

The San Francisco Call

JOHN D. SPRECKELS, Proprietor
CHARLES W. HORNICK, General Manager
ERNEST S. SIMPSON, Managing Editor

Address All Communications to THE SAN FRANCISCO CALL

Telephone "KEARNY 86"—Ask for The Call. The Operator Will Connect You With the Department You Wish.

BUSINESS OFFICE: Market and Third Streets, San Francisco
Open Until 11 o'clock Every Night in the Year.

EDITORIAL ROOMS: Market and Third Streets

MAIN CITY BRANCH: 1651 Fillmore Street Near Post

OAKLAND OFFICE—468 11th St. (Bacon Block): Tel. Sunset—Oakland 1053

ALAMEDA OFFICE—1455 Park Street: Telephone Alameda 559

BERKELEY OFFICE—SW. Cor. Center and Oxford: Telephone Berkeley 77

CHICAGO OFFICE—1634 Marquette Bldg.: C. George Krogness, Special Agent

NEW YORK OFFICE—805 Brunswick Bldg.: Jos. C. Wilberding, Special Agent

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT—Post Bldg.: Ira E. Bennett

Subscription Rates: Delivered by Carrier, 20 Cents Per Week, 75 Cents Per Month. Single Copies, 5 Cents.

Terms by Mail, for UNITED STATES, including Postage (Cash With Order): DAILY CALL (including Sunday), 1 Year, \$5.00

DAILY CALL (including Sunday), 6 Months, \$3.00

DAILY CALL (including Sunday), 3 Months, \$1.50

FOREIGN: Daily, \$8.00 Per Year Extra

POSTAGE: Weekly, \$1.00 Per Year Extra

Entered at the United States Postoffice as Second Class Matter. ALL POSTMASTERS ARE AUTHORIZED TO RECEIVE SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Sample Copies Will Be Forwarded When Requested.

Mail subscribers in ordering change of address should be particular to give both NEW AND OLD ADDRESS in order to insure a prompt and correct compliance with their request.

California's Political Liberty Is the Issue

TODAY, in the senate at Sacramento, the political liberty of California is the issue. Defending it are twenty-three men, pledged firmly and beyond any equivocation to the Wright-Stanton direct primary bill.

There is no getting away from the issue. It is clean cut and squarely presented. Who is for the direct primary bill is for a free California. Who is against it is for a bound and fettered California, for political slavery, for a corporate autocracy, and when he dies his soul will go to Herrin.

Let the people of California remember the names of the senators whom nobody owns—unbought, unbosomed men with clean hands—who stand pledged to vote for the direct primary bill and set California free. Here is the honor roll:

Anthony, Bell, Birdsall, Black, Boynton, Burnett, Caminetti, Campbell, Cartwright, Curtin, Cutten, Estudillo, Holohan, Hurd, Miller, Roseberry, Sanford, Stetson, Strobridge, Thompson, Walker, Welch, Wright.

Leading the wolf pack against this or any other measure to liberate the people from serfdom and give them back their political rights is Eddie Wolfe, the most contemptible thing that wears clothes in California—Wolfe, the hired lawyer of the lottery swindlers when they need expert legal disreputableness in court or elsewhere; Wolfe, the whining advocate and defender of the ravenous loan sharks that live off poor men struggling in the sea of misfortune; Wolfe, the greasy, thick necked, round paunched champion of the racetrack gamblers.

Wolfe and others of his detestable kidney not only earn what price they get from the machine for such service by fighting against political freedom, but they have another reason for opposing the Wright-Stanton bill. They fear it—they know that it ends their usefulness to their corporate masters. Wolfe knows better than anybody else that he is the corrupt product of a corrupt political system. He is where he is because he is what he is. Under real government by the people—the kind of government that the Wright-Stanton bill makes possible—Wolfe would pay his own fare if he went to Sacramento, and he would not be tolerated on the senate floor except, perhaps, to display his taste and talents in caring for the official cuspidors. Yes, Wolfe and his fellow wolves have reason to fear the direct primary. In fighting it there is a service of fear as well as of hire.

The honest, unbosomed senators who stand for the direct primary bill may expect abuse from the wolves. They will be proud of it hereafter. The Call is proud of the rabid attacks made upon it in the senate yesterday by Wolfe and Willis. Any newspaper might count itself fortunate in having the hatred of men like these. Willis is a southern Wolfe. He used to live in San Bernardino, from which county an unkind fate spewed him into the last senate. He is to San Bernardino what Wolfe is to San Francisco, only San Bernardino is able to rejoice over the fact that its Willis-Wolfe has moved.

