

The San Francisco Call

JOHN D. SPRECKELS, Proprietor
CHARLES W. HORNICK, General Manager
ERNEST S. SIMPSON, Managing Editor

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CALIFORNIA'S MOST VALUABLE ASSET

It is fortunate that the worst flood in the history of the Sacramento delta has been followed by a prosperous season for the tule land folk. If they lost their asparagus they are making it up on potatoes and onions. They are making great crops and getting record prices. This body of land is the most valuable asset lying in the lap of California.

Walter J. Kenyon has an article in the June number of the World Today, in which, after telling the story of last winter's flood, he urges that steps be taken to carry out the recommendations of the Dabney commission, which was later indorsed by the legislature as the best plan for reclamation of these lands. As a great many people have forgotten all about this commission it may be worth while to reprint the recommendations:

- (a) To confine the floodwaters to the channels of the various streams by means of levees, so as to prevent destructive inundations of the fertile valley lands.
(b) To correct the alignment of the river by cutoffs, where necessary, and to increase its channel capacity by mechanical means wherever current action fails to accomplish the purpose.
(c) To collect the hill drainage, which now loses itself in the basins, in intercepting canals, and convey it into the river at selected points.
(d) To provide escape ways over the levees for surplus flood waters during the period of channel development, and to provide for the disposal of this water in connection with the hill drainage.
(e) To provide for the relief of the basins from accumulation of rain and seepage water by means of pumps wherever gravity drainage is not practicable.

We are convinced that congress can be induced to help in this work in conjunction with the improvement of navigation. These two branches of the work naturally go hand in hand. President Roosevelt is deeply impressed by the necessity of improving the national waterways. A special commission has the whole subject in hand and it is worthy of the attention of the California delegation in congress. If the delegation, in conjunction with the Promotion committee and river and drainage association, will take up the matter and formulate a comprehensive scheme of finance, with the national government taking the initiative, the undertaking might be ready for treatment as a whole at the next session of the state legislature.

A COMPULSORY PHILANTHROPIST

SUBPENAS are out for Mr. John D. Rockefeller to come into court and tell about his money and the way he makes it. So pious a citizen will not, one hopes, endeavor to dodge the bailiff. Judge Landis of the Chicago federal court wants to know how much Mr. Rockefeller can spare in the way of a fine without severe distress. The limit of fines assessable for the Chicago convictions against the Standard oil company is \$29,240,000. If Mr. Rockefeller can successfully make a poor mouth he may be let off with less. We feel that he can make money by not hiding from the process server. It is a case where the ancient maxim about "what the traffic will bear" has returned to plague the inventors.

These misfortunes are not coming singly. The other day a Texas court fined the Standard oil company a little matter of \$1,600,000, with specifications like these:

The jury held that the Standard oil company's ownership of a majority of the stock of the Waters-Pierce oil company constituted a violation of the antitrust law of Texas, viz.: the acts of 1899 and 1903. Under these acts each day of operation constitutes a separate offense and incurs a separate penalty. For violating the act of 1899 from May 31, 1900, to March 31, 1903, 1,033 days, the jury assessed penalties of \$1,500 a day, amounting to \$1,549,500, under the option of a minimum of \$200 or a maximum of \$5,000 a day. For violating the act of 1903 from April 1, 1903, to April 29, 1907, the jury passed penalties of \$50 a day, amounting to \$74,400, making the total fines \$1,623,900. Of this total the county attorney is to receive 25 per cent of the penalties under the act of 1899, \$387,375, and under the act of 1903 he is to receive 10 per cent on the first \$1,000 and 5 per cent on each subsequent \$1,000, \$3,770, making a total of \$391,145. Of this amount Greet, the informing witness, is to receive one-third. The total share of the state is to be \$1,232,755. The jury undoubtedly held the defendant company to be a violator of the antitrust laws of the state for the time named in the verdict.

It might be awkward if proceedings were taken against Mr. Rockefeller and his associates under the Cartwright law in this state. Mr. Rockefeller, in the role of a compulsory philanthropist, presents a pleasing and instructive spectacle. We hope that he will not seek to destroy the illusion by indecent resistance or taking to the woods. To be sure, they have not collected any of these impressive fines yet, but we have hopes.

