

McRAE IN HOLE HITS AND KICKS

Call Reporter and Senator
Wright Objects of Vicious
Attack

Replies to Charge of Bribery in
Islais Creek Project With
Blows

Attack on Newspaperman Made
With Face Wearing Smile
of Treachery

Fight Against Public Interests
Believed to Be Ended
With Fracas

[Special Dispatch to The Call]

CALL HEAD-
QUARTERS, SAC-
RAMENTO, Feb. 24.
Trapped like a rat
in a hole on the ac-
cusation of Senator
Leroy A. Wright
that he had bribed
legislators in the
fight against the
Islais creek project,
George McRae, lob-
byst for the Acme
lumber company,
tonight made a
vicious assault on
the senator from
San Diego as well
as on a Call re-
porter.



GEORGE McRAE

The cowardly bully of the lumber
men added to a record which already
figures malodorously in the superior
court of San Francisco by answering
a direct charge of bribery with blows
and kicks that took the senator and
newspaperman unawares. When by
standers prevented retaliatory meas-
ures the burly ex-football player
spoke into hissing. Senator Wright
returned to the committee meeting,
which he had left to confront McRae,
with blood flowing from his mouth.

It has been a well known fact that
Senator Wright was opposed to the Is-
lais creek project at first, insofar as
talk creek project at first, in so far as
blocks was concerned. This opposition
was based, among other things, on his
doubts as to the sufficiency of title to
the lands to be condemned, a matter
which he had investigated in his ca-
pacity of chairman of the joint harbor
committee. But before the matter came
to a vote in the senate he changed his
attitude and threw his influence as floor
leader to the majority in favor of San
Francisco.

Money Being Used
On account of the rumor which has
been current here to the effect that
money was being used in the assembly
to defeat the Islais creek bills, Senator
Wright was asked if his change in at-
titude was due to his suspicions of cor-
rupt measures.

"I became convinced," said the sen-
ator, "early in the fight that money
was being used by the interests op-
posed to the Islais creek project. I
had been opposed to the project con-
scientiously, but when I heard of
bribery I immediately changed my at-
titude."

McRae was approached by a Call
reporter in the capitol tonight and
asked if he cared to make any answer
to the accusations of Senator Wright.

Taken off his guard McRae parried
questions in his attempts to find out
how much his inquirer knew, and re-
fused to go to a place where the mat-
ter could be talked over privately.

"Well, you are the legislators who
were bribed?" was his reply, as he
leaned back in a chair. "If Wright
knows so much, how much money
were these fellows paid? I don't be-
lieve Wright made any such state-
ment."

"Well, then, you are undoubtedly
willing to meet the senator and ascer-
tain whether he is quoted correctly
or not, are you not?" McRae was asked.

Squirms and Evades
After squirming around for a time,
McRae finally agreed to meet the sen-
ator and dodged into a committee room,
where he talked to Assemblyman Percy
A. Johnson of San Diego. The two
emerged together and went to the
lounge room of the senate, and in a
few minutes were joined by Wright and
The Call reporter. The senator was
asked by the reporter if he had been
quoted correctly, and replied: "That is
absolutely correct. I changed my at-
titude in regard to the Islais creek
project as soon as I became convinced
that money was being used to defeat
the measure."

"Have you got any statement to
make in reply to what the senator
says?" McRae was asked.

"Well, I am not here to answer ques-
tions," said McRae. "If the senator
knows so much about this he probably

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M'LACHLAN BILL PROVIDES FOR FEDERAL LINE

Measure Calls for \$10,000,000
for Steamers to Run to
Panama

Ten Steamers of 5,000 Tons
Required for Traffic to
the Isthmus

Author Tells Congress That
This Coast Is Deprived of
Rightful Business

[Special Dispatch to The Call]

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 24.—
Representative McLachlan of
California introduced a bill to-
day directing the Panama rail-
road company to establish and operate
a line of 10 steamers on the Pacific
coast from Seattle to Panama, taking in
the ports of Tacoma, San Francisco,
San Pedro and San Diego. His bill au-
thorized the company to purchase, char-
ter or build 10 steamers of 5,000 tons
and 12 knots, and makes an appropri-
ation of \$10,000,000 to pay the cost, the
appropriation to be returned from the
earnings of the railroad company.

In discussing his bill, McLachlan de-
clared that work on the Panama canal
would be greatly facilitated by the
steamer line in carrying the material
and supplies. He said the cost would
be no more than one battleship, and
that the money could be returned in
earnings.

Entitled to Share
The coast, he asserted, was deprived
of its rightful share of the benefit of
Isthmian business because of the fail-
ure to maintain proper connections
with California. Eastbound steamers,
he said, would be filled with freight if
the government line were established
with rates equalized as they are on the
east coast.

