

The San Francisco Call

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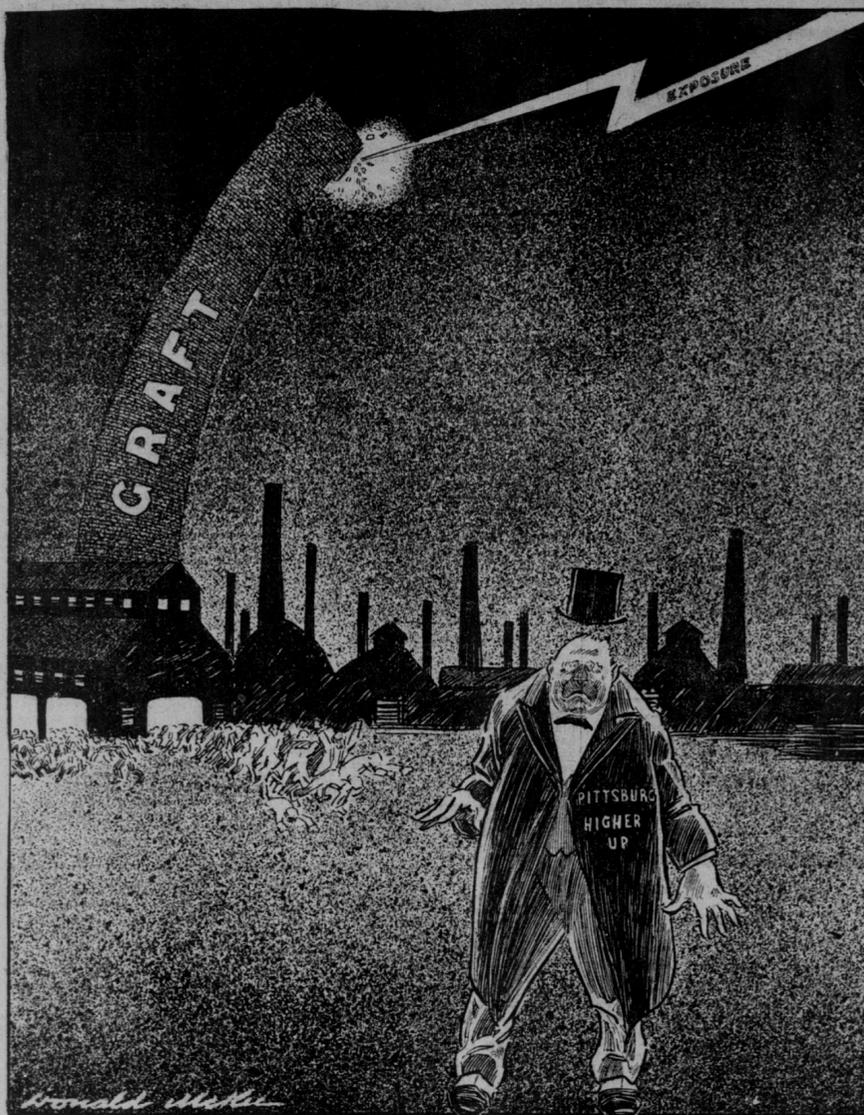
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The Blue Book lists and guarantees a publication only after a complete and thorough examination and audit has proved that the publisher has made accurate statements of circulation, and the rating which this examination insures provides a guarantee that

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HURTING BUSINESS



Another Great Industry Paralyzed

“Be sure to get the bribe givers as well as the bribe takers. One can not exist without the other.” Such was the injunction laid by President Roosevelt on a committee of the Voters' league of Pittsburg when he was asked for assistance in the work of cleansing the politics and official life of that city. Pittsburg is comparatively new in the business of punishing bribery at both ends, and the enthusiasm of the starting place has yet suffered no check. For the present it seems mostly a question of punishing a cheap and vulgar crew of official small fry without special influence or standing. But presently the situation will take on a significant change if President Roosevelt's advice is followed.

