

The San Francisco Call

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RESPONSIBILITY RESTS ON SUPERIOR JUDGES

It appears that not the legislature but the superior court judges of this city are to blame for the oppressive rule that compels plaintiffs in personal injury suits for damages to deposit in advance the sum of \$34 a day for costs where a trial by jury is demanded.

At the same time measures should be taken to expedite the trial of such cases. They are, in fact, matters of real urgency, because the sufferers by accident are usually left without means of support, and delay of the sort practiced in the local courts often means a complete denial of justice.

Obviously this is a scandalous condition, the responsibility for which rests on the superior court judges. It is a condition, moreover, that they have the power to correct.

SUPPRESSED TESTIMONY ABOUT WARSHIPS

The impression gains ground that the senate naval committee was not at all eager to go deeply into the controversy concerning the most advantageous placing of the armor belt on battleships. It is a thorny dispute that splits the navy department in two factions.

A significant fact in this regard is found in the suppression, as far as the hearings were concerned, of a letter written by Rear Admiral Evans last summer to the commanding officers of the ships under his flag.

It will be remembered that all our ships are now of greater displacement than that of their original design, and in consequence they not only have an increased draught of water, but in the case of armored ships their armor belt is practically awash at load draft, which leaves them, as far as protection is concerned, but little better than armored cruisers.

This letter is on file with the naval committee, but it was not made part of the testimony. In the same line of suppression is the withholding of a recommendation made by the general board of the navy in 1906, which contains this passage:

The military value of our completed battleships will be much increased by any reduction of weights, since with few exceptions they carry their armor belts too low to protect the water line when they are loaded for sea.

The naval committee apparently has dropped the inquiry, in accordance with the temporizing policy of avoiding all controversial matter during the imminence of a national campaign. The public might have accepted that policy without remark or objection were it not for suspicions aroused by these disclosures about the methods of the committee in the way of suppressing important testimony from the people best qualified to pronounce an opinion.

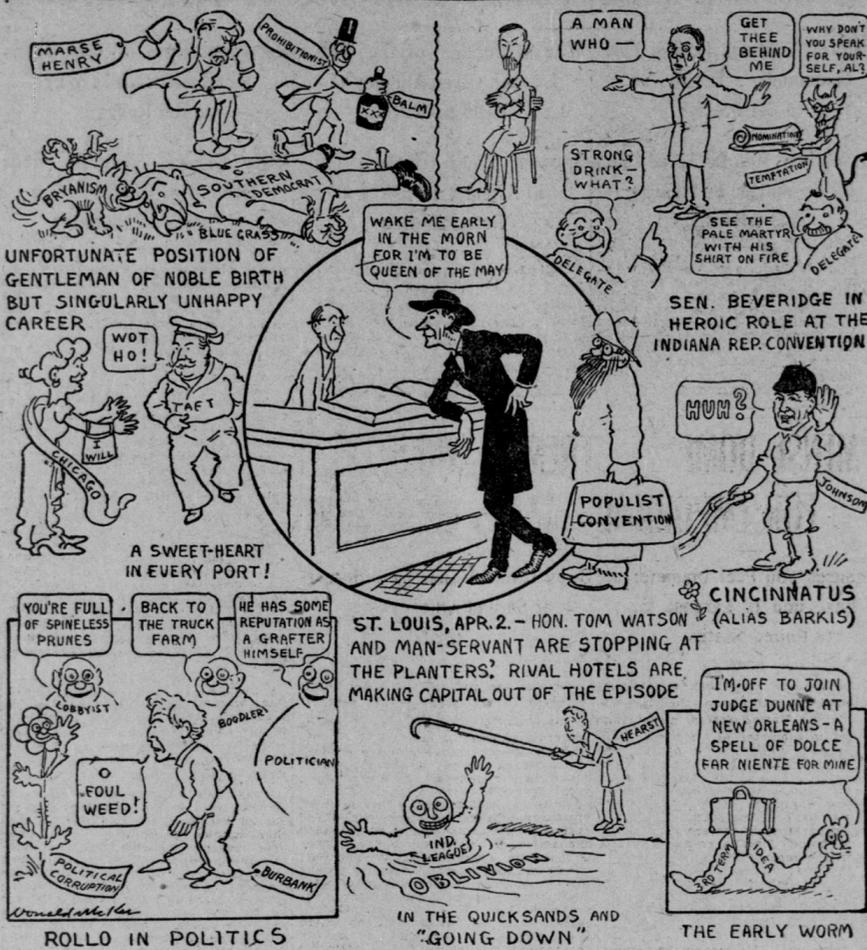
THE HARRIMAN PANIC

The Harriman propaganda, of which Dr. Ainsworth is the latest exponent, might be more prosperous in exploitation of the so called "Roosevelt panic" for political purposes if the actual facts of the situation fitted more closely with what Mr. Harriman wishes to make people believe. Dr. Ainsworth, who is merely the echo of somebody higher up, wants to persuade people that Roosevelt must bear the blame for dismissal of a third of the Southern Pacific working force.

