

The San Francisco Call

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TWO PROGRAMMES CONTRASTED

MR. BRYAN'S opinions on the railroad question are like the biograph—a moving picture long drawn out; always new and often new. Last week his plan for Government ownership of the roads was consigned to dim futurity, with the help of an adjective. It was, in a word, "ultimate" ownership that he desired. It is a prophecy and not a demand that he formulates; not an ultimatum, but a relegation to the ultimate born of a long experience in writing political platforms intended to be construed to meet geographical requirements. A platform that does not mean one thing in Wall street and another in Kansas is of small value to Mr. Bryan.

The most recent slide in Mr. Bryan's kinetoscope is produced in the Wall-street journal, and it develops sketchily the plan by which the nation is to operate and own the trunk lines, while the States shall take care of the branch roads. Mr. Bryan does not attempt to define a trunk road nor show where the lines of jurisdiction would be drawn. He takes no cognizance of the fact that branch roads are usually losing ventures and are maintained only as necessary feeders for the main lines. He would put the whole burden of this losing business on the States and give all the profits to the Federal Government, whose treasury is already unduly swollen. Indeed, the chief objection to the plan is that it would wipe out State lines almost completely and make for a dangerous centralization of power.

President Roosevelt's doctrine is far more democratic. The railroad magnates have been begging him to make a speech defining his policy, but he declares that it is unnecessary. They can find the fullest information as to his views about the railroads in his former speeches. In illustration we quote from the President's remarks on overcapitalization and regulation addressed to a delegation of railroad employes at the White House on November 14, 1905:

For instance, I would greatly like to have it exercised in the matter of overcapitalization. I am convinced that the "wages fund" would be larger if there was no fictitious capital upon which dividends had to be paid. I need hardly say that this does not mean hostility to wealth. If you gentlemen here, in whom I believe so strongly, were all a unit in demanding that some improper action should be taken against certain men of wealth, then, no matter whether I did or did not like these same men of wealth, I would defend them against you, no matter how much I cared for you; and in so doing I would really be acting in your own interest.

I would be false to your interest if I failed to do justice to the capitalist as much as to the wageworker. But I shall act against the abuses of wealth just as against all other abuses. Most certainly I will join with you in resisting to the uttermost any movement to hurt or damage any railroads which act decently, for I will hold that such damage was not merely to the capitalist, but merely to the wageworker engaged on the railroads, but to all the country. My aim is to secure the just and equal treatment of the public by those (I trust and believe a limited number) who do not want to give it, just as much as by the larger number who do want to give it. All I want in any rate legislation is to give the Government an efficient supervisory power which will be exercised as scrupulously to prevent injustice to the railroads as to prevent their doing injustice to the public.

There is nothing in all that to cause alarm to anybody who intends to obey the laws. On the other hand, Mr. Bryan's programme, if it were possible at all, would amount to revolution and would probably end in the complete shipwreck of popular government.

CONTEMPT OF COURT

IT is sufficiently easy to understand the tactics of Ruef's lawyers, who seek to irritate the court into some judicial lapse, but the line taken is distinctly discreditable to them as members of the bar. The profession of advocate should be honorable and honored, but the line taken by Ach and some of his colleagues is characterized by trickery, calculated to bring the administration of justice into contempt.