And The Call is proud of the clean, upstanding manhood exhibited by Senator Roseberry of Santa Barbara when all the crooked-cunning of the wolves was turned to making him betray the people. Roseberry, proof against the flattery and cajolery of the senate crooks, withdrew his postal primary bill, in which the desperate agents of political corruption saw a small chance of beating the direct primary bill and refastening shameful chains upon the people. It is a fine and inspiring thing to witness such a display of public honesty and courage.

Today the wolves, urged on by their masters, will make their last stand in the senate against a people determined to be free. Warren Porter, the lieutenant governor of the fatted soul, who professes all the virtues and practices all political evil, will be a whipper-in. So will Herrin's hired man, Jere Burke. So will all the corrupted men who draw open and secret money from the Southern Pacific's political fund. But if pledges mean anything, if manhood is more than an empty word, the wolves will lose and the people will win.

This direct primary bill is the people's bill. Such men as Dooling, Wright, Stanton, Davis and Cartwright made it. There is no honest argument against it. There will be no honest senators against it. It ought to pass. The Call believes that it will pass. And when it becomes law the men who are now opposing it will go early to the political graves they are digging for themselves.

AGE can not wither nor custom stale the infinite variety of President Bourn's arithmetic when he marshals figures in behalf of the Spring Valley water company. Today the plant is worth \$40,000,000 in Mr. Bourn's mind. Yesterday it was worth \$32,000,000 in the same mysterious alembic for brewing a strange broth of figures. Another day the valuation is sworn up to \$55,000,000, or anything you please. Mr. Bourn stands for it all with a face of clay. He is a miracle of arithmetic in boots, and figures are his daily bread. But the rate payers of San Francisco are astonished at his moderation. He might just as well make it \$55,000,000, as did his experts in court, and stick to it manfully.

Mr. Bourn learnedly quotes the New York gas rate decision, declaring that it gives his corporation the right to have a comfortable annual allowance for depreciation, and in the same breath he claims a monopoly value for the plant. He wants to have his cake and eat it. The city must take all the risks of business and share none of the profits arising from the increase of population and the unearned increment of property. If Mr. Bourn will carefully read the supreme court decision in the gas rate case and is capable of understanding it he will find that no such principle as that for which he contends was laid down. In fact, his interpretation of the ruling reduces the whole body of law on this subject to absurdity. All the profits and none of the risks is what Mr. Bourn modestly demands. By this rule \$40,000,000 seems trifling. By and by, when the way is opened by legislative amendment, perhaps we can get a jury to revise Mr. Bourn's multifarious figures in a condemnation proceeding of the sort which he demanded when he appeared before the congress committee on public lands.

BIG ELECTRIC LAMP: A single electric lamp, containing 50 pairs of carbons, will be used on top of a railroad terminal at Jersey City. ARTIFICIAL SAPPHIRES: A young French chemist has succeeded in producing artificial sapphires from melted alumina. Immigration from Europe is turning toward Chile. Philadelphia has 64 associations for relieving the suffering.

WINE AND LOVE OF OMAR KHAYYAM SYMBOLIC

Mirza Ali Kuli Kahn Explains Words of "Rubaiyat" and Removes Blot From Poet's Memory

For "is" and "is not" though with rule and line, And "up-and-down" by logic I define, Of all that one should care to fathom, I Was never deep in anything—but Wine.

Omar Khayyam's sentiments, according to Edward Fitzgerald, the distinguished scholar, and the translator of the recognized version of the immortal "Rubaiyat." For although I have studied everything there is to know, and feel capable of giving an opinion upon the subjects, yet I never was deep in anything but the intoxication one feels in contemplating the profundity, the mystery, of life, and the unknowable things of the infinite.

Omar Khayyam's sentiments, according to Mirza Ali Kuli Khan, imperial consul to the United States from Persia, and a noted Persian poet and scholar.

Omar Khayyam's reputation was cleared yesterday before San Francisco's exclusive society. The blot that has existed on the old "Tent Maker's" memory since Edward Fitzgerald translated his quatrains into English verse was wiped out by Mirza Ali Kuli Khan at the St. Francis hotel, and the audience breathed a sigh of relief. They never believed all those awful things about Omar, anyhow.

OMAR'S "WINE" DEFINED: It seems that when Omar mentions "wine," as he does many times in Fitzgerald's translation, he really means "intoxication," but only the sort a learned soul feels in profound contemplation of the things one never can find the meaning of, though he contemplates from the cradle to the grave.

When Omar says "beloved" he does not mean giggling girls with whom one might flirt under some "bough" while masticating one end of "a loaf of bread" and taking occasional sips from a "jug of wine." He means the eternal spirit, the essence, the infinite.

