

The San Francisco Call

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OUR OLD-FASHIONED GOVERNOR

THE New York Sun grows sarcastic at the expense of modern legislative tendencies, as illustrated by the patronage grab at Sacramento, and remarks that Governor Gillett's remonstrance against this scandalous abuse of power was strangely out of date. We quote:

That California should have such a dyabust executive as this is pitiable. There is no hope for him even in the fact that he proposes a constitutional amendment to hold legislative appropriations down to a fixed and legal amount "at each session." At first blush this would seem a favorable sign, but while it is true that there is a good deal of modern clamor for constitutional amendments of one sort or another the number of the clamorous is small compared with those who do not regard constitutions as worth the trouble of amending.

Anyway, Governor Gillett could never get up any interest in a constitutional amendment to limit the expenditures of government. Legislatures exist by and for expenditures. The only legislators who can be sure of holding their jobs are those who can devise the most and newest ways to spend the public funds and then get the biggest slice for their constituents when the appropriations are made.

These half-truths are amusing enough in their way, but we have evidence sufficient that the bitter blast of criticism has penetrated the most indurated of legislative hides. An old-fashioned Governor is good enough for us.

"A MILESTONE IN HISTORY"

THE people of Oregon have found a way to elect United States Senators by popular vote. That way is the direct primary, and the result is the unanimous ratification by the Legislature of the popular vote for Bourne and Mulkey. The Portland Oregonian of recent date calls that ratification "a milestone in history," and goes on to add:

In this matter Oregon has shown a genius for practical achievement which other States seem in some cases to lack. How to bring about popular election of Senators with the Senate itself opposed to the project has seemed to many statesmen an insoluble puzzle. Oregon found little difficulty in its solution, though we have cut rather than untied the knot. This achievement is of fundamental importance, and the people of Oregon are willing to believe that in accomplishing it they have received loyal and substantial support from Mr. Jonathan Bourne. His ambition to become a United States Senator is of long standing. He has finally attained it by encouraging and assisting the people of Oregon to break up the political rings which have dominated the State, not always to its advantage, and to take both political power and much of the machinery of government directly under their own control. Mr. Bourne has succeeded in making the people of Oregon believe that he is the unwavering friend of the direct primary, the referendum and the popular election of Senators. It was because of this widely accredited devotion to a great principle that Mr. Bourne received his large majority of the popular vote last June.

It is an example that California and Californians will do well to imitate. The result in Oregon establishes a precedent and shows that Legislatures may be relied on to obey a popular mandate expressed at the polls. Many members of the Oregon Legislature were under no sort of pledge to vote for the choice of the primaries. These were chiefly the hold-over State Senators, but, although unpledged, they made no objection to fulfilling the popular will.

INDEPENDENTS KEEP OUT

THE Guggenheims, having taken the State of Colorado into camp, are now preparing to annex Alaska so far as its mineral output is concerned. They have begun by buying up most of the land available for gold dredging and are now moving on the immense copper and coal deposits of the Copper River country. This region comprises:

The Copper Valley, running 300 miles north and south and 200 east and west; the Chitina copper belt, which stretches fifty miles from east to west, with a breadth of ten to twenty miles; the Catala coal fields, twenty miles square; the petroleum belt, which skirts the coast from Catala eastward to Yantat for a distance of thirty miles and breadth of from five to ten miles, and the Matamiski deposit. In the Matamiski district is the only known occurrence on the Pacific Coast of anthracite deposits, and the coal is declared to be as good as the product of the anthracite fields of Pennsylvania.

Of course, the development and exploitation of this great region would be a good thing for the country, but not by the methods of the smelter trust. In brief, the Guggenheims have set their seal on this immense territory and will allow no intruders. If independent mining enterprises are projected they are notified that the smelter trust will hold a monopoly of transportation, and they will very readily understand what that means. The White Pass Railroad people proposed to build a railroad into the Copper River valley, but they were at once threatened that if they did anything of the sort the smelter trust would parallel their road to the Yukon and divert them into insolvency. The White Pass people understood the situation and abandoned their project. The Guggenheims will build a railroad into the Copper River valley when they get ready, and the independent miner had better keep out.

