

The San Francisco Call

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WHEN BLACKMAIL IS A CRIME

THE CALL professes no sympathy for the policemen who have been caught in the act of blackmailing keepers of Barbary coast resorts. They were engaged on a small scale in the business that Schmitz did by wholesale. If our laws are good for anything, and the public moral sense is not blunted, punishment should follow in the exact ratio of the enormity of their several offenses. Schmitz is set free by the supreme court. The policemen will lose their jobs—a very severe penalty—and worse may happen to them.

The result might be different if the policemen could hire a venal press to blackguard Biggy and the police commissioners. The result might be different if "the best society" took a warm interest in the affairs and immunity of two dishonest policemen. In that event Mr. de Young and Mr. Hearst would be tumbling over each other in the effort to confuse the situation by ridicule or misrepresentation or abuse. All the forces that society and wealth could muster would flock to their support with every weapon that a satanic ingenuity could invent, because, in fine, What are the ten commandments among friends?

But none of these things will happen. The policemen and their offenses do not involve the wealthy and the powerful. They are mere vulgar blackmailers of a cheap sort. They will be lucky if they escape the prison.

It is this extraordinary contrast and comparison that the decisions of the supreme court and the court of appeal invite and emphasize. Just what the rambling and confused opinion of the supreme court means is a matter for argument. The reasoning is muddy, involved and halting. It appears to have been written by a man who was not quite sure of himself. In its tone it is an apology rather than a clear and forthright exposition of law.

But the effect of these two decisions on the public mind is to establish a general sense that, under the law of California, official blackmail is no crime. No special pleading based on the words or omissions of an indictment will eradicate or obscure that conclusion in the public mind.

The police force of San Francisco has undergone five years of rule by Schmitz. The men in the ranks saw their superiors engaged in wholesale blackmail with full impunity. They have seen Schmitz tried and convicted by a jury, and they have seen him relieved of that judgment by two appeal courts in succession. It should not be surprising, then, that the evil example of Schmitz and his exonerated by the highest courts has struck in and that policemen have concluded that official blackmail is no crime in California.

No ingenuity of special pleading will be lavished on the policemen's cases. No millionaires will hustle for the privilege to go on their bail bonds. The clubs will not care a button what happens to them. The tea tables of Pacific heights will not buzz with sympathy. Dargie will not say a word in their favor. They are cheap and nasty blackmailers. Out they go.

BUTCHERTOWN A PUBLIC MENACE

UNSANITARY conditions at Butchertown are so bad as to be intolerable. It is a case where patience has ceased to be a virtue. The public health is the supreme law and Butchertown is a dangerous plague spot that must be cut out at whatever cost.

The conditions have been partly set forth in these columns. Some of them are too foul for print. For more than thirty years the filth and offal from the killing beds have been accumulating and festering on the mud flats under the shambles. There is no sufficient tidal flow at that place to purify the flats. The filth stays to breed diseases and make a feeding and breeding ground for myriads of rats. Butchertown is a danger that threatens the whole city.

When public attention was first drawn to these facts the butchers begged that full publication of the conditions should be withheld. They promised faithfully to reform and clean up. It turns out that their ideas of reform were fulfilled by a lick and a promise. Apparently they were confident that the public would quickly forget the whole thing in the excitement of some new sensation. The butchers must disabuse their minds of this impression. San Francisco is quite in earnest about putting sanitary conditions in shipshape all over the city. There is no reason in the world why an abattoir should not be kept as clean and sweet as a dairy ought to be; but the thing cannot be done with a whitewash brush. There are no vested interests in filth or disease germs. Butchertown has been cultivating both for thirty years. It must be stopped. The moldy shacks must come down to give place to butcher shops of scientific design, and provision must be made for the effective removal or destruction of offal.

DARGIE'S FUNNY SOLICITUDE

DARGIE is filled with terror because the Alameda county grand jury, following the example set in San Francisco, proposes to raise funds by private subscription for the prosecution of inquiries as to graft. This practice, as Dargie thinks, is getting pretty close to home. He protests loudly.