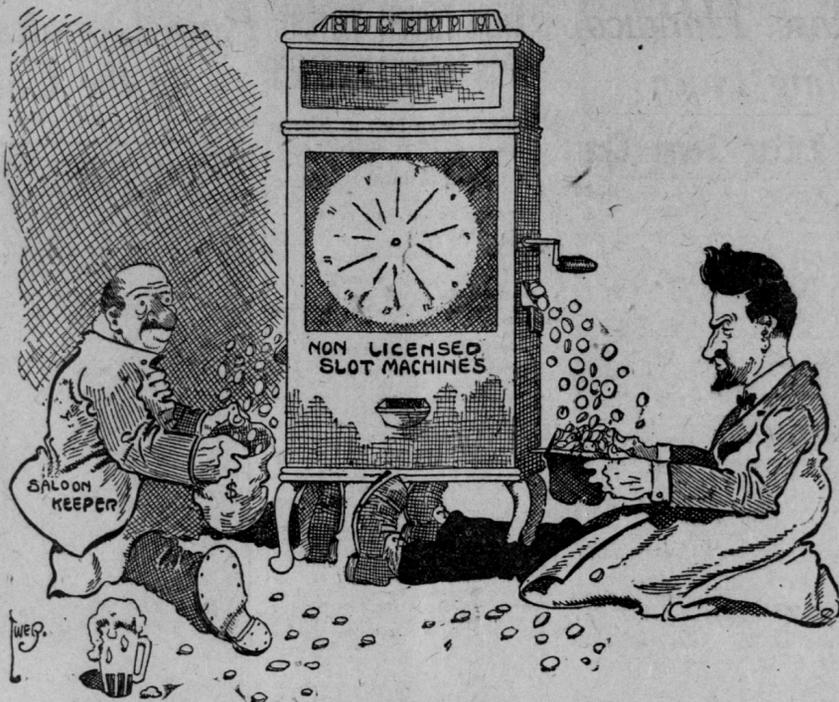
There appears to be no immediate remedy for this unfortunate condition. It is useless to appeal to the professional sense of decency. The Bar Association sits supinely by, taking no notice. The court is powerless to punish, because the appellate tribunal neglects its plain duty to make speedy decision of the Shortridge matter. It is weeks since Judge Dunne ordered S. M. Shortridge into custody for contempt of court, but the District Court of Appeal appears to be in no hurry to say whether Judge Dunne has power to protect his court from insult. If he has such power it would be well to know it, because in its apparent absence scarcely a day passes that Ach does not direct outrageous and insulting remarks at Judge Dunne. The matter has become a grave scandal and reproach to the administration of justice in San Francisco. With the fullest respect for the august and orderly deliberations of the Court of Appeal, we venture the hope that a decision on this matter will not be long delayed.

RESULTS OF AN OFFICIAL IMPERTINENCE

THE announcement that the Union Pacific will not contest the Government's claim to coal lands fraudulently entered in Utah and Wyoming calls attention to the unusual official accident by which these frauds were uncovered. For years the General Land Office has been corrupt, root and branch. It is rotten to the core today. Binger Hermann is on trial for frauds committed while he was Commissioner, but his successors have followed in his footsteps.

It was the accidental knowledge of these coal land frauds, gained by the Interstate Commerce Commission in the course of another inquiry, that brought them to the notice of the President. When the matter first came under the observation of the Interstate Commission only passing notice was made of it in the subsequent report, as

Dividing the Spoils



the Commissioners were restrained by a sense of official etiquette from reflecting on a co-ordinate branch of the Government. But even this was too much for the land office rascals, and Assistant Commissioner Pollock gave out an interview, in which he characterized the Interstate Commerce Commission's hint at corruption as "a piece of impertinence," and made other statements not according to the facts.

Spurred on by this attack, the Interstate Commerce Commission, at subsequent hearings in Utah and Wyoming, went into the frauds in a very thorough fashion. The condition of the Land Office, as exposed by these hearings, is thus described by William R. Lighton, writing in the Boston Transcript:

For the present this broad assertion will suffice. The General Land Office is today as thoroughly riddled with corruption as ever it was under Binger Hermann. The corruption is not on the fringes merely; it goes to the center of the fabric. There have been no voluntary reforms in procedure since Binger Hermann's time. It is true that on occasion the office has given countenance to certain investigations in limited fields—as in Nebraska during the last two years; but this action has never been initiative; invariably it has been forced from above. In other fields the frauds have continued by and with the connivance of the General Land Office. In several particulars and in the face of impending convulsions efforts have been made to better the machinery for the furtherance of fraud—bolts have been tightened, creaking bearings oiled and the engine tinkered into more fit form for use, until within the last few months, in favored localities—notably in Wyoming—fraud and conspiracy have been unabated. The proofs of the charge are clear enough, as will presently be shown.

The plan of operations in getting hold of the coal lands did not differ materially from that pursued by the timber thieves. Chiefly the devices were dummy locations or the placing of lieu land scrip. The same processes are going on constantly, with the assistance of the Land Office, in every part of the public domain where there is Government land not yet disposed of, and would be still in progress on the Utah and Wyoming coal fields were it not for the accident that the Interstate Commerce Commission committed an official impertinence.