THE CANDIDATES' PROCESSION

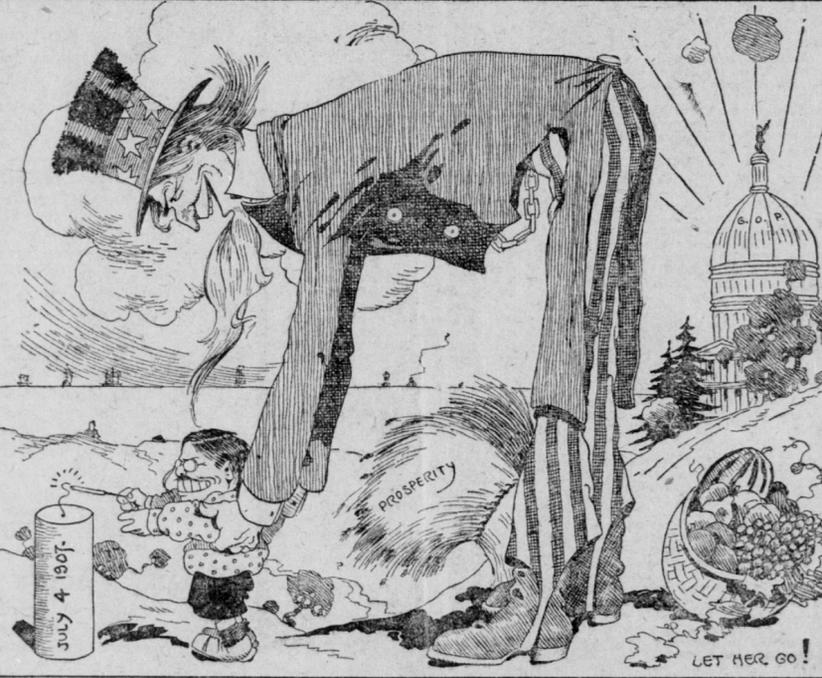
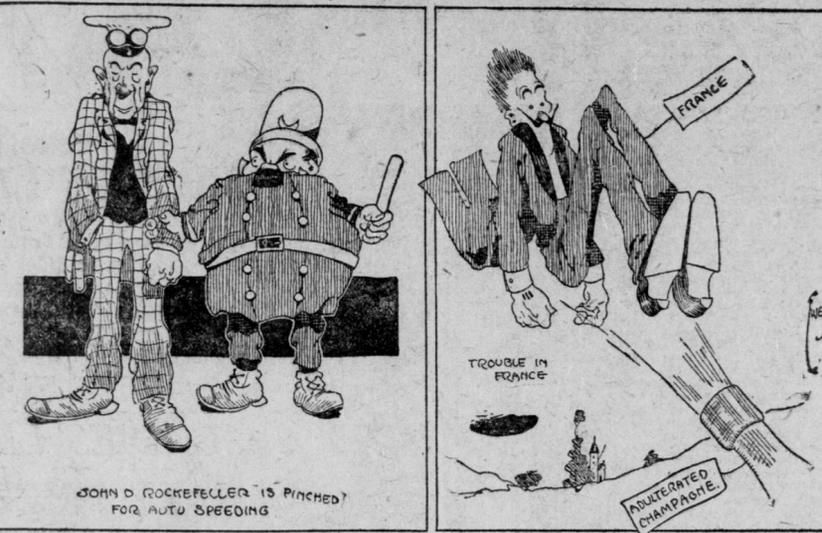
THERE is some internal disturbance in the procession of candidates, but it is not serious. Uncle Joe Cannon was nominated sixteen times for president at one banquet in Aurora, Ill., last week. Uncle Joe grew weary and fled from the flood. He did not take to the woods, but went out into the back yard and smoked a different brand. The effect on national politics was not recorded on the seismograph.

Big Bill Taft has been indorsed by the good Indians in South Dakota. The Sioux have presented him with a magic bridle, which will surely guide his horse to the White House. We are sure the bridle is good medicine, but a humane man might feel sorry for the horse. Even the railroads look to their rolling stock when the secretary of war is on his travels.

Joseph Benson Foraker is in a terrible taking about a scarecrow that himself has builded. Thus saveth Joseph:

If for what I have done in their behalf (the colored troops) I am to be eliminated from public life, as has been proclaimed, then let it be known that I shall at least carry with me into private life the consoling satisfaction of feeling and knowing that I have been rebuked for an action that I shall

Cartoonist Ewer's Review of the Week's News



never regret, but always esteem as creditable to my heart as a man and to my sense of justice and duty as a public official.

