The San Francisco Call

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

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WHY THE LAWS GOVERNING RAILROADS IN CALIFORNIA ARE A DEAD LETTER

UNDER the law of California discrimination by railroads as between shippers is extortion and as such is punishable on such terms as to make discrimination risky business for common carriers or their officers. The law, as it stands on the statute books, reads thus:

> When a railroad shall willfully charge, demand or receive from any person or persons any greater sum for passage or freight than from any other person or persons, between the same points, for the same class of passage or for the like quantity of goods of the same class, it shall be guilty of extortion.

The Southern Pacific company has made a steady business of this kind of extortion and the practice has gone on for years. For every case of such extortion that can be proved the injured party is entitled to triple damages.

The shippers whose business has been destroyed or injured by railroad discrimination do not yet know whether the law here quoted is workable. It has been on the books since 1877, but no test of it has ever been made. Indeed, the small shippers, no matter how much they may have suspected, had no positive proof that rebates were granted to favored rivals until the evidence was uncovered in the recent examination before Interstate Commerce Commissioner Lane.

The practice of allowing rebates on intrastate business in California must be stopped. If the law as it stands is inadequate to meet the need of the case it can be extended to provide civil and criminal remedies. The whole question is brought up for consideration by the disclosures in the recent inquiry.

The state railroad commission could have stopped this vicious practice long ago. The commission has full power to ascertain the facts and bring them to public notice. It seems scarcely necessary to say that the persistent purpose of this commission has been to conceal and not disclose the facts.

But the state needs some such machinery of supervision and regulation. The plan of electing the commissioners has proved a complete and disastrous failure because the Southern Pacific political bureau has always controlled the conventions. It is now proposed to amend the constitution by placing on the governor the responsibility of appointing the commissioners. The plan could not possibly prove worse than the present system, but with a governor in power who owed his nomination to Herrin the prospects are not encouraging.

When the people are permitted to name their own candidates at a direct primary there will be opportunity to get a railroad commission that will do its duty. The present commission, with its Andy Wilson for example, is the fine flower and most perfect development of the convention plan of making nominations. That is why the laws of California relating to railroads are a dead letter and will stay dead until the people are given a chance to name their own officials.

ROAD MAKING IN SAN JOAQUIN

THE farmers of San Joaquin county may be congratulated on their enlightened policy in relation to roads and highways. It is true, although it ought not to be true, that opposition to the good road movement has for the most part come from farming communities. Such opposition may have been passive, but it has been none the less difficult to overcome. Nor must the farmer be wholly blamed for this attitude. He makes his money hard and gets none too much. He must not be blamed if he looks on both sides of a dollar and is dubious about movements that seem to involve an increase of taxation.

But in these days the California farmers and fruit growers have been making money hand over fist. There are good prices and a strong market for nearly everything in the way of country produce, from eggs to grapes. The farmer has money to invest in San Joaquin county—he sees nothing that promises better returns than improvement of the roads in his neighborhood. San Joaquin farmers propose to bond the county for $2,500,000 to construct a scientific system of highways to bring their farms, orchards and dairies in easy touch of transportation points and centers.

San Joaquin county is part of the most fertile body of land to be found in any part of the world. With a climate unsurpassed there is nothing produced in the temperate or subtropical zones that is foreign to its soil. The county suffers in part from occasional overflows that have undermined or washed out poorly constructed roadways. Doubless the new road system of the county will be constructed above high water level and may be made on the lower ground to serve the purpose of levees to hold in check the occasional winter overflow.

The method adopted or proposed to be adopted in San Joaquin goes to the root of the matter. Instead of wasting small sums year after year in patch work or political road building it is intended to make one comprehensive job of the whole business and get something of permanent value.

A COCKSURE EXPERT

THE military expert who writes for the papers is always entertaining. There is nothing he does not know, nothing he will admit himself incompetent to handle. One of the most eminent of these omnisciences is Colonel Gaedke, a retired officer of the German army, who is more noted for his valor than his discretion. Colonel Gaedke, undeterred by the fact that he is not even qualified as a horse marine, is for the moment engaged in telling the world what would happen should Japan take a notion to attack our battleship fleet on its way to the Pacific. It is, thinks the colonel, a golden opportunity for Japan to catch us at a disadvantage and crush the whole United States fleet at a blow. To be sure he arrives by a process of arithmetic at the conclusion that the American fleet is, roughly speaking, one-third stronger than the Japanese, but he urges that the Americans have no coaling stations. That is very true so far as the voyage skirting the coast of South America is concerned, but it is not clear what advantage Japan can claim in this respect. So far as the North Pacific is concerned the United States is quite as well equipped in this regard as Japan, if indeed the superiority is not substantially on our side.