THE RUEF CATERANS

THE pernicious activity of Ruef's caterans in the Legislature continues unabated. Assemblyman Coghlan is responsible for a bill to embarrass the work of grand juries by virtually making the proceedings public. Under the rule proposed by Coghlan the function of grand juries, which is to find if a prima facie case for a true bill exists, would be converted into a prolonged and hard-fought trial on the merits of the charge. Under this absurd procedure no provision is made for a judge to pass on the admission of evidence, and the result, of course, would be that a single investigation could be prolonged far beyond the life of a grand jury by the pettifogging arts of criminal lawyers. The animus of the measure is obvious on its face. It is de-

Signals of Distress in a Blizzard



—CHICAGO JOURNAL.

signed to block the further investigation of graft and bribery of officials in San Francisco.

Senator Keane in the other House is not neglecting the interests of his master, but his work is crude. He proposed that book-keepers and accountants should be exempt from testifying against their employers, and would put all such witnesses in the privileged class. It is gratifying to find that Ruef's influence has not crossed the bay, for Senator Leavitt very promptly pointed out that the proposition carries the theory of confidential communications miles too far. Mr. Keane will have to try some other plan.

Grove Johnson is not classed among Ruef's caterans. Indeed, he is in a class all by himself, but his change of venue bill is directly in Ruef's interest. The whole pack—Blanche, Tray and Sweetheart—will be found voting for it with enthusiasm. A less confiding and single-minded reformer than Mr. Johnson might begin to suspect himself as he surveys the sort of company he keeps.

That eminent, unconscious humorist and cateran—we use the term in a strictly parliamentary sense—Mr. Gus Hartman, cheerfully admits that his bill to stop prizefighting is a purely personal matter between himself and Messrs. Graney, Coffroth and their associates, whom Mr. Hartman regards as a very slight improvement on bunko-steerers. We do not know what the fight promoters may have done to Ruef, but it is not quite clear why their quarrels should be fought out at the expense of the people of California to gratify the self-importance and appease the injured feelings of that distinguished purist, Mr. Gus Hartman. Let him sign articles on his own account with Coffroth and Graney to fight them both in the same ring.

ADVANCE, SANTA BARBARA

WE scarcely see how the Interstate Commerce Commission can escape giving Ventura and Santa Barbara the terminal rates which those cities claim, and in that view equal privileges must be given to all coast towns where ships can load and unload. The theory on which the commission bases its rule—it is frequently a theory rather than a condition—is that all shipping points that enjoy water competition must be given reduced rates to enable the railroads to get a share of the business. The commission does not go into details or compare facilities for water competition. Indeed, it is very often a case rather of potentialities than of actual facilities. In that view, although it may be said with truth that the seafaring commerce of Santa Barbara and Ventura is insignificant, yet the potentialities exist. They may become in time great commercial seaports. A graceless joker of an elder day was wont to say when the harbor of Santa Barbara was mentioned that it was the most notable haven for shipping in the world, because it reached all the way to Chifa; but that, of course, was a wild statement. There is, to be sure, plenty of sea room at Santa Barbara, and the navies of the world would not feel crowded on her spacious front. Her harbor is bounded only by the horizon and her commerce by sea is mostly a state of mind, which the prophetic eye of the Interstate Commerce Commission will doubtless recognize as sufficient reason for putting the town and its neighbor in the terminal class. Advance, Santa Barbara, where winter brings no discontent and millionaires disport themselves in long-legged stockings across the yellow sand. Your virgin water front is sweet as new-mown hay; the chime of mission bells is in the air; your foreshores blossom with flowers of a thousand colors; no vulgar commerce mars the idyll—but, just the same, all roads, by sea and land, lead to Santa Barbara, and therefore we gladly welcome the little town under the hill to the select although turbulent class of terminals as the single respectable and well-behaved member thereof.