Now, Dargie does not tell the truth—that it is regard for his own skin that makes him so tender on this subject. Not at all; it is the highest solicitude for the public good that inspires him. He has been a heavy burden on the tax payers of Alameda county for thirty years; but it is not fear of exposure or detection that drives him to expostulate with the grand jury. Listen to this solemn rot:

We have the utmost confidence in Colonel Bendel's honor and veracity and believe him to be actuated entirely by fair and just motives; nevertheless we disagree with him as to the propriety and necessity of obtaining money from private sources to be expended in official investigations, more particularly as the sources of such contributions are concealed from the

The Amende Oriental



public. There should be no suspicion of ulterior motive or ulterior prompting in grand jury processes, which are necessarily ex parte and inquisitorial. All the public desires is a square deal, and to that end we hope the grand jury of which Colonel Bendel is foreman will make a thorough and impartial investigation of the management of county affairs with the single purpose of vindicating the law, doing justice and serving the public welfare.

"Such expenditures," says Dargie, "should be a public charge." Yes, dear; and you and your confederate boodlers would take mighty good care that no public money should be provided for "such expenditures."

"Ulterior motives" quotha. That is the grafter's name for any attempt to bring him to justice. "All the public desires is a square deal." Quite true, and that is the one thing Dargie does not want. He knows where a square deal would land him.

MR. HARRIMAN WOULD NOT BE COMFORTABLE

IT may be seriously intended or it may be only an example of unconscious humor that New York politicians should be engaged in solemn debate whether in the circumstances it would fit the proprieties of the situation to send Mr. Harriman as a delegate to the Chicago convention pledged to vote for Hughes for the republican nomination. One may easily imagine the consternation with which any real purpose of this sort might strike Governor Hughes. He was elected to his present office in recognition of his monumental work in exposure of the life insurance frauds that held the attention of the whole country for a year. Mr. Harriman was at the time a leading factor in the management of the insurance companies.

The Chicago convention, no matter who may be the candidate, will emphatically and without reserve endorse the policies of Roosevelt. Mr. Harriman, we fear, does not approve those policies. It might be that he would find his environment disagreeable.

If the proposition to send Harriman to Chicago is not a bit of unconscious humor it must be an attempt to injure Governor Hughes, who deserves a better fate. Harriman does not want Hughes elected. We are persuaded that Mr. Harriman would feel more comfortable at home running his railroads and peddling stocks. He might visit his outlying possessions in California and will always be welcome here; but we hope he will not join the Lincoln-Roosevelt league.

Overproduction Brings Ruin to Orange Growers of Spain

AGRICULTURAL depression, especially in fruit growing, continues to increase in this district, reports Consul Charles A. Winans, from Valencia, Spain. The crisis first developed in the wine trade, in which it reached such an acute stage recently that some important wine growers, unable to obtain even the very low price of 6 cents a gallon for their product, rolled their wine casks on to the public highways that passers by might drink gratuitously.

Now orange growers and exporters have been overtaken by disaster so crushing and complete that foreign markets on which they depend almost exclusively for the consumption of the Valencia crop have all collapsed. Production has outgrown the requirements of available markets abroad, while home markets, in the interior and northwest coast of Spain, are at present inaccessible to Valencia fruit growers, owing to deficient transportation facilities and high freight rates both by sea and land. In the first two months of the present season—November and December—1,600,000 cases of oranges were exported, or about 249,000,000 pounds, and three-fourths of the crop still remains on the trees.

Farmers have been forced to sell their oranges to packers as low as 10 cents an arroba of 25 pounds, and exporters have been receiving average prices of \$1.25 per case of 150 pounds of fruit, which, after deducting packing expenses, freight and sale charges, leaves practically nothing for the oranges. Among the causes assigned for the threatened ruin of the Valencia orange trade, with exports valued at \$12,000,000, appear to be lack of intelligent organization of growers and packers for the distribution of exports in proportion to the consuming capacity of markets, excessive production and deterioration of quality of fruit, and decrease of farmers and merchants on foreign capital.

British fruit brokers and merchants finance the greater part of the Valencia fruit trade, advancing one-half to two-thirds the prospective value of consignments, their commission profits being increased by excessive shipments. Oranges this season colored eight days earlier than usual, the shipments in the first two weeks of November exceeding by 250,000 cases the totals exported up to the same date last season. At that early date British and German markets, still well supplied with apples, Almeria grapes and other autumn fruits, were not prepared for such heavy imports of oranges, and have not yet recovered from the collapse at the very opening of the season.

