The San Francisco Call

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A FALSE OR FOOLISH FRIEND OF DIRECT PRIMARY

APPARENTLY from the depths of an abysmal ignorance of the entire subject, the Chronicle drags another exposition of the alleged frailties of the Held-Wright constitutional amendment, ponderously asserting: "It is evident that under this amendment, if adopted, as it presumably will be, it would be competent for the push to begin operations by holding conventions, and making the nominations on the give and take principle as at present; and also to lay down certain principles and to prescribe certain tests, by which all candidates purporting to belong to a certain party must be tried."

There is no provision in the Held-Wright amendment upon which the most ordinary intelligence could base such deductions. This amendment will be adopted by the people, because the people demand emancipation from the corrupt boss rule that has reduced the California electorate to a most pitiable political serfdom, and because, under the Held-Wright amendment, the next Legislature is free to enact a real direct primary election law. How under anything that even approximates a real direct primary law it would be competent for the "push" to begin operations by holding conventions and making nominations can be solved only by minds that have not the faintest conception of the basic principle of direct primaries. It is expressly provided in the Held-Wright amendment that the Legislature and not political parties or organizations of electors shall have the power to prescribe the tests and conditions for participation in the direct primary elections.

Again the Chronicle ingenuously admits "We do not know the reason for inserting the words 'political parties or organizations of electors'; direct nomination by electors would seem quite sufficient to fulfill the popular requirement." That is an entirely unnecessary confession of ignorance. The provision for direct nominations by electors is essential, but by no means sufficient. It provides, as every decent election law should provide, for the nomination of candidates by the independent voter. But this is a government by party and very properly. The real purpose of direct primary legislation is not to destroy parties or party organizations, but to put them where they belong, in the hands of the people, where they will be made strong, clean, representative and responsible.

Still struggling under the apparent delusion that the Held-Wright amendment is in some manner a direct primary statute, instead of a mere authorization of legislation that cannot be secured under existing constitutional provisions, the Chronicle draws a weird picture of party organizations paying bills to advertise candidates nominated by push conventions, because all candidates must first qualify under the conditions imposed by these "push" conventions. Repetition of this silly claim can only indicate a willful attempt to misrepresent, or failure to read that provision which repeals the present constitutional right to confer the power on political parties to prescribe tests and vests it solely in the Legislature.

The Held-Wright amendment is not a direct primary statute. It is just what it purports to be, a proposed change in the organic law, which, when adopted, will enable the people to secure the kind of laws the Chronicle refuses to understand. It was carefully drawn by those who do know what direct primary election laws mean. The inconsequential changes in verbiage made by the Legislature have added nothing in law or fact. By its uninformed criticism the Chronicle either consciously or unconsciously lends itself to the purpose of the organization, which, having failed to encompass the defeat of the Held-Wright amendment before the Legislature, now seeks to accomplish its popular rejection by sheer misrepresentation.

The Chronicle has at times professed its devotion to the direct primary principle—generally between the times when any serious effort was making to get that principle enacted into law. It is not possible, but it soon will be, to determine whether the Chronicle is a false friend of the direct primary or merely foolish.

A PHILOSOPHICAL CANDIDATE

IT is a dull day on which the political trap does not spring a fresh Presidential candidate. It is every pop a pigeon. It might possibly be considered libelous to remark that Leslie M. Shaw, sometime Secretary of the Treasury, is a fresh candidate, because that might imply a certain immature verdancy; and, in fact, Mr. Shaw is nothing if not well seasoned. The improvident, indeed, might call him desiccated.