It is too bad, or would be too bad if it were true; but the objection to Foraker is not concerned at all with his course on the Brownsville unpleasantness, but with his reactionary policies. He is a belated survivor.

Hon. Charles W. Fairbanks is working his literary bureau for all it is worth, which is not much. The mails are loaded with "literature." Editorial rooms, all the way from Podunk to San Diego, are flooded with marked copies. It is an inky effusion of adjectives, called forth by a "bitter personal tirade," published by Collier's. We learn, for instance, from the South Bend, Ind., Courier, that this publication concerning the vice president might have been "prevented by the exertion of a certain kind of influence." We quote further:

The friends of the vice president, advised of the real animus of the proposed onslaught and resting secure in their knowledge of his character as a man, his enviable reputation as a public official, and familiar with the open record of the honorable business relations and private conduct of his whole life, had no fear of an attack of any kind from any source, however inspired or mendacious, and promptly turned a deaf ear and sightless eyes to servile suggestions and itching palms.

That is a rather serious charge and ought not to be made without evidence capable of production. In the absence of such evidence we prefer to disbelieve the charge. A literary bureau is not the noblest work of God.

In the Joke World

Rivers—Don't you get tired of hearing Weerlus always telling his wonderful stories of adventure in the first person?
Brooks—I don't mind that so much as his always telling them to the first person he happens to meet.—Chicago Tribune.
Hawkins—Oh, well, Bjenks isn't such a bad fellow, after all.
Dawkins—What makes you say that?
Hawkins—Well, he wouldn't lend me the \$10 that I asked him for, but he didn't take advantage of the opportunity to give me good advice.—Somerville Journal.

Answers to Queries

O'REILLY—A. R. City, John Boyie O'Reilly died August 19, 1899. The monument to his memory, erected in Back Bay fens, was unveiled June 29, 1898.
QUOTATION—Subscriber, Oakland, Cal. The quotation from Pope does not contain the word "indecent." The exact language is:
Immodest words admit of no defense.
For want of modesty is want of sense.
MOTOR CYCLES—M. C. City. As there is no record of the business occupation of those who purchase and use motor cycles, it is impossible to answer the question: "About how many attorneys and other professional men own and operate motor bicycles?"

Verse Current in the Nation's Press

SOME DOUBTS
Fair Mildred has a rounded form.
Of shapeliness divine,
Displaying most bewitching curves
Of grace in every line.
But even while I contemplate
Her figure with delight,
I wonder if she takes it off
When she retires at night.

She has a wealth of golden hair,
This paragon of girls,
It frames her brow in silken waves
And shining braids and curls.
It never straightens or strings when
By damp east breezes blown,
I wonder if those sunny locks
Are Mildred's very own.

The color of a damask rose
Is on her oval cheek,
The perfect tint of youth and health
That many vainly seek.
But still a cruel, carping doubt
My admiration mocks,
I wonder if perchance she keeps
Her bushes in a box.

FILIAL APPRECIATION
We're going in society,
But feel a slight dubiety;
We're doubting the propriety
Of taking part alone.
There might be some hilarity
Just had concealed by charity
Because of his vulgarity.
He always does things wrong.
His ways are so erratical,
He talks so ungrammatical
And speaks his mind, and that I call
Exceedingly ill bred.
He has a queer morality,
His manners lack formality.
He's awful, in reality.
Some break we always dread.
It's terrible possessing him.
We'll have our troubles dressing him.
There's no way of suppressing him.
It's little that he reckes
How his remarks are grating us.
It's greatly aggravating us.
The strain is enervating us.
But still we need his checks.
—Chicago News.

Yukon Territory Still Produces Many Millions of Gold

THAT the Klondike gold fields continue to produce many millions of gold is evidenced by the annual report of Vice Consul G. C. Woodward, who has compiled statistics on the imports and exports of the Yukon region.

The total exports, he reports, from the Yukon territory to the United States for the year ending December 31, 1906, as appears from the records of his consulate, amounted to \$5,644,415. Of this amount \$3,320,607 was gold dust and \$2,323,808 was merchandise; \$5,287,068 of the gold was Canadian and \$336,339 was American. Of the merchandise, \$223,915 was American goods returned—that is, goods that had been sold to merchants in Dawson by exporters in the United States and resold by them to merchants in Alaska. The balance of the merchandise exported was goods shipped to Dawson from different points in Canada and reshipped to Alaska.