Moreover, Valencia orange growers, in their anxiety in recent years to increase production by intensive cultivation and high fertilization have succeeded to some extent in the expense of the quality, flavor and keeping condition of the fruit, which has acquired a coarser skin and texture and more acidity, while Jamaica and Jaffa oranges, now competing with Valencians on British markets, have steadily gained in favor. A box of Jaffa oranges containing 12 to 12 oranges, or about one-third the number in a Valencia case, realizes at present on British markets one shilling (24 cents) more than the latter.

Answers to Queries

AN ENGINE—L. R. Truckee, Cal. What is the possible greatest speed, per minute, at which it is safe to run an engine for sawmill work?

That would depend on the condition of the engine, and the question cannot be answered by any one except an inspecting engineer.

DARGIE'S FUNNY SOLICITUDE

TWO BIRTH PLACES—O. M. C. San Rafael, Cal. Where was Campbell-Bannerman, prime minister of England, born? Also where was James Bryce, Great Britain's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the United States, born?

The first named in Fortarshire, Scotland, and the latter in Belfast, Ireland.

THE FLAG—C. City. Who made the first American flag and under what circumstances?

The first American flag having 13 stripes with 13 stars in the blue field was made by Betsy Ross at 239 Arch street, Philadelphia, Pa., in 1776. Congress in that year decided to have a national flag and a committee was appointed to have one made. George Washington, one of the committee, visited Mrs. Ross, the wife of Colonel Ross, who served in the continental army, drew a rough design of what he

wanted, and Mrs. Ross made the first star spangled banner that floated in this country.

DUQUESNE—W. R. Yorkville, Cal. How far is Duquesne, Ariz., from Gila Bend?

Gila Bend, Maricopa county, Ariz., is distant from San Francisco by rail 854 miles. To reach Duquesne the traveler must go 253 miles further, to Patagonia, then travel 18 miles by stage.

RUTABAGA—W. H. P. Stockton, Cal. Is the rutabaga a variety of the turnip?

It is. It is also known as the Swedish, Russian and French turnip. The common turnip contains 92 per cent of water and the rutabaga 87 per cent. There are 50 varieties of the common turnip and about 30 of the rutabaga.

IN THE TREASURY—M. N. City. How much money is there in the United States treasury?

If you mean cash, the report of the secretary of the treasury, published in The Call December 6 of last year, shows that, at the end of the fiscal year, the amount of gold was \$94,991,730.14 and available cash balance in the general fund \$27,051,445.47.

Smart Set

AN engagement of interest to society is that of Miss Edith Berry to Lloyd Baldwin, which was formally announced a day or two ago. The news was not entirely unexpected by the young people's closest friends, but it has nevertheless caused quite a flutter of excitement and pleasure in the younger set, of which both Miss Berry and Mr. Baldwin are prominent members. Miss Berry is a daughter of Mrs. J. L. Berry, who was Miss Jessie Patton, a member of a prominent old family here. With her two daughters, Edith and Dorothy, Mrs. Berry has occupied for several years a charming home in Cherry street. Both the Berry girls are great favorites, and they have taken a leading part in the winter's merry making. Miss Edith is an extremely pretty girl, and one of the cleverest of society's maidens. She has had much attention since her debut, a few years ago, but for some months it has been recognized by her own nearest friends that the popular young attorney was first among her admirers. She spent some of her school days in Europe, and speaks several of the European languages. The Berrys were for many years residents of San Rafael, and once owned a delightful home there.

Mr. Baldwin is well known in social and club circles here, and has already won recognition in the legal profession. His mother and sister, Mrs. Lloyd Baldwin and Miss Grace, recently returned to the city after a year in Europe, and since then he has made his home with them. Miss Baldwin's wedding to Russell Shortridge will be one of the spring's events. No date has been set for Miss Berry's wedding.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Cooper left Del Monte Sunday for New York, where they will spend the summer months. Mrs. Cooper said her goodbyes here some time ago, and has been visiting her mother and sister, Mrs. Downey Hart, and Miss Genevieve Harvey, who are spending the winter at the southern hotel. This is Mrs. Cooper's first visit to New York since her school days, and she is anticipating many delightful experiences in the east.