Mr. Shaw is a candidate only in the sense that if the nomination should pursue him with decent and gratifying clamor he would not resist nor flee. On the eve of his retirement from the Cabinet he gave out an instructive and philosophical discourse on the way of politics with a man in which the prosperity of aspiration is assigned to the coy and the doctrine that geography makes the statesman is slighted. Thus Mr. Shaw for himself:

> A man by taking thought may make himself justice of the peace, but no man by taking thought has made himself President of the United States, and those who have given the subject most serious consideration have usually died in disappointment. Admittedly some of these successful ones have sought the place, but none was nominated because he sought it. Neither Lincoln, Grant, Hayes, Garfield, Blaine, McKinley, Roosevelt, nor Bryan was nominated because of the State he represented, and some of them secured the prize notwithstanding location.
>
> Cleveland, Harrison, Parker and possibly one or two other defeated candidates have been aided by location, though Cleveland was once nominated in the face of an opposing delegation from his own State. All but two of the men whose names I have mentioned were nominated because of what they were and for what they stood, and the two exceptions were compromises.
>
> General Grant expressed the correct attitude of an ideal American citizen when he said he had never sought a place of honor or preferment and had never declined one. The honors that have come to me have been unsought.

The proponent of this admirable philosophy declares that whatever "Shaw sentiment" exists has grown up spontaneously—a sort of volunteer crop. As far as observation goes, this "Shaw sentiment" is not noisy or overwhelming. Mr. Shaw has filled a difficult office with credit, but we never expect to see him run for President, if only for the trivial reason that the wicked Democrats would be unable to resist the temptation to begin his name with a capital but derisive P.

Cartoonist's Review of Week's News

THE APOTHEOSIS OF NOBODIES

UNDER the hard-worked disguise of a "literary note"—that handy vehicle of puffery—The Call receives notice of the establishment of a corporation organized to deal in genealogies.

"This is the day of specialists," says the literary note carpenter, "and the new company announces that it will confine itself strictly to the genealogical field." The president of the company, we learn, is a "trained genealogist with many years of experience," and is the author, among other entertaining works, of "The Arms and Pedigree of Kingdon Gould."

To be exact, the ingenious president of the genealogical corporation does not claim to be author but only "compiler" of the genealogies that he supplies on order. It might be unkind and, we hope, untrue to say that this is a distinction without a difference. "The Ancestry of Leander Howard Crall" is another work of which this versatile corporation president boasts, and the unskilled in such musty lore may wonder why that should be a cause of literary pride. We regret to say that we have never before heard of Leander Howard Crall, and it is fair cause for wonder whether Mr. Crall got his money's worth.

We had an idea that this "literary note" had fallen on barren ground, but possibly this is a mistake. There used to be an impression in the Golden West that the less said about these things the better, and it may be that the time has arrived when there is a demand for the genealogy of commerce warranted to obscure the washtub and ignore the pick. Genealogists, we regret to say, are given to lying. That is why they are employed. The exceptions to the rule are found in the notable pedigrees we have mentioned, because we are quite certain that the president of a corporation would not lie.

But why not extend the idea and incorporate a poetry mill and a historical romance factory? To be sure, the magazines attempt something of the kind, but, like our friend the "trained genealogist," they make the mistake of pretending to be "literary" when, in fact, they are purely commercial.

Answers to Queries

SOUTHERN HOTEL FIRE—Subscriber, City. The fire which destroyed the Southern Hotel, St. Louis, occurred at midnight, April 11, 1877.

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MARRIAGE—A. B. S., City. The laws of California relative to marriage are to be found in the Civil Code. There is no common form of marriage ceremony in California.

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LUCRATIVE POSITION—Subscriber, City. If a young man, only 22, who speaks English and Italian, wishes to secure a lucrative position, we suggest that he insert an advertisement in the columns of The Call, stating his qualifications.

REVENUE—H. B. P., City. The United States revenue receipts in 1886 were $69,092,266. In 1906 the amount was $143,394,055.

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DELMAS—M. R., Oakland, Cal. A Frenchman pronouncing the name of Delmas, the attorney, will say Del-mah, and English speaking persons will pronounce it Del-mass.

* * *

BOSTON'S BIG FIRE—S., City. The big fire in Boston, Mass., occurred November 9, 1872. It burned over sixty-five acres of territory in the very heart of the business section, destroyed 446 buildings and involved a loss of about $76,000,000.