The paper strategists are an amusing folk. Before the Spanish war they demonstrated by means of the "krieg spiel" or war game that disaster for the United States was inevitable, and among other things they cherish the fond delusion that the personnel of the American navy is inferior.

This Colonel Gaedke is the type. Not long ago he was tried by a military court of honor for writing and publishing an article defending and excusing the Servian army officers who assassinated the late king of Servia on the ground that there were cases where the conduct of the sovereign was such as to relieve officers of the army and navy from their oaths of allegiance. Such opinions are, of course, fatal to military discipline, but Colonel Gaedke was relieved from the judgment of condemnation by the civil courts, which held that the military authorities had no jurisdiction of a retired officer. But your real military expert is always cocksure and there is no subject that he is afraid to handle, whether it deals with ethics or strategy on land or sea.

Easy Money From John

NOTE AND COMMENT

Along about next week candidates will begin to learn things concerning their past that they had not suspected.

When McCarthy awakes after November 5 he will realize that Dreamland rink was a particularly appropriate campaign hall for him.

It is rumored that a German fleet is to visit New York during the absence from the Atlantic of our fighting boats. It's up to the Sun and the World to discover dark and sinister motives in the visit.

Some think that 50 secret service men for the protection of Taft are too many, but come to reflect, a lesser number could hardly surround him.

The Los Angeles enthusiasts who propose to found an ideal city in southern California will find in time that they made the usual mistake of not filling it with ideal people.

Personal Mention

Charles E. Gilzean of Redding is at the Imperial.

Count Constantine Czechteth of Budapest is at the Fairmont.

Mr. and Mrs. D. S. Kyser of Napa are guests at the Jefferson.

Miss Florence Horton of Pasadena is a guest at the Jefferson.

William E. Burbank of San Jose is staying at the Jefferson.

J. H. Leggett, a mining man of Oroville, is at the Baltimore.

Lorenzo Garcia of the City of Mexico is registered at the Dale.

Former Senator Thomas Flint of San Juan is at the St. Francis.

Mr. and Mrs. Corwin Radcliffe of Merced are at the Baltimore.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Laton of Del Monte are at the St. Francis.

F. A. Hihn, a wealthy land owner of Santa Cruz, is at the Imperial.

J. W. Dilworth, a retired banker of Dallas, Tex., is at the Pacific Grand.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Parsons of Los Angeles are at the Majestic Annex.

Thomas Wilson, a tourist of Pittsburg, is registered at the Pacific Grand.

J. M. Crabtree, a businessman of New Orleans, is a guest at the Grand Central.

Sheldon Toomer a wealthy young Bostonian, is registered at the Fairmont.

L. Lewis of London, a famous English tourist, is a guest at the St. Francis.

Herbert L. Cornish and Mrs. Cornish of Los Angeles are registered at the Majestic.

Albert Widener, a relative of the railway magnate of Philadelphia, is at the Fairmont.

Ellis Kingston, who was one of the first to arrive on the relief train in 1906, is staying at the Dale.

J. J. C. Leonard, who conducts the St. George hotel in Santa Cruz, is at the St. Francis for a few days.

Mrs. J. Jacobs and her son have returned from a summer sojourn at Ocean Park near Los Angeles. She is staying at the Majestic Annex.

By The Call's Jester

STREET CARS

A street car is a mechanical contrivance used to demonstrate the saying, "There's always room for one more."

"Chutes" on the end of a street car means that the car goes out Eddy street. "Richmond" means that it goes out Sutter street. It has been suggested that "via Eddy" and "via Sutter" put on such cars would be of help to the public, so the change was not made.

A transfer is a slip of paper bearing the names of different car lines on which you are entitled to ride—if there are any cars running on those lines. If there are not you can get your nickel back—by dodging the conductor on the next trip.

But you should always pay your fare. Remember that the conductor may have a large family to support.

Street car magnates ride in automobiles, not because they prefer them to their own cars, but because they do not want to inconvenience the public by adding to the jam in the cars.

