



ISLAIS CREEK BILLS PASSED BY ASSEMBLY

Million Dollar Bond Issue for Purchase of 63 Blocks Carries, 70 to 5 Proposition Insures Building of Land Locked Harbor for San Francisco Local Delegation Split on Measure Despite Known Desire of People

[Special Dispatch to The Call] SACRAMENTO, March 10.—The assembly today passed Senator Welch's Islais creek bills providing for a \$1,000,000 bond issue for the purchase of 63 blocks and the building of a landlocked harbor in San Francisco by a vote of 70 to 5, after the 44 block amendment of the Acme lumber company and other private interests had been voted down, 45 to 30.

The assembly witnessed the sorry spectacle of the San Francisco delegation split almost evenly on the proposition, as a result of the activity of the lumber company's lobby with Chairman Behan, speaker pro tempore Ferine and John McManus doing all possible to carry the 44 block proposition, despite the fact that the voters of San Francisco last fall voted about 4 to 1 in favor of the 63 block scheme.

Schemer's Hope Vanishes Whatever chance the private interests had of holding 19 blocks for themselves while the state made a harbor of the remaining 44 blocks went a glimmering several days ago when Senator Wright deserted the cause of the proponents of the 44 block proposition because he believed money was being used to influence legislation. With McRae discredited with the clean men in the legislature, his employers saw fit to send former Judge Carroll Cook here Sunday night to direct the fight to the end. Today's vote does not indicate that Cook's presence aided the cause he espoused.

Lavish entertainment for those San Francisco assemblymen who would accept it was provided by the uncouth McRae, who early in his campaign had won over Behan. George Black, who has proved himself a dismal failure as a legislator, also developed a strange interest in the 44 block proposition. Henry Beatty and Charles Nelson ably handled the fight in the lower house and they were supported by six other members of the San Francisco delegation—Coghlan, Callan, Gerdes, Cullum, Pugh and Schmitt.

Mentions Discredited Report McManus, in presenting the minority report for 44 blocks, referred to the discredited report of the holdover committee which had declared for 44 blocks. This report has never been submitted to the legislature and Senators Wright, Wolfe and Kennedy, who were on the committee, voted for 63 blocks when the bill was up in the senate.

Beatty explained that the proposition to issue a million in bonds for the 63 block proposition was defeated at the last election because the bonds were for 20 years instead of 75 years as now provided. He added that the lumber interests working for the 44 block plan represented only a tenth of the lumber people of San Francisco. Black and Ferine each read speeches. Possibly that accounted for the absence of Cook from the lobby yesterday afternoon.

McManus closed with a long harangue in which he demanded that an investigation be made of the charge that money was used. When he read from the news columns of The Call of two years ago, attempting to sustain the charge that The Call was opposed to the 63 block scheme then, Beatty read from today's Call an editorial vigorously advocating the project. Beatty then flared up, asking if Beatty had read the editorial to cast a stigma on those who would vote against the 63 block proposition.

The vote was as follows: For 44 blocks: Irwin, Johnson of Sacramento, Johnson of San Diego, Johnston, Contra Costa, Lightner, MacAuley, McCall, McCallan, McManus, Moff, Odum, Pennington, Perine, Rutherford, Sackett, Schmitt, Taylor, Transue, Wagner, Whittier, Wilson, Young, Stanton—45

Against 44 blocks: Leads, Maher, Johnson of San Diego, Mendonhall, Moore, Nelson, Otis, Polder, Preston, Pugh, Beck, Whittier, Rutherford, Sackett, Schmitt, Taylor, Transue, Wagner, Whittier, Wilson, Young, Stanton—45

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DOCTOR TREATS SAILOR ON SHIP VIA WIRELESS Aerial Prescription Is Sent Vessel Out at Sea EUREKA, March 10.—Oil steamer Asuncion, en route from San Francisco to Portland, home to 100 miles north of this bay this afternoon and notified Fort Humboldt wireless station of the injury of a sailor who had fallen from the rigging to the deck, sustaining serious injuries. Medical advice was asked. Fort Humboldt communicated with Dr. Charles Paik, who prescribed treatment to give the injured mariner. This was sent to the Asuncion via wireless. The steamer remained here until late this evening, then steamed up the coast.