The total exports invoiced through this consulate for the year ending December 31, 1906, from the Yukon territory to the United States amounted to \$7,849,958, and was comprised as follows: American gold, \$75,891; American goods, \$404,971; Canadian gold, \$7,241,092; Canadian goods, \$123,094.

The dutiable imports of the Yukon territory for the nine months ending March 31, 1906, amounted to \$590,976, of which \$669,876 was entered for consumption. The total tonnage of goods entering Dawson during the year ending December 31, 1906, via the Skagway route, was approximately 25,000 tons, of which 5,000 tons were in transit for Alaska. There was no tonnage of consequence leaving Dawson for the outside, via Skagway. The open season in this territory—that is, that portion of the year in which these goods are received—is from June 15 to October 15. The total tonnage of goods during the same period entering Dawson, via Eagle (the lower river route), amounted approximately to 2,000 tons and the amount leaving Dawson via this route amounted approximately to 6,500 tons.

The principal product of the Yukon territory at the present time is gold. The other products worthy of mention are furs, timber, coal, copper and other minerals and vegetables and hay. There is, of course, an abundance of fish and game, but not sufficient for exportation. The invoiced furs exported during the calendar year 1906 amounted to 1,520 skins of various kinds, their total value being \$7,296, as against 3,471 skins, amounting to \$25,281, for 1905. The largest item last year was 825 lynx, worth \$2,881, followed by 241 marten, worth \$2,169.

There are considerable marten, beaver and mink skins used by the local furriers in the manufacture of garments. While the local cost of the labor is 100 to 200 per cent greater than on the outside, the advantage gained by those unable to judge the value of furs is in the satisfaction of knowing that the garment is made of the genuine article. The average price is \$15 or \$20 for some house aprons, and for \$100 to \$300, while black fox skins will range from \$300 to \$750; marten will range from \$3 to \$15.

There was also exported last year 1,813 beaver hides, valued at \$3,228; 2,392 sheep pelts, valued at \$478, and 23 calf hides, valued at \$23. The entire production of coal, amounting to approximately 14,000 tons, is used locally. It is yet to be seen whether the principal timber growing in the Yukon territory is spruce, birch and cottonwood. The spruce is the only kind suitable for building purposes and lumber. While there is considerable development work being done on the copper properties in the southern part of the Yukon territory, as yet the actual production for exportation has not commenced. There were some 200 tons of vegetables and 400 tons of hay grown in the territory during the year 1906. The principal crops being the potatoes, cabbage, turnips, carrots, beets, celery, etc. In quality the potatoes are improving each year. Heretofore they have been watery and some difficulty has been experienced in keeping them, but some of the last year's crop were equal to those shipped in from the outside. Hotel keepers say that they had never used celery equal to that grown here.

Gossip in Railway Circles

J. G. JAMISON, division engineer of the Western Pacific, with headquarters at Cleo, in the Mohawk valley, is in the city on a visit. He reports good progress in the work of building the line on the California side. The Western Pacific is working more men today than during any time since ground was broken. There are 8,000 men now employed along the proposed road from Salt Lake City to the end of the line in this state.

E. E. Calvin, vice president and general manager of the Southern Pacific, left last night for Los Angeles to meet Julius Kruttschnitt and return with him to San Francisco. Kruttschnitt intends to make a daylight trip over the coast line and will carefully inspect the road. It is thought that he will arrive in the city tomorrow.

P. R. Lund, chief train agent of the Harriman lines, and M. E. Clute, the first assistant, left for Spokane this morning on business for the company. John A. Gill, who attends to the freight interests of the New York Central, will leave tomorrow for Los Angeles to spend the fourth.

The twin screw turbine steamer Creole, which has been built for the Southern Pacific, will make her initial trip from New York for New Orleans on July 13. The Creole is the latest of the five new steamers built for this run; is of steel construction throughout and of the turbine deck type. Its length over all is 140 feet; breadth, 55 feet; depth, 37 feet, and length of superstructure, 182 feet. It has five decks and is subdivided by transverse water tight bulkheads into four holds, in addition to the various holds between decks. The vessel has accommodations for 152 first class passengers and 350 second class. It has two 10 foot reeling Curtis turbines, developing a combined driving force of 8,000 horsepower, and will have a speed of 13 knots.