Mr. and Mrs. Percy Hannigan will shortly commence the erection of a big hotel on Brighton Beach, where they expect to spend the summer months. Mrs. Hannigan was Miss Gertrude Renton.

Miss Ruth Casey, who is at present the daughter of her aunt, Mrs. Beaver, will leave this week for the eastern coast, and will make long visits there with kinpeople and friends. She will be away from San Francisco six months or a year.

Mrs. Robert Thompson, who is expected in California next week, left New York, en route to Los Angeles, a week ago. She has as her guests her daughter, Mrs. E. H. King, and Mrs. Stephen H. P. Pell, the Edgar Churches of Philadelphia and Mr. and Mrs. George Nesbit of Canada. Mrs. Thompson and her daughter are well known here, and the party will be much entertained while in this city. They are bringing their own car and will visit the southern part of the state before coming to San Francisco. After a visit of two or three weeks at one of the big hotels they plan to sail for Japan, where they will be joined by Colonel Thompson and several friends, who started several months ago from New York to tour the world by yacht. The party will travel extensively in the orient before returning to New York.

Several prominent San Franciscans are established at the Peninsula hotel for the spring. Among them are Colonel and Mrs. Josiah Howell, who spent the winter in this city, and the Jack Casserleys. Mr. and Mrs. Laurance Leonard Hammond are spending a month there. The Peter Hartmest recently secured one of the handsomest homes in the hotel and will take possession of it very soon. They expect to spend the remainder of their California visit at the hotel.

Three of Palo Alto's most popular girls, Miss Joan Boardman, Miss Alice Spencer and Miss Elizabeth Hogue, will be guests of honor Saturday at a luncheon to be given by Miss Bessie and Miss Julia Wright at the Wright home in Waverly street, and will be attended by several prominent members of the Palo Alto smart set. Miss Boardman's engagement to Dr. Place and Miss Spencer's engagement to Claude Downing have been recently announced, while Miss Hogue soon will sail for a long stay in Japan, hence the entertaining in their honor.

Miss Dolly MacGavin left yesterday for a week's stay in Burlington, when she will be the guest of Miss Eliza Partridge.

One of the week end parties at Del Monte was composed of Noble Eaton, Dr. John Shields, Cuyler Lee and Edward Hamilton, who went there by motor car Saturday and enjoyed 24 hours of country life before starting back to town.

A dispatch from New York brings the news that Mr. and Mrs. Louis A. Morgenstern, formerly of San Francisco, announce the engagement of their daughter, Adele Louise, to Harry Fish-bell of New York. A reception will be held next Sunday evening at 204 West Hamilton street.

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Advocates of Armory Postpone the Work of Collecting Funds for Building

THOSE who have been interesting themselves toward procuring an armory for the new First infantry regiment that is to be organized in this city, found several desirable sites upon which to build such a structure as is contemplated, but in the endeavor to raise funds found that those who could be asked to contribute to an armory fund were giving money to be used in entertaining the fleet and for the sanitary fund. It was thought that the time was inopportune, so the idea has been dropped for a time.

The committee is now looking for some large structure that could answer the purpose of an armory for two or three years, and in that house all the military organizations of this city as well as brigade and regimental headquarters. If such a place can be secured the organizations of the companies to form the new regiment will be asked to contribute to a fund of number of young men who would make good guardsmen have been secured. The committee says: "First the armory, then the companies."

IN view of the fact that President Roosevelt has requested Governor Gillett to select from the national guard of this state a candidate to take the examination for appointment to the grade of second lieutenant in the United States army, the governor has ordered a competitive examination to select such a candidate. The examination will be held in Sacramento May 2. No one will be permitted to take part in the examination unless such is authorized by the adjutant general.

This is the first time in the history of the nation that there has been an examination for the position of second lieutenant in the national guard. Each one presenting himself for examination must be a member of the guard, not less than five feet five inches tall in stocking feet, must have the endorsement of the commanding officer that he is of good moral character, has served continuously for two years or more in the guard, and that such service has been satisfactory. He must be unmarried and not less than 21 years of age, nor more than 27 on July 1 of the current year.

