

The San Francisco Call.

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IT IS NOT NECESSARILY FATAL.

MR. HEARST is engaged in that old-fashioned but unprofitable pastime of the Democracy described as "reading men out of the party." His organ on this coast is not pleased with the "old-time Democrat" and that belated and bewildered person is being driven forth from the party with stripes to the accompaniment of flouts and jeers.

The Call is a Republican paper and is not greatly concerned over the tribulations of an unfortunate old party troubled with internal disorders and perplexed by the obstreperous and tumultuous outcry of Hearst that he is the doctor. These things trouble us not but rather amuse. The "old-time Democrat" does not know whether he is aloof or aborshack. He is one thing here in California and another beyond the mountains.

Concerning this unhappy and afflicted political wanderer the Hearst organ remarks, "Real Democratic principles are highly objectionable to him." What, then, are these "real Democratic principles" that are objects of Mr. Hearst's affection? The traditional policy of the party favoring free trade or a tariff for revenue and the opposition to imperialism so called—these have been repudiated by Hearst and he declares that he is the only person authorized to speak for the party.

What remains? Simply the personal issue and the appeal to the discontented. The Democrat who is not for Hearst is, according to Hearst, a vile rogue. There is no other test.

The perplexed and bewildered Democrat, stumbling around in the effort to find his way in all this wind and dust storm, may reflect that Stephen M. White and Franklin K. Lane were more than once read out of the party by Hearst. It is not necessarily fatal.

THE POLICE COMMISSION'S BIG JOB.

CHIEF OF POLICE DINAN has been given thirty days to show that he can stop the epidemic of brutal crime that afflicts San Francisco. We hope that he can do it in less time, but we have doubts. Too long familiarity with crime and politics mixed often makes policemen careless and tolerant of criminals. The "upper office" policeman and the thief are commonly closer together than people suspect. The incompetent defective works mostly through "stool pigeons," and that is a partnership with crime.

The trouble with the police force is that its control has been converted into a political machine. The rank and file is all right, but the men in command are too busy doing politics by day and night to attend to their real duties.

An immediate example of the political medium through which Chief Dinan and his nearest subordinates see their duty is found in his unparadonable release of four carmen arrested on a grave charge and turned loose by the Chief of Police on the solicitation of officials connected with the United Railroads. This was a most extraordinary transaction, showing a grossly perverted view of the right course on the part of Dinan as well as the corporation officials. One wonders how the United Railroads hopes to secure discipline among its men if the company's officials uphold and sustain employees in the commission of a brutal and murderous assault. The natural conclusion of the street car patrons must be that if they are assaulted by a car crew the corporation officials will afford them no redress.

Leaving the conduct of the United Railroads aside, it is obvious that Dinan thought it no wrong to commit a gross breach of duty where a political pull was exerted to nullify the law. At the request of persons who are known to be very close to Ruef and the municipal administration he ignored the law and usurped the functions of a court. In defense of his action he makes the silly plea that he was threatened with a writ of habeas corpus. Since when has Police-man Dinan grown fearful of a writ of habeas corpus? For years he has been locking up men without warrant of law and merely on suspicion. Dinan assumes too much. He is a policeman, not a court of justice.

The root of the trouble lies here: the men are too busy with politics to attend to duty. Doubtless, the fault in the last resort lies higher up. We believe that the present Police Commission means well—but it has a big job on its hands to correct the demoralization necessarily attendant on the methods of its predecessors.

When a police force has been used for years as a collection agency for official grafters it can scarcely be expected to be an efficient agent for the repression or detection of crime and criminals. The Police Commission has a big job on hand.

GIVE BURBANK A REST.

A STORMY remonstrance compiled of equal parts of pleading and indignation is on distribution by a sort of volunteer organization described by its members as "the friends and relatives of Luther Burbank." It seems that Mr. Burbank is harvesting a full crop of the penalties of greatness and its garnering leaves no time to pay attention to the eccentric tomato of his choice or the boneless cactus that he would embrace were not so many curious idiots looking. Now, Mr. Burbank's volunteer "friends and relatives" desire to protect him from the intrusive sightseers who regard him as the keeper of a museum in which he is himself the chief exhibit. Further, they, the "friends and relatives," seek to answer by circular some of the ten thousand questions

The Start in the Race.



with which they say, in a strange and interesting confusion of metaphors, "the mail bags continually boil and seethe."

