

# Ruef Seeks to Grow Richer by Causing Labor Strife

## Iniquitous Scheme of Boss Is Revealed by Spreckels

Schmitz and Ruef called Rudolph Spreckels to the witness stand yesterday in Judge Dunne's court, they imagined that they had an unwilling witness, whose refusal to answer their questions could be construed to their benefit. But when Spreckels frankly admitted that he had guaranteed the \$100,000 fund and went on to explain fully the facts which had led him to do so, all five of the counsel for the Mayor and his broker were on their feet loudly protesting objections to the sensational and damaging evidence which their witness was ready to give and did give.

"My object in testifying this forenoon," said Spreckels, "was to ascertain the truth or falsity of the charges of graft which had been generally made. I had observed some of these things myself."

"Mr. Ruef himself had come to me on two occasions and intimated that he was in a position to do certain things. He called on me at the time of the issue of the city bonds and asked me to organize a syndicate to buy the bonds, and assured me that this syndicate would be given the bonds. I asked how he could make such a promise when the bonds would have to be offered in open market for bids."

"It would be an easy thing to call a strike of the street-car system," he replied, "and then we would like to see what capitalists other than those who were in the syndicate would bid."

"At another time he came to my office at 221 Market street in company with Charles Sutro, Mr. Sutro left, and then Mr. Ruef proposed to me that I make him the attorney for the San Francisco Gas and Electric Company. He said: 'I have legal ability, and I could be of service to the company otherwise.'"

Ruef, whose manner throughout the hearing has been one of relaxation and apparent cheerfulness, suddenly leaned forward in his chair. His gaze was fixed on the witness as he related the direct and incriminating testimony. The face of the boss palmed and the muscles in his throat twitched as he heard the words.

Afterward Ruef admitted the truth of what Spreckels had said, making exception only to his threat to tie up the city with a street-car strike. As to his offer to become attorney for the gas company he claimed that it was merely a joke which he never intended to have taken seriously.

Spreckels had succeeded District Attorney Langdon on the stand. Langdon's testimony was greatly curtailed by objections interposed by Hiram Johnson and invariably sustained by Judge Dunne. He was convinced that the defense was merely conducting a fishing expedition, having refused to file affidavits setting forth exact facts, and he looked for a hearing in which he would be able to get the truth out of the witness.

Then suddenly there was a commotion in the courtroom. When the witness ignored the objections of Johnson and proceeded with his startling testimony the attorneys for the defense, who were getting more from their witness than they had looked for, began in wild alarm to make objections. But the court overruled them and Spreckels continued.

"I am not hired by any one. I have not been paid, nor have I been promised any money by any one. I am doing this actuated by my love of country and by my love for San Francisco. If there is any wrong here I want to see it corrected. If not, I want to see these men exonerated. If they have any facts, let them show them by affidavits."

"Might we not say, your Honor," interposed Hiram Johnson, with satire, "that if there were any bad defendants their purpose might be to keep the Grand Jury running from court to court interminably. If they were bad defendants, I say, they might do this to prevent the Grand Jury from proceeding on charges of which, of course, these men would be innocent. I say that had men might resort to such practice, but certainly not the great J. J. Barrett."

"Did the guarantee, which you say you gave to Mr. Ruef, depend on the prosecution of any one?" Ach asked.

"No, I did not give it to Mr. Ruef. It was for the purpose of investigation and collecting evidence. Mr. Ruef had told me that such an investigation could not properly be had without the guarantee of a fund. I had been interested in the matter for a long time, but my offer to which you refer was not made till shortly before the commencement of this investigation—yes, it was after the April calamity."

Ruef had regained his composure by this time and he attracted Ach's attention and gave him some whispered advice.

"Is it not a fact," Ach then asked the witness, "that some weeks before Mr. Ruef came to your office to offer himself as attorney for the gas company that you knew an effort was being made to induce him to come?"

"Not to my knowledge," Spreckels answered, "and I am certain such was not the case."

"The only step taken was the circulation of a petition on Bush street just prior to the earthquake, and the day before, I believe it was, a charter was granted to the company in which I was interested. It was incorporated for \$5,000,000, and the purpose was to show that an underground conduit system was perfectly feasible for this city. Provisions were also made for the city to take possession of the roads after a certain term."

"Then it was after that, and after the franchise was granted to the United States, that you were connected with this guaranteed fund?" queried Ach.

"I was not connected with it," Ach answered.

"What was your object in testifying this forenoon?" asked Ach.

