

The San Francisco Call

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A SMILING FRONT FOR THE NEW YEAR

LET San Francisco wear a smiling front, for things are coming our way with the new year. Mr. Hearst is demonstrating with both feet that a man and his wife can live cheaper and better in San Francisco than in any other city.

The banks are paying out real money and calling in their ill-liquidated currency. Comptroller Ridgely, surveying the national financial field, hands a large and gratifying bouquet to the California banks, which surpass all others in the size of their reserves.

Who's afraid? The future grows bright before us. We have it on the best authority—the authority of Mr. John L. Sullivan, who takes a Marquis of Queensberry swat at the hard times, so called.

Excuse the bluntness of a soldier. The Call gladly apologizes for the sins of others and asks excuse for Mr. Sullivan's unnecessary violence of language while it commends his simple philosophy.

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MORE JAPANESE PROMISES

AT the time that the Japanese emperor pledged his word that his government would take measures to restrict emigration of his subjects to this country, The Call remarked that little reliance could be placed on the good faith of any Japanese official.

Now we discover that the immigration figures show a great increase in the number of Japanese arriving in this country since last spring, and as a result Washington begins to wake up to the situation.

So much is made plain by the dispatches from Tokyo, which, although guarded in tone, tell us that the Japanese foreign office has agreed, in consequence of representations made by our ambassador, to take immediate steps which will "effectually avoid complaints which have arisen in consequence of mistakes of administration of the regulations inaugurated last spring."

That is the customary plea. Some unknown subordinate official broke the rules, of course through ignorance or inadvertence. That sort of plea may pass once among people who do not understand the Japanese character.

NOTE AND COMMENT

If you have resolutions, prepare to break them now. The new year was courageous to enter in the face of so much noise.

The duma will soon be holding its sessions in Siberia. Because his wages were overdue, a St. Louis printer "pied" his employer's form by putting a couple of bullets through it.

Henrietta Crossman and her husband have become bankrupt. Sort of double cross for the creditors.

Where the indicted bankers made a mistake was in thinking that possession of money means ownership.

Dargie, Always for Sale, Has Not Even the Virtue of Staying Bought

Chapter IX of the Plunderer's Record



Dargie of the Oakland Tribune

The worst thing that ever happened to Oakland and Alameda county was William E. Dargie.

If Dargie had never controlled a newspaper Oakland and Alameda county might have endured him indefinitely; he would have been a rascal without means to make rascality effective or profitable—a burglar without tools.

The Call has carefully and painstakingly investigated the public record of Dargie. Today it continues the publication of that record. This publication will be kept up from time to time until Dargie and his Tribune are generally known for what they really are—the man as the advocate and associate in villainy and in profit of the political and civic corrupters of Alameda county, and his newspaper as the organ of graft and the tool and weapon of public plunderers.

While Still Wearing the Livery of Vrooman, Tribune Man Sold Himself Again to Collis P. Huntington

THE perfidy of William E. Dargie is part of the shameful and shameless history of Alameda county politics—a history black with dishonor and reeking with venal turpitude.

As has been related in this biography of a self-made "journalist," the Oakland Tribune, at the time of its transfer from Ben Dewes to Dargie on a note signed by A. K. P. Harmon and Samuel Williams of the Bulletin, was a chattel of the Central Pacific railroad corporation.

DARGIE WON'T STAY BOUGHT. It has been complained by those who have bought Dargie from time to time that while he can be purchased for anything that glitters and jingles, he will not stay bought for the original price.

PERFIDY TO VROOMAN. The most perfidious action in the crooked career of William E. Dargie was his treachery to his friend and benefactor, Henry Vrooman.

WHAT VROOMAN DID FOR DARGIE. Henry Vrooman was discovered by Stephen T. Gage in the early eighties. Gage recognized Vrooman's peculiar abilities and gave him an opportunity to exercise them in a vocation more lucrative than that of hammering horse shoes on an anvil.

REMEDY SUGGESTED FOR DARGIE. Dargie's perfidy in knifing his benefactor after he had learned that Vrooman would no longer control the corruption fund of the railroad corporation was regarded by the people of Alameda county as a just retribution upon the unscrupulous agent of an oppressive monopoly.

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through Vrooman, too, that Dargie began to "draw down" from the Contra Costa water company and the gas company, Vrooman being "of counsel" for all the corporation interests in Alameda county in connection with his primary duty as the railroad representative and political manipulator in the county.

