

The San Francisco Call

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A BULLET AND ITS BILLET

EMILE ZOLA has been conceded by contemporary critics to be the greatest modern exponent of realism in the art of literature. His fidelity to detail and his ability to present vividly the thing as it is lifted him to a place beside Flaubert, whose "Madame Bovary" and "Salambo" are the highest achievements in the school of realism.

Yet, amid a pomp that was not accorded to Voltaire and with ceremony equaling that which attended the interment of Victor Hugo, the casket containing the mortal remains of Emile Zola was borne through the portals of the temple of fame.

This supreme honor was conferred on the man whose petition to be numbered with the immortals of the academy had been repeatedly refused, and it was conferred, not because he was a great and famous author, nor because he was the leader of a great school of literature, but because he had risked all he had gained by life long effort in advocacy of a cause that the world deemed lost, proving to that world, in spite of the caste inspired fanaticism of a strongly entrenched military oligarchy, that France had committed one of the basest crimes of modern history.

Zola lies with Voltaire and Victor Hugo because he was a hero in the battle for human justice; because, like Voltaire, he fought for equality of French citizenship before the law and, like Hugo, contended for the rights of man and the honor of France. But even in death, pedestaled in the highest niche that his countrymen could reserve for one whom they would reverence among the nation's time honored names, Zola could not escape the hatred that he had inspired in the hearts of those whom he had denounced as traitors to France and, therefore, unworthy of the name of Frenchmen.

THE WATER RATE DEADLOCK

A DEADLOCK more stringent than ever is announced as the condition existing between the city and the Spring Valley water company. The corporation insists that the city shall pay for rehabilitation of the water plant and give the owners of the monopoly at least 6 per cent on an investment that they have not made and will not even promise to make.

The supervisors have treated the corporation generously—more generously than the exactions of the monopoly in the past would seem to demand in any fair adjustment of benefits and oppressions credited and charged to the account of the water corporation. It has been proposed that the rates be increased 12 1/2 per cent over those of 1902, and that a hydrant rate of \$2.50 be established, on condition that the company shall furnish conduits sufficient to supply the city with 5,000,000 gallons of water daily in excess of the quantity now supplied. The corporation demands a 14 per cent increase, and will not promise to use any part of that increased income in the betterment of its facilities for supplying this city with water.

The issue is very plain. All that is asked of the water company is to construct conduits from overflowing reservoirs to the pipes of consumers, whose law makers are willing to make them pay more for the service than they have ever paid. The corporation refuses to do this until its own coffers are full of dividends, and, with an effrontery brazen but characteristic, threatens a "water famine" if its demand is not granted.

In justice to the water rate payers the supervisors can not recede from the position they have taken. The best evidence that can be procured absolutely confirms the extreme generosity of the proposition submitted to the corporation, and the company itself has not successfully combated the contention of the representatives of the people that the offer of the supervisors fully covers every item of necessary expense in the work of rehabilitation, with a good margin of profit on the investment at a just valuation. It is clear, therefore, that the water company is intent upon bullying the city into compliance with a demand that is not only unjust but, as far as the supervisors are concerned in their relations to the water consuming public, untenable and unfeasible.

The "water famine" bluff is that and nothing more. The monopoly merely hopes by this means to frighten the supervisors by insisting that it is imminent and, therefore, a menace to the credit of the city and a reason for high rates of insurance. Nero must have been something in the water monopoly line, for it is reported in history that he fiddled while Rome was burning. Perhaps he even created a "water famine" in the imperial city by refusing to permit the construction of conduits. If San Francisco

The Good Roads Barricade



is again burned somebody will be held strictly accountable for fiddling before the fire starts; and it is safe to predict that this responsibility will not rest on the board of supervisors.

RESPECT THE UNIFORM

CALIFORNIANS are puzzled to understand why so much prejudice exists in the eastern states against the uniform of the army and navy when worn by enlisted men of those services. We infer that it must be a prejudice against the uniform, because no objection is urged against the soldiers and sailors when they wear the clothes of the ordinary civilian and are willing to pay for entertainment or accommodation denied to them while wearing the national uniform.