The tale of woe has for further specifications these:

Over 6000 visitors were received, on his grounds during the year 1904. All the important experimental work was delayed beyond recall, grounds overrun with crowds from daylight to 10 o'clock at night, no rest even on Sundays or holidays. Business destroyed, rare plants died from want of care. Attention constantly drawn from legitimate matters, letters neglected, telegrams delayed. Meals taken standing, sleep disturbed, health at the point of destruction, visitors calling at all hours without any regard to Mr. Burbank's convenience, each one being under the fixed and unalterable impression that he or she was the one particular one who should be admitted. This was too much. The question arose, Should he continue his valuable researches undisturbed, or should he be murdered piecemeal as a showman?

Once upon a time, when San Francisco had a big hotel, the survivor remembers how all the little great men of California gathered in a genial chamber and banqueted and wined this simple-minded genius and thereafter slobbered all over him clumsy compliments born neither of knowledge nor discretion. It was, on the whole, a rather painful exhibition, although they meant well. The habit of hero worship has certain drawbacks. We made fools of Dewey and Hobson.

Give Burbank a rest. Let him pursue in peace the daisy and the peach and the jim dandy, be the official dry nurse of the blameless potato and the foster-father of the hot and rebellious pepper. 'Tis a fine, confused family.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

If Hearst wins the Governorship of New York we venture to predict that it will be by a majority of not less than \$1,000,000.

It is noted with pride that the city has bought a new automobile for Acting Mayor Gallagher. If Mayor Schmitz will remain away long enough his understudy may be able to get a wagon of his own.

Dr. Edith Brownstill's diatribe against the co-ed's peek-a-boo waist savors of straining at an outdoor gnat and gulping an indoor camel. It's a wide mesh on a college campus that does not hide more imprudence, both hygienic and moral, than escapes pedagogic censure in the ballroom.

Mr. Bull's promotion of the world's physical and moral betterment will hardly go to the extent of approving China's endeavor to abolish the opium curse. He has enough difficulty now in keeping his Indian subjects alive and philanthropy alone would prompt him to protect their poppy-growing industry.

Madeira in Need of Telephone System.

CONSUL MAXWELL BLAKE of Funchal reports that a telephone system is badly needed on the island of Madeira. The country contains 150,000 people, one-third of the number residing in Funchal, a rich and prosperous city, the trade of which is carried on by Portuguese, English and German merchants. The place is also a winter resort, with numerous hotels and villas occupied about six months of the year. The different business enterprises carry on trade throughout the island, which is rather mountainous, so that communication is difficult. The island is thirty-six miles long and three miles wide. A franchise for a telephone system might be secured from the Lisbon Government, especially if Portuguese capital were interested in the enterprise. No American money is invested in this rich island, and it is hoped that this chance will not be neglected.

Answers to Queries.

BLANKETS AND TENTS—H. E. S., Irvington, Cal. Tents and blankets in the United States army are issued from the quartermaster's department.
GASOLINE—T. S., Oakland, Cal. The method to destroy the smell of gasoline that has been used to clean clothing is to hang the clothing in the open air until the odor has disappeared.
PATTI—H., Sebastopol, Cal. "Who's Who" for the current year gives the following as the address of Adeline Patti: Craig-y-Nos Castle, Ystraygnlais, R. S. O., Breconshire, South Wales.
HANGMAN'S DAY—Vallombrosa, R., Philo, Cal. It is not within the province of the Governor of any State in the Union to declare what day shall be a legal day on which to carry out capital punishment as a penalty for crime. The day is set by the Judge who declares

what the penalty is, and he is at liberty to name any day except a legal holiday as the one on which to carry out the sentence. Friday is usually chosen because it has been customary by Judges to name that day.

