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ON BOTH SIDES OF THE RATE CASE

THE grotesque suggestion comes, probably in all innocence, notwithstanding its dubious source, that the state railroad commission should take charge of the fight in opposition to the proposed increase of freight rates.

The Call does not share this enthusiasm for a raid on the treasury, nor admire that jocular view of the constitution.

One learns further from the Chronicle that "it is understood that the commission is to ask the legislature for a large increase in its appropriation."

This, then, is the meaning of the grotesque proposition that the interests of the producers and shippers of California should be entrusted to a body selected by and subservient to the Southern Pacific political bureau.

The state railroad commission has cost the tax payers of California something like \$500,000 in salaries and expenses since its institution and it has never earned a dollar for the people.

TAFT AND CANNON

THE political gossips in eastern centers are beginning to speculate whether current events foreshadow a conflict between Speaker Cannon and Mr. Taft.

No doubt Mr. Taft would oppose Mr. Cannon very reluctantly, but as the head of his party as well as the president elect of the nation he is bound to meet the expectations of the people and to insist upon the observance of party pledges.

There is a note of defiance in this. The conflict, if there is to be a conflict, will come on revision of the tariff. The hearings before the ways and means committee on this subject have aroused a storm of disapprobation in eastern communities.

SPRING VALLEY'S SUDDEN DIVIDEND

THE CALL congratulates the Spring Valley water company on its modest prosperity. We rejoice to see this worthy enterprise placed once more on a dividend paying basis at a moment when all the resources of book keeping are invoked to convince a United States court that the company is insolvent.

PROGRAFT PAPERS LOSE, BUT THE CALL WINS FRIENDS

Editor of The Call: We, the undersigned, endorse the Bulletin and The Call for the good work they are doing in San Francisco, and denounce the Chronicle and Examiner for the stand they have taken against the graft prosecution in San Francisco.

- T. D. MITCHELL, E. W. WULFF, S. L. SANGUINETTI, S. L. SANGUINETTI, J. MALATESTA, EUGENE GARDELLE, A. C. ANDERSON, JACK SOLARIS.

back on a dividend paying basis it is enough to make the plain citizen lose faith in book keeping. When a company serving a city just staggering to its feet after a body blow is able to distribute among its stock holders a comfortable \$280,000 as a Christmas gift the conviction is compelled that the real magicians in the case are the ingenious book keepers engaged for the comedy that might be entitled "Pulling a Poor Mouth."

It may be that the stock holders—to whom we wish a merry Christmas—will plead that they are entitled to a larger dividend, but to that the answer is plain that we must all bear our losses together, to each one his share. The Spring Valley company can not shift its burden to the community of San Francisco.

But San Francisco cherishes a forgiving spirit, not for a holiday season merely, but for all time, and the city is going ahead just as if nothing had happened. It may be hoped that the Spring Valley company is preparing to fall into line and keep step. It might even promote the season of good will if Mr. Bourn would call off his book keepers and abandon the forlorn hope of convincing the courts that there is no difference between dollars and doughnuts.

Answers to Queries

- RING FINGER—Subscriber, Mayfield, Cal. Why is the third finger of the left hand used to place the wedding ring on? ... TREES—M. Mill Valley, Cal. Where may I obtain information about forest trees for planting? ... SUPREME COURT—E. W. T. City. Who is the clerk of the supreme court of California? ... MUSIC—City. What is the quotation in which are the words: "Music hath charms to soothe the savage breast?"

The Smart Set

MISS AUGUSTA FOUTE entertained last evening at an informal dance given in the ballroom at the Hillcrest. The guests were limited to the debutantes and younger girls. There were no out of town guests, but the affair was one of the most enjoyable of the recent informal events.

Miss Katherine Donohoe is one of the attractive debutantes who will be entertained at many of the winter affairs. Among the important events in honor of Miss Donohoe will be the luncheon at which Miss Jennie Flood will preside as hostess.

Miss Marian Lally entertained yesterday at a delightful luncheon given at her home in Pacific avenue. About 30 guests enjoyed the afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bosqui have made their home in Sausalito since the destruction of their pretty residence in Ross by fire.

Mrs. Myra Burnett-Bennett is the guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John M. Burnett, at their residence in Spruce street.

F. F. de Lisle entertained recently at the Burlingame Country club at a luncheon in compliment to Miss Anna Peters of Stockton. Among the guests were: Harry Scott, G. A. R. Meyer, Cyril Tobin, Mr. and Mrs. Clement Tobin, Horace Clifton.

The Reptile Newspapers

Nation's Observers Unite in Placing Blame on Corrupt Press for Heney's Shooting

Earmarks of Conspiracy

Seattle Post-Intelligencer There was little merit in the contention that the attempt to assassinate Heney would unduly prejudice Ruef's case. Of course there is a feeling in San Francisco against Ruef, some little prejudice, if you please, and there ought to be.

There is a direct connection between Ruef's case and the assault on Heney, and the lawyer would make no mistake if he should throw the bars completely down and allow the jury to have every fact connected with the matter. It is time to get away from the dry and lifeless husks of the law.

But still the prosecution continues. Langdon can't be bought; Heney can't be bought; they won't let go—they hold on with a bulldog tenacity.

What Sped the Bullet Healdsburg Tribune But still the prosecution continues. Langdon can't be bought; Heney can't be bought; they won't let go—they hold on with a bulldog tenacity.

Grafters Desperate Lodi Sentinel The grafters realize that they are confronted by a desperate situation, and the desperate situation of the grafters is that they are now in earnest, and they will see to it that the prosecution has sufficient backing to carry it through.

Reached the Limit Calaveras Prospect In the attempted assassination of Francis Heney in Judge Lawlor's court last Friday, San Francisco had an awakening.

At It Again Evening Pajaronian The hyena press representatives of the higher up grafters of San Francisco, notwithstanding that only one week has elapsed since the country attorney was made, through Agent Haas, to assassinate Francis J. Heney, are again poking their heads out from under the rock to which they were driven by an enraged public opinion.

Every newspaper and citizen that stands up, either privately or publicly, for the cause of the course to pursue in the matter, known, there is a middle course to pursue in the matter. Resolve unto yourselves that there will at no future time be any weakening in your attitude toward the prosecution of the public grafters in San Francisco, or anywhere else that they may be found.

Impertinent Question No. 80 When Are You Happy? 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.

Winning Answers to "Who is the Meanest Man, and Why?" \$5 prize to Mrs. A. Wright, General Delivery, Oakland. My husband, who objects to my buying his cigars or selecting his stenographer.

\$1 prize to Mrs. E. H. Gorrell, San Mateo. The man who will deliberately stand between a woman and a bargain store window.

\$1 prize to A. B. Christensen, 73 Collingwood street, city. My father in law; he lets me work.

\$1 prize to J. M. Hayden, Winters. The man who lost her—because I got her.

\$1 prize to George F. Lewis, 2812 Sixteenth street, city. I am—I stayed in the house tag day.

\$1 prize to Eugene Quinn, General Delivery, city. The man who refuses to pay back with interest that "stolen" kiss.