If the Pittsburg "higher ups" are pursued by the officers of the law on the prompting of the Voters' league and with evidence discovered and furnished by that agency, it will then be obstreperously and continuously impressed on the Pittsburg public that it is iniquitous for a public prosecution to be financed and pushed by private enterprise. It may be true, and it is true, that the control of municipal appropriations rests in the hands of men under indictment for bribery, but that makes no difference in the view of the higher up tribe. The use of private funds for public purposes, even when public money is not available, is always wrong where "respectable" people are pursued. If, however, by some political revolution the Pittsburg boodlers are driven from power and municipal appropriations are made available to the prosecution it will then appear that this is a gross waste of public money. If a detective should be seen riding in an automobile that will be denounced as a wicked outrage on the tax payers. It is the consensus of opinion in higher up circles, east and west, that prosecutions of influential people, whether publicly or privately financed, are always wrong and are, besides, calculated to "hurt business."

Presently more or less important civic bodies will begin to nag the Pittsburg prosecution and the air will be filled with sets of resolutions. The corruptible part of the Pittsburg press will set up a unanimous howl. If Hearst had a paper in Pittsburg he might begin caricaturing and ridiculing the prosecution and such judges as dared to do their duty. That is, he might do these things if he had not been taught a lesson in journalism by his experience in San Francisco. If there are any Dargies in Pittsburg what golden dreams of profit may come to them. The boodlers' harvest lies ready for the Pittsburg sickle.

Possibly it will be discovered after confessions are made by the Pittsburg officials that it is an un-American shame to put questions to bribe takers. Warm sympathy will be spread large on the minutes declaiming against the "torture" of offenders. Imagination will be suffered to run riot among medieval horrors of the "question." The whole battery of sympathy with criminals will be manned for rapid fire. The prosecution, the jury panel and the judiciary will be put on trial and convicted every morning for breakfast.

Obviously Pittsburg is preparing for herself an uneasy and uncomfortable time, and if there are no assassinations or dynamiting and no bribery of jurors the town will have a fortunate deliverance. History may repeat itself in Pittsburg, and yet we may hope that the honest people of that city will hold a steady and unflinching course on the line of Roosevelt's advice, "Be sure to get the bribe givers."

Population of California Cities

THE monthly reports of the state board of health supply some suggestive data from which the curious observer might feel justified in drawing inferences. It is health food for thought to be used with certain obvious reservations. It may be conceded, for instance, that mortality and birth rate statistics bear a more or less uniform proportion to population, and in view of current speculation concerning the number of people in California cities these figures carry some weight and interest.

Accordingly, we find from the November report that the deaths registered in the three leading cities were in number: San Francisco, 519; Los Angeles, 302; Oakland, 123. If objection to this scale of proportion be made that San Francisco has a more insalubrious climate—which we do not admit—than the other two cities, yet we find substantially the same numerical relations maintained by the birth rate, which for November was, San Francisco 642, Los Angeles 356, Oakland 143. Of course, these statistics are very incomplete. They show returns only for a single month, but as far as they go they seem to falsify certain comparative deductions, drawn from the recent presidential election vote, concerning the relative populations of Los Angeles and San Francisco.

All three cities may be congratulated on the high marriage rate that each and all appear to have compassed in the month of November, for which the returns were by counties: San Francisco, 403; Los Angeles, 368; Alameda, 242. That looks like a prosperous showing, for it is a fact that the marriage rate bears an intimate relation with business and industrial conditions. It may be observed that the marriage returns, being by counties, fully support the inferences as to relative population drawn from the mortality and birth rate statistics.

In November, the month under consideration, San Francisco cast in round numbers 62,000 votes at the presidential election, while Los Angeles cast some 75,000. The comparatively small vote in this county has always been a mystery, and the health statistics make it still more unaccountable.

Finding Fault With the Canal

THE consistent effort of the overland railroad people to discredit the Panama canal undertaking finds an outlet in other places than New York and Washington. President Ripley of the Santa Fe, for instance, took occasion the other day while at Riverside to express a disparaging view of the commercial aspect of the enterprise. His opinion is quoted in these words:

Mr. Ripley expressed the opinion that the building of the Panama canal is a waste of money. Though the project will be carried through he thinks the benefit derived from it will not be great enough to pay for the expense involved.

Mr. Ripley is, of course, quite sincere in his expression of belief, and he may or may not be right in his prophecy. But we venture to say that if his prediction did not accord with the prevailing desire in railroad circles it would not have been hazarded. Mr. Ripley simply has absorbed the atmosphere of his environment.