Gossip of the Doings of Railroad Men

The reports of the train agents of the Southern Pacific on colonist immigration show an increase of 45 per cent over the same time last year. The rate went into effect on the first of the month, and by Friday, according to the official count, 6393 persons were on their way to the State. Last year the largest number to pass through any one of the gateways was 800. This year for three successive days 800 passed through Ogden, and on one day the number reached 891.

The figures are as follows: Ogden, 4017; Los Angeles, 44; El Paso, 2044, and Portland, 248. Total, 6393.

* * *

The Southern Pacific has given Chairman R. H. Countiss of the Freight Transcontinetal Bureau instructions as to a flat rate of $310.50 on baggage, express and mail cars from Chicago and common points. On chair, dining, parlor and sleeping cars $377.50 and on combination baggage and passenger car (day coach) the rate is $350.50. All of these rates are regardless of the length of the car and apply only on equipment on its own wheels. This is intended to rectify any possible error on figuring the rates under the Western classification. At present the rates are made on a mileage basis and sometimes such figuring is subject to the conscience of the employe naming the rate.

* * *

Preliminary surveys have been made by the Western Pacific for a high-grade line over the divide at Niles Canyon pending the completion of the low-grade line through the tunnel, as the road between Oakland and Stockton will be ready for operation before the tunnel is built. This may be done also at the Beckwith tunnel, which pierces the summit of the Sierra, and in one or two places in Nevada, where there are long tunnels in the mountain ranges. The longest tunnel on the line of the Western Pacific will be at Spring Garden, which is a little over 7000 feet in length. This tunnel is to be bored through the divide between the North Fork and the Middle Fork of Feather River. On account of the topography of the country it will not be possible to build a temporary line over the mountain, so the track will not be connected until the tunnel is completed. Work is being pushed ahead, and the tunnel, it is said, will be finished in about twelve months.

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The Southern Pacific is beginning to receive the first of its parlor cars, which were ordered several months ago. One of these has already been put into commission and is on the fast train to Los Angeles. Others are on their way from New Orleans.

* * *

R. H. Countiss, chairman of the Freight Transcontinental Bureau, has published a 60-cent rate on sugar from all points in California to all stations on the Union Pacific between Denver and Cheyenne, including points on the Brighton-Boulder branch.

* * *

J. H. Griffin, district freight agent of the Canadian Pacific, will leave on Tuesday for his old home in Milwaukee for the purpose of bringing his family to the coast. Griffin expects to be away ten days.

Verse Current in the Country's Press

PEARY POLAR EXPEDITION

(A British Tribute.)

HAIL! Peary, hail! Back from the Voiceless Vast,
That calls the bravest deeds on earth.
Calls with a very trumpet's insistent blast
And claims from man his utmost worth.

We from this island home have sent
In thrice a hundred wondering years
A Viking brood on conquest bent,
And Britain still their footsteps hears.

Offspring of Frobisher and Drake
Kinsmen of gallant Greely's band—
For our beloved Franklin's sake
We stretch a congratulating hand

To one strong man—foredoomed to leave
The secret of the pole unread,
Yet blest by subtlest Fate to weave
And garland green to deck his head—

Aye, greener from the stern intent
That turned unfaltering followers back
From pressing whence Ideal meant
To cross the meanly distant track
That lay 'twixt thee and life's Desire,
Thou self-sufficing iron soul!
Who greatly faced the Ice King's ire
To fight the floes that guard a Pole!

Who broke the record farthest North!
We home tied, burnt by Envy's flame,
Fain to the winds would blazon forth:
Let Peary's rest with Hudson's name!

—Edwin Ainsley.

Dublin, Ireland, Dec. 8, 1906.—New York Herald.

MY MOTHER'S SONG

"I know that my Redeemer lives.
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!"
My mother often supg
In soothing numbers soft and mild
To me, when I a fretful child
Unto her bosom clung.

I could not know the sense of pain
That mingled with the sweet refrain,
Her gentle spirit wrung.
I could not know the weight of care
With which she breathed for me the prayer
That trembled on her tongue.