The people of California have recently come in close contact with the sailors and marines of the United States navy, and have found them a body of superior men—sober, intelligent, courteous, well behaved in all society, and oftentimes endowed with native culture or fitted by education to associate with the best intellects in any community. Nothing more objectionable has been observed among these sailors and marines than would be found among an equal number of ordinary citizens.

For lack of a better reason to explain the eastern prejudice against these men when they demand the privileges of common citizens it has been suggested that the aversion is a foreign importation; that it really exists only among those who have cause or think they have cause to hate the emblem of an authority that, in Europe, is regarded as an oppression little short of despotism. If this is the true explanation it is time that the persons who urge it as an excuse for insulting the nation's uniform were taught that the conditions in this country are absolutely different from those which they found so obnoxious in other countries, or compelled to suppress their prejudice if they persist in their determination to deny equal privileges to all citizens, irrespective of the cut, color or character of the clothes they wear.

NOTE AND COMMENT

An Oakland man, in marrying, has become his own son in law through complexity of relationships. He can ask papa without a tremor for money to support the menage.

Better business methods are suggested by grand jury experts as the remedy for Alameda county graft. Note the saving grace of the adjective in this comparison of the methods of conducting the business of Alameda county.

The Portland Oregonian, commenting on the statement that Vallejo is only 36 hours from Portland, says "that's near enough." It is suspected that some sort of sarcasm lurks in the remark, but it is so ambiguous that it is impossible to determine whether it is at the expense of Vallejo or Portland.

\$150 for Best Republican Campaign Article

THE republican congressional committee offers \$150 for the best article not exceeding 1,000 words on the subject: Why the Republican Party Should Be Successful Next November. The competition is open to all. In judging the merits of contributions consideration will be given not only to style, arguments and facts presented, but to the convincing power, and it should be borne in mind that members of congress are to be elected as well as president and vice president. No manuscript will be returned, but will be the property of the committee. The best article will be widely used both in the newspapers of the country and in pamphlet form. The award will be made and check sent to successful contestant about August 15. Manuscripts must be mailed not later than July 15 to Literary Bureau, Republican Congressional Committee, Metropolitan Bank Building, Washington, D. C.

A Conservative Eastern Paper's View of the Graft Situation

From the Hartford Courant

THERE may have been a time when San Francisco sat beside the western gates as serenely indifferent as her post hymned her. It's a memory now if there was. She has anxieties now other than those born of the earthquake and the fire-anxieties which walk with every good citizen through the day, and disturb his dreams, and are there at the bedside waiting for him at his awaking. The visit of the battleships was a welcome distraction, a little season of relief for gratefulness. But they came and went—those splendid visitors from the sea. The black cares remain.

They have been appreciably aggravated by the miscarriage of justice in the Ruef case. Of Ruef's guilt there isn't a scintilla of doubt; it is flagrant, notorious; last year he confessed it himself. As little doubt is there that he will never be punished if money and influence—men with millions of their own and hundreds of millions of corporate wealth under their control—can save him. Ruef is no crude Sampson Brass. He's a university man, adroit, sly, unscrupulous. In that water of corruption—"business" and "politics" mixed and each making the other corrupter still—he was the principal go-between for the buyers and the bought. He's fighting for him now the financiers and corporations that acquired valuable franchises for a price through his agency are fighting for themselves. Since Special Prosecutor Heney (with Detective Burns' aid) procured the indictment of Patrick Calhoun, it's a duel to the death. We noted the complaint of the San Francisco Call and the San Francisco Bulletin that throughout the Ruef trial the spectators seated in the courtroom were packed by somebody with paid thugs. "For weeks," said the Bulletin last Friday, "Heney and Burns have been dogged by gangs of men in automobiles. One of these men is an ex-convict. From early morning until late at night these ruffians follow Heney and Burns, occasionally taunting them in the hope of provoking a fight. The police see the scandalous performance and do nothing." The San Francisco police are standing in with Ruef—their old boss—and his millionaire friends. One of Heney's witnesses, a former president of the board of supervisors who has turned state's evidence, is James Gallagher. A fortnight ago or so an attempt was made to murder him. Tuesday night three houses belonging to him were wrecked by dynamite by persons unknown. The Ruef jurors were out 43 hours. In that time they took 13 ballots. When they fled back into the courtroom to report their inability to agree, Ruef was reading a French novel. It quickly became known—indeed, their foreman

