

The San Francisco Call.

JOHN D. SPRECKELS... Proprietor
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ERNEST S. SIMPSON... Managing Editor
C. J. OWEN... Business Manager

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RUEF'S SHARP PRACTICE.

THE refusal of Registrar Adams to accept the petition asking that the non-partisan nominees for the judicial ticket in this city be placed on the ballot is just what might have been expected from a man who owes his official status to Ruef, and, therefore, seeks to gain a petty advantage for Ruef's candidates for the Superior Bench.

The refusal of Adams to file the petition was a characteristic piece of bad faith and sharp practice. He had promised the promoters of the petition that he would keep his office open for business until 10 o'clock at night.

TO KEEP THEM HONEST.

THE legislation against fraudulent promotions which Governor Pardee proposes and the American Mining Congress, sitting in Denver, indorses, is a proposition to give the force of law to the old-fashioned proverb that "Honesty is the best policy."

It is quite true that the progress and development of the mining industry in California and other States has been seriously hindered by gross frauds on investors done in the past.

Any person who knowingly makes or publishes in any way whatever or knowingly permits to be so made or published any book, notice, report, statement, exhibit or other publication of or concerning the affairs, pecuniary condition of property of any corporation, joint stock association, copartnership or individual, which said book, prospectus, notice, report, statement, exhibit or other publication shall contain any statement which is false, or which is willfully or fraudulently exaggerated, or which is intended to give or which shall have a tendency to give to the public generally or to any person a greater or less apparent value to the shares, bonds or property of said corporation, joint stock association, copartnership or individual than said shares, bonds or property or any part thereof shall really or in fact possess, shall be deemed guilty of a felony, and upon conviction thereof shall be imprisoned for not more than five years, or fined not more than \$5000, or shall suffer both such imprisonment and fine.

Here we find two elements most difficult of determination. The representations must be false and they must be willfully fraudulent. It is evident that except in extreme cases juries would give the benefit of the doubt to the accused.

It would be a rash thing to advise any investor to buy a mine or a horse relying on the restraining force of such legislation. It is wiser to employ a mining expert of proved honesty. It is not an easy matter to keep men honest by law.

TAINTED WORDS.

OUR multi-millionaires are growing very talkative and the innocent confidence with which they propound their half-baked views obviously bespeaks a frame of mind created by an environment of toadies.

A reporter found John D. Rockefeller the other day indulging some such state of mind and unfeelingly proceeded to draw out his unsuspecting victim. Penetrated with a fellow feeling that makes us wondrous kind, Mr. Rockefeller gave up freely—not money but words.

The French people hate us, and they will crush us if they can. They want our money. They want the patronage of our tourists. But they hate us. This is a struggle for supremacy. We must win, or they will, and there will be no quarter for us if they win.

If your business is big enough it must be honest. If it is shown

to be dishonest it is still a mistake to expose the fraud because it hurts business. Such is the reasoning. He blames not the men who commit the fraud, but those who expose it.

A BURSTED MOSES.

ANOTHER Moses has backslidden. This time it is Mayor Weaver of Philadelphia, of whom bright hopes were entertained that he would lead boss-ridden Pennsylvania out of the slough of corruption in which for so many years it has contentedly wallowed.

Now it is to say, 'Alas! He has fallen down and backslidden. It is like this, as described by a staff correspondent of the Chicago Tribune:

Weaver today is honest. The only trouble with him is that he has been unable to separate his personal political ambitions from the great cause of reform itself. He constantly has confounded the two things together and because he failed to secure the nomination for Governor and later on because he also failed to make his personal friend and counsel District Attorney of Philadelphia he has turned his back on all his reform associates and has broken with the men who made his administration brilliant, has refused to enter the campaign for the reform candidate for Governor, and has appointed men to his personal municipal cabinet who are in open sympathy with the old gang ticket.

In the making of Moses it is always wise to consider the source. Don't be in too great a hurry to throw up your hat. A Moses with strings on him makes a stumbling leader.

STREET CAR LEGISLATION.

CHICAGO, like San Francisco, is greatly troubled over the frequency of injuries to life and limb on the street cars, and there, as here, municipal legislation is under consideration with a view to making urban transit safer.

Among the suggestions offered in Chicago is that the street cars should have gates. It is clear that gates might be a very good means to prevent overcrowding, but to be effective they must be kept closed when the car is full. We have gates on many of the cars in this city, but they do not prevent overcrowding.

The Smart Set

MRS. GEORGE C. BOARDMAN entertained yesterday at a luncheon, which was one of the most delightful affairs of the season. Mrs. A. P. Niblack, who is visiting her mother, Mrs. Harrington, here, being the guest of honor.

A charming affair was the reception given on board the new cruiser Charleston on Wednesday afternoon at Mare Island and a number of guests went up from this city.

Miss Lottie Collier is spending a few days at Mare Island as the guest of Dr. and Mrs. Frank B. Anderson.

Mrs. E. R. Diamond and Miss Alice Owen are at Del Monte for a brief stay, en route to Paso Robles.