That love-wrought cadence to my ears
Comes floating down the stream of years
In tones that seem divine.
My soul is lulled to calm repose
As when of yore at daylight's close,
She laid her face to mine.

And now beyond the mystic veil
Angelic voices never fail
That song of love to swell;
The heavenly chorus greets her ears
In praise of Him whom through long years
She loved and served so well.

—Millen Sanford Green.

THE FISHER'S BOY

My life is like a stroll upon the beach,
As near the ocean's edge as I can go;
My tardy steps its waves sometimes o'erreach,
Sometimes I stay to let them overflow.

My sole employment is, and scrupulous care,
To place my gains beyond the reach of tides—
Each smoother pebble, and each shell more rare,
Which ocean kindly to my hand confides.

I have but few companions on the shore;
They scorn the strand who sail upon the sea;
Yet oft I think the ocean they've sailed o'er
Is deeper known upon the strand to me.

The middle sea contains no crimson dulse;
Its deeper waves cast up no pearls to view;
Along the shore my hand is on its pulse,
And I converse with many a shipwrecked crew.

—Henry David Thoreau.

JUDGMENT

When she lay dead,
The many looked upon her face and said:
"The life is gone so filled with shining deeds,
So full of ministry to human needs;
And we who loved her are bereft;
What have we left?"

When she lay dead,
A man looked sternly on her face and said:
"Thank God, the evil of her life is past.
What I have known the world would know at last.
Now all is silence, peace; for me—
I shall be free."

When she lay dead,
The great God looked from his wide heaven and said:
"Only the one who made it knows the whole
Of strength and weakness in a human soul.
Cease, then, thy wonder; peace; let be;
Leave her to me."

—Grace Duffield Goodwin.

LOVE'S LYRIC

A thousand stars glow in the sky,
Beloved, but what of that?
Thou hast but two—thy eyes— and yet
I only gaze thereat!

The garden has a thousand blooms,
Sweetheart, for ev'ry rose.
Thou hast but two—upon thy cheeks—
I only gaze at those!

The mountain has a thousand peaks,
Capped with their wreaths of snow;
But not less pure or white thy brow,
Whose chastity I know!

Beneath the sea are many pearls,
But none so fair and fine
As those between thy coral lips,
When smiles depart them, shine!

The meadows have a thousand birds,
That float on songful wing;
But none for me like thy fond heart
Can with such rapture sing!

Thus I can count my gain fivefold—
Sky, garden, mountain, sea,
And meadows sweet with song, beloved,
Are mine when I have thee!

—Baltimore Sun.

In the Joke World

Baker—How long have you had that horrid dyspepsia?

Barker—I inherited my fortune in 1900.—Life.

* * *

Knicker—How did Whackum qualify as a railroad expert?

Bocker—He once caught a train by a timetable.—New York Sun.

* * *

Kind Old Gent—What do you mean by saying your occupation is gone?

Soulweary Samuel—They've pulled down the house I used to lean against.—Ally Sloper's Half Holiday.

* * *

Pater—Well, my boy, so you have interviewed your girl's father, eh! Did you make the old codger toe the mark?

Son—Yes, dad. I was the mark.—Boston Transcript.

Switzerland to Reduce Duty on Sugar

A SPECIAL agent of the Treasury Department, writing of the new customs treaty between Switzerland and France, says of the effect that will follow reduced duty on sugar on certain Swiss industries:

"The duty on sugar imported into Switzerland was reduced from 7.50 to 5 francs for raw and crystallized sugar, and from 9 to 7.50 francs on sugar in cones. (One franc—19.3 cents.) The Swiss sugar import was last year about 760,000 kilos (1 kilo—2.2 pounds), of which 190,451 came from France, 197,132 from Germany, and 398,397 from Austria. The financial loss accruing to Switzerland from this reduction of duty amounts to about 2,000,000 francs ($386,000). The small Swiss sugar industry (in Aarberg, near Berne) will also suffer.

"Besides the sugar consumers, those industries which use sugar in their manufactures enjoy a special advantage; for instance, the milk-condensing factories, those of children's food, confectionery, and especially the chocolate factories. These requested of the Government the return of the duty on the sugar used in the manufacture of condensed milk, which request was refused.

