

The San Francisco Call

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THE PRIMARY ENROLLMENT

THE totals shown by the books of the registrar of voters are full of promise for the political rehabilitation of San Francisco. Approximately 60,000 electors out of a total registration of less than 61,000 are qualified to participate in the primary elections on August 13.

The total primary registration shows an increase of 10,000 over the whole registration for 1906. The fact that this large number of new voters, together with more than 3,000 who have changed their residence since voting in 1906, enrolled themselves for participation in the primaries is a healthful sign. It is indicative of an awakened public conscience—an interest in the primary, the foundation of good government.

If the promises held out by the large registration are realized even in part Boss Herrin and his understrappers will be eliminated from the politics of San Francisco. A large primary poll means an honest, independent vote. It means a vote against which no corrupt political organization can hope to prevail. The political boss is the creature of popular indifference. Herrin's abandonment of his corrupt apportionment scheme is conclusive proof that this arch enemy did not dare beard an aroused public openly. The vote which Herrin feared to arouse cannot evade responsibility for the governmental rehabilitation of stricken San Francisco. The republican party must accept the duty laid upon it. That thousands of republicans are willing to assume that duty is evidenced by the fact that fully half of the 13,000 voters registered since April 23 for the primaries are republicans. They intend to go to the primary polls. It is the duty of every other honest republican to go with them. The friend of good government will find a decent ticket for his support in each assembly district. There will also be delegate tickets composed of men pledged, if secretly, to redeliver their party to Herrin. They cannot make good their pledge save through the traitorous indifference of the men who are always willing to resent criticism of their citizenship, but usually unwilling to prove their civic virtue at the primary polls.

Republicans, the fate of San Francisco is in your hands. In the manner of your performance of your duty on August 13 lies the test of your citizenship, your loyalty to your city and your party.

IN A SAUCE OF ADJECTIVES

FROM the cool and fog steeped slopes of San Francisco, across a steaming continent blistered by a fiery sun, we extend the assurances of our esteem and regard to Boston, the Hub of the Universe, and congratulate the discriminating Transcript of that city on this word of well earned approval for San Francisco's selection of an honest and able mayor.

It is one of those reassuring incidents of American life and politics not without some very distinguished recent precedents, that when things seem at the lowest ebb of hoodlumism and corruption in our public life the figure of some intelligent and upright man emerges from the danger and disgrace and saves our institutions, winning by very reason of the existence of the scandals the confidence of the public in his power to redress the balance with his character and administrative ability. Our raft of a republic may keep our feet wet all the time, but we do not sink.

These are pleasant words, as well as true, and, as San Francisco has been for some time getting the rough end of the stick from the eastern brother, we like to note the change. It is the return of the Prodigal City, and they are ready to kill the fatted calf and serve him in a sauce of adjectives.

TO IMPROVE THE SAN JOAQUIN

COLONEL BIDDLE of the United States engineering corps, in charge of river and harbor work in California, is engaged on investigation of conditions on the San Joaquin river for the information of the national waterways commission and congress. President Roosevelt takes the deepest interest in the improvement of inland navigation and congress is turning to a large policy of development in this regard. San Joaquin river shipping is already quite important, as a glance at the figures furnished to Colonel Biddle by the Stockton chamber of commerce will show. These figures are summarized in the Stockton Mail:

In 12 months the arrivals of vessels here totaled 1,742, with a combined tonnage of 511,844. The traffic value was \$28,175,000. Seventy thousand passengers were carried.

River and railroad traffic is equal along the San Joaquin between Stockton and San Francisco.

A 15 foot channel would save \$87,750 annually in the transportation of grain, \$37,500 on lumber and large sums on other shipments.

The San Joaquin up to Stockton is a tidal canal.

Stockton is the only interior American city having four transcontinental railroads.

The people of San Joaquin county have made up their minds what they want and their demands are moderate. They ask that a fifteen foot channel be opened to the bay of San Francisco. The saving in freights that would result from this improvement in facilities might be moderately capitalized at \$10,000,000.