AN EXPERIMENT IN SELF-GOVERNMENT

AN interesting experiment in self-government is about to be tried in the Philippines. A kind of new-fangled Duma is about to be set afoot under the American flag, and the developments should be at least instructive, if not edifying. On July 30 the islanders will vote for the election of members of the first Philippine Assembly, which will convene in September, under the benign patronage of Secretary Taft, who regards this legislative infant as the object of his special care. It is not proposed to open the door to manhood suffrage, but the qualifications of voters may be easily fulfilled. These are the limitations:

- Voters must be males, twenty-three years of age and have a legal residence in the municipality in which they desire to exercise the right of suffrage, and must not be citizens of any foreign power, and furthermore must be comprised within one of the three following classes:
(a) Those who prior to August 13, 1898, held certain offices under the Spanish Government;
(b) Those who own real property to the value of 500 pesos or who actually pay 30 pesos or more of the established taxes;
(c) Those who speak, read and write English or Spanish.

It need not be imagined that the Assembly will be turned loose like a legislative vagrant to indulge in wild or irresponsible excursions in the field of statute law. That is to say, the body can pass any kind of bill that tickles its fancy, but the measure does not become law without the approval of the Philippine Commission. The Assembly will be a legislative playground, or, better, a practice ground, where island statesmen can try their paces and blow off steam. Being a body with slender responsibilities but unlimited freedom of speech, it is easy to imagine that its debates may take on a lurid glare, in at least two languages.

Gossip in Railway Circles

THE operating department of the Southern Pacific announces that the Coast line to Los Angeles will be ready for traffic tomorrow. The Coast line was closed on March 20 by an accident to the Santa Margarita tunnel and since that date enormous gangs have been at work both by night and by day cleaning the tunnel. What added to the difficulties was that some oil cars were buried in the debris. These cars were extricated yesterday and the line partly cleared.

The Southern Pacific expects also to have the line between Davis and Sacramento open today or tomorrow. The delay in opening the road was due to the fact that there had to be considerable tramping over the flooded district.

The Utah Construction Company does not intend to lose any time in commencing the building of the Western Pacific from the California-Nevada border line to Death in Nevada. Men, teams and machinery are being assembled along the line and work will be begun in several places at the same time. Chief Engineer Virgil G. Bogue is at present on the line, which has already been built out of Salt Lake, and the reports that have been received from the front are satisfactory as to the rapidity with which construction is being pushed ahead.

Thomas de Witt Cuyler of Philadelphia, besides being prominent financially and socially, is a director of the Pennsylvania system and withal so modest in demeanor that no one meeting him would suspect that he is "a big man." Cuyler has been on a visit to the coast and on his way from Los Angeles stopped over here for a day. He wandered into the office of the Pennsylvania line in the Flood building and

Personal Mention

- A. J. Froehlich of Reno is at the St. Francis.
Edward Berwick of Pacific Grove is at the Jefferson.
James F. McKee, a Boston millionaire, is at the Jefferson.
Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Maher of Stockton are at the Baltimore.
J. Lincoln Steffens, the well-known writer, is at the Imperial.
C. Hanford Henderson, a merchant of Boston, is at the Savoy.
William Easie, a mine owner of Goldfield, is at the Hamlin.
United States Senator George Nixon of Nevada is at the Palace.
Charles Jerome Reed, a capitalist of Portland, Ore., is at the Palace.
Stockton arrivals at the Savoy are Francis I. Hodgkins and John E. Budd.
S. Burt Cohen, prominent in mining circles in Tonopah, is at the Baltimore.
W. H. Dee, a banker of Mulberry Grove, Ill., and wife are at the Baltimore.
C. L. Jackson, prominent in business circles in Portland, Ore., is at the Imperial.
Thomas D. Patch, president of the Eureka Light and Gas Company, is at the Imperial.
F. M. Reiff, heavily interested in mining and stock brokerage circles in Reno, is at the Baltimore.
W. H. Bullen, the Pacific Coast agent of the Grand Trunk Railway, from Los Angeles, is at the Hamlin.
W. B. Hinchman, the Pacific Coast agent of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe, and wife are at the Hamlin.
F. R. Short of Reno, who has come to attend the wedding of his sister, Miss Evelyn Short, to C. M. Smith, is at the Baltimore with his mother.

Suggests Shooting of Reckless Autoists

EDITOR CALL—Sir: It is certainly an outrage the way the lives of men, women and children are jeopardized by automobiles on Sutter street, as well as in all other parts of the city.

Yesterday a lady got off the Sutter-street car at Octavia street and walked around the car toward the Atherton Hotel, when an automobile came upon her from the direction of Van Ness street at great speed, knocked her down, and she, fortunately, escaped with the exception of a ruined dress. The cowards in the auto, without stopping, increased their speed and went down Sutter street at the rate of forty miles an hour. I was unable to see the number of the license, as it was swinging and it was impossible to make it out.

