

The San Francisco Call

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DOUBLE-BARRELED JOHNSON

GROVE JOHNSON'S railroad liability law should be passed without regard for its source. The fact that its introduction may be due to a desire for political revenge should not weigh against the obvious justice of the measure.

That was a criminal case and the President asked that the Government be given the right to appeal from such decisions. An appeal lies and will be prosecuted by the Government in the matter of the liability act, but legal opinion appears to favor the belief that Judge Evans was right in his ruling.

As for Johnson's bill requiring railroads to provide every passenger with a seat, it belongs to the class of impossible and visionary legislation that its progenitor cultivates for purposes of getting even with somebody.

NO COMPROMISE ON DIRECT PRIMARY

ASSEMBLYMAN STETSON'S bill proposing a compromise between the existing delegate convention system and the direct primary is undoubtedly well meant, but there is reason to regard it as dangerous, because it would be likely to block the way of the radical reform that the circumstances undoubtedly require.

Stetson's bill will, however, fill a useful missionary purpose in the Legislature. Discussion of its provisions will enlighten members on the working of primary laws, but its provisions are cumbersome and clumsy, not through any fault of its author, but because its awkward machinery is made necessary by the constitution as it stands.

WHERE DAVIS GETS HIS PULL

MUNICIPAL favor extended to the deadfall conducted by Supervisor Sam Davis, under the name of a theater, finds fresh illustration in the failure thus far of the Police Commission to revoke the license of the Davis saloon attachment.

The Davis theater seats about 1000 people. It is a firetrap of the most dangerous sort, a mere shack, patched together of wood and canvas, narrow in the aisles and short of exits.

The building laws adopted by the Board of Supervisors after the fire require that all theaters shall be of class A, fireproof construction. Mayor Schmitz apparently assumes the right to repeal those laws and grant permits for firetrap theaters to his friends.

TRAVELING PUBLIC WEARY OF PROMISES

THE Call believes that General Manager Chapman desires, on behalf of the United Railroads, to give San Francisco the best possible streetcar service, and to the accomplishment of that purpose no obstacles will be raised by this newspaper.

What He Expected and What He Got



service of the last six months, or anything like it, there will arise an irresistible demand for a reduction of streetcar fares.

Grave mistakes have been made by the management of the United Railroads since the fire. It was a gross and unpardonable outrage on public rights to tear up streets all over the city simultaneously and leave them in that condition untouched for months.

We have had promises piled mountain high by the United Railroads, but promises will not pave streets—at least, not in San Francisco. The citizens have been climbing over the good intentions of the corporation for six months.

It seems as if the business of the corporation had been run by amateurs. It is time to stop rainbow chasing, quit making promises and begin performance.

THE USELESS EARTHQUAKE CLAUSE

THE verdict reached by a jury in the United States Circuit Court in the case of a fire insurance policy incorporating one of the so-called "earthquake clauses" doubtless foreshadows the result of all similar suits in which insurance companies seek to avoid liability under their contracts.

The crucial point in the case lies in Judge Whitson's ruling that the burden of proof to show this connection between earthquake-started fires and those that destroyed insured premises rests on the insurance company.

Insurance companies will be well advised in future to omit altogether their earthquake clauses. There is nothing to show for them but a bad reputation.

In the Joke World

She—You haven't any confidence in either candidate?
He—On the contrary, I have confidence in both. I believe all the things they say about each other are absolutely true.—Mondo Umoreistico.
Gyer—Higgins is a remarkable man. Myer—In what way?
Gyer—Why, he can wait at the telephone without making pencil marks on the desk pad.—Chicago News.

Gossip of the Doings of Railroad Men

General Manager E. E. Calvin left last night for the north to meet J. C. Stubbs, Judge R. S. Lovett and R. P. Schwerin, who have been attending the meeting of the Interstate Commerce Commission in Portland.

Chief Engineer W. B. Storey of the Santa Fe has arrived here from Topeka to take charge of the work of repairing the Franklin tunnel. He thinks that it will be fully three weeks before the tunnel will have been put into good shape and the line opened for traffic.

"They are all praying for a spell of fine weather in the southern part of the State," observed a traveling freight man yesterday, who has just returned from the south. Oranges are beginning to move freely and though the growers have been advised not to ship too freely, that is, not over 100 to 125 cars a day, I am afraid they will disregard that advice and ship as fast as they can.

"I say, I've been asked to go shooting next week. What ought I to give the keeper?"
"Oh, well, it depends where you hit him, you know.—The Tatler.

Two men, walking in from the football game yesterday afternoon, were asked by a woman standing in a doorway on Broadway how the game came out.