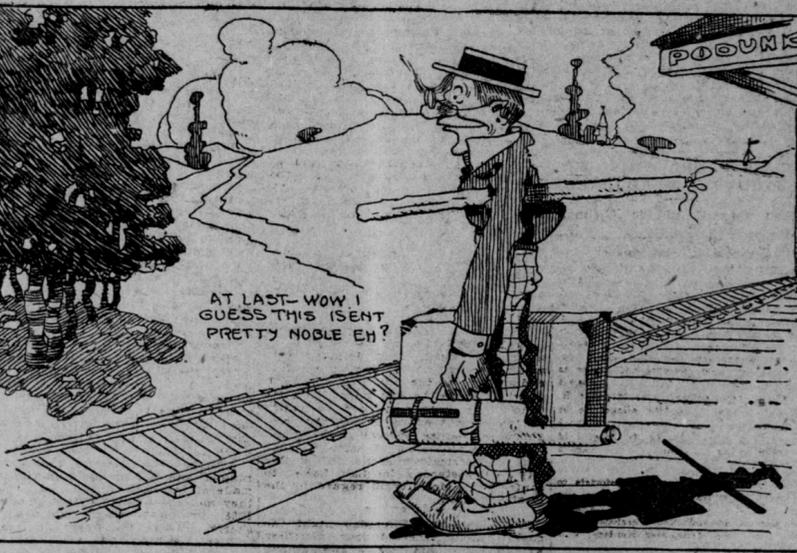
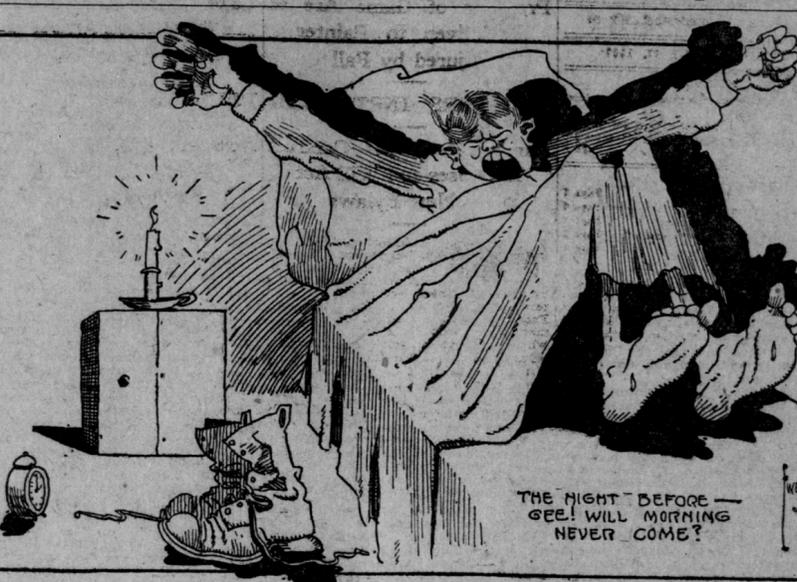
A MONSTROUS STROKE OF OPPRESSION

THE price of cotton thread has gone up from 5 cents to 10 cents a spool. It is a grave injury to the poorest and most defenseless class of workers—the women who sew on garments and find their own thread. This is one of the direct consequences of the creation of monopoly.

Charles G. Dawes, formerly Comptroller of the Treasury under McKinley and now a banker in Chicago, is quoted in the morning papers in exposition of certain benefits of monopoly, and he calls for amendment of the Sherman law against trusts. On this subject he says:

If real progress is to be made toward the solution of the vexed indus-

The Vacation—A Continued Story. Chapter 2



trial problems which confront the nation, this law should be amended so as to clearly define what shall constitute illegality in trade agreements. In addition it should be amended so that a trade agreement, whether an agreement in restraint of trade or not, may, prior to its consummation, be considered by a commission in its relation to the public interest. Beneficial trade agreements should then be legally sustained and indorsed, and bad ones forbidden and, if consummated, punished.

This is very much of a piece with the nonsense about "good trusts and bad trusts." It is akin to the maxim that the best possible form of government is a benevolent despotism. The fact is that despotism and trusts are dangerous for the same reason—that human nature is not strong enough to withstand the temptations of unrestricted power. That is the case with the cotton thread trust.

There is no real excuse for doubling the cost of materials to poor women who are already sweated down to the barest livelihood. The manufacturers say that the cost of raw cotton has advanced and they must pay more for the wood from which they make the spools; but improved processes of manufacture and the larger volume of trade offset the difference.

It is understood that the department of commerce and labor is conducting an investigation of the thread trust. It is hoped that it will be pushed home and speedily. It is a far more important matter than the pursuit of the tobacco monopoly. Nobody is compelled to smoke, but we must all wear clothes, and it is a monstrous piece of oppression that the women who make them should have the price of their materials doubled at one stroke.

