

ASK FLEET TO WAIT DAY FOR PRIMARIES

Members of Committee Will Wire President Asking Delay in Arrival

Fear Citizens Would Stay Away From Polls and Neglect Fight on Machine

The general fleet reception committee will request President Roosevelt and the navy department to direct Admiral Evans to postpone for one day the consummation of his plan to capture San Francisco on May 5.

There is no lack of characteristic hospitality in the request that Fighting Bob and his armada be restrained for but a single day. It springs rather from a desire to protect San Francisco and California from the effects of spirit of open handed hospitality which, it is feared, might cause thousands of citizens to neglect an important civic duty to extend the glad hand of welcome to Evans, his fighting men and fighting ships. Tuesday, May 5, is primary election day.

Bitter experience has taught the friends of good government that it is difficult to get good citizens to the primary polls even when there are no extraordinary counter attractions. If the fleet were to arrive on primary election day, in accordance with the present schedule, it is feared that the "push" would have the primary polls to themselves while the respectable citizens were receiving the fleet and entertaining the thousands that will come from other points in the state to join in the demonstration.

League Asks Delay

The initiative in the matter of securing the brief postponement of the arrival of the fleet was taken by the state executive committee of the Lincoln-Roosevelt league in this city yesterday. It was felt that San Francisco would not be affected alone, but that throughout the state thousands of citizens would neglect the primaries to join with the people of San Francisco in welcoming the nation's pride.

State Secretary Chester H. Rowell, Executive Committeeman George L. Center and F. H. Dam, chairman of the republican county committee, laid the matter before Mayor Taylor and the general reception committee. The importance of the present crisis was at once conceded by the men in charge of the reception and Chairman James D. Phelan was instructed to make the request on behalf of the committee. Other organizations will take up the matter directly with the navy department and with President Roosevelt and it is believed that the change of program will be easily arranged.

Former Mayor W. R. Davis of Oakland was the principal speaker at the Lincoln-Roosevelt league luncheon at Taylor's yesterday, which was attended by about 60 prominent republicans. All the antimachine factions in the local republican ranks were represented and the enthusiasm with which the speakers by Davis and President Frank R. Devlin were received were full of cold comfort for the machine followers, who have counted on local discord to bring them success.

Makes Stirring Plea

Davis' speech was an eloquent plea for participation in primary politics by the great majority of men of all parties who believe in good government, and he exhorted the men to take government to control their parties. He said: "The great question for this league and for every man must be: Is government an opportunity for public service, or is it an opportunity for private advantage and gain? Only one thing is certain, and that is that the primary elections will result in the primary elections, with the result that 6 per cent of the vote of the dominant party determines the character of the men elected to office. The effects of this practice are lamentable.

There are two great general causes for these effects. First, there is that active and insidious effort to get office, salaries, contracts, graft, and that moral graft—personal gain—not the kind of citizenship that makes this the 10th cent. The other 90 per cent of the vote is not free from criticism. It may be less capable than the self-seeking minority, but it is not free from criticism. It may be less capable than the self-seeking minority, but it is not free from criticism. It may be less capable than the self-seeking minority, but it is not free from criticism.

FLEET RECEPTION TO BE STAG PARTY

Fair Folk Barred From Dinner to Be Given to Navy's Notables

Governor's Function Will Be a Select Affair for Men Only

There will be much disappointment among society's queens when the announcement is read that the official reception to be given by Governor Gillett to Victor H. Metcalf, secretary of the navy and personal representative of the president, Admiral Evans and the officers of the fleet will be a stag affair. It had been announced that the ladies of our western land were to take a part in the festivities, and many ambitious belles have been preening their social wings for this glorious and glittering night. But the committee in charge has pierced the bubble of their dreams. The seating capacity of the Norman grill in the Fairmont, where the reception is to be held, it is argued by the committee, is too small to accommodate all those who would wish to attend. Guests from every section of the state are expected in attendance. And they are all men. In this the most important of the receptions given to the fleet, it will be gentlemen before ladies.

A meeting was held yesterday at the Fairmont hotel to perfect arrangements for the reception. It was attended by Adjutant General J. E. Lauck, Colonel J. A. Lundeen, U. S. A., Captain E. E. Capehart, U. S. N.; General George Strong, retired brigadier general; Colonel F. E. Beck, Colonel George H. Pippy, Colonel H. D. Loveland and Colonel J. H. Handy. The personnel of the various subcommittees will be announced soon by Adjutant General Lauck. The business organization of the committee is complete. Headquarters have been arranged at the Fairmont hotel and Frederick H. Coleburn has been engaged to act as executive secretary for the committees.