BIG GAS BILLS COLLECTED TO MAKE SURPLUS

Scheme Evolved by Company to Accumulate Money and Pay Passed Dividends Meter Rental, Collection Charge and Inflated Accounts Cause Complaints by Consumers

That the explanation for the mysterious increase in gas bills throughout the city lies in the secret plan of the corporation to pay "accumulated" dividends is the opinion expressed by men in the financial district who have followed the course of the company. Not only does the San Francisco gas and electric company intend to place itself upon a dividend paying basis, according to these authorities, but it has evolved a scheme to reimburse itself at the expense of the public for its earthquake losses under the guise of "deferred profits," "accumulated dividends," or something of that description.

Inquiry Is Ordered So serious has become the situation that the board of supervisors has ordered an investigation into the sudden inflation of gas bills. The inquiry will be conducted by the committee on artificial lights, of which Dr. A. A. d'Ancona is chairman. The evidence that the company is laying careful plans to build up a great surplus dates back to the period following the fire. Now the company has come forward with a claim for more than \$600,000 for depreciation, has imposed a meter rental, a connection charge and has rendered bills showing sudden increases of from 50 to 200 per cent. At the same time it is collecting a \$1 rate under a temporary injunction issued by Judge Van Fleet.

Figures Are Disputed The company represented before the board of supervisors that under the 85 cent rate for 1907 it had made a profit of only \$157,707. According to the Financial Chronicle the company showed net earnings of \$811,082, and the financial paper's figures tallied in every respect with those of the corporation except as to earnings. Of the \$20,000,000 authorized stock of the San Francisco gas and electric company there is \$15,848,433 outstanding. About 97.17 per cent of the stock is held by the Pacific gas and electric corporation, the parent organization, which was organized in 1905 and had begun to pay dividends at the time of the fire. The first and last payment was made on April 15, 1906, of 1 1/2 per cent on the preferred stock.

Plan to Pay Dividends It is now the intention, say those who should be qualified to judge, to use the earnings of the San Francisco gas and electric to resume dividends and to make payments in lieu of the suspended dividends since 1906.

The San Francisco gas and electric is saddled with a bonded indebtedness of \$8,028,000, carrying 4 1/2 per cent interest. There are also \$1,149,000 bonds of the Pacific Gas Improvement company and \$623,000 in bonds of the Edison electric light and power company, both of which were absorbed by the San Francisco gas and electric. The statement of the company for the year just closed showed revenue from sales of gas amounting to \$2,303,210.80. Rate "in suspense" amounted to \$116,881.85, making a total of \$2,420,092.65. The revenue from the sale of electric current amounted to \$2,583,304.02, making a total revenue of \$5,003,396.67. By the company's system of figuring its net revenue was reduced to \$476,508.15.

Attempt to Show Deficit The company proceeded to convert this balance into a deficit by deducting \$523,250 for interest and sinking fund, and while the company is insisting upon \$1 gas, concerns in Los Angeles and other cities are making big money at 75 and 80 cents. A new tax which the company has evolved came to light yesterday in the complaint of Mrs. Katherine A. McGivern of 1017 Shotwell street, who was forced to pay \$19 for the privilege of gas and light connections. She had paid for the gas mains from her home to the street, but the company insisted that she pay for the street mains as well.

EXPLOSION KILLS MINER AND INJURES OTHER Damage Thought Caused by Drill Hitting "Missed Hole"

[Special Dispatch to The Call] REDDING, March 10.—An explosion in the Balakala mine at Kimberly, 18 miles north of this place, instantly killed Frank Wickett, and his twin brother, John, who was so badly wounded that his recovery is doubtful. The explosion occurred at about 10:30 o'clock Tuesday night while the brothers were attending to a drill. It is believed that the drill penetrated a "missed hole." Frank Wickett was blown to atoms and John Wickett received a fractured skull and other injuries. Tons of earth were torn loose by the blast.

STANDARD NEED NOT DRAW TO PAY BIG FINE

Judge A. B. Anderson Instructs Jury to Return Verdict of Not Guilty Rockefeller Has for Time Being, at Least, Saved His Millions

DECISION KNOCKS ALL TARIFFS OUT CHICAGO, March 10.—The following statement was made this evening by C. M. Crossland, in charge of the tariff bureau for the interstate commerce commission: "If Judge Anderson is right in holding that the government has not proved a legally published tariff in this case, then practically every tariff that has been filed with the interstate commerce commission prior to January 1 of this year is not legal. Ninety-five per cent of the tariffs filed quoting class rates refer to some one or more of the three classifications, the official, western or southern, or to classifications issued by various state bodies like the Iowa or Illinois classifications. They do not refer to any specific document and the classification sheets or books are constantly changing."