It is the same spirit, more grossly manifested, that prompted the publication in the New York Sun and World and the Indianapolis News of lying stories about the price paid for the canal to the French company. The general policy of these indirect methods of attack is very well understood. At one side of the continent the press hints that there was jobbery in the purchase. At the other side a railroad president predicts that the canal will prove a losing venture. From other sources of like inspiration come vague intimations that the great Gattun dam is afloat on an underground sea and that the canal is a physical impossibility.

The canal will be built. Whether it will make money or lose money no man can say with any reasonable certainty, and it makes no difference so far as the completion of the enterprise is concerned. The canal will be built as a measure of national defense if for no other reason, and the American people as a whole tolerably well understand the motives and prompting of the petty politics that in an infinite variety of ways seeks to discredit the undertaking.

More Apologies for Senator Wolfe

SENATOR SENATOR WOLFE is getting an assortment of apologies by way of Christmas cheer and a variety of credit to which he swears he is not entitled. It is Mr. Wolfe's misfortune that he is known by the company he keeps. He moves in that exalted and rarefied atmosphere, that higher up region, where it is an article of faith that corporations should have everything they want and more if possible. Thus we find the editor of the Fresno Republican writing under a misconception:

Senator Eddie Wolfe announces his purpose to champion in the legislature the cause of the power companies, who are objecting to charges by the national government on their use of the water power in the Sierras. That is unfortunate. We have always thought that President Roosevelt was right and the power companies wrong on this issue, but it is at least an honest issue, to be soberly decided on its merits, not hoodooed by Eddie Wolfe. If the companies want the fair hearing which every just man wishes to accord to them, they will call off Eddie and his hoodoo.

The hoodoo has been lifted. Our contemporary made the mistake of believing something he saw in the Chronicle. Mr. Wolfe professes to be blameless in the matter and is willing to be searched. He has a waste paper basket full of apologies now and would much prefer some other sort of currency.

Can it be that the power companies have discovered that Mr. Wolfe's usefulness has disappeared, evaporated, vanished into thin air? It may even be that his support of a cause might be construed as a cross between a label and a blister. Once more The Call renews to Mr. Wolfe the compliments of a happy season in the hope that they may assist in making light the burden of his statesmanship in default of other forms of currency.

FISH TO PREVENT MALARIA

The Italian government is experimenting with small fish found in Barbadoes waters, which are said to feed on the larvae of small insects which spread malaria, in an effort to prevent the disease.

LARGE BAND SAW

The largest band saw ever made is 20 inches wide, 65 feet long and has an 11-gauge with teeth spaced 3 inches apart.

LONDON'S FIRE DAY

Records compiled at London for several years show that more fires occur in that city on Saturday than on any other day in the week, and more in August and December than in any other months.

ACID IN TOBACCO LEAF

The tobacco leaf normally contains considerable quantities of citric and malic acid, the former the acid of the lemon, the latter the acid of the apple.

Answers to Queries

RATE OF INTEREST—A. O. City. Can one who lends money charge more than what is known as legal interest, 7 per cent?
Under a contract the lender may charge any rate of interest.

JAPANESE MENACE—W. A. W. Merrill, Klamath county, Oregon. In what way is Japan a menace to the United States?
It is claimed that the Japanese are a menace to the United States in many ways, but the principal one is that if Japanese immigration is not checked the little brown men will overrun the country and drive the American people to the wall.

CITY DESTROYED—S. R. Oakland, Cal. Read an account in which occurs "and may be Japan a menace to the United States?"
That refers to the total destruction of the city of that name on the island of Madeira. On October 3, 1893, the city was swept into the sea by a torrent from a cloudburst in the mountains behind it. Such was the tremendous rush of the waters that even the foundations of the houses were, it is said, carried away with the soil, down to the native rock. All the inhabitants except one were swept into the sea and drowned. That one was a babe found asleep on a wide board on the shore, and it is said to have been the sole survivor of that calamity.

MINTS—Subscriber, Oakland, Cal. How many mints are there in the United States?
The parent mint at Philadelphia, Pa.; the one at Carson City (equipped as an assay office) New Orleans, San Francisco and Denver.

CROSS—C. H. City. What is the meaning of the large cross on Lone mountain in San Francisco?
The cross was erected there many years ago by the local Catholic church as the emblem of Christianity.