It is not necessary any longer to say "Beg your pardon" when you step on some one's toes. Being stood on is a normal condition now, and nobody minds it.

Don't worry about whether you will have to give up your seat to a lady. There's no danger that you will get one.

* * *

LOUISIANA BEAR

I hear a swamp-disturbing din
That sounds like Teddy's stride.
I guess it's up to me to skin,
Or I will lose my hide.

* * *

FINE

"Have a fine trip in your automobile?"

"Fine! Not a fine." W. J. W.

: The Smart Set :

THE first of this winter's big dances is announced for October 26 and will be given in Sausalito by the assembly club. This popular organization always opens the season of dancing and its meetings are as popular with San Francisco young people as with those of Sausalito. The place of meeting has always been the yacht club house, but this first dance will take place in the home of Mrs. Henry C. Campbell, whose daughter, Miss Reed, will make her first appearance in San Francisco society this year.

* * *

Another early dance is that to be given November 1 by the Phi Delta Sigma fraternity, to which belong some of the city's most popular young men. Their guests will be about 60 in number, all of the younger set.

This, and most of the college dances, which are never very large, will be given in the California club hall, which is well adapted to such affairs. The drawing room and library, with their open fireplaces, lend an air of coziness and privacy that s naturally lacking in the larger halls.

* * *

Alameda people are much interested in the news of Miss Lulu Falkenau's engagement to Herbert Haas, which was informally announced a day or two ago. It comes as a decided surprise, for Mrs. Falkenau has just returned from a three months' visit to friends in San Rafael, during which time her friendship with the young mining engineer progressed rapidly, and their attachment was not suspected by her Alameda friends. No date has been set for the wedding, which will probably take place in the spring.

* * *

Mrs. Lyle M. Fletcher is in Kentucky, where she will spend several months with different kinspeople. She has been traveling in many of the eastern states, but plans to return to her home here early in the spring.

* * *

In the presence of nearly 200 society people today Miss Edith McCabe and Ernest McCormick were married at the McCabe home in Buchanan street. Miss McCabe was given away by her brother and attended by Mrs. Roy McCabe and Miss Lindley. She wore a handsome wedding gown of white silk and a long veil of silk illusion, which proved extremely becoming to her type of beauty. After an elaborate wedding breakfast Mr. and Mrs. McCormick left for a month's honeymoon. On their return they will occupy a pretty flat in Jackson street near Fillmore. Miss McCabe is the only daughter of Mrs. M. J. McCabe and a pretty and most popular girl. Her engagement to the well known young businessman was announced about 18 months ago. McCormick is one of the best liked of the younger set.

* * *

Mrs. Henry Ware Lyon will sail on the Siberia today for Honolulu, where she will be joined in a month by Admiral Lyon, whose retirement from the navy goes into effect in November. Admiral and Mrs. Lyon probably will make their home in Hawaii.

* * *

Much entertaining has been recently done for Mrs. Gertrude Atherton, who is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Albert Russell, in Belvedere. On Sunday Mr. and Mrs. Truxtun Beale gave a dinner for her in their San Rafael home, which proved a delightful affair. Mrs. Atherton spent last week in Menlo Park with her cousin, Mrs. Perry Eyre, whose lovely home, "Fair Oaks," is the scene of much hospitality.

* * *

Among the many San Franciscans who will spend the winter at various southern hotels are Mrs. C. E. Worden and Mrs. A. M. Towne, who have engaged apartments at Del Monte for an indefinite time. They, like almost all the others, plan to come to town for the season's most important events.

* * *

Captain and Mrs. Guy Scott are again in New York, after a long visit to Captain Scott's parents, Senator and Mrs. Scott, in Washington, D. C. They will spend the winter and spring in New York, where Captain Scott has been stationed. Mrs. Scott was Miss Leila Voorhies.

* * *

For the past four weeks the hospitable home of Captain and Mrs. John Metcalfe in Presidio avenue has been closed because of Mrs. Metcalfe's serious illness. She is now convalescent, and returned from the Presidio hospital a few days ago. Miss Edith Metcalfe, who has been visiting her sister, Mrs. E. S. Swan, in Seattle for some months, arrived home again yesterday, bringing with her Mr. and Mrs. Swan, who are old favorites here, and will probably visit here two or three weeks.