[Special Dispatch to The Call] CHICAGO, March 10.—John D. Rockefeller has saved his \$23,240,000. The government's case against the Standard oil company, in which on previous trial the colossal fine had been imposed, came to an abrupt end today when the jury, acting upon the instructions of Judge A. B. Anderson, returned a verdict of not guilty. This result was not unexpected, in view of the ruling of the court that the proof relied upon in the first trial was insufficient. While the federal prosecutors are unprepared to say what action will be taken on behalf of the government, it was announced that the department of justice was anxious to carry the issue to the United States supreme court.

The specific charge against the Standard oil company was that it accepted rebates from the Chicago and Alton railroad on shipments of oil from Whiting, Ind., to East St. Louis, Ill. The government contended that the legal rate was 18 cents per 100 pounds and that the Standard had been granted a special rate of 6 cents. Judge Anderson held that the prosecution had failed to prove that the 18 cents rate had been legally published and established. The 18 cent rate appeared in the general classification tariff sheet, but the court held that there was no evidence of a special oil rate of 18 cents which could be construed as the lawful and binding figure.

Tariff Sheet Not Admitted District Attorney Sims and Assistant District Attorney Wilkerson argued at length for the admission of the classification tariff sheet, but their plea was denied. Then Attorney Miller, on behalf of the oil company, moved for an instruction of not guilty. This was ordered by Judge Anderson in the following charge: "Gentlemen of the jury: I have made up my mind to end this case. You, as jurors, have a perfunctory office to perform and the evidence you have heard as presented by the government may have given you some opinion of your own as to how this case should be decided. You have no arbitrary power. Neither have I, as a federal judge, any such power. I am bound by the law as you are.

"When the United States court of appeals lays down the law we are bound by our oaths to obey this law. The Standard oil company has been indicted and the government avers in its indictment that a rate of 18 cents per 100 pounds on shipments of oil was a fixed standard and that, regardless of this, the Chicago and Alton railroad gave the defendant concessions, allowing the defendant to ship oil over its road at a rate of 6 cents. The government failed to prove this charge. The Standard oil company is charged with a criminal offense, and therefore before a jury can find the defendant guilty it must be satisfied beyond all reasonable doubt that there was a definitely fixed rate of 18 cents.

Charge Not Supported "The proof offered by the evidence does not support the charge relative to the Chappelle, Ind., shipments. Consequently the defendant can not be found guilty on charges that embrace shipments from that point to St. Louis. "Proof of publication has not been made with reference to the alleged illegal shipments of oil from Whiting, Ind., and consequently the defendant can not be held on charges of accepting rebates on shipments from that place. "Altogether, I feel that the govern-

Hotel Employee Skillful Thief

George Bohmer, the waiter under arrest for pilfering from a guest at the St. Francis hotel, and suspected by the police of knowing much about the disappearance of Miss Jennie Crocker's \$35,000 pearl necklace.



'BARON' BAROTEAU SEEKS HIGH HOME

Snail Farming Entomologist Plans to Build House in Lofly Trees

[Special Dispatch to The Call] ALAMEDA, March 10.—"Baron" Alfred A. Baroteau, snail farmer, entomologist and one of the characters of Alameda, is planning to desert terra firma and live like a man up a tree. He has residential aspirations higher than the ground and is to build a domicile in two tall trees in Lincoln avenue near Hibbard street. The aerial habitation will be 30 feet above the earth and will be reached by a ladder, which Baroteau says he will draw up at night to prevent any intruders from invading his arboreal home.

Baroteau has long been known as a breeder of snails and an authority on how they should be prepared to please the palate of the gourmet. He is a finished chef, and his unique dinners have made him famous among high livers who are constantly seeking new dishes. "My main reason for building a roost in the treetops is to get closer to nature," said Baroteau. "There is nothing so exhilarating as the breezes of the night as they rustle through the leaves, carrying to the human being so fortunate as to inhale them vim, vigor and vitality. Our arboreal ancestors were wiser than we give them credit for being. They enjoyed good health and this was due to the fact that they lived out of doors and led nature care for them."