PARK DISTANCE—C. H. City. What is the distance from the Baker street entrance to Golden Gate park along the main drive to the distance is about 21,000 feet.

THE PARK CROSS—C. H. City. What was the purpose of placing a large cross in Golden Gate park in San Francisco?
The large cross in Golden Gate park, known as the Sir Francis Drake or prayer book cross, was erected in 1893 and unveiled with appropriate ceremonies January 1, 1894. It was built for the late George W. Childs of the Philadelphia Ledger, who donated it to the people of California as "a memorial to the service held on the shore of Drakes bay (Marin county) about St. John the Baptist's day, June 24, 1579, by Francis Fletcher, priest of the church of England, chaplain of Sir Francis Drake, chronicler of the service." The tablets on the cross convey the further information: "First Christian service in the English tongue on our coast; first use of the book of common prayer; one of the first recorded missionary prayers on our continent." It was the original intention of Mr. Childs to erect the cross on the shore of Drakes bay, but it was discovered that it would be comparatively out of the view of the people and that the purpose for which it was erected would be lost, therefore it was decided to place it on an eminence in the park, at a point from which a part of the bay can, on a clear day, be seen.

PHILIPPINES—G. M. City. Where can I obtain literature that gives reasons why the United States government should not retain possession of the Philippine Islands?
Consult the index of current literature at the Free Public Library in Hayes street near Franklin.

DAGO—E. C. R. City. What is the meaning of Dago as applied to foreigners?
The name is said to be a corruption of the Spanish name Diego by American letters from them tell of the delightful holidays passed in that picturesque country. They will remain abroad for several months longer before returning to the coast. Mrs. Gordon was formerly

MISS ISABEL BEAVER (Clark Van Fleet)
MISS OTIS (William Van Fleet)
MISS JANE SELBY (Selma Woodworth)
MISS CORA SMITH (Harry Creswell)
MISS WILLIAMS (Livingston Baker)
MISS ETHEL McALLISTER (Wakefield Baker)
MISS DOROTHY WOODWARD (Hugh Porter)
MISS GERTRUDE CRESWELL (Hanson Grubb)
MISS DOROTHY CHAPMAN (Palge Montague)
MISS SUZANNE KIRKPATRICK (Sydney Smith)
SAMUEL DAY
MISS MAUDE WILSON (Frederick Johnson)
MISS ELIZABETH WOOD (Frank Andrews)
MISS HARRIET POMEROY (Bradley Wallace)

Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Gordon are at present traveling in Switzerland and letters from them tell of the delightful holidays passed in that picturesque country. They will remain abroad for several months longer before returning to the coast. Mrs. Gordon was formerly

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Tubbs will entertain at an informal dinner to be given this evening at their home in Broadway.

The bal masque to have taken place at the Studio building at 147 Presidio avenue has been postponed. A date for the event will be arranged later in the week.

Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Bancroft, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Bancroft celebrated the holidays at their new home in Jackson street.

Miss Emily Carolan is expected to return next month from the east, where she has been the guest of her sister, Mrs. Timlow, since the early autumn.

Barbour Lathrop, who has recently returned from Europe, left yesterday for Tahiti, where he expects to remain until the early summer.

James Langhorne is spending a few weeks in Arizona.

Dr. and Mrs. H. S. Moore have closed their home at Palo Alto and have gone to Europe for a visit of several months. They will pass a greater part of the time in Germany and are accompanied on the trip by Mrs. Moore's daughter, Miss Liddle Eaton.

Douglas Alexander was a guest over the holidays at the Burlingame home of his aunt, Mrs. Mounford Wilson.

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The Insider

Tells How Porter of Business House Had Visions of Free Plum Pudding and Was Rewarded by Offer of Big Empty Box to Make Firewood

Gift Referred to Organized Charity

A WOMAN'S club that prides itself on its up to dateness and the comprehensiveness of its public charities advertised rather largely the fact that it had plum puddings to give away to such poor families as it considered worthy of the dainty. Shortly before Christmas the porter of a downtown business house was sent to the clubhouse on an errand. One of the ladies in charge of the Christmas distribution received him, and when his errand was dismissed she said to him, in a kindly way, "Are you married?"