Beginning with the Great Northern, which is near the Canadian border, and coming down the Pacific coast to the Mexican border, thus including the Northern Pacific, the Southern Pacific and the Santa Fe systems, each one increased its total operating revenues in the last half of 1907 over those revenues for the last half of 1906, while the net income was in some cases increased and in others slightly decreased; the net income from operation in each of these lines being: Santa Fe, \$13,000,000; Northern Pacific, \$18,000,000; Great Northern, \$13,000,000, and Southern Pacific, \$41,000,000 for the six months. Taking freight revenues alone the Santa Fe system, for instance, shows larger freight revenues in December than in July or September, and the Southern Pacific's December freight revenues were but a few thousand dollars less than that month than in any other month, excepting October and November.

Mr. Lane's figures are officially furnished by the railroads in compliance with the Hepburn law and are authentic. They lend support to the discouraging suspicion that the panic, so far as it

The Lull Before the Storm



UNFORTUNATE POSITION OF GENTLEMAN OF NOBLE BIRTH BUT SINGULARLY UNHAPPY CAREER
SEN. BEVERIDGE IN HEROIC ROLE AT THE INDIANA REP. CONVENTION
A SWEET-HEART IN EVERY PORT!
ST. LOUIS, APR. 2.—HON. TOM WATSON AND MAN-SERVANT ARE STOPPING AT THE PLANTERS' RIVAL HOTELS ARE MAKING CAPITAL OUT OF THE EPISODE

GIANNINI, CRUSADER

A SUPERVISOR who loves his fellow man—the term man includes woman—in a platonic spirit feels chagrined because certain ill-mannered people come in late and tramp down the aisles of a theater while the play is in progress.

One would not undertake to say that Dr. Giannini's enterprise is rash, preferring to regard his plan for the diffusion of good manners on compulsion from the top of a philosophical fence, content to urge the wordy scrap from afar.

The more civilized we become the less free. This was once a free country, when the North American Indian roamed the woods and prairies and owned them all. When the white man came he took to burning villages. It is the first mark of civilization to mind your neighbor's business.

There are inspiring potentialities in the line of the compulsory civilization that Dr. Giannini has marked out for himself and his neighbors. Is a supervisor discovered in the act of eating peas with his knife? Make it a misdemeanor and send him to the county jail.

There is more in civilization than the cheerful whistle of the peanut roaster and the beguiling glitter of the great white way. It is time for the sociologist to write a book on the subjection of man.

NOTE AND COMMENT

Forester Pinchot appears to sort of have his enemies up a tree.
Venezuela is fortunate that Uncle Sam's patience is so greatly in excess of Castro's sense.
There is no doubt that Ruef, through force of habit, would object if offered his own selection of judge and jury.

Answers to Queries

FOR THE INSANE—J. E. M. Aptos, Cal. How many hospitals are there in California for the care of the insane, and where are they located?
ASSEMBLYMAN—A. A. Oakland, Cal. What are the duties of an assemblyman and what is he allowed in California per diem and for mileage and expenses?
MIGNONETTE—Subscriber, City. Whence came the flower called mignonette, and what does it mean in the language of flowers?
FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH—Jeane, Pleasanton, Cal. What island is reputed as containing the fountain of youth?

The Insider

Tells how fellow church members were affected by Abe Ruef's gift of violets and ferns to Christian Endeavor workers at county jail

Violets Reward Endeavor Girls
LAST Sunday a devoted band of Christian Endeavor workers went to the county jail to sing and pray with the prisoners. Afterward they returned to their church, and it was noticed that every one of the young women carried an immense bunch of violets and maidenhair.

Chinatown Church Founder Returns
Rev. J. B. Hartwell arrived from China last week and is visiting friends in Oakland. Dr. Hartwell has grown gray in the missionary service, and his hair and beard are snow white.

Voices Demanded of Chorus Girls
"Wanted—Chorus people who can sing." This is the opening sentence of an ad in Sunday's papers, placed by a comic opera management. It must be rather discouraging to a chorus aspirant who has only a good fleshing figure for qualifications to read that a voice also is necessary.

The Smart Set
AFTER a visit of nearly two months in San Francisco Mrs. George Harding will leave town on Monday evening next and return to her own home in Philadelphia.

Brazil's Black Diamonds
From a comparatively small area in the central portion of the state of Bahia are taken almost if not all of the world's entire supply of the black diamonds of commerce, used for the purposes of what is known as the diamond drill.

Vegetable Isinglass
Consul General Henry B. Miller of Yokohama makes the following report on the export of agar agar (vegetable colle or isinglass) from Japan: According to the local press, it is stated that agar agar, derived from seaweed, may possibly replace gelatin as a basis for photographic processes.

European Armies
In return just presented to parliament the total of the land forces of the crown at home and abroad on the active list is given as 445,731, as compared with Germany's 610,000, France's 677,581 and Austria's 409,688.

Conditions in California
The California Promotion committee wired to its eastern bureau yesterday as follows: California temperatures for the last 24 hours:
Eureka.....Minimum 40.....Maximum 52
San Francisco.....Minimum 47.....Maximum 67
San Diego.....Minimum 46.....Maximum 60