McLachlan said tonight that he would
make strong efforts to get action on his
bill at the extra session, as congress
will not permit of discussion before
March 4. He is preparing a speech
showing that the government is fully
empowered to establish the proposed
line, and that it is a proper adjunct
to the construction of the canal.

Freight Rate Proposal Upheld

CALL HEADQUARTERS, CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE BUILDING, SACRA-
MENTO, Feb. 24.—The senate today re-
fused to concur in the emasculation by
the assembly of Sanford's resolution
regarding the advance in freight rates
and denouncing the Pacific Mail.
The assembly struck out of the resolu-
tion all references to the charges
brought against the Pacific Mail by
Senator Bristow of Kansas, but the
senate—which was unanimously in
favor of the original measure—stuck
by its guns and a conference commit-
tee will be appointed.
Only Bates, Boynton, Price and Wil-
lis favored the disfigured resolution.

Independents' Plans Progress

Despite the action of the Pacific Mail
steamship company in slanking rates to
prevent opposition, the plans for an in-
dependent line of vessels on the Pacific
went forward yesterday without inter-
ruption. Although there has been no
agreement among the shippers to dis-
regard the offer of the Pacific Mail, it
was stated yesterday that the company
had been able to contract for but little
freight under the new schedule.

Among the businessmen there was a
disposition to regard the whole matter
as farcical. While raising rates by rail,
Harriman is decreasing them by water,
and this is in the face of the statements
of R. P. Schwerin, general manager of
the company, that the business was un-
profitable. In fact, Schwerin had said
repeatedly that the company was dis-
posed to go out of business because of
the expense of maintaining the service,
and now he reverses his policy and cuts
rates.

"The whole matter is too ridiculous
to be taken seriously," said a local
shipper yesterday. "The Pacific Mail is
Harriman's bughouse on the water
and is maintained solely for the pur-
pose of preventing competition. He
thinks now by cutting rates he can
crush the movement for an independent
line, but he will find that it can not be
done."

VALUABLE PEARL FOUND IN NEVADA OIL FIELDS

**Oyster Shells, Reptiles and Pre-
historic Animals Fossilized**
GOLDFIELD, Nev., Feb. 24.—A dis-
covery which for its unique character
seldom has been equaled in this state
has just been disclosed through the
presence in Goldfield of Dr. Samuel
E. Green, a geologist and mineral ex-
pert of England.

Dr. Green, who is mineralogist for
several of the biggest concerns in the
east, was exploring the formation of the
Indian Springs oil fields when he en-
countered a strata which contained
fossils of prehistoric animals and rep-
tiles.

He broke open a number of ancient
oyster shells, and in one of them dis-
covered a perfect pearl, pure white
and weighing nearly 150 karats. Dr.
Green has refused a sum for the pearl
which would buy 100 "water jewels" of
ordinary size.

Miss Crocker's Necklace, Worth \$50,000, Disappears

Two portraits of Miss Jennie Crocker and the missing necklace. In the upper picture she was photo-
graphed wearing the jewels that are lost. The diagram at the bottom of the illustration shows the relative
position of her apartments, the dining room and the ballroom in the St. Francis hotel, where she was when
the gems disappeared.



MRS. H. O'NEILL HAS HUSBAND ARRESTED

Beautiful Wife of Prominent
San Jose Man Feared for
Her Life

[Special Dispatch to The Call]
SAN JOSE, Feb. 24.—Fearing that her
life was in danger, Mrs. Hugh O'Neill,
wife of the manager of the Excelsior
and Monarch oil company, one of the
prominent businessmen of this city,
discovered the arrest of her husband to-
night. The oilman, under the influence
of liquor, was brought to the city
prison by two detectives and his name
entered on the detinue book.

San Jose's society people were star-
tled several months ago to learn that
O'Neill abused his beautiful better half.
The disclosure was dramatic in the ex-
treme. Mrs. O'Neill appeared in Jus-
tice Wallace's court at that time and
exhibited a broken arm and a discolor-
ed face, neck and arms as proof of
her husband's brutality.

The police assert that upon other oc-
casions Mrs. O'Neill has sustained a
broken collar bone and broken ribs
during O'Neill's fits of anger. Divorce
proceedings were dropped at the time
of the broken arm incident at the re-
quest of relatives.

PITTSBURG GRAFTER BOASTS OF PROFIT

Witness Says Defendant Pre-
ferred Councilman's Job Be-
cause Mayor's Paid Less

PITTSBURG, Feb. 24.—"I would rather
be a councilman than mayor; there's
more money in it."
This is the language attributed today
to Councilman John F. Klein by Harry
B. Wassell, a witness in the graft trial,
against Klein; Councilman J. C. Was-
son, president of the council; William
Brandt and Banker W. W. Ramsey,
charged with conspiracy.

The jury visited the hotels to see
stimlet holes in doors through which
the alleged bribery transactions are
said to have been seen.

