

The San Francisco Call

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HARRIMAN VS. HARRIMAN

THERE is gloom on the face of the moon. Uncle Jim Hill foresees disaster. Mr. Harriman sulks and complains he is not getting fair play with a square deal.

The earnings of the roads increase month by month. They have more business than they can handle. Every important system in the country is paying large dividends, but the prophets are agreed that something dreadful is going to happen if the Government persists in prying into their affairs and having a voice in the management.

Why should the Government meddle with the course of our business? The magnates inquire with obvious sense of injury. The answer is easy enough, and it is found in the portentous growth of monopoly, the acquisition of coal and timber lands by fraud and the stock jobbing game of which Mr. Harriman is the highest exponent.

Mr. Harriman—Suppose we had a line from New York to San Francisco. I suppose that is what you mean. Would it not be a good thing—not that we have any idea of doing it, but would it not be a good thing? Commissioner Lane—Supposing you got the Santa Fe? Mr. Harriman—You would not let us get it.

Mr. Harriman's theory is that monopoly is the natural and inevitable development of the law that forbids pooling among the railroads. If the railroads were permitted to agree on rates there would, in his view, be no business necessity impelling the purchase of competing roads.

Mr. Harriman complained to the commission that there is no other country in the world where "business interests are so much antagonized by the Government as this one," but the burden of this complaint is minimized by his honest admission that "the railroads themselves are more to blame than any one factor for the antagonisms between the people and the legislatures and the railroads."

RESPECTABLE GAMBLERS

TO what extent is gambling legitimate and respectable? The question is prompted by the fact that Harry Thaw's life has been insured by Lloyds, the famous insurance agency of London.

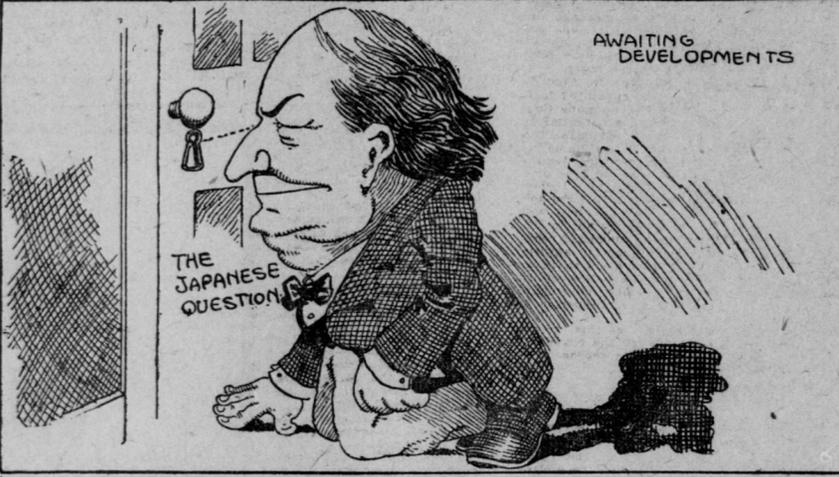
Lloyds is headquarters for the marine reinsurance gamble on overdue ships, but the same class of business is done in every important seaport. It has none of the characteristics of legitimate insurance and is simply the giving and taking of heavy odds on an event not amenable to the law of averages, on which legitimate insurance is based.

There are some who insist that all forms of insurance except on life is gambling. They declare that there is no ascertainable law of averages that governs the occurrence of fires, the breaking of plate glass windows or the supply of sprained ankles and broken legs.

AN EXAMPLE OF FREAK LEGISLATION

GROVE JOHNSON'S spur track bill enlarging, or professing to enlarge, the powers of the State Railroad Commission, is a very curious example of freak legislation. The bill confers other powers on the commission, but the provision relating to spur tracks is the most important feature.

Getting His Bearings



person, firm, or corporation, for the construction of a spur track, not more than 500 feet in length, from any existing railroad to any industrial establishment existing, or contemplated, said board may cite the owner or operator of such railroad to appear before it on a day certain, and shall then and there hear evidence for and against such application.

The grant of spur track franchises is a purely municipal function, with which neither the Legislature nor the Railroad Commission has the power to interfere. Such interference in "municipal affairs" is expressly forbidden by the State constitution.

The rest of the bill is just about as foolish as the section we have quoted.

Personal Mention

Charles Colby of Seattle is at the Palace. J. P. Cope of Salt Lake City is at the Imperial. James Whittaker of Galt is at the Baltimore. Dr. O. B. Spaulding of Yreka is at the Savoy. J. C. Paul, a manufacturer from Omaha, is at the Savoy. William Crosby, a merchant of Seattle, is at the Imperial. Judge C. H. Burritt of Manila and his daughter are at the Jefferson. Lewis Read of New York, who is touring the coast, is at the Hamlin. Los Angeles arrivals at the Hotel Baltimore are J. H. Pape and S. A. Simons. Mrs. W. Evans, well known in the social circle of Los Angeles, is at the Hamlin. Homer Wilson and E. H. Wedekind, who have large interests in Goldfield, are at the St. Francis.

The Insider

Declares banshee does exist, says ambitious young men are making money at wrecking and tells what women think of love

Who Will Deny the Banshee's Existence? SINCE Admiral Lord Charles Beresford has been summoned to Mexico by the call of the family banshee to claim an estate said to be falsely claimed by a negress alleging herself his late brother's widow, many local writers have unburdened themselves of their ideas on the banshee subject.

I should like to get Seumas MacManus to tell what he knows of the banshee, and I'd like to hear some one deny its existence when robust Denis O'Sullivan is about. The banshee is a beneficent ghost, never malevolent, and is always a woman connected with the founder of the house—wife or mother, but usually wife—and she always appears at the ancestral home to the existing head of the family.

