

The San Francisco Call

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WATER POWER FRANCHISES

THE right to use water powers should never be granted in perpetuity. They should be treated exactly as street railway franchises are treated. Their value rests on the same basis.

This, in brief, is the principle underlying President Roosevelt's veto of a bill granting rights to erect a dam in Rainy river. In his message explaining the veto, the president warns congress that other bills of the same sort are pending which propose to give away without price water rights capable of developing 1,300,000 horsepower.

That is an immense step in advance. It establishes the principle and brings home to the people in the manner in which their rights have been neglected or even suffered to lapse by default.

JUSTICE FOR THE SUFFERING JUROR

A SUGGESTION that may offer some relief for the law's delay and the existing disgraceful condition of court practice in California was made at a recent dinner given by the Los Angeles bar association.

Do away with all attempt to instruct juries in the law; these instructions are never understood and never followed, yet form the basis for one-third the reversals by the appellate court.

The layman who sits in court and listens while the trial judge drones over a confused procession of instructions, usually stated with muddy and involved construction, wonders while he tries to keep awake what it is all about. The whole performance makes no sort of impression on the mind of a juror save that of weariness and he usually dismisses them all without further thought.

We hope to see the bar associations of San Francisco and Los Angeles take up with enthusiasm the proposition made by District Attorney Fredericks. These useful and energetic agencies of civilization are ever in the van of progress.

PLAINT OF AN ARMY WIFE

"An officer's wife" writes a vivid letter to the Boston Transcript, describing the sufferings and tribulations of the woman who follows the flag and tries to keep house on a subaltern's pay.

The infantry regiments (poorest paid and hardest worked in the service) move back and forth across the Pacific ocean every other year, and change of station twice or even three times a year is no unusual fact.

Discouraging of uniforms and the multiplicity thereof this rebellious critic declares that "the pattern of them is changed every time the general staff thinks of it." Indeed, the whole letter sounds like mutiny.

By a sorrowful process of elimination over which she has no control the army wife is compelled to conclude that she is superfluous and not contemplated by the war department. Yet, with a parting fling, she drives this javelin home: "So long as our commander in chief holds his present views on race suicide his army would seem no safe place for a bachelor."

Spring Valley Appeals to the People for Indorsement of a Scheme to Hold Them Up

SPRING VALLEY turns now to the people, seeking their indorsement and approval of the revised scheme for a hold up of rate payer or tax payer or both. The voluminous statement of the company's somewhat threatening proposition, published in all the city dailies as full page advertisements, was addressed to the special water committee of the board of supervisors, but was, in reality, aimed at the people.

1—The company will not sell the plant to the city unless it receives a bonus of \$10,000,000 on the present market price of the property.
2—The company will not increase the water supply unless the water rate payers furnish the necessary capital.

Taking these propositions in their order, the company demands \$32,000,000 for the whole property, this being the par value of the stock and bonds. It will scarcely be pretended by the most ardent advocate that this total represents cash actually paid in.

If the market price is considered too low, the valuation of the whole property made by the city engineer is, in round figures, \$25,000,000. No reason is advanced by the company why the city should pay \$7,000,000 more than the expert valuation and \$10,000,000 more than any other purchaser is willing to pay.

The Call cannot believe that the Spring Valley water company really wants to sell its property for \$32,000,000 or any other price. The history of Spring Valley prices and valuations would make a diverting tale. One day its valuation of its plant is \$45,000,000 in response to the boosting of a handy chorus of hydraulic engineers in the pay of the company.

Stripped of all disguise, this is the naked proposition made by the company. First of all the company asks the rate payers to furnish \$200,000 to increase the present supply from 35,000,000 gallons daily to 40,000,000 gallons. Then it asks that money from income be provided to develop the Calaveras watershed to 100,000,000 gallons daily.

If the water consumers of San Francisco could be persuaded to construct a plant doubling the present capacity and make it a gift to the company in the name of "operating expenses," how agreeable that would be!

It may be worth while to add that the rates demanded by the company would pay about 20 per cent on the market value of the stock. The directors say they would be content to declare 4 per cent dividends, which would amount to nearly 10 per cent on the market value of the stock.