Examination will be in English grammar, mathematics, geography, history, constitution and international law and regulations. Each will be required to give practical evidence of drill regulations extending through the school of the soldier, squad and platoon in the presence of the examining board. The general average must be not less than 75.21.

MUST RISK DEPOSITS—Hereafter an officer of the guard who shall default money belonging to the state in a bank will do so on his own responsibility and will be held responsible under his bond for any loss that may occur. This is a recent order from the adjutant general, who has advised the attorney general that it is unlawful for any officer of the state to deposit any moneys of the state as a general deposit in a bank.

An order has been issued to the effect that the facings of the uniform of an aid to the governor shall be of dark blue.

Commissions have been issued as follows: Charles Alfred Dukes of the medical department, commissioned major, vice Dunn, retired, assigned to the Fifth infantry.

Second infantry—Byron de la Beckwith, captain, Company B, vice Rutledge, retired; Henry S. King, second lieutenant, Company K, vice Gardner, resigned; Walter William Chandler, captain, Company I, vice Condon, resigned; Humphrey Parin Palmer, first lieutenant, Company I, vice Chandler, promoted; Gustave Adolph Fiedler, second lieutenant, Company I, vice Palmer, promoted.

Fifth infantry—Allan John Wagner, second lieutenant, Company A, vice Hermon, commissioned second lieutenant, and battalion quartermaster, and commissary of the Fifth; George Charles Pape, captain, Francis Edgar White first lieutenant and Robert McMurtry Seales second lieutenant of Company C.

Seventh infantry—Herbert Suggles, first lieutenant, Company K, vice Fiedler, promoted; Joseph Schlegel, first lieutenant of Company B, vice Fay, promoted; Clifford James Baker, second lieutenant, Company K, vice Swinegar, resigned; Peter Jerome Bollinger, first lieutenant, and Hugh Orange Higgins, second lieutenant of Company M, were each granted a certificate of re-election.

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A new rule provides that if any member of an examining board has reason to believe that a commissioned officer previously examined and passed by the board has failed to keep himself informed as to military duties or has in any manner fallen below the standard of efficiency he shall report such delinquency to the president of the board so that the delinquent may be brought before a board for further examination. The same duty is imposed on any commanding officer who discovers any such delinquency, but it is to report to the brigade commander.

Lieutenant Harry K. McKannan has been appointed aid on the staff of Brigadier General Koster, vice Morsehead, promoted major, for the year.

Major J. H. Dockweiler, engineer corps, retired, has been detailed to the Second brigade to instruct the officers of the several companies in San Francisco and Oakland in many matters in which they need instruction, such as map making and other matters that some within the scope of engineering work, so that in case of need they shall be in a position to have full knowledge of what is needed.

Lieutenant Armstrong of Company L of the Fifth infantry, who was ordered to appear before "the bench board" for further examination, escaped the ordeal by tendering his resignation.

Lieutenant G. W. Kuehne of Company K of the Fifth infantry has tendered his resignation on the ground that his business will not permit him to give time to military duties. There will be an election March 24, at which Major

Grattan will preside, to fill the vacancy. Company K, Captain Mudd commanding, will give a social at 147 Buchanan street on the night of March 18.

First Lieutenant Ralph J. Faneuf has been detailed to promote the small arms practice in the Fifth infantry.

The following have been appointed noncommissioned officers in the Fifth infantry: Company A—Corporals Donald Sweet and Hewitt Bond and Private Russell Gillette Bates, to be sergeants; Privates Raymond Lawton Nichols and Tracie Skelly, to be corporals.

Company C—Private Michael Nye, to be corporal.

Company G—Corporal Joseph Homer Sweeney and Private Walter Ruf, to be sergeants; Private Andrew Magnus Johnson, to be corporal.

Company I—Corporals Fred Simmons Young and Norton Jasper Fletcher, to be sergeants; Privates William Albert Mitchell and Ervin Waggoner, to be corporals.

COMPANY GIVES DRILL—There was a big muster of the members of Company E, Fifth infantry, located at Santa Rosa, on the occasion of a street drill last week. The men were in the organization to meet its needs. The "noncoms" of this company will give a ball in Martin's hall on the night of March 27.