WHAT DARGIE DID TO VROOMAN. Vrooman was re-elected to the state senate from the seventeenth district and served during the "short term" to 1888, when he announced himself a candidate for the republican nomination for re-election for the full term of four years.

DARGIE BRANDED AN INGRATE. When Stephen Gage was first informed that it was Dargie's intention to contest the nomination of Vrooman he laughed. "It is not true," he said, "Dargie belongs to Vrooman body and soul."

DARGIE NOMINATES DE YOUNG. Dargie was elected; not because the voters of the seventeenth senatorial district loved Dargie, but because they hated Vrooman and because they were deceived in their utterance of Dargie, who pretended that he was disgusted with the Vrooman method of manipulating the politics of the county.

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The Insider

Rélates incident showing how photographer employs trick of camera in increasing height of President Roosevelt when taken in group

President Looks Tallest of Group. CAN it be that President Roosevelt is following the precedent set by all monarchs short of inches and resorts to trick and device to make his mightiness seem a matter of measurement as well as of activity and erudition?

King Edward is the most illustrious practitioner of the theory that it is the divine right of kings to be as tall (pictorially represented) as are their subjects. In reality Edward is as short as the characteristics he inherited from his mother would make him, but when he has his picture taken the photographer knows enough to perform camera tricks that make Edward look taller than he is.

Roosevelt seems to be following this British example. In the current number of Scribner's Magazine he has an article on bear hunting in the Louisiana canebrakes. One of the illustrations used in the article shows Roosevelt surrounded by his fellow hunters. This head looms as high on the landscape as the head of any of his companions.

Made the String Fit the Blanket. In these days when only the rich criminal or suspect is accorded much space in the newspapers it may be a relief to the predatory rich to have the fact recalled that the blessed middle class may also produce dishonesty.

Before I reformed and went on the force," he told me the other day, "I was clerking in a small store. One day an Italian woman came in. She held a string in her hand, a long string, and said that she wanted a blanket of the same length. I went through our stock and found that the longest blanket we had was six inches too short. In the midst of my search the boss came up.

What's the matter?" he said. "I told him. "That's easy," said he. "I'll talk to her and keep her busy while you cut off the string."

Showing Symptoms of Being Indicted. Just because a certain accountant and expert of this city showed symptoms of perturbation on leaving the grand jury room one day last week he came within an ace of being put in the "alleged to be about to be indicted class."

The long days of the Oliver grand jury sessions and the many witnesses brought before that body gave the newspapermen detailed there every opportunity for learning the habits of the kind. It became an axiom that when a man left the grand jury room with a flushed face and an impatient air, hurried down the stairs, shook off the reporters who merely asked for his name and in other ways gave signs of highly developed nervousness, he was about to be indicted.

Smart Set. Horatio Livermore, Mr. and Mrs. William Henshaw, Mr. and Mrs. Edson Adams, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Butters, Mr. and Mrs. William Pierce Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Bowles and E. W. Runyon.

Informal hospitality was the order of the day yesterday and almost all of the city's big homes were kept Sunday with guests all afternoon. Eggnog was popular and the new year was toasted everywhere.

Miss Ruth Green of San Francisco is spending the holidays with her sister, Mrs. Howard Huntington, in Los Angeles and will not return for another fortnight.

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Answers to Queries

HUNTING—N. I. C. City. There is a state in the union in which nonresidents are not permitted to hunt game. That is Arkansas.

THE KAISER—A Subscriber, City. Royal families have no surnames, consequently it is impossible to give the surname of the Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany.

DOGS—W. G. J. Stege, Cal. A city, through its proper officers, has a legal right to tax dogs in any amount that it desires.

ROOSEVELT—Reader, City. On his visit to California, President Roosevelt reached San Francisco May 7, 1905.

Apples Fail in Norway

A Canadian commercial agent in Norway reports that the apple crop of Norway may be considered entirely a failure last year, partly on account of the cold summer and partly on account of damage done by insects in the spring. For this reason there are likely to be large imports of apples into Norway during the coming winter.

A MELANCHOLY MEMENTO

It was announced recently that the seal of the South African republic would be put up at auction, but at the last moment, as the result of protests raised in South Africa, the colonial office intervened, and the seal was used for the last time upon Cecil Paul Kruger's ultimatum presented to the British agent at Pretoria, October 9, 1899. It will be added to one of the national collections. The colonial office claims that the ownership of the seal passed to the crown as the result of the annexation of the Transvaal. Kansas City Journal.