"Nothing to nothing," replied one man.

"Is that so?" the woman said. "Well, who won?"—Denver Post.

Teacher—Johnny, do you know the effects of alcohol on the cells of the brain?
Johnny—Naw, but I know de effects on de cells of de statipn-house.—New York Press.

Sub-editor—Here's another letter from that man who signs himself "Vox Populi."
Editor—What has he got to say now?
Sub-editor—He writes to inquire if we will kindly inform him what "vox populi" means.—Tit-Bits.

"Don't you think, Mabel, it was foolish of us to have such an expensive wedding?"
"Yes, dear, but we'll both know better next time.—Life.

New and Old Verse

OVER THE SEA TO SKYE
Sing me a song of a lad that is gone,
Say, could that lad be I?
Merry of soul he sailed on a day
Over the sea to Skye.

Mull was astern, Egg on the port,
Run on the Starboard bow;
Glory of youth glowed in his soul;
Where is that glory now?
Sing me a song of a lad that is gone,
Say, could that lad be I?
Merry of soul he sailed on a day
Over the sea to Skye.

Give me again all that was there,
Give me the sun that shone;
Give me the eyes, give me the soul,
Give me the lad that's gone!
Sing me a song of a lad that is gone,
Say, could that lad be I?
Merry of soul he sailed on a day
Over the sea to Skye.

Billows and breeze, islands and seas,
Mountains of rain and sun,
All that was good, all that was fair,
All that was me is gone!
—Robert Louis Stevenson.

NOT THEY WHO SOAR
Not they who soar, but they who plod
Their rugged way, unhelped to God
Are heroes; and they'd place their fare,
And, finding, fan the upper air,
Miss all the toll that hugs the sod.
'Tis they whose backs have felt the rod,
Whose feet have pressed the path un-

SUGGESTIONS TO A FEW OLD ONES
If I were John D. Rockefeller
I'd ride on New Year's Day
And try to see just how to be
More potent for fair play,
And on my heart I'd place one hand
Parker and the other high,
And, caring not what others thought,
I'd swear off on mince pie.

If I were "Uncle Joseph" Cannon
I'd make a New Year's vow—
No, no, not that—I might stand pat,
As "Uncle Joe" does now;
But I my good right hand would raise
And heavenly grace implore,
And swear in forty-seven ways
To use curse words no more.

If I were Platt, thin, bent and feeble,
I'd start the New Year right,
Though fools might scoff, by swear-
ing off,
And dropping out of sight;
I'd make a vow to try somehow
Through all the days to be
To shun each fair one with a snare
She wished to spread for me.

If I were Leopold of Belgium
On New Year's Day I'd place
Upon my heart my hand and start
Forth with a beardless face,
And I would swear by every trick
Which cunning could provide
To keep disguised, so that Old Nick
Might not know when I died.
—Chicago Record-Herald.

THE SPECIALISTS
I met a specialist one day,
He would not pass me by,
But said in a peculiar way:
"You have an eye!"
Too bad, too bad, too bad!
I felt, by Jove, I had!
He took my case in charge,
And when he was busy
Three times a week until
I fear, the trump shall sound.

Another day by chance
I came a person near,
He said, with eagle glance,
"You have an ear!"
I clapped my hand to head,
'Twas there, upon the dead!
He took my case in charge,
And now at 2 p. m.
On every other day
I pass an hour with him!

"Twas on a Friday eve—
Unlucky day, in sooth—
A man remarked: "Believe
You have a tooth!"
There wasn't even a doubt,
The secret dark was out!
He took my case in charge,
And when he was busy
He drilled for fun on me
Until I'm fairly dizzy!

But worst, oh, worst; oh, worst!
A widow full of art
I met! She said at first:
"You have a heart!"
Too bad, too bad, too bad!
I found in fact I had!
She took my case in charge,
And now, unlucky man,
I always go around in
As often as I can!
—Florida Times-Democrat.

TRUE MEASURE OF A MAN
It is not his loud professions from the
pulpit or the pew
And not his seeming kindly acts when
in the public view;
'Tis by his evening fireside he stands
before the screen
And there the lamp or angel, the churl
or king, is seen.

And the world will smile and call him great
and greet him with a cheer,
But if, when day has ended and eventide
draws near,
His wife grows heavy hearted and his
children pale with fright,
His soul is ugly, black and mean—an
inch or so in height.

There are faces at the window, look-
ing up the lonely street,
Then a scramble for the doorway and
a rush of eager feet;
The eldest takes his dinner box, the
next one takes his hand,
And the youngest, on his shoulder,
rides along in triumph grand.

