVER, superintendent of the insurance department of Missouri, has written a paper for the December number of The World To-day, about the responsibility of insurance officials, in which he does some talking which is as forcible as his recent official action against the companies.

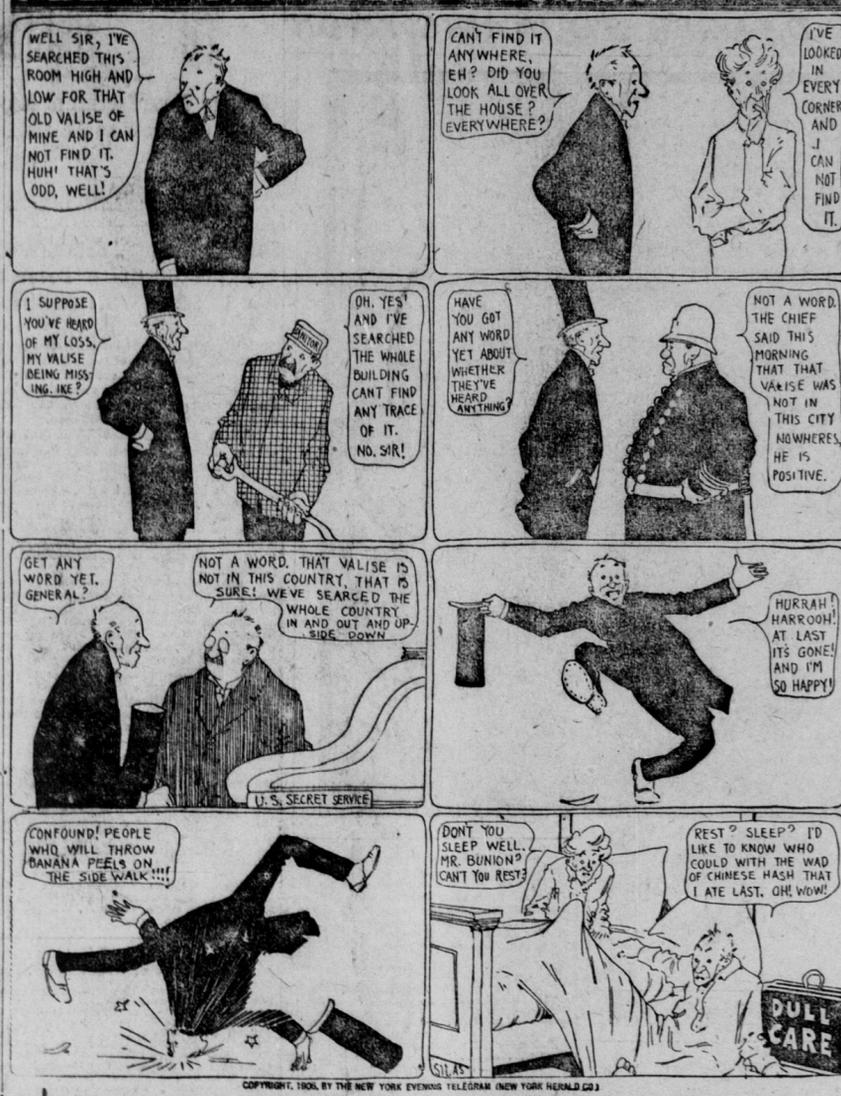
The superintendent of insurance does not hesitate to use the words steal and theft when speaking of the officials of the big New York companies using the funds of the policy holders for the purpose of influencing political campaigns and for control of legislative acts.

Vandiver is indignant over the tricks of secrecy used in insurance bookkeeping. He says the element of concealment is characteristic of larceny and embezzlement. He points out that while the president of one of the life insurance companies was so morally undeveloped that he said he thanked God he had the courage to use the funds of his company for political purposes without consulting his board of directors, he was careful to stealthily conceal the item in the book entries.

What Mr. Whitney should have done if he really wanted that interview with the President was to present himself at the White House disguised as a football coach and make a noise like a touchdown.—Detroit Journal.

Mr. Carnegie speaks of the blessings of honest poverty. He might enumerate 'em for the benefit of a lot of skeptics who are figuratively from Missouri.—Atlanta Constitution.

A PILGRIM'S PROGRESS



Occidental Accidentals

By A. J. Waterhouse.

TALE OF THE POLLIWOG. POLLIWOG once, in the silt of a pool. Reclining, remarked that this world is a mighty tough school. Opining, that if he had the running of things as they would fix them all up till they made quite a show.

years years ago, but I should think that by this time she must be considered a hay widow. WHY THE MAIDEN WEPT. The lovely maiden was weeping bitterly when her dearest friends discovered her.

LONG WAIT.



THE ROAD TO EDENTOWN.

Oh, road that leadeth to Edentown, How do you run and where is your trail? Still wend you up, or creep you down.

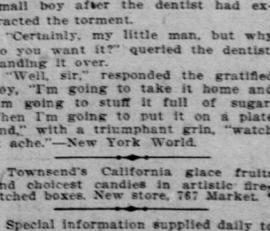
Did She Accept or Reject Him?

SHE was standing on a Westport corner waiting for a car when she stopped to chat with her. The subject of engagements came up. "A girl friend of mine once had an awful experience," she said.

Wanted to Get Even.

"I'd like that tooth, please," said the small boy after the dentist had extracted the torment. "Certainly, my little man, but why do you want it?" queried the dentist.

GENTLE HINT.



Manager—I like the fourth act of your tragedy the best. Playwright—But it only has three acts to it. Manager—I know.

The Smart Set

By Sally Sharp.

Mrs. George M. Converse, bridesmaid among to-day's hostesses, will receive at a large tea, honoring Miss Jeannette and Miss Marian Wright, who have recently returned from abroad.

Miss Agnes Buchanan is entertaining at bridge to-day in honor of Miss Gertrude Van Wyck, who will soon depart for a European trip.

Miss Louise Redington will be hostess to-day at a charming affair, entertaining at luncheon that triple alliance of the middle class, including Mrs. Alderton, Miss Elizabeth Allen and Miss Margaret Wilson.

An important wedding of January will be that of Miss Alice Treanor and Clarence Oddie, who have chosen the middle of the month for their nuptials.

Making Work Easy

By Angela Morgan.

HOW fond we are of wishing we might be free to work just when we are in "working mood," and only then! How we do dislike to force ourselves, how we hate struggling to extract the gold from an unilluminated day.

Answers to Various Queries.

DIMES—M. E. P. City. No premium is offered for any dimes coined in San Francisco except five that were coined in 1894. FOREIGN CONTRACT—C. H. S. City. In drawing up a foreign contract involving the payment of money, the character of money in which it shall be paid is set forth in the document.

TRUE.