"By the reduction (33 1-3 per cent) on sugar employed in these industries the chocolate industry especially receives a strong support, which will make this article much more capable of export. The consumption of chocolate in Switzerland is very considerable, being valued at over 10,000,000 francs, or about 3½ francs per capita per annum. An increase is hardly possible. On this account the export is forced in the most intense way. The competition in mass goods has so grown that this merchandise is sold almost without profit.

"Advertisement and propaganda, often in grotesque form, attracts the notice of the world at large to Swiss chocolate. Fanciful and tasteful packing serves the same purpose. By the production of fine and choice qualities all efforts are directed to the making of the best and of continual novelties. Special efforts are made for the American market. If American chocolate manufacturers now take pains to improve their quality, to make their packing more elegant and convenient, they have the means in their hands to reduce the import to a minimum."

Competition for Big Argentine Subsidy

THE Argentine Republic is shortly to cancel its present navigation contract between Buenos Ayres and Europe, subsidized at $28,000 a voyage, the present company being unable to agree to the conditions recently imposed by the Government in its renewal requirements.

Three other companies—a French, the Italian Piaggio, backed by German capital, and an Italian-Argentina group—are now opposing one another for the award. The French group, formed of Chargeurs Reunis, Messageries Maritimes and Transports Maritimes, proposed a voyage from Buenos Ayres to Lisbon in twelve days, inaugurating a service of steamers equal to the luxurious trans-Atlantic liners. The Piaggio propose a fast emigrant service from Italian ports to Buenos Ayres.

The French company, which seems to be the most favored of the three, is supported by the Bank of Paris and the Paris Union Bank, and has a capital of $8,000,000. It is said that the Portuguese Government is also making efforts to encourage this company and is soon to propose an additional subsidy with this end in view.

This quick service is to be operated in connection with the "Sud Express" from Lisbon to Paris, and will, if carried out, place the town of Rio de Janeiro at ten days from Paris, thus reducing the time now required for this journey by half.

Potato of Uruguay Resists Drought

REPORTING on the Uruguay potato, Consul Oscar Malmros of Rouen states that the crop of the year 1906, a year characterized in several regions of France by great droughts, has shown that the "Solanum Commersoni Violet" possesses a capacity of resisting excessive dryness hardly less remarkable than that of resisting frost.

Information lately received from different countries confirms a former experience that, exposed to the open air, it can bear without injury a frost of 4 degrees below the freezing point. The potato ought to be dug when the plant's vegetation ends, which is indicated when no new leaves are forming at the extremity of the plant and when the stems at their base assume a light yellow color.

Under all circumstances it is desirable, for the better conservation of the potatoes, to take them out of the ground when the growth of the plant ceases, without waiting until the stems become dry, thus avoiding a decrease of starch in the potato or a new germination and growth which would take place in very dry soil after rainy weather, both equally harmful phenomena. It is best to remove carefully, level with the potato, any suckers (stoles) still adhering after digging. Since the new crop has been fully gathered the price has been much reduced and now rules at 19 cents a pound in quantities of 55 to 110 pounds and 17 cents a pound in quantities of 111 to 220 pounds. The potato is shipped by quantities of not less than 25 kilos (55 pounds).

French Steel Trust Advances Prices

CONSUL J. C. COVERT of Lyon advises that the rolling mills of the center and Loire districts of France have sent out a general circular giving notice that they will charge 1 franc (19.3 cents) per hundred kilograms (220 pounds) for iron over and above the ruling and special prices.

They also give notice of a rise of 1 franc per hundred kilograms in standard quotations for iron merchant bars, standard and special shapes in steel bars, band iron ties, sheets and plates, and in general for galvanized iron and for stamped and figured plates. The circular says that the mills which make this announcement have an understanding with all the other mills in France. It is what in the United States would be called a trust, but it excites not the least comment in France, as it is considered proper that the great industrial concerns should fix their prices according to their own ideas.