With see the merry throng
that smile upon her features and
within her heart a song.
In the world of men and letters he may
be of pygmy height,
But he towers to the heavens when we
measure him to right.
—New York Mail

Personal Mention

R. J. Warner is at the Majestic from Buffalo.
N. K. Bigelow of New York is at the Majestic.
Senator George D. Pyne of Goldfield is at the St. Francis.
J. A. Morrison of Chicago is registered at the Dorchester.
Allen Wright of South McAlester, Ind. T. is at the Palace.
R. R. Leslie, a mining man of Copperopolis, is at the Palace.
H. Woods and Mrs. Woods of Chicago are at the St. Francis.
W. A. Shockey and Mrs. Shockey are at the Palace from Tonopah.
Senator H. W. Lynch and Mrs. Lynch of San Luis Obispo are at the Jefferson.
C. L. Carpenter and George South-

The Smart Set

MRS. LEONARD CHENERY and Mrs. Ralph Warner Hart were the hostesses at a very charming bridge party yesterday afternoon at Mrs. Cheney's home on Pacific avenue and Baker street. As Mrs. Hart has recently gone to San Rafael to live, she and Mrs. Cheney decided to entertain together on this occasion a number of their mutual friends, and the affair proved a most enjoyable one.

Mrs. Alexander Heyneman entertained most enjoyably at a bridge party yesterday afternoon at her home in Fillmore street, a number of other guests going in later for tea. Mrs. Heyneman will again entertain in this pleasant way on Wednesday afternoon, February 7, on which occasion about five tables of guests will be present.

Mrs. Watson D. Fennimore was the hostess at an informal telephone bridge party yesterday afternoon at her home in Pacific avenue, at which a large number of guests were present. Mrs. Fennimore will entertain at another of these pleasant informal affairs on Saturday afternoon, February 2.

News comes from Washington, D. C., of the charming tea given recently by Mrs. C. Ewald Grunsky, formerly of this city, in honor of the debut of her daughter, Miss Kate Grunsky. It was distinctly a Californian affair, both as to the receiving party and as to the number of the guests and also in the delightful spirit of hospitality which marked the occasion.

Receiving with Mrs. Grunsky and her daughter were Miss Henrietta Stadtmuller and Miss Lillian Stadtmuller of this city, who were guests in the Grunsky household; Mrs. Frank P. Flint, Mrs. E. C. Robinson, Mrs. Daniskin, Mr. L. Steeh, Mrs. W. C. Allen, Miss Jean Pedlar of California, Mrs. Madge James, Miss Ethel Whitney and Miss Gladys James. Mrs. Grunsky is taking an active interest in church work in the Eastern city and was a leader in the Christmas sale, preceded by an evening entertainment, given by the ways and means committee, Mrs. Grunsky, chairman, of All Souls' Church. It was a very beautiful affair and the proceeds amounted to nearly \$2000, most of the credit for this going to the popular Californian.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Josselyn, Miss Mary Josselyn, Miss Gertrude Josselyn, Miss Edna Josselyn and Miss Myra Josselyn expect to leave on February 6 for New York and will sail from there very soon afterward for Europe. They will go directly to Paris and will spend several months there. Mr. Josselyn, who has been seriously ill, is convalescing rapidly.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles K. McIntosh and their family, who have had a house in Clay street during the winter, returned last week from their country place at Woodside, where they will spend the spring and summer months.

Mr. and Mrs. Sydney L. Joseph, formerly Miss Emily R. Joseph, who have been in Santa Barbara since their marriage early in the winter, will arrive here about February 1 and will spend a month as the guests of Mrs. Joseph's father, Dr. Russell, who will go to Europe early in March for an indefinite stay.

Answers to Queries
FIRE DEPARTMENTS—A. B. C. City. In order to obtain accurate information as to the strength of the fire departments in Los Angeles, Oakland and Seattle, write to the chief engineer of the department in each of the cities named.

MINING BUREAU—Subscriber, Pacific Grove, Cal. The State Mining Bureau is still located in the ferry building, San Francisco, to which all communications relative to minerals should be addressed.

WAR—M. R. Crows Landing, Cal. There is no international law that declares that if two nations are inclined to go to war that the other nations must give consent to allow them to engage in warfare.

SETTLING JAPANESE QUESTION
Marriage—At Osaka, on the 25th December, Dr. Bernard Thomson to Kei Sato.—Japan Advertiser.
Townsend's Cal. game fruits and candies at Emporium, Post and Van Ness, 345 Sutter st. and 1205 and 1210 Valencia st.