* * *

After six months in Mill valley, Mrs. Thomas Magee and Miss Katherine Magee are back in town, and are established for the winter with Mrs. Magee's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James M. Curtis, in their home in Union street. Miss Sally Maynard, who spent the greater part of the summer with Mrs. Magee, has also returned for the winter.

* * *

Society people here will miss Mrs. W. H. Mills and her daughters, Miss Ardella and Miss Elizabeth, who plan a trip to Portland early next month. They will probably remain there through the holidays, returning to San Francisco late in January.

* * *

Menlo Park has been the scene of several small affairs this week in honor of Miss Agnes Tobin, who returned lately from a year in London. Miss Tobin has made her home in the English capital for some time, coming to California only for short visits, but she is always eagerly welcomed here. She is an important member of a group of writers and thinkers in London, and her two books of verse, translated from Petrarch, have been compared by English critics to the work of Mrs. Browning and to Dante Gabriel Rossetti's translation. Miss Tobin is now at work upon a third book. She came to the city a few days ago from the home of her sister, Mrs. Charles Clark, in San Mateo, and is at the Fairmont hotel.

* * *

A series of three dances will be given by the Friday Night club at the Fairmont hotel during the season. The first will be December 6, the second December 20 and the last January 24 of the new year.

* * *

Mrs. Henry H. Schmiedell, who has been for a week or two in the city, will return on Saturday to Del Monte, where she has made her home for two or three years. During her stay here Mrs. Schmiedell's health has not been good, but it is thought that the warmer southern climate will effect a complete recovery.

* * *

Mrs. J. K. C. Hobbs and her daughter, Mrs. Earle Newman Percy, will be at home from 3 o'clock to 5 this afternoon and tomorrow afternoon in the former's home at 3580 Clay street. These at homes are farewell affairs for Mrs. Percy, who will leave in a few days for New York, where she will join Mr. Percy and where they will make their home.

* * *

Mrs. Thomas Magee and her little daughter have returned to town after six months in Mill Valley and will spend the winter with Mrs. Magee's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Curtis, in Union street. Miss Sallie Maynard, who was with Mrs. Magee for the greater part of the summer, is also in San Francisco again for the winter.

The Insider

Tells of the Former Glories of Rincon Hill and Gives Data Relative to the Cornering of the Local Cabbage Market in Pioneer days

When Rincon Hill Was Social Center

A PETITION asking the removal of Rincon hill, filed with the board of supervisors recently, recalls the old days of the famous hill when all the beauty and chivalry of San Francisco gathered on its picturesque varas. In this charming circle of friends a man's bank account was lightly esteemed and economy and rainy days were terms unknown in its vocabulary. The old Sherman mansion was one steeped in eloquent memories. The place on Harrison street, which before the gold days could have been bought for $16, was purchased by General Sherman for a large sum and the cheerful, square sunny rooms were filled with the gayest and most cultured men and women that the hill could furnish. That was saying a great deal, for there were representatives of the famous Calhoun, Lee, Clay, Washington, Blair, Johnson, Lawrence, Kip, Pringle, Livingstone, Schuyler, Gouverneur Morris and McAllister families, while among the women were such names as Mrs. J. B. Fremont, Mrs. General Marshall, Mrs. John Hays, Mrs. Charley Fairfax, Mrs. Judge Campbell, Mrs. Governor McDougall, Mrs. A. P. Crittenden, Mrs. Frank Pixley and Mrs. Colonel Kewen, every one of representative historical families and in the prime of early womanhood. The most lavish hospitality was practiced, and the standards of etiquette were lofty. It was the day of the duel and men were undoubtedly chivalric.

The cheerful, square rooms of the Sherman mansion saw many brilliant and gay scenes. The general always kissed all the pretty girls, while his wife, herself a social star, stood by and looked smilingly on. Mrs. Sherman was decorated several times by the pope for her many charities, to which the general always lent a willing hand. When the vigilance committee was organized in '56 and General Sherman assumed command Mrs. Sherman was heard to remark that it was the first time she had ever seen her husband in uniform.