Again, this morning at 10:30 o'clock, I was on the rear of car No. 1800 coming down Sutter street and a Japanese was crossing Sutter street when an automobile came down on the left-hand side of the street while a Sutter-street car was passing and knocked him down and probably fatally injured him, as they had to push the machine off him in order to help him to the sidewalk. The machine was on the wrong side of the street and was clearly at fault.

Some ordinance should certainly be passed prohibiting automobiles exceeding five miles an hour on streets like Sutter, where there is a double track and only twelve feet between rail and curb, and where the large cars obstruct the view of any one crossing. If some such ordinance is not passed, a license should be given so men could carry six-shooters and protect themselves from about 20 per cent of the chauffeurs that go up and down Sutter street.

ARTHUR G. NABON, 1931 Sutter Street.

Introduced himself to Harry Buck as belonging to the company. Buck extended him a warm welcome and asked him if he would not like to take a look about the rooms of the Transportation Club and meet some railroad men. Cuyler assented and they went upstairs. Cuyler was introduced to several representatives and one being more curious than the rest asked him, as they were taking a drink: "By the way, Mr. Cuyler, what is your position on the Pennsylvania road?" "Oh, I am merely a director," was the reply.

Cuyler before leaving expressed himself as greatly astonished at the way San Francisco is being rebuilt and declared this city the wonder of the age.

A. P. Stewart, general agent of the Chicago and Alton, left Tuesday for a business trip through the southern part of the State and expects to be absent about a week.

V. Z. Crossall has been appointed assistant secretary to the Transportation Club and will attend to all business connected with the organization.

The Insider

Says law will be invoked to meet hatpin menace, and writes entertainingly of lively scenes outside the Grand Jury room.

Citizen Would End the Hatpin Menace A NEW reformer has appeared in the city, one who objects to having a "whale" of a time when riding on street cars—a gentleman, in other words, who does not relish the idea of being harpooned by ladies' hatpins. The leader in the new war against vanities is Robert R. Russ, a real estate broker. He suggests that the Supervisors, in their present chastened mood, pass a law limiting the length of hatpins to something less than eighteen inches, which length seems to be the mode. As an alternative, it is suggested that buttons might be placed on long pins, after the fashion of protected rapiers.

Spears may have been useful weapons in the middle ages, but, according to Russ, it does not do for Amazons to be so equipped in these days. Blown-out fuses and runaway cars are terrors enough for passengers, thinks Russ, without hatpins jeopardizing eyes and faces, and he is strong for a law of protection.

Gaming Flourishes Outside Jury Room Newspaper men receive their emolument in the early part of each week, and it is often warm money, likely to burn the pockets of the possessors unless they free themselves from it quickly. Early last week a group of newspaper men congregated in the hallway of Native Sons' Hall, outside of the Grand Jury room, and there was danger of a general conflagration.

One of the men, with great presence of mind, suggested that a game of crusee, or pitching twenty-dollar pieces at a crack in the floor, might be engaged in and thus save the pockets. All afternoon the game progressed. The next day a policeman was stationed in the hallway; there was no game of crusee that day. Juror Morris Block, it is said, had protested that he could not give his attention to the details of the graft investigation while the coin was clinking outside the portals.

Policemen to Curb the Camera Artists Assistant District Attorney Heney came to the rescue of the jurymen, saying it was not sensitiveness, but gallantry that had brought the "cop" to the door of the room. The officer was there for the simple purpose of protecting the women witnesses from the desperate lenses of newspaper photographers.

Some of the fair witnesses had discovered that the effects secured by the snaphooters of the daily papers were not just what Genthe would reproduce after posing a subject under highlights and sidelights and other apparatus of his beautification studio. It was not questioned that every newspaper photographer is a sort of coming Genthe, but most of them are coming over a long road.

So, when a stenographer for some indicted corporation official would leave the witness room and find a battery of cameras fronting her, she would cry, "Genthe's was never like this!" and try to take refuge in flight. A gallant jurymen looked from his bower on high, saw a witness in distress before the building and suggested that a cordon of police be gathered to protect the ladies. Heney compromised by agreeing to ask Dinan for one good, substantial cop. He was forthcoming, for in these virtuous times Dinan will do anything that Heney asks.

Abe Ruef Cannot Rush Inquisitors When the policeman first appeared before the jury room it was rumored that there was still another motive in his being there. It was feared by Heney, according to this report, that Abe Ruef wanted to confess and would try to make a sally on the jurymen, forcing his way through the door and pouring his tale of crime into the open ears of the inquisitors. If that should happen Heney would miss all the fun of convincing a trial jury that the boss was a bad man. To prevent a confession, then, the sacred aperture was watched by an armed force of one man.