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## Three Burglars Plot to Break Open Vault at Campbell, Near San Jose

SAN JOSE, Dec. 17.—Three men attempted at 2 o'clock this morning to break open the Campbell street vault at that place. An explosion at that hour aroused the residents in the vicinity of the bank, among whom was Dr. C. N. Cooper, who on hastening to the scene was fired at by a man standing at the bank. Another burglar was stationed at the corner of the Farmers' Union, while the third was working in the bank. The shots attracted residents, but the burglars all escaped in the darkness. Another burglar was stationed at the corner of the Farmers' Union, while the third was working in the bank. The shots attracted residents, but the burglars all escaped in the darkness.

While Ach was enumerating the names of the board's personnel at that time, Schmitz continued to explain in whispers to Campbell the matters which were the subject of the sudden and unexpected denunciation of Ruef. But at this juncture the Mayor remembered that he had an important engagement at his office, and Campbell arose to ask for an adjournment. It was 4:30 o'clock—nobody had noticed the time—and adjournment was taken till this morning, when Ach and the others will have the privilege of asking Spreckels more questions.

J. J. Barrett is gaining the reputation of a Grand Jury baiter, came dangerously near the line of contempt several times during the day's proceedings. The Judge had to request him to resume his seat on several occasions. Once when Barrett had been guilty of one of his little pleasantries, intended to lead the court to hasty action, Judge Dunne said:

"I want to warn you that if I find it necessary to cite any attorney in this case for contempt it will involve something more than a mere money fine."

More than ever it was apparent yesterday that the defense was resorting to every pretext to delay the court, to lengthen the proceedings and entangle the record. It had begun with another motion to strike the first of the five indictments from the files. It was the same motion, this time urged on slightly different grounds.

"I thought I had denied that motion," said the Judge.

Ach explained that such was the fact, but said that it was now being urged on different grounds.

"What are you doing now?" inquired the court.

"We are trying to win," retorted the attorney for the Curly Boss.

"By confusion," asked the judge.

"No, by process of law," replied Ach, with unexpected candor.

The Judge then asked Ach to produce affidavits to show what he intended to do to prove and convince the court that he was not starting on another fishing expedition. This Ach refused to do, and the ruling was made that he might go on with his interrogations subject to objections, if they did not appear to be framed to show bias or prejudice on the part of the members of the Grand Jury.

GRAND JURY KEPT BUSY

B. P. Oliver then rose and asked if the members of the Grand Jury might not be excused, as they had business to attend to, and had also been subpoenaed to appear in the Nicholas-Duffy trial in the afternoon. It transpired that they were wanted in both courts in the afternoon. Ach refused to agree not to call the jurors in each of the five cases brought up by the five French examiners, although the examination must of necessity be identical in each.

"I am here, your Honor," said Henny. "They can put me on the stand. I will give these things, and if they thought they could prove perjury on me they would not hesitate one instant. But they don't expect to prove anything."

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The last attack took a serious form and yesterday he was barely able to move, being threatened with pneumonia. He was removed from the liner to a private car, placed at his disposal by General Manager Calvin of the Southern Pacific and is now on his way to the southland.

At Honolulu General Otis gave out the following interview: "When I was in Japan I was called upon by a high official in the Government who seemed to be most anxious to make it appear that there was no hostility whatever on the part of Japan toward America. He seemed very anxious to impress me with this view. Particularly did he try to impress me in regard to the rumor that Japan was desirous of seizing the Philippines if an opportunity should present itself. He refuted the allegation that Japan was anxious to have the Philippines for the purpose of expansion."

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"In regard to what you tell me about the plan of President Roosevelt to naturalize the Japanese, I should certainly be opposed in every way to any such thing. For thirty years we have been preventing the Chinese from coming to our shores and have not allowed them to have the privileges of citizenship. Now it is proposed to allow the Japanese this right which we have not allowed the Chinese. I am opposed to that very strongly, as personally I am of the opinion that the Chinese is a great deal better than the Japanese."

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## UNITED STATES MINISTER TO COLOMBIA SPEAKS OF THE TRADE CHANCES IN SOUTH PACIFIC COAST NEED HURRIED TO SOUTH

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 17.—John Barrett, United States Minister to Colombia, was the guest of honor and the principal speaker tonight at a banquet given by the Commercial Club. Barrett said that the nations of South America present markets for nearly every commodity produced or manufactured in this country.