Gossip in Railway Circles

F. W. Thompson, general Western agent for the Rock Island-Frisco lines in this city, left on Wednesday night for Los Angeles to meet L. M. Allen, the general passenger agent of the Rock Island system, who is coming to the coast to make an inspection of the agencies.
John Ross of the passenger department of the Southern Pacific left last night to meet the party of northern business men who are on their way to the city. It is the intention of the visitors to make a trip to the City of Mexico before returning to Tacoma.
L. R. Fields, who has charge of the Southern Pacific ones in Oregon, arrived from Portland yesterday to take part in the conference with the telegraphers of the Southern Pacific system. R. H. Ingram, W. S. Palmer, J. M. Davis and L. R. Fields represent the company.
Epes Randolph wired E. E. Calvin, general manager of the Southern Pacific, yesterday that 46,600 yards of rock had been dumped into the Colorado River break, and that half of the river was going down the old channel.
Joseph McIlroy, general agent of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas, is at Eryon Springs. He is laid up with a severe attack of rheumatism. Jay Adams of the Nickel Plate went up to Byron yesterday to see if he could be of any service to him.
H. O. Wilson, freight agent of the Union Pacific, has left for Paso Robles at the advice of his physician and will be away for a few days.
C. B. Olds, who has been assistant ticket agent of the Southern Pacific at the Oakland pier, has been transferred to the rate room of the company.
T. R. Tilley, city passenger agent of the Union Pacific, who has been laid up for four months with injuries received in a street car accident, was able to come over to the city for the first time yesterday.

The Insider

Tells of the fortune in real estate inherited by city's champion bridge-player and of Rev. Mr. Rader's aversion to being a matinee idol.

Bridge Champion Owns Fine Block

THE rink in which the Daughters of the Confederacy staked for sweet charity on Monday night is built upon a part of the Butler property, of which Mrs. Breeden, society's champion bridge-player, inherited the greater part. Butler owned the entire block bounded by Sutter, Post, Steiner and Pierce streets, and he lived across the way in Sutter street in an old-fashioned house with a door in the middle and a wide hallway, his garden covering another large area of land. It was not so valuable in the days when he bought it, but it is one of the richest properties thereabouts now. Emma Butler, his granddaughter, lived in the old house when she was a little girl, but afterward she went away to school and then to Europe, returning to take her place in society and later to marry the oil magnate. The old Crystal Palace was built on the Butler property over twenty years ago. The Palace was designed by the lot's lessees to fill a long-felt amusement want in the community and was laid out on plans borrowed from London's famous Crystal Palace. But it burned down before it was finished and went the way of the unrighteous. The block farther up Sutter street, between Pierce and Scott, was owned by another pioneer, the late Pardon Cook, who lived in a very unpretentious way for the owner of over a quarter of a million. His two-story frame house was as unassuming as his manner of living. At his death his fortune went to his widow and daughters, one of whom married young Dr. Paul Noble.

Counter Snob Did Not Sell Dishes

There is no snob quite so snobbish as a supercilious saleslady. She judges, in nine cases out of ten, of a purchaser's social standing by clothes alone. The bride who figures in this incident thinks it a famous joke herself, but had she been of less aristocratic mold she might have had her feelings seriously wounded. It was in a Van Ness avenue store, and the bride and her mother were looking at dishes. They examined several that did not quite suit them. Finally the saleslady who was showing the goods paused before a set of exceedingly common looking dishes. She named the price. The bride turned to her mother and said: "Oh, how ugly. I would never care to have a set like that." "Why, don't you like them?" observed the saleslady with evident surprise, as she took in the garments of the other women with a patronizing air; "they are just the thing for a poor family."

Learned Justice Target of "Drunks"

The other evening an Associate Justice of the State Supreme Court, who happened at that particular time to be in one of his retrospective moods, remarked: "I am a magnet; not a magnet, but a plain, simple magnet for drunken men. Something in my countenance, my shape or general contour draws the drunkard to my presence. If there is a common 'drunk' on the Oakland boat he will come to me. I may go to the upper deck and select the most secluded place to read or meditate, but the 'drunk' will find me and insist on telling me his tale of adventures, of his fears and his prospects. If I go to the club for recreation and there happens to be an inebriated member in any room of the institution, he will find me and pour out his troubles. I cannot tell what there is in my countenance to lure the 'drunk' to give me his confidence, but the fact remains that I am a magnet for drunks."