The distinguished Persian scholar explained in his lecture at the St. Francis that Omar's philosophy was, like Goethe's, a practical one. Omar believed, according to Khan, that one should not strive to learn the secrets of the unknowable, but should content oneself with doing today's work in the best way one knew how.

That there is an unknowable that always will remain so the speaker took as an uncontroverted fact, and supplied Omar with the same opinion.

DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHER: Khan explained that Omar was regarded only as a philosopher in Persia, and was not thought of there as a poet. He gave an outline of what he believed Omar's development was, saying that Omar first was a teacher and seer in the orthodox religion, then a mystic, next an intellectual pessimist, and finally, as the speaker declared all of the world's big men become finally, an optimist. This, according to the lecturer, explained the different opinions voiced in different quatrains of the Rubaiyat. Many of the quatrains, it was explained, were spurious.

The lecture yesterday was the last of a series of four talks given here by the Persian scholar under the patronage of Mrs. Francis Carolan, Mrs. Eleanor Martin, Mrs. Walter S. Martin, Mrs. Horace Pillsbury, Mrs. W. G. Irwin and Miss Jennie Crocker.

Gossip of Railwaymen

"No, sir, I wish to flatly deny the inference that I have any grudge against the residents of the cities of Bakersfield and Fresno. On the contrary, I have the greatest respect for their ingenuity and their ability to help themselves," said an operating official.

"There is a saying among railroadmen that a good railroadman can find use for everything, and nothing is ever wasted by him. Then, there must be good railroadmen in both those towns. In fact, the places must be full of them. 'At any rate they got me into a peck of trouble. I had sent down to one of the intelligent house owners had appropriated them to use as shoe scrapers."

"This was nothing to what happened to a consignment of sewer pipe. These, too, were walked off by the wholesale and converted into umbrella stands. 'Mr. Harriman would be surprised if he knew he had gone into the house furnishing business. But then there is no end to the ingenuity of our people, and they are not at all proud about whom they draw from.'"

The railroads report a heavy importation of eastern beers into the state and that over 50 cars were ordered during the week from eastern producing points. Most of the cars sent for, but the brewers declined to accept the larger order, as requests were coming in from other parts of the country. This is due to the threatened strike on March 1 among eastern breweries.

The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition special train will leave Seattle next Saturday, 200 strong, for this city and will arrive here Monday. The party will visit Berkeley, climb Mount Tamalpais, drive around the city and, Wednesday, will start for the south. In this party are some of the most influential men of the northwest, and while touring the coast they will arouse enthusiasm for the exposition which opens in Seattle in June.

C. H. Stinson, assistant general freight agent of the Washash, is expected in the city tomorrow. His headquarters are in St. Louis and he will make a tour of the coast inspecting the different agencies. There are rumors to the effect that some changes will be made while he is out here.

Jay W. Adams of the Nickel Plate left on a business trip last night. He will be in the south for a few days.

The Insider

Tells of the haughty manners of the owner of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad and how he met his match in the Southern Pacific magnate

William Rockefeller WILLIAM ROCKEFELLER, sole owner of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad, unlike his more famous brother, John D., is declared by all who know him to be the haughtiest millionaire in the world. He undoubtedly is the most exclusive person in the United States and is held in more awe by those who are unfortunate enough to be brought in contact with him than any other employer in the wide world.

He treats the president of a railroad with the same sort of courtesy he extends to a car porter, and on the man who approaches him unannounced he bestows a prolonged stare, then turns on his heel and walks away without deigning to answer. It was his hauteur and his ability to put fear into the hearts of all he met that made him the most avoided man on Wall street.

He is said to have met his match, however, in the person of E. H. Harriman, who even when he was a small operator was not frightened by Rockefeller or by anybody. William's cold looks were encountered fearlessly and Harriman's determination not to be "downed" by chill airs or snubs and by success in coping with William made him soon a marked man.

It is said that even now, whenever he has any dealings with the great William, Harriman adopts the tone of an aggrieved person, ready to break into battle, and by this means has been enabled to keep William in check and be treated with distinguished consideration. It is, however, an experiment which none else has had the temerity to essay.

THE SMART SET

MISS KATHERINE DONOHUE entertained yesterday afternoon at a luncheon given at her home in Pacific avenue for less than a dozen guests and the affair was one of the most enjoyable of the month. Among those who were bidden to the informal party were:

Miss Helen Baker, Miss Elizabeth Woods, Miss Frances Newhall, Miss Susanne Kirgatz, Miss Virginia Newhall, Miss Augusta Fouts, Miss Dolly MacGavin.