Mrs. E. B. Cadwallader, Miss Cadwallader, Miss Josephine and W. Mayo Newhall went down to Del Monte a few days ago for a two or three weeks' stay.

Mrs. Frederick Horne, formerly Miss Alma McClung, is at present living in New York, her husband, Lieutenant Horne, U. S. N., having been recently assigned to duty as chief engineer of the U. S. S. Illinois of the North Atlantic squadron.

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In the Joke World

"I spent my vacation traveling through Maine."
"Haw's the topography of those parts?"
"None fit to eat half the time."—Courier-Journal.

Answers to Queries

ENGLISH MONEY—A. I. S. City, Brokers in the United States will pay about \$47.50 for a Bank of England £10 note.
LICK OBSERVATORY—A. R. City. The elevation of the Lick Observatory on Mount Hamilton, Santa Clara County, is 4293 feet above the sea level.
VELLUM—PAROCHMENT—Theo., City. The difference between vellum and parchment is that the former is made from the skin of calves, kids and deer born lambs, and the latter from the skin of sheep or goats.

Recalling a Hawaiian Incident.



State Press on Hearst

THE nomination of William Randolph Hearst as Democratic candidate for Governor of New York should compel the support of the Republican nominees by every voter in that State who has a sense of decency, a proper regard for a correct administration of public affairs and an antagonism to the rule of bosses and the reign of the political grafters.

Considering all the good money it will have cost him to make the campaign, the coming properly viewed as a financial disaster for Hearst.—Los Angeles Times.

If you catch the faint echo of a rattle and a metallic ring coming from the East do not be frightened; it is only the movement of the great army of Democrats bolting Hearst.—Pasadena Star.

Hitherto the people of the State of New York have not been considered a body of degenerates sunk so low in vice that a reward had to be promised for observing their oath to perform specific public duties and administer public trusts in accordance with the law of the land.

Pretty much all the big orators of the Republican and Democratic parties are going to turn themselves loose against Hearst in New York.

Before his nomination for Governor at Buffalo, William R. Hearst asserted that Sacher Murphy and his influence were for sale to the highest bidder.

Strange things have to be done or left undone these days by Hearst partisans in their efforts to boost the political aspirations of their owner.

The explanation for such low yields must be sought in Russian agricultural methods as well as the system of land ownership, which dates back to the emancipation of the peasants in 1861.

The system of petty land holdings, combined with the ignorance of the peasants, has caused the survival of very primitive and inefficient agricultural methods.

The communal ownership of the peasants, which exists in fifth parts of rural Russia, has also interfered

Russia Our Chief Competitor in European Wheat Markets.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11.—Russia is the chief competitor of the United States in the wheat markets of Europe outside of Russia. Bread cereals have always been the mainstay of Russian agriculture.

Of the immense territory of Russia, the wheat belt occupies a comparatively small share. There is very little wheat grown beyond the southern and eastern parts of the famous black soil region.

In the wheat belt proper wheat is rapidly crowding out almost everything else. In New Russia, in the Lower Volga provinces, and in Northern Caucasia from one-half to two-thirds of all cultivated land was under wheat in 1904.

The Russian wheat crop has increased from 400,000,000 bushels in 1896-1898 to 630,000,000 bushels in 1902-1904.

Nevertheless, the crop is small when the acreage is considered, the average yield of wheat per acre in Russia being the lowest of all important wheat-growing countries.

Within twenty years the value of land in the wheat belt has risen from \$10 to \$20 per acre, and wheat land rents for \$3 and \$4 an acre, which adds a charge of from 20 to 30 cents per bushel, depending on the yield.

The future of wheat production in Russia depends largely upon economic conditions and the educational progress of the Russian peasants.

The economic condition of the peasantry may be improved by increased size of holdings, which is contemplated in the imperial manifesto of November 1895.

Bacon—How did your friend, the lawyer, come out with his case in court today?

Egbert—Which case?

Bacon—The one he said he was not prepared to go on with and asked the Judge for more time.

Egbert—Oh, the Judge granted his request. He got his client six months.

Townsend's Cal. glace fruits and candied at Emporium, Post and Van Ness, and 1202 and 1220 Valencia street.

materially with agricultural progress by the ever present danger of redistribution and consequent lack of security of ownership.

There are reasons for these low yields besides the unavoidable climatic conditions. Among these is the insufficient use of fertilizers or manure in the wheat region, due to communal ownership of peasants' lands and to deficient live stock and lack of pasture on the peasants' lands.

Even on the large estates the modern implements are not generally used, since it is often customary to hire a peasant with his live stock and his crude implements.

Even at harvest time the average wages of a man with a horse in the wheat belt are only 86 cents per day, of a man alone 34 cents without board, and a female worker 22 cents.

Nevertheless, the cost of producing wheat in Russia is not as low as one might imagine. Elaborate investigations have shown that because of the low yield the average cost per bushel of spring wheat in 1899-1903 was 34 cents in Middle Volga, 39 cents in Lower Volga, and 48 cents in New Russia, not including land rent, which has been constantly rising during the last twenty years, because of the intense demand of peasants for more land.

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Places of amusement in New York City have 433,000 more seats than the churches have.