LIGHTS IN MARKET STREET

Illumination From the Ferry to Van Ness Avenue

Two strings of incandescent lights, stretched from the ferry to Van Ness avenue, will make night as day in Market street when the fleet arrives. Plans submitted by Raphael Well of the committee for illuminations, providing for the illumination of that thoroughfare for two whole weeks between twilight and 1 o'clock a. m., at a total cost of \$3,500, were accepted by the fleet committee yesterday.

On 2 1/2 poles placed along Market street and Van Ness avenue 2,500 American flags will flutter through the celebration. And on each of the light poles in the center of Van Ness avenue two shields, three feet high and painted with stars and borders similar to those on the bow of a warship, will be placed.

Another plan of Well's was to festoon the Dewey monument in Union square with strings of lights. This, in commemoration of Dewey day, when it is hoped the admiral will be in San Francisco. Steps also will be taken to surround the square with strings of electric lights, which will present a striking illumination to the city.

Secretary Metcalf and Admiral Dewey have wired their formal acceptances to be guests at the mayor's reception and banquet on the night of May 8. The responses were read at the meeting by Mayor Taylor.

Frank J. Symmes, who left a week ago carrying greetings from San Francisco to Admiral Evans at Magdalena Bay, has arrived there, and is a guest on board the flagship Connecticut. The following are the names of the officers making the official itinerary of the fleet between now and its arrival in this city, as received. It follows:

J. D. Phelan, Fleet Reception Committee, San Francisco, 10th and Market streets, May 1, San Diego, April 14, San Pedro, April 18, Santa Barbara, April 23, Santa Cruz, May 1, San Francisco, May 5, 1908.

FLEET FUND IS GROWING

Subscriptions Are Added and Total Is Now \$48,552.50

The fleet fund took a decided jump yesterday, when subscriptions totaling \$1,738 were received. This brings the total to \$48,552.50, and before Saturday A. A. Watkins, chairman of the finance committee, says it will have passed the \$50,000 mark.

GLOBE GIRDLING

Fleet Excited by News of Plan to Return by Way of Suez Canal

Big Guns Are Blazing at Floating Targets in Magdalena Bay

MAGDALENA, March 17, via San Pedro, March 25.—The news that the fleet was to continue its cruise after reaching San Francisco and complete the circumnavigation of the globe by way of Honolulu, Sydney and Manila and the Suez canal, was received aboard the flagship Connecticut today. It was at once transmitted to the commanding officers of the various battleships. The news excited the greatest interest and was the most absorbing topic of conversation since the fleet started from Hampton Roads.

Rear Admiral Thomas, who will be the senior rear admiral after Admiral Evans retires, received the Associated Press correspondent aboard his flagship, the Minnesota, this afternoon and commented briefly upon the great trip ahead. He said: "It can be easily accomplished by this fleet. In fact, it will be easier than the present cruise has been. While there are many long trips between stops, every one of our modern battleships is capable of making a round trip with them, with some to spare. We shall have better coaling facilities at Honolulu, Samoa, Sydney and Cebu than we have had in former places we have visited on this trip.

As I glance over it, no difficulties of moment present themselves. The only one of tremendous length, making the one we are completing seem small by comparison. It would only take the last of December before we would reach New York.

Sunday was not a day of respite for the hard worked crews of the Atlantic fleet. All day long from early light till 5 o'clock on the morning the big guns boomed on the target ranges, the great hissing shells tore out across the smooth, unrudder waters of the bay, smashing ragged rents in the white canvas targets and throwing tons of water high in the air. The men worked with almost frenzied activity in the turrets and casemates and exposed batteries. The ships sailed around the target ranges, the guns blazing forth with wild screams and booming and came on to the range. The din on board was deafening, the effect electrical and thrilling.

Officers and men on decks and in the gunrooms go about with their ears stuffed with cotton their hearing may not be injured. Many wear a patent celluloid protector inside of the ear, which saves the sensitive membrane from shock.

Guns of nearly all sizes are being fired on the sharp barking three pounders to four and five pounders, seven and eight inch calibers. The largest guns, the 12 and 13 inch sort, are to be the last fired.