Miss Clara Allen will entertain today at an informal tea to be given at her home in Washington street. A number of the debutantes will assist the young hostess in receiving her guests.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Jenkins are at the Fairmont for a few days and after a brief visit here will return to their home in Portland, Ore. They have been enjoying a trip through the southern part of the State and to the grand canyon of the Colorado.

A number of society people and musicians from this side of the bay will attend the afternoon of music to be given today at the Dominican college in San Rafael. Among those who will contribute to a program of rare artistic merit are Rev. Robert Semmon, tenor, and Henri Etlin, pianist, from the Paris conservatoire. The hour is half past two o'clock, and the Sausalito boat leaves this city at 1 o'clock.

Miss Maude Wilson will entertain this evening at a bridge party to be given at her home in Pacific avenue in compliment to Miss Louise McCormick of Chicago, who is the guest of Miss Ruth and Miss Dorothy Boerke. A dozen young people have been bidden to the informal affair.

Admiral Lyon, U. S. N., retired, and Mrs. Lyon, also Admiral Stevens, U. S. N., retired, and Mrs. Stevens are at the Fairmont for a few days, but will leave for the southern part of the state for an extended visit.

The St. Francis musical art society gave the third concert of the series last evening in the colonial ballroom at the Hotel St. Francis, when Mme. Langendorff was the artist who pleased a large audience. Several hundred people attended the concert and many of the guests later enjoyed the second part of the kirmess program.

Miss Katherine Donohue will entertain today at a luncheon given for several of her younger friends. She will be assisted by her mother, Mrs. Joseph A. Donohue.

Dr. and Mrs. George Herman Powers have closed their home in San Rafael and have taken the house at 2822 Clay street, where they have established the early summer at least. Miss Ruth Powers is yet in New York, but this talented girl is expected to return within a few months, and it is probable that she will remain in this city. Before returning here Miss Powers will visit the home of her brother, Dr. George Powers of Boston.

Mr. and Mrs. George Herman Powers have closed their home in San Rafael and have taken the house at 2822 Clay street, where they have established the early summer at least. Miss Ruth Powers is yet in New York, but this talented girl is expected to return within a few months, and it is probable that she will remain in this city. Before returning here Miss Powers will visit the home of her brother, Dr. George Powers of Boston.

Mr. and Mrs. Prentiss Cobb Hale are enjoying a visit in New York and Washington, and letters from them tell of the entertainments given for them by their eastern friends. They are missed here in a large circle of friends who are rejoicing that the absence of the popular couple will not be of long duration.

Mrs. Charles K. Harley will give the second in a series of bridge parties next Friday at her home when the older friends who are regular guests will enjoy the hour at cards. The preceding affair given Tuesday afternoon was for the younger set and several of the debutantes were among the guests.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES: LOUISIANA PURCHASE—C. A. S. Lincoln, Cal. Is it a fact that Thomas Jefferson, while president of the United States, opposed the Louisiana purchase and that it was made against his wish and advice? Where can I get the facts of this?

When the matter of the purchase came up the people as a whole, with the exception of the Federalists, rejoiced. The Federalists thought that to make the purchase a constitutional amendment would be necessary. Even President Jefferson thought there should be such an amendment. You can obtain more about this in any life of Jefferson.

SNEAK—E. G. City. What is a "sneak" in what is there any rule which prohibits leading from a sneak in that game? A "sneak" is leading from a suit of which the player has but one card. The purpose is to have the player's partner take the trick and return the lead, so the first player may trump. There is no rule or law of the game that prohibits leading from a sneak, but it is not looked upon as an honorable way of playing whist.

GILLERAN—J. K. City. Did James Gilleran ever conduct the Windsor Hotel in San Francisco? Did he ever hold a political office in that city? He was the proprietor of that hotel at one time. He was for a term superintendent of public streets, highways and squares.

THIRTEEN—J. G. B. Eureka, Cal. What is the superstition about the number 13? Thirteen at dinner is said to be unlucky, and that if 13 sit down at table one of the number will die before the year is out. This is derived from the Bible.

FEDRO—C. K. Santa Rosa, Cal. In double Pedro, if the bidder bids 10 can the dealer offer the same and make the trump? Under the rules of the game he can not.

BULLDOG—Bob. San Jose, Cal. What is a bulldog bulldog? That is applied to any bulldog that is of streaked color.

RAIN IN 1908—W. S. M. City. What was the rainfall in San Francisco in 1908? 34 inches.

Impertinent Question No. 91
What's Your Kick?
For the most original or wittiest answer to this question—the brier 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.