Rader Runs From Women's Adulation

What it means to be a popular preacher was revealed to me when I saw Rev. William Rader encompassed, engulfed and swallowed up in a bevy of admiring women, all telling him in different ways how the eloquent address that he had just made had led their spirits along high and shining paths. "There is a quiet room over here," I whispered, and the victim followed eagerly. "Put me somewhere," he began. It was inevitable that my unruly member should supply the rest. "Put me somewhere east of Suez Where the best is like the worst. Where there ain't no ten commandments. And a man can raise a thirst." "Thank you," said the pastor. "That was really a relief; it was just what I wanted to say. Now, how are we going to get out of this?" I suggested the back door, but the valiant pastor would have none of it. He followed rapidly in my wake, saying a little prayer of thankfulness when we reached the street. Just then a dulcet voice said in his ear, "Oh, Dr. Rader, I want to thank you," and I never knew the rest. But, now, if the women had not praised him, would he have liked that better? Just suppose.

Personal Mention

D. P. Owen of Denver is at the St. Francis.
W. C. Petchner is at the Palace from Los Angeles.
George W. Gaines of Philadelphia is at the Dorchester.
W. C. Bristol, an attorney of Portland, is at the Palace.
E. W. Stix and Mrs. Stix are at the Jefferson from St. Louis.
A. L. R. Young of Burlington, Iowa, is registered at the Palace.
E. W. Hale and Mrs. Hale of Sacramento are at the Majestic.
A. J. Macdonell of Virginia City, Nev., is registered at the Majestic.
Luis M. de Castro and family of Mexico City are at the Jefferson.
Frederick Lyon, a mining man of Kennet, is at the St. Francis.
Senator W. R. Forrest and Mrs. Forrest of Seattle are at the St. Francis.
Ira B. Bennett, the California lumber man, is at the St. Francis from Sanger.
M. A. Warren of Lincoln and Thomas Mack of Chicago are at the Majestic.
W. S. Hodges and Mrs. Hodges of Hartwell, Ga., are at the Majestic Annex.
W. W. Trigg and Mrs. Trigg of Tampeico, Mexico, are registered at the Palace.
Thomas H. Ryland, a jeweler of New York and Mrs. Ryland are at the Dorchester.
John Klosterman, Mrs. Klosterman and Miss K. Klosterman are registered at the Jefferson.
Charles G. Huse, a prominent attorney of Chicago, and Mrs. Huse, a daughter of Attorney George Wallis of San Francisco, are registered at the Palace.
Gallois, John Fletcher, Albert McEwen, Thomas Starr King, Albert Everett, Ralph Butler, L. Lynch, E. King, Albert Clarke, Albert Sallsbury, John Sallsbury, Howard Roe, William Hollister, Moulton, Miss Marie Brewer, Miss Hyde-Smith, Miss B. Simpson, Miss Gedge, Miss Dolly MacGavin, Miss Jane Merritt, the Misses Kenyon, Miss Keeney, Miss L. Hopkins, Miss Deming, Miss Helen Chesebrough, Miss Jessie Clarke, Miss Josephine Brown, Miss Margaret Hayne, Miss Amy Basset, Miss Frances Cone, Miss Helen Baker, Miss Helen Corbett, George Nickel, Blinn Herrmann, Herbert Eleosser, Bayard Hyde-Smith, Daniel Volkner, William Volkman, William Wells, Charles Merrill, George Cadwalader, Daniel Val Moore, Harry Bingham, Richard Gervin, James Northcroft, Harry Johnson, William Hush, Albert Fletcher, Thomas Van Ness, Franklin Kales, Azro Lewis, Charles Lewis, John Parrott Jr., James Langhorne, Arthur Chesebrough, Mr. Smith, Mr. Van Vorhes, Claire Payne, Howard Jack, John