H. P. Thrall, superintendent of the railway mail service for the Harriman lines, who has been in the state for the past two weeks, left last night for Chicago. It was in the scarlet draped halls of the freight station that the voice of J. F. Larken was heard challenging the crack players of that exclusive organization to a game of dominoes. As to the stakes Larken was indifferent. He had played dominoes with several khedives in Egypt; he had even lost to a despairing emir of Timbuctoo, and the best players in Cairo had been pitted against the gallant young man and had failed to break up his combinations. Was there to be a new challenge? Harry Buck shied at the prospect, but John A. Gill declined to play and even Tom Stetler, who is now as ready to take any kind of a chance as he was in the old days when he won the battle of Shiloh? Finally E. M. Pomeroy, flushed with victory over A. C. D. Kerrell, decided to accept the challenge of the vanquisher of many a dusky champion. The betting was in favor of Larken, who played with a dash and a verve which surprised the spectators.

"Whom are you betting on?" asked W. J. Hardy, who strolled into the room. "Larken, of course," was the reply. "That so?" said the local freight agent of the Southern Pacific, who bet on him once on a foot race. Larken came out with short pants and an airy vest, and the way he pranced on that track made us all believe that he was a professional New York City runner. "And then didn't you try to get you out of the race as they were all amateurs and didn't I bet \$10 on you and then you came in last? Now, you fellows, if you are wise, just remember my experience and bet on the other fellow when Larken is in the game."

Personal Mention

J. E. Phillip of Seattle is at the Jefferson.
Joseph Casey, U. S. A., is at the Fairmont.
G. S. Brackett of Chicago is at the Fairmont.
A. O. Mulhe of Portland is at the Dorchester.
George Westen of Mobile, Ala., is at the Imperial.
R. J. Hillegass of Washington, D. C., is at the Palace.
Frank Abbott of Milwaukee, Wis., is at the Fairmont.
Lee A. Phillips and wife of Stockton are at the Fairmont.
L. O. Shrader and wife and James L. Gibson of Seattle.
J. M. Walthall and wife of Modesto are at the Dorchester.
Dr. W. A. Monish, a physician of Atlanta, is at the Hamlin.
William Browne and wife of Salt Lake are at the Jefferson.
August St. James and wife of Mount Vernon are at the Hamlin.
S. Well of New York arrived at the Majestic annex yesterday.
Roy Kendall, a merchant of Redlands, is at the Baltimore.
Frank A. Spencer, manager of the grocery firm of Allen & Lewis, Portland, and Mrs. Spencer are at the Fairmont.
Attorney J. M. McGee and family of Oroville are at the Majestic.
William G. Uridge, a lumberman of Fresno, is at the Dorchester.
W. S. Williams and Thomas Glynn of Goldfield are at the Dorchester.
J. Fred Hott and G. S. Gethen of Philadelphia are at the St. Francis.
A. R. Adams, a manufacturer of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., is at the Hamlin.
Los Angeles arrivals at the St. Francis are George I. Cochran and J. C. Drake.
A. D. Short, assistant manager of the Rainier Hotel of Seattle, is at the Dorchester.
J. R. Davis of Pittsburg, who is on a sight-seeing tour of California, is at the Baltimore.
Alden Sampson, a prominent merchant of Boston, and wife are at the Imperial.
H. A. Rogers and wife of Philadelphia, who are touring the state, are at the Jefferson.
W. O. Gilman and L. I. Felker of Boston, who are touring the coast, are at the St. Francis.

Conditions in California

The California Promotion committee wired the following to its eastern bureau in New York yesterday:
California temperatures for the past 24 hours:
Eureka Minimum 59 Maximum 61
San Francisco Minimum 62 Maximum 68
San Diego Minimum 59 Maximum 78
San Francisco building permits for June 29, to noon:
Permanent 5 Value \$300,000
Alterations 3 Value 9,000
Buyers are offering 4 1/2 and 5 cents for Santa Clara prunes, which is a very high price. The crop is light this year, and the prices are continually advancing. \$100 a ton has been offered for apricots on the trees. The farmers in Santa Clara valley will receive the top notch price this year on their fruit.
A remarkable feature of the foundation work, which is just being finished, of the Marvin estate building on California street near Drumm, San Francisco, is a reinforced concrete floor slab, to resist the upward tide water pressure, which is calculated at 400 pounds to the square foot. This foundation structure rests on 300 piles, 75 feet in length. The ground site is 67 1/2 by 137 1/2. The building will be six stories in height, constructed with a view to subsequent additions.