THE politician disguised as a philanthropist takes care that it shall be philanthropy with a salary. His heart bleeds for the sufferings of his fellow man, but this is a carefully regulated organ that bleeds only as much per diem. It is this form of altruism that is responsible for the biennial crop of legislative commissions, self-constituted and paid at rates determined by the creating power.

Senator Wolfe of San Francisco offers one of the most industrious examples of this form of profitable philanthropy. On one pretense or another he votes himself a salary to carry him over the off season. It is a gross usurpation of power and is probably illegal. It is the duty of the state controller to scrutinize jealously the legality of these periodical raids on the treasury.

Senator Wolfe's most recent excursion in philanthropy at the public cost is indirectly to appoint himself one of a commission to investigate the prices of food. What good he and his self-constituted colleagues in political philanthropy propose to effect by this inquiry is not made clear beyond the fact that they all expect to be paid for their labor at wages fixed by themselves. They will make certain of that, at least, and let the devil take the hindmost. All this subject of the cost of living was gone into with much elaboration by the committee of arbitration that sat in the streetcar controversy concerning wages in this city. But that inquiry left no practical results in this field, and Senator Wolfe's investigation will have a very similar outcome.

It is a growing abuse—this practice of grabbing money from the state treasury, and if it is permitted there are no limits in sight on the rapacity of politicians. The fact that it is an indecent exercise of power does not weigh at all with the raiders any more than it has availed to limit the biennial patronage grab. It was found necessary to put a bridle on that form of rapacity by constitutional amendment, and if the legality of this new device is established the people will find means to apply a similar remedy. It is useless to appeal to the sense of decency in such men as Wolfe.

It is unfortunate that the fantastic interpretation placed by the supreme court on the state constitution in relation to the regulation of railroad rates should have had the effect to nullify the intention of the men who framed the article in this regard. That interpretation apparently leaves the state powerless to fix rates or do anything more than assign a maximum which may not be exceeded. Under this ruling there is, in the view of lawyers, no means to punish discrimination in rates, and as this is the greatest evil which it was intended to remedy the constitution becomes a dead letter as to its main purpose as far as the regulation of railroad rates is concerned. The provision of the constitution dealing with discrimination reads:

Any railroad corporation or transportation company which shall fail or refuse to "conform" to such rates as shall be established by such commissioners, or shall charge rates in excess thereof, or shall fail to act in accordance with the system prescribed by the commission, shall be fined not exceeding \$20,000.

The court has held that the word "conform" in this provision does not mean that the rates must be identical with those fixed by the railroad commission. The plain man might suppose that a plain word carried its plain meaning, but the acute mind of the court attaches a quite different significance. The word means only that there shall be some similarity between the rates fixed and the rates exacted. What degree of similarity should be required the court does not take pains to determine. The whole provision is left in the air and the commission can not decide when an offense has been committed.

As a result we are told that legislation in this field is useless and ineffectual until an amendment to the constitution is framed and adopted of a character to correct the fantastic imaginings of the supreme court. In this blessed cul de sac of legislation the state is cornered by the perverse ingenuity of legal acumen.

THE LIBERATOR, published by the Citizens' League of Justice, finds that the causes of challenge advanced against talesmen affiliated with the league by counsel for the defense in the several graft prosecutions are mutually destructive. Three varieties of graft are or have been recently on trial in this city covering the grounds of bribe taking, bribe giving and jury fixing. In all of these trials membership in the League of Justice was alleged as cause of challenge for prejudice. Says the Liberator:

But does not the very fact that League of Justice talesmen are rigorously sifted out by the defense in all three graft cases, even to the extent of peremptory challenge—does not this fact alone and in itself disprove the allegation of prejudice? If League of Justice talesmen are accused of bias by Newburgh's lawyer in the case of an attorney indicted for jury bribing; and by Coffey's lawyer in the case of an ex-supervisor indicted for accepting a bribe; and by Calhoun's lawyer in the case of a capitalist indicted for bribing public officials to pass an overhead trolley franchise—do not these varied impeachments tend to their joint disproof? Is it credible that any body of citizens numbering thousands of members would or could be prejudiced against three classes of indicted offenders, differing widely in social position in the community, in business standing, in religious affiliations, in moral delinquency, and in the nature of the crime charged?

It is a concurrence of testimony from three classes of offenders that the leaguers favor neither bribe giving nor bribe taking nor jury fixing. To that extent there is prejudice. The leaguers are prejudiced in favor of law and order and the observance of the ten commandments. The objections raised to them as jurors amount virtually to a plea of guilty.

Wolfe's Raid On the Treasury

Cornered by a Vicious Decision

Virtually a Plea of Guilty

Mr. Bourn's Multifarious Figures