The Smart Set

THE wedding of Miss Beatrice Fife and Captain Edmond Shortlidge a week from next Wednesday promises to be one of the most brilliant military weddings of many seasons. It will be solemnized in St. Paul's church at 8 o'clock in the evening and will be witnessed by several hundred society people. The bride, who is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Fife, will wear a princess gown of white chiffon satin and carry lilies of the valley. Her five attendants, who will be Miss Dorothy Wood, Miss Frances Stewart, Miss Hilma Van Sickle, Miss Jeanette Deal and Miss Alice Wilson, will wear white net empire frocks, with Normandy bonnets of pink roses, and carry roses. Dr. Rupert Blue will attend the groom as best man, and four fellow officers of Captain Shortlidge will act as ushers. After the ceremony, which will be made especially impressive by military formality, the bridal party and a few intimate friends will adjourn to the Fife home in Lake street, where a wedding supper will be served. Captain Shortlidge and his bride will leave the same evening for their honeymoon trip, after which they will go to their new home in the east.

Mrs. M. A. Huntington and her daughter, Miss Marian, have closed their Pacific avenue home for a month and are guests at the Tahoe tavern. After their return to town they will begin preparations to make a winter trip to Europe, planning to sail from New York late in the fall.

Miss Maude Bourn, who has been visiting Miss Gertrude Josselyn in this city, returned to her home in Grass valley a few days ago. She will come down again in a few weeks to be the Josselyns' house guest for the wedding of Miss Josselyn and Gerald Rathbone, which is to take place on the 30th of this month.

Mrs. Albert Gerberding and her little daughter, Miss Beatrice, have returned to California after several years abroad and in the east. They were recently dinner guests here at the home of the Harry Bates, Mrs. Gerberding's son and daughter in law.

On Friday evening next there will be a dance at the Presidio, at which the officers and ladies of the post will be hosts. The affair, like all the Presidio dances, will take place in the assembly hall of the officers' club, and will be attended by several of the city's prominent society girls, as well as by the army set. A supper will be served at midnight, the affair breaking up an hour or two later. Several large dinners have been planned to precede the affair.

Lieutenant and Mrs. George Turner, who have been at the Presidio for a week, have left town for several months. Lieutenants Turner is on duty in the northern part of the state. Mrs. Turner was Miss Edith Brown, whose marriage a few weeks ago took place just before the departure of her parents, Captain and Mrs. Brown, for Manila.

Mrs. William S. Tevis has gone to Tahoe, where she will spend several weeks. She will visit friends in this city on her way south after leaving Tahoe.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene E. Bate have sent out cards announcing the marriage of their daughter, Helen Elizabeth, to George Hill Stoddard on Wednesday, June 3. Mr. Stoddard and his bride, who are now on their wedding journey, will make their home in this city after their return.

