

The San Francisco Call. JOHN D. SPRECKELS... Proprietor CHARLES W. HORNICK... General Manager ERNEST S. SIMPSON... Managing Editor C. J. OWEN... Business Manager

Will You Stand Up, Judge Graham? Hands Off in the Graft Cases.

WILL Graham stand up for law and order and decency, for a clean bench, a clean city and a clean officialry, or will he make his bed with the rascality and ruffianism and roguery that cluster and fester where Ruef's blighting shadow falls?

OFFICIALLY and politically it will advantage Attorney General Ulysses S. Webb to adhere to his undertaking and keep hands off.

Is Presiding Judge Thomas F. Graham Ruef's man and Ruef's judge or is he his own man and San Francisco's just and upright judge? These questions Judge Graham himself will answer on Monday. If he follow the plain letter and unquestioned spirit of the law and without quibble or evasion acknowledge and recognize Langdon as District Attorney and Heney as his deputy, then by all right and merit he should lead in the balloting on Tuesday week, for he will have thereby proclaimed himself free from the taint of Ruefism.

As far as The Call is informed, his appearance in Judge Graham's courtroom on Friday and his projection of himself into the Grand Jury matter were not in response to any invitation or suggestion from the prosecutors of Rogue Ruef and his looters; as far as The Call is informed, what the eminent Attorney General did on that occasion was not in pursuance of any custom or habit or practice of himself or his able assistants.

Or if, on still another hand, Judge Graham shall seek to escape the task of deciding between obvious Right and patent Wrong—if he cannot make up his mind which will win, desperate roguery or determined decency—then, again, will Judge Graham have written his own sentence to political death.

Attorney General Webb is charged with being the political protege of his predecessor in that office, Tiley L. Ford, now chief counsel of the United Railroads. It is also alleged that he is a beneficiary of William F. Herrin, chief counsel of the Southern Pacific.

You would better understand the situation clearly, Judge Graham. Either you are for us—we speak for the decent people of decent San Francisco—or you are against us. You cannot dodge. You cannot evade the issue by passing it to another or a higher court.

With respect to his relations to Chief Counsel Ford, it will hardly be denied by either that they are of the closest. We may accept at their face value Ford's statements to the effect that he did not solicit Webb's appearance in this affair and did not know he was going to appear; we may accept, also, Ford's statement that he does not desire or need the services of Webb or any other friend at court.

The hour is striking for you, Judge Graham, the hour of what is your first and best chance in life—or your last. Your next move will carry you into the ranks of the citizens who have forgotten party and politics and are bent upon the restoration of law, justice and decency, or into the procession of those who, though they know it not, are marching steadily out to the place of their punishment.

If Heney gets to the bottom of Ruef's rottenness—and he surely will—there will have been first an interesting examination of Ruef's secret relations with both the Southern Pacific and the United Railroads. Considering his intimate political associations with the law departments of these corporations—and "law department" is a polite phrase covering some unpleasant corporate employments—Webb might well have refrained from meddling.

It is yours to choose, Judge Graham. You cannot escape the choice.

Attorney General Webb's uncalled for intervention on Friday, and his unsolicited declaration on Saturday that he meant no harm and wouldn't do it any more—this declaration following a prompt and sharp newspaper exposition of his affiliations—may be taken as evidence of the occasional benefits of publicity applied to public men and public affairs.

Dangers of Compromise in Fight for Political Reform.

By George A. Van Smyth.

THE third of a series of articles designed to present the comparative worth of existing primary election laws points out the dangers of compromise in the struggle for political reform.

ILLINOIS has just given its new law an eminently satisfactory trial, and in spite of the fact that the Illinois law is patently a compromise by the manipulators with the people and in the compromise the people get the worst of the trading. The Illinois law is compulsory and applies to all parties, party being defined as an organization which cast at the last Presidential election at least 2 per cent of the whole electoral vote.

Press of the East Grills Hearst.

TO see the newspaper publishers of Chicago rallying to the support of William R. Hearst's extortionate demands is anything but an edifying spectacle.

Afternoon newspapers, formed an agreement to advance the price of their papers from 50 cents per 100 to 60 cents per 100. As this reduction cut down the already small margin of carriers' profits to the vanishing point, a certain proportion of the carriers exercised their undoubted rights and declined further to handle the American and the News.

What the Oakland Tribune Says of Judge Lawlor.

ALTHOUGH the Tribune is not printed in San Francisco, it nevertheless sincerely hopes Judge William P. Lawlor will be re-elected.

But Judge Lawlor deserves the support and sympathy of all right-thinking men because the corrupt elements of politics and the criminal elements of society have conspired and combined to defeat him. This conspiracy against justice and political decency was formed because Judge Lawlor would not recognize "the pull" nor cater to the "the push." He treated the political boss as one entitled to no more consideration than any other citizen.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Senator Bacon still fails to see the humor in Roosevelt's indorsement of Senator Clay. Kansas claims the banner windmill town. Possibly, during Congressional recesses. Reform has received another crushing blow. Tom Watson and Colonel Town Topics Mann have fallen out. Congressional candidates are now busy pointing out the simplest way of indorsing President Roosevelt. A Jersey man committed suicide after a holdup man took \$2 from him. A San Francisco thug would do the whole job for less than that. If Dowie manages to raise that \$1,000,000 contribution from the citizens of Chicago, his miracle-working abilities will no longer be open to question. J. J. Hill's denunciation of graft in Minnesota will no longer be branded as utterances of a mere theorist. He has since been made defendant in a \$10,000,000 restitution suit. The McCreary-Beckham Senatorial contest in Kentucky utterly fails to get a hearing in the din created by the struggle of Congressman Nathan Hale with the peck-a-boos shirt waist.

In the Joke World.

Stranger—What was the noise? Farmer—Dunno if it wuz my auto tire or my barn bustin' from the overflowing crops.—New York Sun. "A boll on your neck? I can sympathize with you, old man. I had one up in Oshkosh last summer." "I wish mine was there."—Milwaukee Sentinel. Knieker—Wouldn't the agent rent the flat to you? Becker—No; he said my clothes wouldn't fit the janitor.—New York Sun. "This meat," protested the boarder, "is overdone." "Not exactly, it ain't," replied the waitress; "it's done over."—Philadelphia Ledger. "Of course," declared the pretty widow, "I am inconsolable." "Naturally." "However, as you know, I was never a fanatic on any point."—Louisville Courier Journal. Member of Investigating Committee—Have you ever had any confidential relations with the beef trust? Witness—No, sir; I have an uncle and two cousins working for it, but they've never told me a blamed thing.—Chicago Tribune. Townsend's Cal. glass fruits and candies at Emporium, Post and Van Ness, and 1203 and 1230 Valencia street.

Where the Independence League had made a very powerful issue of a definite independent programme, the circumstances of Mr. Hearst's alliance with the machine bosses whom he had threatened to drive out of public life, but whom, on the supreme test, he took into partnership, have forced the issue of his sincerity.

Revelation of the fact that the trust-busting mad mullah Hearst is himself the originator and beneficiary of several especially offensive and dishonest trusts will not cause surprise among intelligent people. Nobody will be astonished to learn that he operates, inter alia, a trust of the State of New Jersey, where most of the other predatory trusts have or have had their headquarters. It may be said, incidentally, that this particular Hearst trust is of the kind which the United States Supreme Court expressly stigmatized as unlawful in the case of the Northern Securities Company.