The Smart Set.

PARTICULARLY interesting bit of news which comes from the East is the announcement of the engagement of Major Samson L. Faison, U. S. A., to Miss Eleanor Sowers, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Sowers of Massachusetts avenue, Washington, D. C. Their wedding is to be celebrated in that city some time toward the end of December, and Major Faison and his bride will then come to this city, en route to Manila, for which place they will sail on the transport leaving here January 5, 1907. Miss Sowers is said to be in every way charming, and those of Major Faison's friends who have the pleasure of knowing her are rejoicing in his good fortune. Major Faison is too well known on this coast, and particularly in San Francisco, to need any introduction. He comes of a distinguished Southern family and is one of the most popular men in the army, both in military and civilian circles. He has always been a favorite here socially and was a member as well of several leading clubs, having been stationed here a great deal at different times. In the presence of a large number of their friends, Miss Inez Strauch, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Strauch, and James H. Graham were married last night at 8:30 o'clock at the First Unitarian Church. Rev. Bradford Leavitt being the officiating clergyman. The church was most attractively decorated with palms. The bride, who was given away by her brother, Walter Strauch, was very handsome in a beautiful princess robe of white satin, trimmed with rare old point lace, an heirloom in the family, disposed in such mode as to form a yoke and deep bertha. Her long veil was caught with

Colombia Raises Tax on Foreign Flour.

CONSUL P. P. DEMERS of Barranquilla reports that the doubling of the duty on flour in February to 16 cents per kilogram (2.2 pounds) for the interior of Colombia has caused a marked decline in the import of the American article.

For the calendar years 1903 and 1904 the imports of American flour at Barranquilla averaged 53,000 barrels, and in 1905 anticipation of a higher duty helped push the imports up to 90,160 barrels. For the first six months of 1906 the imports amounted to only 2782 barrels. The object of the increased tariff rate was to force the cultivation of wheat on the mountain plains of Colombia, which are said to be well adapted to its growth. This may supply the Bogota district, but with lack of transportation the coast regions must depend entirely on foreign flour or flour made out of foreign wheat. The duty on imported wheat is 1.7 cents per kilogram, except if it comes to Barranquilla direct through the mouth of the Magdalena River, in which case it is entered under the free list. Small craft drawing ten feet of water can in summer enter the river.

Salcedo & Urueta, two enterprising Colombians, have just erected in Barranquilla the largest flour mill of Colombia. The plant was put up by an Indiana firm, and is entirely equipped with American machinery at a cost of about \$55,000. It will have a capacity of 100 barrels a day, securing its wheat from the United States for at least two years.

The higher duties on foreign flour will cause a large decrease in the consumption of bread among the poorer element. Flour was practically unknown fifteen years ago to the masses, who used preparation of yam, okra, plantain and corn. American flour was then introduced, when the duties were low, and the poor people took to eating bread until its use became universal. But they cannot buy flour at present prices, \$9 per bag of 125 pounds at Barranquilla (against a former price of \$6.25) and \$14 to \$18 in the interior.

Value of Direct Primary Law Demonstrated in Wisconsin.

By George A. Van Smith.

EVERY member of the recent Republican platform convention at Madison, Wisconsin, was a candidate for State or Legislative office, nominated by the people through the initial exercise of Wisconsin's new direct primary election law.

In comparison with former platforms adopted by Wisconsin Republican conventions it is the most comprehensive and laudatory commentary on the value to the taxpayer of the direct primary election law. After unequivocally indorsing the efforts of La Follette, the election of many of the reforms already worked in Wisconsin, the Republican candidate who will be in a position to carry out the pledges made to the people commit themselves to the enactment and enforcement of laws for the following salutary reforms:

A law making it the duty of the railroad commission to ascertain the value of the property of all railroad corporations operating in the State; to investigate the charges and service, and whenever an unreasonable rate for service is found to exist, to determine and substitute a reasonable charge therefor.