The Kansas and Vermont have been firing with their preliminary practice Saturday, Sunday and Monday. The Kansas had already fired most of her guns in preliminary work, but the Vermont had fired none. The Kansas finished the preliminary work Monday morning, and the Vermont finished being taken on Range No. 1 by the Illinois. The Kansas will not get a chance at record practice for two weeks. Several of the others have already begun their preliminary practice on the Illinois, Maine and Minnesota. The record firing will occupy about four days to the ship. With four ships on the range at one time it should be completed some time between April 5 and 10. It is upon the record practice that the percentage tables are computed and the trophy for battleships awarded.

GOLDEN KEY FINISHED

San Diegans to Present Rich Token to Evans

SAN DIEGO, March 25.—The gold key which is to be presented by the people of San Diego to Admiral Robley D. Evans in token of the freedom of the city has been finished. The key is made of California gold and gems, and represents a value of nearly \$300. The top of the key is in the shape of a heart and is set with pearls and diamonds from the island of Magdalena Bay, and holds in its center an immense pink tourmaline, which alone is valued at \$100. A green tourmaline is set immediately below the circle of pearls.

RELIEF CORPS ORPHANAGE MANAGEMENT CRITICISED

State Controller Refuses to Draw Warrant for the Institution

There is trouble on foot between the Women's relief corps and the state authorities in regard to the conduct of the relief corps' orphanage at Vallejo. It has culminated in Controller Nye refusing to draw a warrant for the monthly amount paid to the orphanage and a threat on the part of the managers to take the matter into the courts.

Some time ago a report became current that there were irregularities in the conduct of the orphanage, and an investigation was made by Valter F. Price of the state board of examiners. He went thoroughly into the affairs of the institution and a short time ago filed a report. He said that he had not found any financial irregularities, but he severely criticised the management of the orphanage. He stated that not only were the children neglected, but that the place was kept in an extremely unsanitary condition. The lives of the children were imperiled, he said, and in addition to that there was danger of an epidemic on account of the disease breeding surroundings and conditions. It was because of this report that Controller Nye refused to draw a warrant for the institution.

BARES THE SOUL OF MRS. EBBSMITH

Mrs. Patrick Campbell Makes the Most of Peculiar Pinero Play

Art of Clever Actress Is Incandescent, Illuminating and Disclosing

CAST OF CHARACTERS IN THE PINERO PLAY, "The Notorious Mrs. Ebb-smith"

Agnes.....Mrs. Patrick Campbell
Lucas Cleve.....Bon Webster
Egbert Cleve.....Miss Stella Patrick Campbell
Sir Sandford Cleve.....Edgar Kent
Duke of St. Ophers.....Edgar Kent
Gertrude Thorpe.....Miss Margaret Watson
Rev. Amos Winterfield.....Charles Garry
Sir George Broderick.....Wallace Aston
Dr. Kirk.....Malcolm Dewart
Fertuna.....Alden Lovett
Antonio Poppi.....Fred Phillips
Nella.....Miss Grace Illinois
Repsibah.....Miss Janet Gardner

By Walter Anthony

To render the impossible possible, to make the unreal real, to persuade that what is immoral isn't, would not be esteemed a light task for any actress, but Mrs. Patrick Campbell performs the miracle in "The Notorious Mrs. Ebb-smith" at the Novelty theater. For the mad Agnes, fanatical and visionary, she succeeded in engaging the sympathies of her great audience last night and made them wish that a happier fate might have been stored for the notorious Mrs. Ebb-smith. Such technic to paint a portrait, such power to project a soul's suffering from stage to the remotest seat in the theater has not been witnessed before at the Novelty.

Her art, in its incandescent, illuminating and inclusively disclosing, in one corner of Mrs. Ebb-smith's soul but what was bared last night, and the transitions from prophetic of a new idea, free love advocate and shouter of truth, to a woman who is an authentic woman were accomplished by the mere tone of her voice, the nod of her head or the significant waving of her hands. Whether the portrait of Mrs. Ebb-smith is worthy of such a finished artist's brush, we will not discuss; whether the play itself deserves the production and your time may also be questioned. If the essence of a play is action; then "The Notorious Mrs. Ebb-smith" is no more than a half hearted lecture for the closing of the production and conclusion; it is an argument in four addresses, of which two are for, and two—the last two—against the wild doctrine. Long, dreary wastes of dialogue, which Pinero by no means might have omitted, fill up much of the play's allotted four acts. The fact that the speeches are bright only serves to point out the emphasis of their unnecessary.