Company L of the Seventh infantry, located at Santa Ana, made such a poor showing at muster and inspection recently that it stands a good chance of being mustered out on recommendation of the inspecting officer. So strong was the intimation in that direction that Colonel Elect W. G. Scribner, who is to command the regiment, requested Major Wilhelm, the inspector, to withhold his report until he could have an opportunity to investigate and discover what trouble there is in the organization. It has been decided that there shall be another inspection inside of 90 days.

The colonel elect, Colonel Finley, and Major Vestel paid a visit last week to Company L, and Colonel Elect Scribner, in a talk to the officers and men, said: "I came here to see what the matter is. Major Wilhelm has reported that things are in pretty poor shape in the company. I do not want to withhold my report until I could see what was wrong, and if there is any way in which this company can be put on its feet again, I do not want to see Company L mustered out of the service; in fact, I do not want to see any company mustered out of the Seventh. If there is any way to remedy matters here I will help you. If your trouble is with the noncoms get rid of them. It is an easy matter to relieve them. It is not an easy matter to get the public with your commissioned officers. It is an easy matter to have them step out. I do not believe in making threats, but I will say that if Company L is not reformed, Santa Ana will never have another company. You will be inspected in about three months, and in that time it is possible to bring the company up to the standard required by the government."

This talk was followed by a drill by the officers, then by the first sergeant and the colonel elect.

COMPANY'S POOR SHOWING—More than four months ago this, as well as other companies in the state, was warned that if it did not come up to the standard at inspection it would be slated for removal by the muster board, yet no attention was paid to the warning, and when the inspection was held the company made a miserable showing—so miserable that it seemed doomed.

Company E—Seventh infantry, Captain W. W. Midgley, located at Pomona, was recently inspected, and it made a favorable impression on the inspecting officer, and the officers and members look for a flattering report. The captain of the company reported resigned the position of lieutenant colonel of the Seventh to assume charge of the company and bring it up to the standard of efficiency. First Sergeant Homer L. Duffy was recently elected second lieutenant. After the recent inspection there was a social session at which the large number of persons who witnessed the drill and inspection were entertained.

The following have been elected as the officers of the California state rifle association for the current term: Captain J. G. Lee, commanding Company F, I. Woodland, president; Colonel D. A. Smith, commanding the Fifth infantry, major; Colonel A. W. Bradbury, vice president; Colonel A. W. Bradbury, vice president; Colonel A. W. Bradbury, vice president; Colonel A. W. Bradbury, vice president.

Captain Lee, the new president of the organization, has been deeply interested in rifle shooting for many years, and it will be his aim during his term of office to advance rifle practice all over the state where there is a company of the national guard. Colonel Smith, the vice president, is also a strong advocate of making the men in the ranks familiar with the weapon they handle and making them first class marksmen. He proposes to assist the president in his endeavors to make rifle shooting a prominent feature in the guard.

Korean Foreign Trade

Consul General Thomas Sammons of Seoul advises that the foreign trade of Korea for the 11 months ending November 30, 1937, aggregated approximately \$25,442,723, details of which follow:

Of the total imports were \$13,137,370 and the exports \$7,305,353. The total business of Korea for that period in 1937 was \$2,632,307 in imports and \$3,159,043 less in exports. The high price of rice was largely responsible for the increase in the aggregate trade returns for 1937. For many years the balance of trade against Korea has been very high. This unfavorable condition has been overcome in but few instances in recent years.

The exports of gold are not included in the totals for the 11 months of 1937 mentioned. Including the gold exports, however, the imports would still be twice the aggregate of the exports.

Conditions in California

The California Promotion committee wired to its eastern bureau yesterday as follows: California temperatures for the last 24 hours:

Table with 3 columns: Location, Minimum, Maximum. Locations include Eureka, San Francisco, San Diego.

Vessels passing through the Golden Gate, San Francisco, during the last month, 493.

A ginseed farm has been established at Orland, Ventura county.

Tomato planting is active throughout the state. It is said that around Brawley, San Diego county, 250,000 plants are being transplanted. Acres of hot beds for planting seed for tomato plants have been put in near Turlock, Stanislaus county, in the San Joaquin valley.

Completion in six weeks is looked for on the Alta Investment Company building at Third street and Sherwood place, San Francisco. It is a class A eight story, 70x90 foot structure, faced with pressed brick. Its cost will be \$250,000.