TWO MUNICIPAL REVOLUTIONS

LOUISVILLE is going through an experience not very dissimilar to that of San Francisco in relation to municipal government. The whole official staff of the city has been removed under a decision of the Kentucky court of appeal. The court set aside the municipal election of 1905 and ousted every officer returned at that time. Gross frauds were proved in the count which brought in the nominees on the democratic ticket. Fraudulent elections are no unusual thing, although they have rarely attained the bad eminence of the Louisville affair, but it is a rare and, indeed, almost unexampled result that the whole official staff of a city should be unseated at one operation. It is true that we are in process of accomplishing the same result in San Francisco, but for a different reason.

In Louisville the court of appeal supplied the motive power and designated the governor of the state to make the appointments. In San Francisco the prosecution of the grafters furnished the necessary force and has clothed Mayor Taylor with power to change the official personnel.

In both cities a complete municipal revolution is in progress, with the result that official routine is very much upset. The inconvenience is temporary but necessary. Schmitz is fading away into the obscurity of a well earned prison. One hears of him occasionally as making faces at the city government or running out of his hole for a minute to heave a brick, but the revolution does not go backward. Schmitz belongs to the category of extinct monsters. The Louisville revolution is a little farther along than ours, but we are on the way.

Gossip in Railway Circles

J. C. STUBBS, traffic director of the Harriman lines, wired to this city last Thursday that he intended to start for San Francisco on Friday and to make arrangements here to handle his private car. Within a half hour he wired back that he was not coming and that he did not know when he would come. Julius Kruttschnitt, director of maintenance and operation of the Harriman lines, will not go south, as was his first intention, but will leave direct for Chicago in the near future. E. A. Graham, assistant general freight and passenger agent of the Southern Pacific in Los Angeles, arrived in the city yesterday to attend the jinks of the Bohemian club. C. S. Glibb of the Rock Island-Frisco lines was taken suddenly ill yesterday and was unable to leave his home.

The Insider

Tells of eastern official's exaggerated idea of graft conditions here and of Field's resolve to write insurance instead of poetry

"Bob" Harrison is ASSISTANT District Attorney Robert W. Harrison is telling the story of an occurrence a few days ago which casts an interesting side light on the eastern view of the extent of municipal rottenness in San Francisco, and which incidentally speaks none too highly of the methods of the police department of Detroit, Mich., in conducting outside business.

The incident arose in connection with the extradition of a man arrested in this city on information from Detroit, where he was wanted on a charge of securing money under false pretenses. The Detroit police department was notified of the man's arrest, and Emery E. Brooks, an official of that city, was sent to San Francisco after him. The warrant was issued by Governor Gillet, and the necessary preparations made to transfer the custody of the prisoner. In the meantime, however, a petition for a writ of habeas corpus had been filed in the prisoner's behalf, and it was necessary to have this dismissed before he could be given into the charge of Brooks. Brooks was in a hurry to be on his way, and Harrison was of material assistance to him in hurrying the case along and securing the dismissal of the habeas corpus proceedings without loss of time. After the matter had been attended to, Brooks called Harrison into a quiet corner.

"Now, what do I owe you?" he asked in the resigned manner of one performing a painful but necessary duty.

"Why, you don't owe me anything," responded Harrison. "That's what we are paid for."

Brooks didn't respond with words. He simply looked at Harrison with surprise on every feature, and whistled softly between his teeth.

"I think he regarded me as the biggest curiosity he had struck in San Francisco," explained Harrison afterward. "His manner said just as plainly as words that he had expected and was prepared to 'pass a bit' to every official he came in contact with here. I'm wondering now whether my share was accounted for in Brooks' expense report, or whether somebody else got a double share on account of my refusal."

Forsakes Muse to Become an Agent

CHARLES K. FIELD, so 'tis said, is to have the position with the New England life insurance company that was held for so many years by his father, the late Henry K. Field. It is a responsible position for so young a man, Pacific coast manager of the company, but young Field was virtually the manager for more than a year past, his father being too ill to attend to the business of the office. It was just a few short years ago, so it seems, that Charlie Field graduated from college in the same class with the Irwin brothers, and it was then his intention to embark upon a literary career. With Will Irwin he collaborated on a little volume of college tales entitled "Stanford Stories," and he got quite a lot of breezy, humorous topical verse in various local papers. But after awhile he went into the insurance office, which by right of inheritance appeared to be his proper sphere. He still does a little dallying with the muse, however, and will not desert the lady entirely. Field is a clever amateur actor, and usually takes a prominent part in the Bohemian club's jinks.