The Call has no desire to be unjust or unfair to the Spring Valley water company, but it has little patience with a plea that is an insult to the intelligence of the community.

view in these matters, and, indeed, it is doubtless the man's opinion likewise, although lacking expression out of regard for the obligations of discipline.

Answers to Queries

PLEAS—Subscriber, City. How can fleas be driven from a house?

Pleas abound particularly in the nests of pigeons, swallows and barnyard poultry, upon dogs, cats and rats, and wherever it out and harboring places in the abodes of men.

ITALY—Subscriber, City. What is the present constitution of Italy?

The present constitution of Italy is an expansion of the statute fondamentale del regno, granted March 4, 1848, by King Charles Albert to his Sardinian subjects.

LIMITED—T. J. M. City. Please explain what is meant by the word "limited" as applied to corporations and banks.

The term is a purely English one, but is said to have been invented in France and improved upon by English promoters. America has adopted it and its use is spreading.

THE CHARLESTON—J. K. L. City. Was the cruiser Charleston the first war vessel built at the Union iron works, San Francisco?

The Charleston was the first ironclad built at the Union iron works in 1857. It was wrecked on one of the islands of the Philippine group in 1889.

SULLIVAN ROBINSON—J. B. City. When and where was the fight between John L. Sullivan and George M. Robinson?

It took place in the Mechanics' pavilion, in Larkin street, March 6, 1884, and Sullivan won in four rounds. It was a fiasco, not amounting to a fight, for every time Sullivan rushed at Robinson the latter would go to the mat.

POLL TAX—H. M. Oakland, Cal. Before the Spanish-American war did the women as well as the men in the Philippines have to pay a poll tax?

That was one of the sources of income to the Spanish government. The government collected an annual poll tax from every man and woman under 60 years of age.

LOSS OF LIFE—Subscriber, Los Gatos. Are more lives lost at sea by shipwreck than are lost by train wreck?

Statistics assert that the loss of life by railroad wrecks in the United States yearly is six times greater than loss by shipwrecks all over the world.

DIAMONDS—Subscriber, City. How are diamonds in the rough told from other crystals?

Genuine diamond in the rough looks like crystallized gravel. There is no smooth surface. As a rule the diamond is found in blue clay.

WARTS—N. W. City. What will remove warts from the hands?

It is said that rubbing them with a moistened piece of mullate of ammonia will make them dwindle until they disappear. The rubbing should be night and morning.

CONVENTIONS—H. S. Newman, Cal. Where are the national republican and democratic conventions to be held this year?

Republican in Chicago; democratic in Denver.

The Smart Set

MRS. PAUL BANCROFT has sent out cards for a large bridge party which will take place in her Jackson street home on Wednesday, April 22. It will be enjoyed by a representative gathering of society's matrons.

The Ferdinand Stevensons are among the many society folk who will spend the season at Ross, having taken a handsome house there for the summer. They will move in Friday of this week.

Mrs. Henry W. Dodge was hostess at a large luncheon on Saturday last, to which 14 of the smart set's matrons were bidden.

William Carrigan, who has been the guest of his brother, Andrew Carrigan, since he returned from New York last fall, is now in Bolinas, where he will spend several weeks.

Herbert Jones, who left the city about two weeks ago, is now at Castle Hot Springs, Ariz., where he will spend several weeks before traveling further south.

Some of the society maids and matrons who will act as a reception committee at the afternoon meeting yesterday at the Studio building, where the affair will take place, to discuss the details.

Miss Edith Bull, Miss Mabel Toy, Mrs. John Chase, Mrs. Ernest McCool, Miss Ruth Gedney, Miss Rachel Emery, Miss William Harrison, Miss Josephine Lindley, Mrs. Andrew Wells, Jr., Mrs. G. L. Baker, Mrs. Arda Bertheau, Mrs. Philip Clay, Mrs. Beatrice Hyde, Mrs. Charles Harte, Mrs. W. B. Humphreys, Mrs. John H. Hays, Mrs. William Watt, Miss Laila Westenberg.