Corner on Cabbage Makes Prices Soar

"Sold to Wood" is a phrase that was a sort of slogan among vegetable growers and buyers in early days, and the cause was the first corner the local vegetable market had ever known. The man who cornered the market was named Wood, and nobody ever knew how he did it. As usual at the beginning of a certain year the old Colombo market was kept busy by long strings of wagons rolling in with stacks of green vegetables, among which were pounds and pounds of cabbages, then worth about 40 cents a hundred. Vegetablemen bought in the ordinary way, carrying barely sufficient stock to last them through the day, when suddenly the price of cabbage took a rise. All those intending to buy were told that there was no cabbage for sale. All had been sold to Wood.

"Sold to Wood! But who is Wood?"

No one knew. What was worse, no one could find out. Wild tales flew through the cabbage districts. But the facts remained that not a single cabbage was to be had. The unknown Wood had in a single night, as it were, gained control of the cabbage market. He had bought futures, contracting for so many pounds of cabbage to be delivered by the growers. Rumors were plenty that he intended to bull the market. The price rose steadily. From 40 cents a hundred it jumped to $1.75, an unheard of rate and one which brought the growers $875 an acre. While this seems a remarkable figure for cabbages it is easily verified. One acre planted to cabbages gives 100 heads square; therefore the plat would contain 10,000 heads. Heads average 5 pounds in weight, or 50,000 pounds to the acre. This at the prevailing rate would amount to $875 an acre. Cabbage farms were the best paying things in California that year.

Answers to Queries

SUTTER—S. T., City: General John A. Sutter, the pioneer in whose millrace Marshall discovered gold in 1848, was a Swiss and he had a peculiar way of pronouncing his name. There is no combination of English letter that reproduces that sound. It is neither Sooter nor Sutter. As early as 1852 a gentleman of this city asked him if he sanctioned the pronunciation of Sooter and he said "no," but added that as the Americans could not pronounce his name as he did, he did not object to the pronunciation as if written "Sutter." It has been so pronounced for more than half a century and so long as the original owner is satisfied with the pronunciation and custom has recognized that pronunciation, there is no good reason why at this late day the pronunciation should be changed to something which is not what the old general pronounced as his name.

* * *

ATTAR OF ROSES—A. O. R., City: Attar of roses is a delicious perfume which is prepared by distillation of the petals of the roses in India and Persia chiefly. It is obtained from rose water by setting it out in large open vessels during the night and early in the morning skimming off the essential oil which floats on the top. It is stated that 100,000 roses will yield only 180 grains of attar.

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ANSWERS BY MAIL—No question addressed to the Query Department of The Call will be answered by mail unless the question is accompanied by a self-addressed and stamped envelope.

State Press on Local Campaign

Eugene Schmitz, before he gained world wide fame as San Francisco's boodling mayor, was talked about as the "fiddling mayor." Now comes another aspirant with a fiddling past, who has secured a mayoralty nomination. Years ago P. H. McCarthy earned a living with his fiddle.—Oakland Herald.

* * *

The labor party in San Francisco has completed its ticket. The trail of the serpent is over it all. It could not bear the Schmitz brand more effectively had the ex-mayor been renominated.—Oakland Enquirer.

* * *

Having got rid of Boss Ruef San Francisco must now endure Boss Ryan. Time alone will demonstrate which of the evils will be the most menacing to the city.—Nevada City Miner-Transcript.

* * *

There should be patriotism enough in San Francisco to bring men of all political faiths together in one effort to elect Edward Robeson Taylor mayor of the city.—San Jose Times.

* * *

Daniel A. Ryan marched up the hill of reform and marched down again. So do most of the blatant reformers.—Fresno Herald and Democrat.

* * *

F. H. Dam represents the republicans who are supporting Ryan for mayor of San Francisco. He may represent the whole Dam party, but not the whole republican party.—Los Angeles Times.

Conditions in California

The California Promotion committee wired the following to its eastern bureau in New York yesterday:

California temperatures for the last 24 hours:

Eureka	Minimum.....54	Maximum.....56
San Francisco	Minimum.....54	Maximum.....68
San Diego	Minimum.....60	Maximum.....70

Value of San Francisco mortgages executed during last month, $2,903,609.

The pulp from beet sugar factories is coming to be an important article of fodder. A herd of 1,500 head of cattle is maintained on the ouput from the factory at Hamilton, in Glenn county.

The concrete foundations are in and the steel is arriving for the Fuller building, at Beale and Mission streets, San Francisco. This will be a five story class A structure, on a ground site 68x137:6 feet. The exterior will be of pressed brick and terra cotta.