ADMIT REBATING AND GET HEAVY PENALTIES

ILLINOIS COMPANIES PLEAD GUILTY
AND PAY FINES
SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Feb. 24.—After
pleading guilty today to rebating in
the case of a shipment of glass to
California, the Illinois terminal asso-
ciation was fined \$4,000 and costs and
the Illinois glass company \$12,000 and
costs. Both paid.

CHRONOLOGY OF MISSING PEARLS

8 p. m., Tuesday—Miss Jennie
Crocker puts on \$50,000 pearl
necklace, prior to going to din-
ner with the Henry T. Scotts.
8:30 to 9:30—Dines with Scotts
in St. Francis dining room,
wearing necklace.
9:30 p. m.—Attires herself in ho-
tel room in simple schoolgirl's
costume, retaining necklace of
pearls, as she has not time to
put them in safe depository.
10 p. m.—Enters St. Francis ball-
room and takes part in Mardi
Gras.
11 p. m.—Walter Martin, her
partner in a dance, comments
on the precious necklace.
12 to 1:30 a. m., Wednesday—Has
supper with the R. L. Cole-
mans and party in white and
gold room at the hotel.
1:30 a. m.—Returns to ballroom.
4 a. m.—Leaves ballroom for
her own apartment, passing
through the apartments of the
Scotts, Martins and Pillsburys.
4:30 a. m.—In her own room at
hotel. Discovers loss of gems.

NEW RECORDS MADE IN CRIMINAL CASES

Burglars in Modesto and Los
Angeles Caught and Sen-
tenced the Same Day

MODESTO, Feb. 24.—Committed a
burglary at mid-
night, arrested at
6 o'clock this
morning and sen-
tenced at 1:30
this afternoon to
five years in the
penitentiary at
San Quentin was
the experience of
F. R. Carson, who
said he recently
came from Phila-
delphia. Carson
broke into a salo-
on about 12
o'clock last night
and stole \$15.
Early this morn-
ing he was ar-
rested. At 10
o'clock he was
taken to court,
pleaded guilty
and sentenced.

LOS ANGELES,
Feb. 24.—A new
record for speed
in handling crim-
inal cases was es-
tablished today
with W. F. Simp-
son, who was
caught in the
store of the
Crown jewelry
company on
Spring street late
last night. To-
day he was given
a preliminary
hearing. This af-
ternoon he was
taken before
Judge Clarke,
pleaded guilty and
was sentenced to
five years. He
started at 10
o'clock tonight for
San Quentin
prison.

RICH GEMS MISSED AFTER BALL

Mystery Veils Loss of
Rare Jewels at
Mardi Gras

Heiress Believes Necklace
Dropped During Fun
at St. Francis

Modern Raffles or Dishonest
Attendant Thought to
Be Responsible

Detectives' Investigation
Fails to Reveal
Trace of Gems

A NECKLACE of 53 flaw-
less white pearls, valued
at \$50,000, belonging to
Miss Jennie Crocker, the Califor-
nia heiress, was lost by its owner
yesterday morning at the gay
mardi gras ball given at the St.
Francis hotel and which, held on
the eve of Ash Wednesday,
closed the social season for San
Francisco. Where the gems now
are is not known.

But it is fairly well demon-
strated that a theft was com-
mitted. The loss of the remarkable
piece of jewelry was reported
yesterday morning before the
debris of the mardi gras frolic
had been cleared from the ball-
room and supper room floor and
the sweepings were patiently
screened by detectives, but not
one of the 53 pearls could be
found.

MYSTERY VEILS CASE

Neither Miss Crocker, her
brother, Charles Templeton
Crocker, nor any one connected
with the Crocker estate will haz-
ard an opinion on the fate of the
necklace beyond stating the ob-
vious conclusion that the golden
chain which bound the lustrous
jewels together must have be-
come broken. Whether a plaus-
ible thief in society's circle op-
erated against the richest woman in
the state, or a weak servant or
attache, coming alone upon the
fortune in stones lying on the
floor where they may have
dropped from the throat of Miss
Crocker, took the precious orna-
ment is not known. The St.
Francis hotel management is in-
clined to the belief that the jewels
fell from Miss Crocker's throat
while she was at dinner and that
one of the extra attendants, of
whom there were 73 hired for the
ball festivities, found and appropri-
ated the treasure, which is of
value sufficient to pay the salary
of the president of the United
States for one year.

NONCHALANT ABOUT LOSS

Miss Crocker, heiress of \$10-
000,000 from the estate of her
father, the late Colonel Fred
Crocker, took her loss in a spirit
of nonchalance. She can buy an-
other necklace, should she choose
to invest a fraction of her fortune
in that decorative way. The loss
which Miss Crocker and her
brother suffered in the fire three
years ago would equip a score of