Impertinent Question No. 54

Why Don't You Take a Vacation? For the most original or wittiest answer to this question—the briefer the better—the Call will pay FIVE DOLLARS. For the next five answers The Call will pay ONE DOLLAR each. Prize winning answers will be printed next Wednesday and checks mailed to the winners at once. Make your answer short and address it to IMPERTINENT QUESTIONS, THE CALL. Winning Answers to "What's the Dearest Thing in California?" \$5 prize to Richard J. Curtis, 696 Valencia st., city. Every girl of the Golden West. To the Native Son who loves her best. \$1 prize to Miss Catherine Miller, box 150, Davisville. Justice; we can not seem to get it at any price. \$1 prize to H. Wrampelmeier, 2253 Piedmont av., Berkeley. I am; she told me so last night. \$1 prize to Agnes Dimond, 1243 11th av., Sunset district, city. "A. Dimond"—and it won't take a judge, jury and half a dozen lawyers to prove it, either. \$1 prize to F. A. Philbrick, Woodland. She is five feet seven and just twenty-two. Her hair is dark brown and her eyes are blue. \$1 prize to Bert Lackey, 2733 Folsom st., city. Guess I am—money can't seem to reach me, anyhow.

"Moral Paranoiac"

From the Fresno Republican

The San Francisco Chronicle is trying hard to explain its position on the graft prosecution. It cannot explain it. The Chronicle's course has been one of studied hostility to the prosecution, usually cowardly and sneakingly, but at times openly with the grafters. As soon as the prosecution demonstrated that it was not a class prosecution of the labor administration, but a class prosecution of the labor government, the Chronicle did its best to discredit and belittle the prosecution. Its whole course has shown a remarkable solicitude for the higher ups. At first violently against Ruef, it became as friendly as it dared be as soon as the higher boss again went over to the higher ups. Now it is complaining in a purely hypocritical manner because Ruef was not convicted, when it did its best to debauch public sentiment in San Francisco. In fact the Chronicle is more responsible than any other agency for the lamentable state of public opinion in San Francisco today. The Examiner has been ridiculing the grafters and covertly supporting the grafters, but it has little influence. The Chronicle, on the other hand, is a powerful agency for the grafters. Fortunately its course has been so rank that whatever influence it may have had is rapidly waning. It may now recede into the background of San Francisco's criminal cloud; it can no longer deceive any honest man.

The fact that the Chronicle has had constantly to apologize for its position and attempt to justify itself with its remaining decent clientele is a hopeful sign. It indicates that the people will not stand for a paper of the sort the Chronicle has been putting out. The Chronicle's cry that The Call has been attacking it because of envy is ridiculous. The Call has sprung into first position of the metropolitan papers. It beats the Chronicle in news, but what is infinitely more important it beats it in decency, morality, good thinking and right standing. So the Chronicle cannot raise the cry of "envy." Rather let the Chronicle say: "The Call's stand on moral questions and try to emulate it. But we fear it's impossible, for De Young is a moral paranoiac."

People Are With The Call

Editor Call—Sir: The consistent and unswerving course pursued by The Call in the exposition and prosecution of graft and the grafters commends it to the people. As the exponent of moral rectitude and civic virtue in the administration of municipal and metropolitan affairs its course enlists and holds the sympathy and cordial support of all right thinking citizens, and it is most certain to prevail in the end, for patriotism and public opinion once fully awakened and impelled to action in the cause of justice are invincible, and no combination, however powerful, no institution or organization, however well entrenched, can withstand, but will crumble and fall to ruin before the face of an avenging public, when inspired by patriotism it turns against the malefactor, the invader of the rights of the citizen. H. G. BOYLE, Vallejo, June 1.

The Horsecar Farce

Editor Call—Sir: I want to thank you for your thorough expose of the Sutter street car matter. It occurs to me that if the Sutter street line is a separate company and intends to operate horsecars below Sansome street to maintain its charter it can at least be forced to run enough horsecars to carry the passengers from Sansome street as fast as they arrive there from up town or else forfeit the charter. This is what they told when the cable line was in operation. The idea of running a single horsecar, which to maintain a charter on equipment is obliged to put on an equipment furnished it. Yours truly, A. C. GOODWIN, San Francisco, June 4.

THE WAY OF OTIS

From the Los Angeles Express. Who would think that a man who had lost by a vote of 56 to 8 the precinct in which he lived could so soon summon heart to write of Chester H. Rowell. Well, like a yellow dog, he has been hurriedly buried—buried by his own neighbors.