There is little element of suspense, because you know from the production the man who is partner to the unconventional compact is not actuated by the higher, though visionary, notions of the woman, and that the liaison cannot, fortunately, last.

The weaknesses of the supporting company were exhibited last night in the work of Ben Webster, the lover and recalcitrant husband. He failed to say anything convincing, though there were times when the element of verisimilitude crept into his interpretation of the vain egotist and egotist, Lucas Cleve. Miss Stella Campbell appears only in the last act, but did good work in her single scene. The rest of the cast, except Edgar Kent, never rose above fair expressiveness. Kent, as the old duke was a satisfactory exponent of the variety of English aristocrat which Americans like to believe is typical.

SCHOOL CONTRACT AWARDED

The board of public works yesterday awarded the contract for heating and ventilating the Sunnyside school to Cronin's Eagle concrete works. The contract price is \$4,497. Secretary Loughrey was instructed to advertise for bids for the installation of heating and ventilating systems in the Sunnyside grammar, Winfield Scott, Monroe and Laguna Honda schools.

PRESIDENT CONGRATULATED

MAGDALENA BAY, March 15, via San Pedro, Cal., March 25.—A wireless message has been received by Rear Admiral Evans from President Roosevelt congratulating him on his arrival at Magdalena Bay in advance of the scheduled time.

"BIG BARNEY" McNERNEY DEAD

Bartlett McNERNEY, who had charge of the cable of the California street car line for 39 years, died yesterday at his home, 2922 Pine street, after a short illness. To the travelers of the cable line he was a familiar character and was known by all as "Big Barney." He was a native of County Longford, Ireland, and was 60 years old. A wife survives him.

POLICEMAN EXONERATED

OAKLAND, March 25.—Thomas J. Golden, a saloon keeper, withdrew his charge against a policeman, Police Officer Charles A. Fife from the board of fire and police commissioners today. As a result of this action the allegations of the saloonman, growing out of a dispute in which Golden was arrested, were dismissed without prejudice to the patrolman.

A Sale of Colored Velvet Ribbons at About the Wholesale Cost

AN offering of much interest to home milliners who are planning their summer hats. The remainder of a dealer's stock, in all not more than 2,000 yards, of high class colored, satin-back, velvet ribbons—in an assortment of the most wanted colors, including

- 1-4-inch width Special 15c yd
- Copenhagen Blue
- Light Blues
- Navy Blue
- Pinks
- Browns
- Greens
- 2 and 2 1/2-inch Special 35c yd

Wash Goods 25c yd Very Special

A PURCHASE of many thousands of yards of new, fresh Wash Fabrics, the remainders of several jobbers' and wholesalers' stocks, now on sale at about the price dealers have to pay. So immense was the quantity that as good selections can be made today as on Monday, when the sale began. There are—

- Figured and Dotted Swisses on Colored or White Grounds.
- Printed Silk Dot Muslin, French Tissues, Jacquard Silks, Sheer Printed Organdies, Printed Dimities, Imported Voile Tissues, Soie Mirage, Silk Organdies—Choice of them all at 25c yd

Sale price way below the market values—yard..... 58c

Calaveras Dam Site to Be Viewed

Supervisors to Inspect Spring Valley Holdings Before Fixing Water Rates

The supervisors before resuming their investigations into the affairs of the Spring Valley company, preliminary to fixing the water rates to be charged consumers during the coming fiscal year, will inspect the company's holdings in Santa Clara county. Accompanied by City Engineer Marsden Macomber, Assistant Engineer Connelley and Expert Dockweiler, they will proceed to San Jose Friday afternoon and remain over night at the Vendome, so that they will be able to make an early start Saturday morning for the proposed Calaveras dam site at the base of Mount Hamilton. The trip will be made in automobiles.

At least 10 of the supervisors will be in the party, and the others will also go if they can arrange their business affairs so as to permit of their leaving the city. The Calaveras site will be studied as to its availability and value to the city as a portion of the water supply system. The other properties of the company on the peninsula will be visited, as the supervisors hope to gain much information that will assist them in the investigation.

The members of the health and finance committees of the board will visit the farmhouse and the temporary county hospital at Ingleside Friday morning to examine the buildings, ascertain how the patients are being cared for and learn if anything is required to improve their condition. Mayor Taylor and Mrs. Taylor, Dr. Ophuls, Federal Surgeon Blue and several prominent members of the hospital aid association will be in the visiting party.