Fount of Perpetual Youth Is Needed Ponce de Leon will be reincarnated if Heney has a word to say about such things. He is needed now by the prosecution, and if he is not found justice will be sadly thwarted. Ponce was the gay explorer who flourished in the old days in Florida.

According to the present tally sheet there are seventy-two indictments pending against Ruef, and at a fair average each indictment merits about five years in jail. Five times 72 equal 360.

Ruef is now 44 years old, and it is not thought probable that he can live to be 400. Even under the careful chaperonage of Elisor Biggy his days will, it may be presumed, be less than four centuries. The cautious Biggy can scarcely expect such notable longevity on his own part, and without Biggy Ruef would die of gout.

So Heney is looking for Ponce de Leon, and when he is found he will be set to work to locate his fountain of Perpetual Youth. When that is discovered the waters will be bottled at the springs and shipped, in Biggy's care, to Ruef, who will be forced to drink of them and thus live long enough to satisfy justice.

The Smart Set

A PRETTY event was the wedding of Miss Wanda Hadenfeldt and Harry Melone, which was celebrated in the First Presbyterian Church yesterday at high noon. Rev. William Kirk Guthrie being the officiating clergyman. The church was a bower of green, the artistic interior of the little temporary building being especially effective with the potted palms, tall ferns and other greenery used. The bride, who was given away by her mother, Mrs. M. Hadenfeldt, was charming in an imported gown of lace, worn over white chiffon and silk. Her bouquet was of lilies of the valley and she wore a long tulle veil. An especially effective and unusual ornament was the shower of silver which she wore beneath her tulle veil. This was sent to her from Constantinople by an Armenian Prince, it being worn veil-like by the ladies of Turkey. Miss Ethel Melone, the groom's sister, who was the maid of honor, was very attractive in a gown of pink net worn over pink chiffon and trimmed with tiny bands of pink silk and tiny chiffon rusebuds. Her hat was a large pink affair, trimmed with pink roses and pink lilacs. Her bouquet was of pink roses. Arthur Goodfellow was the best man and Douglas Deane, James Deane, Philip Paschel and Carl Hadenfeldt were the ushers. The church was filled with the friends of the bride and groom, but at the wedding breakfast which followed in the Palace Hotel only the relatives of the two families were present besides the bridal party. About thirty guests were seated at the three tables—one large one at which were the bridal party, the mothers of the bride and groom and a few other close relatives—and two smaller tables, all of which were decorated in pink tulle. Mrs. Melone had a very fine left on their wedding journey and on their return will go to Oak Knoll, the home of the groom's mother, where they will spend the summer. After that they may come to San Francisco to live, but their plans are very indefinite.

Colonel and Mrs. Southard Hoffman have sold their attractive home in San Rafael and are looking for a house in town.

Mrs. J. G. Kittling and her daughters, Mrs. Harry Sherman and Mrs. Benjamin Dibblee have been recently to Del Monte for a stay.

Mrs. J. J. Brice and Mrs. George H. Bowman left yesterday for New York and will sail on April 20 for England. They expect to pass the summer in the British Isles, at the end of which time Mrs. Bowman will go to Germany for a stay and Mrs. Brice expects to return to California.

Among the visitors at Del Monte just now are Mrs. Frank Hicks of Los Angeles and her little daughter, Miss Elizabeth, who came up early in the week. Mrs. Hicks has many friends in San Francisco and it is hoped that she will come here for a stay before her return to the southland.

Mrs. Elizabeth Morrison, who has been abroad since last fall and has spent the winter in Italy, is now in Dresden, but expects to go to Paris soon to spend a month.

Mrs. Hayward G. Thomas has sent out cards for a tea at her home in San Francisco on April 13, to meet Mrs. George Westcott.

Miss Ella Morgan is visiting her friend, Miss Flora Low, at Del Monte at present. She expects to return to town shortly for a stay of a week or two and will then return to Del Monte to spend the entire summer.

Miss Ethel Shorb will pass the week-end with Mrs. William B. Hooper at the latter's country place at Mountain View.

Mrs. E. H. Davenport has been a recent visitor to Byron Hot Springs.

To the delight of her many friends Miss Morrison of San Jose, who has been so seriously ill with grip, is able to drive out, and her convalescence, it is hoped, will be rapid.