A few months before H. K. Field's passing, the head of the New England insurance company, William B. Turner, died in Boston. Turner was a great friend of the Fields, and with his wife visited them in this city not so very long ago. The two families took a trip to the Yosemite in company, and the Turners also visited the famous Field camp, now no more, in Guerneville park, near Guerneville.

Charles Heggerty Pleads Innocence

Charles Heggerty, the attorney, has two doubles in town, if you spell phonetically, and both of them occupy high positions in the public eye. Strangers, the lawyer says, frequently confuse him with his illustrious fellow citizens. "I met a man the other day," Heggerty told me, "who was introduced and then gazed at me as if I were a public character. His admiration was impressive. "So you are Abe Ruef's office boy?" he gasped at last. "No," I replied modestly, seeking no honor which is not mine own. "Ah, then you are the police commissioner?" "And all I could say was: 'Guess again.' It's sad to be a disappointment."

The Smart Set

AFTER enjoying a delightful year of travel in Europe at historic places and out of the beaten pathways, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Watson will return to Berkeley in the near future. During several months of their stay on the continent they occupied a picturesque old Italian villa. They will make a short visit with relatives in New York before coming west. Among the recent arrivals at the Hotel de Indes, The Hague, were Mr. and Mrs. Julian H. Biddle and son of San Jose and Gustav Lessing of this city. S. G. Murphy, the well known member of the Pacific Union club, is registered at the Hotel Princess, in Paris. Dr. R. O. Baldwin of this city is touring Europe and will return before Christmas to resume his professional duties. The Grason Duttons are enjoying the fishing at Lake Tahoe and expect to remain there several weeks. Mrs. W. J. B. Mills and Miss Gertrude Mills, who have a handsome home in Devisadero street, have left for Carmel-by-the-Sea and expect to be absent three weeks. Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Boyer are at Santa Cruz, where they will remain for several weeks. Mrs. Dixwell Hewitt is a guest at Captain Collier's at Clear Lake. Captain Richardson, U. S. A., will soon visit the Presidio. He has been on duty at Fort Monroe, Virginia, and is known as one of the most eligible bachelors of the army. Lieutenant Commander Marcus L. Miller of the United States navy, a son of the late Colonel Miller of the army, received an order recently from Washington to join the Pacific fleet. Commander Miller was at Cairo, Egypt, when the order reached him and started at once for San Francisco. Mrs. Miller, who is well known both here and in Sausalito, is the daughter of the late Rear Admiral Fife, U. S. N.

In the Joke World

A year had passed since they faced the parson together, and upon his return home he found his wife in tears. "What are you crying about?" he asked. "I've just been re-reading the letter in which you p-proposed," she sobbed. "Well, I don't blame you," he rejoined. "Every time I think of that letter I feel like swearing."—Chicago News. "Yes, indeed, Mr. Higgins, I was in such a frame of mind that I was beside myself." "If I were as sweet as you are I would endeavor to be in that frame of mind all the time."—Houston Post. The Judge—Well, sir, have you anything to say? The Lawyer—No, sir. But if your honor were a mind reader, you would find me for contempt of court.—Cleveland Leader. Mrs. Dash—Mother says that she wants to be cremated. Dash—Just my luck! I haven't a match with me.—Smart Set.

Conditions in California

The California Promotion committee wired the following to its eastern bureaus in New York yesterday: California temperatures for the past 24 hours: Eureka Minimum 54 Maximum 60 San Francisco Minimum 54 Maximum 61 San Diego Minimum 64 Maximum 74 Reports received by the California Promotion committee say there is an unusually heavy demand for California fruits, both green and canned, in the east. Green fruits shipped from California points for the past week, 366 carloads. Dunsmuir, in Shasta county, is engaged with the construction work which is going on there. Sixty-three locomotives are employed on the local division, and 120 men are now working on the second track from Dunsmuir to Chatsworth. The outlook for reconstruction in San Francisco is further brightened by the fall in the price of lime. It dropped yesterday from \$1.50 to \$1 a barrel. A few weeks ago the price was \$2 a barrel, or just double the present figure.