A law providing for the regulation of the issue of stocks and bonds of all public service corporations; giving the railroad commission supervisory powers over the same, and the further power, by appropriation, to prevent the issue of stocks and bonds except for actual value.

Laws for the regulation of life insurance which shall afford protection to the Wisconsin policy-holders in the \$9,000,000 surplus belonging to them; a fair and intelligible form of contract; the making of mutual companies mutual in fact as well as in name; publicity in all their affairs and an irrevocable apportionment of dividends.

Laws for the protection of railway employes, providing that negligence on the part of an employe shall not bar recovery if a jury find that the defendant company was more negligent than the employe.

The passage and submission of necessary amendments to the constitution enabling the enactment of an income tax law.

Those are broad pledges, but they are pledges made by the men who will control and be responsible for the government of Wisconsin during the ensuing two years. They were not made by a delegate convention, the pledges of which any candidate might repudiate as promises in which he had no part. They are binding on every Republican who will be elected to State or Legislative office in Wisconsin in November. They are the pledges of the direct primary election law.

Eastern Views of Hearst

Will Mr. Hearst stand before Tammany and Murphy and tell the people of New York whether he is still "absolutely and unalterably opposed" to Murphy, McCarren and the Sullivans?—New York World.

The one thing that will demolish the Hearst myth is that Mr. Hearst shall be placed in such a position that he must fulfill instead of promising, that he must act instead of criticizing, that he must do what he has denounced executive officials for not doing. And even Mr. Hearst has enough good common sense to know that this is impossible.—World's Work.

Mr. Hearst owes his nomination by the Democratic convention to the support of Boss Murphy of Tammany Hall, a person whom Mr. Hearst's newspapers have denounced as infamous, pictured in prison stripes, insulted and defamed in every way. "Politics makes strange bedfellows," but this is the strangest ever known; it passes comprehension.—Boston Post.

There is one topic Mr. Hearst should avoid. He alluded to the attempted purchase at Buffalo of delegates by corporation agents. If attempts were made, they were ill advised, because they were too late. The possibilities of purchase had already been exhausted. The vein had been worked out, not by corporation agents, but by emissaries from Manhattan, who scoured every county in the State. And what could not be bought was stolen, the case of Queens County being clearly one of theft. So the Eagle repeats: There is one topic Mr. Hearst should avoid.—Brooklyn Eagle.

Mr. Hearst is the most lavish spender of money in politics the country has ever known. He is understood to have millions of surplus cash, and his disposition to scatter it freely in political movements is admitted to be extremely free. At the same time it is surprising

Those who have fearlessly wagged their heads at the Hearst menace and spoken doubtfully whether it could be successfully met may pluck up heart of reassurance. If there was risk it passed when Murphy and Hearst became political one—Siamese twins with common pulsebeats. Both the flanks of their army are leaking deserters. The one loss might be endured, but not both. The honest Democrat and the sincere Independence Leaguer are vying with each other and with Republicans in the great non-partisan contest now on as to which shall assist the more in throwing into bankruptcy the firm of Murphy & Hearst, dealers in Rotteness and Riot.—New York Globe.

In the Joke World

"Isn't it ridiculous to say 'everybody's business is nobody's business'?"
"Who, that's all right. You see, it means that when—"
"I don't care what it means. It's bound to be the busybody's business at least."—Catholic Standard and Times.
"Know anything about golf?"
"Not much. Why?"
"Who's a bunker, do you know?"
"Suppose it's one of those cranks that simply live and sleep on the links."—The Catholic Standard and Times.
"I wish," said young Mrs. Torkins, "that Charley would go into politics."
"Who for?"
"I think it would be a good change. Charley has wonderfully good judgment, but I should like to see him interested in a race in which he could do his own running instead of depending on a horse."—Washington Star.
"Look you years to learn all about the business in which you were so successful."
"Yes," answered Mr. Cumrox, "and mother and the girls say it is going to take me years more to forget about it."—Washington Star.
Townsend's Cal. glace fruits and candies at Emporium, Post and Van Ness, and 1203 and 1220 Valencia street.