Experts to Examine Gas Company's Plant

Supervisors Also Ask for an Investigation of Its Accounts

As a preliminary step toward fixing the gas rate for the coming year four members of the finance committee of the board of supervisors—Broderick, Johnston, Murphy and Jennings—at a meeting last night decided to consult with experts with the idea of engaging them to examine the plant and accounts of the San Francisco gas and electric company. The supervisors are of the opinion that it will be impossible for them to adjust the rate if they are in possession of the figures of the experts. Supervisor Murphy suggested that Chairman Jennings of the committee confer with A. M. Hunt, the well known engineer, with regard to securing an estimate of the gas company's plant and John Petter, A. A. Stewart and May Laird & Co. in connection with the experting of the books of the corporation. The supervisors intend to have every item concerned in the making and selling of gas thoroughly gone over. After these have been submitted, it is expected that the task of fixing the gas rate will be much more simple.

Soldier Prisoner Flees and Is Shot Down

Desperate Attempt at Escape Ends With Three Bullets in His Body

Goaded to frenzy by a sentence of two years' imprisonment, Edward Price, a private in the Twenty-second infantry, made a desperate attempt yesterday to run the gauntlet of 50 armed guards at the Presidio. Price now lies in the Presidio hospital with three bullets in his body, and hovers between life and death. After having finished the menial service that falls to the lot of the soldier under court martial, Price lined himself up with a number of other prisoners to be taken to the messroom for dinner. Up to the time of an attempt to desert a year ago he had held a clean record, and had the esteem of his officers. The sentence of imprisonment weighed heavily on him. A captive under sentence, on the eve of being transported to Alcatraz, a disgraced soldier, chained to hard work and shackled to ignominious tasks, Price determined to take his life in his own hands, to be free or to die in the attempt. As he stood in line Price meditated escape. The line moved slowly toward the mess. There was some confusion and the soldier made his desperate leap for liberty. He had traveled but a few feet when his action was discovered. The guards with military celerity brought their muskets to their shoulders. "Halt," cried Corporal Sheerer of Sixty-sixth company. But the fleeing prisoner did not heed the command, and three rifles barked. Price dropped to the ground seriously wounded. One of the bullets entered the prisoner's abdomen. He was removed to the hospital. Price served one enlistment with the Eleventh cavalry, and was on his second enlistment with but three months to serve when he made his first attempt to escape a year ago.

START TO LAY TRACKS REDWOOD CITY, March 25.—Track laying was begun today on the Dunbarton cutoff between this point and the bridge approach on the westerly side of the bay. A crew of 60 men is at work.

Buying Bonds for the Children

Every day far sighted fathers and mothers are sending us orders for bonds for their children. People of moderate means pay \$16 down and \$10 a month. When they get this bond it is put away in a safe place for the child. While the little ones are growing the bond is earning money and becoming more valuable every day. A \$96 investment today means a nest egg of from \$185 to \$225 when the child becomes of age. Ocean Shore bonds are absolutely safe because they are secured by a \$5,000,000 mortgage. Full information free.

Ocean Shore Railway Co. 58 Eleventh St., San Francisco. ALSO 1651 FILLMORE ST.—OPEN UNTIL 8 P.M.

A Day in Blossom Land and back for \$2.00. Saratoga's Blossom Festival will be held Saturday, March 28, amid the sweet scenting blossoms of the Santa Clara Valley Fruit Orchards. An opportunity for the children to enjoy a trip to the country. Ask Southern Pacific Agents for details.

Low Rates of Fare From or to all points east and Europe. Through cars personally conducted to Washington, D. C. Call for rates or send to P. K. Gordon, Washington, Sunset road, Flood building, 874 Market street, San Francisco, for particulars.

Invitations Accepted Secretary Metcalf Will Come and Admiral Dewey "If Able" Mayor Taylor yesterday received the following replies from Secretary of the Navy Metcalf and Admiral Dewey to his telegraphic invitation to them to attend the banquet to be given in honor of the battleship fleet: WASHINGTON, March 25, 1908.—Hon. Edward H. Taylor, Mayor of San Francisco: Accept invitation to May 5 with pleasure. V. H. METCALF, Secretary. WASHINGTON, March 25, 1908.—Edward R. Taylor, Mayor of San Francisco: If able to visit Pacific coast in May will gladly accept kind invitation to banquet. GEORGE DEWEY.