Mrs. L. L. Baker leaves town today for Santa Barbara, where she will spend a fortnight. She is accompanied by her daughter, Miss Dorothy, who is a student at the Gamble school.

Gossip of the Railwaymen

C. W. Durbrow, the eminent Southern Pacific attorney, took a hand in Mill Valley politics and consequently incurred the wrath of his opponents in the campaign just ended.

"How can I make my speech?" belted Durbrow to the delighted audience. "He has stolen my notes."

C. S. Fee, passenger traffic manager of the Southern Pacific, returned last night from Chicago, where he has been attending meetings of the transcontinental association.

The train service to Los Gatos over the new Los Altos cutoff, effective Sunday, will consist of five daily trains each way.

According to railroadmen who have been through the cherry district sizing up the output, the crop bids fair to be the largest on record.

Transcontinental lines have authorized the republicanization of the rate on agricultural implements carried by westbound transcontinental tariff No. I. G. to exclude hand implements, gasoline engines, farm wagons and trucks.

The Southern Pacific will have spent the sum of \$480,000 when the additions to its fleet of ferry boats and tugs are complete.

The first of this new equipment, the Alaska, a 100-ton ferry boat, was launched a few days ago. This vessel cost \$150,000.

The new first big tug which is being built at Seattle and is nearly finished, will cost \$75,000. The most expensive of the new craft will be a passenger ferry boat on the plan of the Berkeley, which is to cost \$275,000.

The Southern Pacific has asked for bids and the contract is open to all shipyards of the country. The company intends also to build a new Sacramento river boat, which will cost \$80,000.

C. L. Canfield of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul received a cablegram yesterday from F. A. Miller, general passenger agent of the road, and from J. H. Hild, third vice president, announcing that they would be in San Francisco on May 1.

An amendment has been authorized by the transcontinental lines to the item in the westbound tariff No. 1, G, covering bedsteads, etc., to cover brass and iron bedsteads, with rates as follows: Chicago and east \$1.50 per 100 pounds, Mississippi river \$1.45 and Missouri river \$1.40.

E. T. Fleming, who is at present with the Chicago and Northwestern as soliciting freight agent, will on the first of May join the forces of the Rock Island lines.

H. J. Snyder, general agent of the Mexican Central, left last night for a trip through the northwest and expects to be absent for at least two weeks.

C. Christie of New York are at the Colonial. Among the arrivals at the Hamlin are James M. Arundel of New Zealand and G. C. Coale of Cleveland, O.

Personal Mention

R. P. Hornwell of Eureka is at the New Lick. Richard Westhook of Los Angeles is registered at the Fairmont.

F. W. Barnwell of San Jose and C. E. Fink of Dixon are at the Blair. L. Brown of Oroville and E. P. Hillborn of Sacramento are at the Dale.

Dr. J. B. Blodgett of Tulare and A. K. Christie of New York are at the Colonial. Among the arrivals at the Hamlin are James M. Arundel of New Zealand and G. C. Coale of Cleveland, O.

Among arrivals at the Van Dorn yesterday were J. F. Cheatham of Seattle and James Murphy of San Jose. After a visit of seven weeks in the east John H. McGregor, president of the Union iron works, returned yesterday.

Although the freedom of the city has never before been presented in a similar way, Miss Florence Nightingale is not the first lady to receive that honor, as within recent years two ladies who had been given the freedom of one of the city companies have been admitted to the freedom of the city. This first was the late Baroness Bury, dett-Coutts and the second the Hon. Mrs. Evelyn Cecil, who as the Hon. Alicia Amherst was given the freedom of the Gardeners' company in October, 1810, and was admitted to the freedom of the city at the Guildhall in December of that year.

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Conditions in California

The California Promotion committee wired to its eastern bureau yesterday as follows: California temperatures for the last 24 hours: Eureka Minimum 46 Maximum 50 San Francisco Minimum 50 Maximum 54 San Diego Minimum 56 Maximum 64

Locust Plague in Colombia

The locust which has been ravaging the department of Bolivar, in Colombia, South America, for the last two years shows no diminution in numbers, and is said to be the condition of a good part of the agricultural district of this department is lamentable.