But Lord Charles' banshee, which is proving such a source of worry to my contemporaries, could not have told him to come to America to bring suit for his brother's estate. Banshees aren't exactly that kind of clairvoyants. But it could warn him of the death of his brother, or rather the intimation of trouble that turned out to be death.

Wrecking of Ruins Is Young Men's Fad

Wrecking of buildings is all-the go as an occupation among our young society men and has for the nonce driven salooning into the background. Even trips to Tonopah and Goldfield are being postponed in favor of taking contracts for pulling down ruins, piling bricks and carting off old iron.

Car Window Serves as Woman's Mirror

"You think that woman is looking out the window?" So ran the question of a crusty old fellow in the McAllister-street car the other day. He indicated a pretty woman in a fetching early-spring hat.

Love of Women Is Discussed by Women

What do clubwomen talk about nowadays? Culture doesn't seem to be the prevailing topic, as it was before the quake. Clothes are more popular than ever, however, and the woman who knows a little bit about gown-designing is the favorite in clubdom just now.

Brilliant Matter Failed to Save Chic

The Epigram, the late lamented Fred Somers' attempt to give us a paper all intellect and wit, was not the only venture of that sort that failed here. There must be a few of us left who remember the weekly that was founded by Bob Davis, Alice Rix and Frank Nankivell, in which the news of the day in clubdom, society and the stage world was served up in language and illustrations of rare quality.

Work of Women's Clubs in the State Federation

By Mary Ashe Miller

THE newly elected executive board of the State Federation held a meeting on Saturday, February 23, at which much business was transacted and several new committees were appointed.

At a recent meeting of the Bakersfield Woman's Club the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. W. W. Kaye; vice president, Mrs. H. L. Packard; recording secretary, Mrs. W. G. Hull; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Wallace Morgan; treasurer, Mrs. A. Well.

The most important question of the club world in San Francisco this week will be the discussion at the meeting of the California Club tomorrow as to rebuilding the clubhouse. According to the club calendar the question is to be "considered and decided."

The insurance money thereon went toward the liquidation of the debt that remained. After careful consideration of the matter of rebuilding the club was advised by its architect not to attempt it during the fall or winter, but to wait until later.

The reports of the annual convention at Bakersfield will also be heard tomorrow, and Mrs. Aylett R. Cotton will make an address on "My Oriental Trip."

The Contemporary Club, of which Mrs. F. M. Malloy is president, was largely attended on Monday last, and members and guests were delightfully entertained.

The Corona Club meeting, which was held on Thursday last, was the largest in attendance since the meeting were resumed last fall. It proved also to be one of the most enjoyable, the recital by Miss Agnes Marie Noonan being greatly appreciated.

"Christening of the Cupboard," by Mrs. Ella M. Sexton and Mrs. Thomas Colins, which promises to be of much interest. At 2:30 o'clock there will be a business meeting, followed by a programme as follows at 3 p. m.: Original sketches, "Van Nees, Past and Present," Mrs. A. C. Freeman, a story, Mrs. J. G. Walker, A character sketch, Mrs. W. B. Morris; "Mission Dolores," Mrs. L. H. McKoskey, and "The Star," Dr. Sallie J. Davis. On Wednesday, March 20, there will be a discussion on "The Utopian Conditions of the Government in New Zealand," by Mrs. Cobb, Mrs. Mouser, Mrs. Frost, Mrs. Pribner, Mrs. Merritt, Mrs. Farnham, Mrs. Martinon and Mrs. Lawson. Mrs. Ashley Faulk will sing.

An especially interesting meeting of the Laurel Hall Club was held on February 20, only members taking part in the excellent programme, which circumstance made the affair of double interest. The sketches of the leading characters in the books—"Coniston," "Lady Baltimore" and "The Divine Fire"—were original and gave food for thought on account of the different ideas expressed by different individuals.

The next meeting of the club will be on Wednesday, beginning at 1 p. m. with an informal luncheon. There are to be no guests save the members, and those desiring to attend should send a notification to the corresponding secretary. There will be a short sketch,

meeting today and a directors' meeting on March 25, both of which will take place at the home of the president, Mrs. Ernest Leigh, 1133 Hayes street.

The Mill Valley Outdoor Art Club held its second monthly meeting on Thursday afternoon at its cozy clubhouse. A large number of members and their guests assembled to do honor to Federation day and extended greetings to several distinguished clubwomen, among whom were Mrs. Robert Potter Hill, past president of the State Federation of Women's Clubs; Mrs. E. C. Hurff, president of the San Francisco district and Mrs. E. L. Baldwin, chairman of civics of the G. F. W. C.

The Association of Pioneer Women of the State held a meeting on Friday last, one of the most important affairs of the day being the discussion of the setting apart of one day each year as a memorial day for the association. This was finally decided upon and the first Friday in May chosen. It will hereafter be observed and suitable exercises will be provided by the entertainment committee. The meeting took place in the parlors of Calvary Presbyterian Church and was unusually well attended.

The president, Mrs. H. S. Bridge, was the first delegate who attended the recent convention at Bakersfield to make report. The others from the Outdoor Art Club were Mrs. Frances Lash, Mrs. W. W. Davis, Miss Florence Rea, Mrs. F. E. Bostwick. Mrs. E. C. Hurff spoke on the value of federation in club life. Mrs. E. L. Baldwin on "The School Children League," and Mrs. Robert Potter Hill charmed all by her magnetic personality in a resume of her past work and in many helpful hints for the advancement of the home club.

The chairman of the day was Mrs. H. C. Hanks. Music and refreshments closed the afternoon's programme. Mrs. Hill promised the club another visit in the near future.

Women's clubs throughout the State are invited to communicate news of their organizations to this department of The Call.