"Sure," replied the porter, a vision of a fat plummy pudding dancing before his eyes, "and have six children besides."

The lady smiled even more sweetly, as she indicated an empty packing box against which he was leaning.

"Then," said she, "I am sure you would like this big box here to take away with you. It will come in so handy for firewood."

As the plum pudding vision faded away, the man said, "Yes, ma'am, that box'll make fine firewood. You'd better tell the Associated Charities about it—or shall I?" and departed to a more Christmasy atmosphere.

Blind Cigar Dealer Robbed at Counter

Some time since I told of the cruel manner in which a bellboy at the Hotel Belvedere robbed blind Ed Purser of his last bank bill. An even meaner trick was played upon poor John Paxton, the blind brother of Mrs. Lawrence Austin, the other day. Young Paxton runs a cigar stand, and most people have been good to him in the matter of liberal custom, for he is a fine fellow and deserving of patronage. But recently a customer went up to his stand and asked for a particularly high priced brand of cigars. Paxton knows all the brands, even though he can not see them, and he handed down two boxes of the expensive smokes, expecting the customer to help himself to what he wished, as is the usual custom, and lay the money down. But the man took the boxes from the counter and went away with them. The young cigar vender did not know the thief had gone until it was too late to notify anybody who might have helped him to redress.

Anna Miller Wood Given Much Honor

One of the most popular of the singers San Francisco has contributed to the roll of fame is Anna Miller Wood, the contralto. In London Miss Wood is beloved by society and has some warm friends among the famous ones of ultra-Bohemia. To her Boston studio come visitors with celebrated names, her real friends are they, and they all go away saying how they love her and what delicious tea she brews. For the Californian contralto rather prides herself on the perfection of her tea brew. She has many beautiful jewels, gifts from those who have enjoyed her lovely songs and who admire the singer's personality. I heard a story recently that illustrates Miss Wood's power to charm even those who do not know her personally. She was dining at Sherry's in New York and a handsomely gowned woman came up to her at the table. She asked if this were Miss Wood, the singer. Answered in the affirmative, the lady unpinned an exquisite antique ornament from her bodice and pinned it on Miss Wood's. "Your singing has given me delight more than I can express," she said, "and I want you to wear this as a very slight token of my appreciation."

THE SMART SET

MISS AMY PORTER will become the bride of William Bethune Ireland at a pretty wedding to be celebrated this evening at the home of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Crawford Clarke, in Presidio terrace. The ceremony will take place at 9 o'clock in the presence of a small company of relatives and close friends of the couple. Rev. Frederick Clampett will officiate. The bride will be attended by her cousin, Miss Gladys Buchanan, as maid of honor, and the other attendant will be Mrs. Colin Nicol as matron of honor. There will also be two little ribbon bearers, Ritchie Dunn and Geraldine King, in the bridal party. George Keith Weeks will act as best man. The bride will be given away by her uncle, A. S. Baldwin.

After an informal reception and wedding supper the couple will leave for a honeymoon trip, probably in the southern part of the state, but will return to make their home in this city. The bride has a wide circle of friends here and is the charming daughter of Mrs. M. C. Porter.

The William G. Irwins have canceled the dinner party that was to have been given at their home in Washington street tomorrow evening in consideration of the recent death of Claus Spreckels. The guest of honor on this occasion was to have been Mrs. Joseph Crockett, who leaves this week on a voyage to Egypt.

Mrs. George C. Boardman entertained almost 100 young people at a delightful dancing party given last evening for her daughter, Miss Dora Winn, at the family home in California street. Mrs. Boardman was assisted in receiving her guests by Mrs. Sam Boardman, Mrs. Danforth Boardman and Mrs. Chauncey Boardman. The house was effectively decorated with Christmas wreaths and clusters of holly. The red berries introduced the necessary touch of color in the scheme of decoration. Among those who enjoyed the holiday party were:

Mr. and Mrs. George T. Cameron passed Christmas in town at the De Young home.

The friends of Charles Bull will be sorry to learn that he is seriously ill with pneumonia at the San Mateo hospital.

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Impertinent Question No. 83

What's the Biggest Holdup?

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 SEND IT ON A POSTAL CARD to

IMPERTINENT QUESTIONS, THE CALL.