Barrett said that of the exports from Latin America only 20 per cent had come to this country, and that this country should develop this trade. He declared that the Pacific Coast should show immediate and especial energy in order that when the Panama canal was completed ten years hence its trade would be firmly established.

The speaker asserted that it would be paring down the tariff to see fit. We have to look to Latin America, where there are no dangers of an invading army of foreign labor and no prospects of a disastrous competition in manufactures and productions.

"The present situation in California is, indeed, serious and unfortunate, and the problem is no easy one to solve, but the solution will be reached," he said. "We cannot force Japan to sign a treaty that is not approved by the Japanese Government and people, and we cannot pass a law prohibiting Japanese coolie immigration without revising the present treaty."

LOSES LIFE IN RIVER

WILLOW GROVE, 17.—Thomas Padgett, a farm laborer, was drowned yesterday in the Sacramento River near Glenn. He was in a rowboat with J. Gupton, and the two were rowing down stream to hunt ducks when the boat was overturned in a swift current. The skiff struck a snag and capsized. After a hard struggle Gupton reached the shore, but his companion was unable to swim and sank immediately.

RAILROAD MAN KILLED BY TRAIN

REDDING, Dec. 17.—John Dewey, the best-known railroad man in Siskiyou County, started from McCloud on a three days' lay-off yesterday to go to San Francisco and see his sick sister, Mrs. Sara Boyd. At Sisson he started to jump on a moving train, and slipped and fell. His legs were cut off and he was otherwise mangled. He died at the Dunsuir hospital.

DELAYED EDITION APPEARS

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, Dec. 17.—The long delayed edition of the 1907 "Quad," the record book of Stanford University, appeared on campus this morning. The edition is one of the best that has been published, despite the fact that all of the original copy and forms were destroyed in the San Francisco fire.

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In these days when we are deprived of many of the pleasures that are usually abundant in a large city, what can be more welcome than an Autopiano in the home? The number of people buying these splendid instruments is increasing rapidly; indeed, every time we send an Autopiano out it invariably results in three or four more sales for us. There is no doubt that the Autopiano is the coming piano. Everything that you can accomplish with the ordinary upright piano can also be accomplished by the Autopiano, but in addition to this, you have at your command the very finest musical compositions, although you may not be able to strike a correct chord upon the piano. Moreover, you are enabled to play with your own expression and as the spirit moves you.

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No more appropriate gift can be selected than a beautiful Autopiano, for there is no gift that carries with it so much joy and keen pleasure. We have already set aside a large number of Autopianos for Christmas delivery, and if you want to make the most thoughtful gift do not neglect to see one of these instruments, for seeing usually means buying. While the Autopiano is without a peer as a player our prices are little, if any, more than other dealers charge for a simple upright piano of equal grade. This piano is furnished in any style wood or in Mission style to exactly match your room. Send for beautiful art catalogue.

ANOTHER WEEK OF DEMONSTRATION

To commemorate our re-establishment in San Francisco we commenced a few weeks ago a DEMONSTRATION SALE. The purpose of this sale was to show to the public conclusively that high-grade standard pianos could be sold at prices substantially lower than have heretofore been asked. The success which our efforts have met is more than encouraging. Every day we get more and more evidences of the fact that our campaign of education has been effective and every day we are gaining new customers who are sent to us by satisfied users of pianos sold by us.

SEE FOR YOURSELF

This DEMONSTRATION SALE will continue only until December 25. If you have the slightest doubt as to what we are really able to do, go to three or four piano stores in San Francisco and examine carefully the instruments they handle. Get the name, the style, the number, note carefully the tone and the price. Then come to the BIG Piano Store, and we will give you an object-lesson in piano selling that will astound you.

THE EILERS GUARANTEE

Remember that every new piano sold carries with it the EILERS GUARANTEE, which means that the piano has been tested at the factory before shipment, that it leaves our floors in perfect condition, and that at all times after because we know the high quality of the pianos we sell, because we know they are made of the best of materials with the most conscientious care.

OPEN EVENINGS

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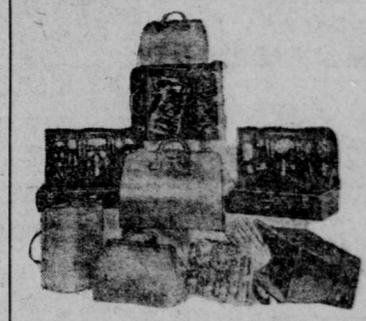
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E. F. LORQUIN, taxidermist, 142 ulston st., below Van Ness ave.

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