WHAT GOVERNMENT PAID FOR CARE OF MCKINLEY

Cost Guarded for Seven Years Finally Made Public WASHINGTON, March 10.—After carefully guarding for more than seven years the facts as to the government's expenditures incident to the last illness and burial of President McKinley, the treasury officials today made a statement covering the expenditure under the appropriation of \$45,000 for this purpose, made by congress on July 1, 1902. The physicians were paid as follows: Dr. M. D. Mann \$10,000; Dr. H. Mynto \$8,000; Dr. C. McBurney \$5,000; Dr. Roswell Parks \$5,000; Dr. C. G. Stockton \$1,500; Dr. E. G. Janeway \$1,500; Dr. H. G. Matzinger \$750; Drs. W. W. Johnson, E. W. Lee and H. R. Gaylord, \$500 each; Dr. N. W. Wilson \$250, and Dr. G. M. R. Hall and Dr. E. C. Mann, \$200 each. Three firms of undertakers divided \$4,491.30 among them. Two nurses were paid \$500 each; a third was paid \$400.

STEALS PURSE AND MAY KNOW ABOUT PEARLS

St. Francis Waiter Caught Robbing Patron in the Hotel Tearoom Rich Loot, Stolen From Guests and Hostelry, Recovered in Room Of the Criminal

DETECTED in the act of stealing a gold purse belonging to Mrs. W. P. Fuller in the white and gold tearoom of the St. Francis hotel yesterday afternoon, George Bohmer, a mess boy, employed at the hotel for several months, was arrested, and is now held at the city prison. The police believe that he knows much about the theft of Miss Jennie Crocker's \$35,000 pearl necklace, which the heiress lost during the mardi gras ball February 23.

After Bohmer had been arrested by Detectives Charles Taylor and Arthur McPhee, the two upper office men went to his room at 9 1/2 Pearl street—a suggestive place of residence under the circumstances—and there found a quantity of valuable loot which the young hotel employe had pilfered from guests at the hotel and the hotel itself. Bohmer is 26 years of age, is said to be the scion of a good family in Germany, and is called "count."

Jewels Among His Loot In the list of property recovered in Bohmer's room in Pearl street were several hundred dollars' worth of silverware taken from the hotel; gold trinkets, watches, jewelry and other articles of great value. So far as McPhee and Taylor's search progressed last evening no pearls were recovered. The prisoner is not charged with the theft of the purse, although the police have unquestioned evidence against him, but the department assiduously "sweated" the fellow and preserved an air of mystery about the topic of their penetrating investigation, though it could not be denied that the Crocker necklace was the incentive for the sweating.

Purse Left on Table Mrs. W. P. Fuller was the sufferer in the offense which Bohmer yesterday committed. With two companions Mrs. Fuller attended the function with which the St. Francis management opened the handsome tapestry room in the recently completed wing of the Powell street hotel. During the afternoon Mrs. Fuller and her friends had tea in the white and gold room. When she left the table Mrs. Fuller left thereon a gold purse, valued at \$150 and containing \$25 in gold and some silver coins and articles of jewelry.

At the table next the one at which Mrs. Fuller had been seated were Mrs. Campbell Shorb, Mrs. James King Steele, Mrs. John A. Murtagh, Miss Ethel Shorb, Miss Marie Rose Deane and Miss Elsa Draper. Mrs. Fuller had been seated were Mrs. Campbell Shorb, Mrs. James King Steele, Mrs. John A. Murtagh, Miss Ethel Shorb, Miss Marie Rose Deane and Miss Elsa Draper. Mrs. Fuller left thereon a gold purse, valued at \$150 and containing \$25 in gold and some silver coins and articles of jewelry.

He had barely slipped away when Mrs. Fuller returned in search of her valuables. Mrs. Shorb told her that she had seen a waiter pick up the purse. An alarm was given and Manager James Woods of the hotel was notified. Bohmer conceals property Bohmer, after his theft, had slipped up stairs and concealed his loot. But from the description given of him by Mrs. Shorb and the other women at the table he was readily identified, and when he returned to the kitchen the cashier had him apprehended and held until the police arrived. Taylor and McPhee made the arrest.

Bohmer was employed as a "mess boy" or "bus boy" in the hotel dining rooms. His work was to clean up the litter or "mess" on a table at the conclusion of a meal. He was employed at the hotel on the night of the mardi gras, when Miss Crocker lost her jewels, and was on duty in the dining room where the jewels were supposed to have been lost by the heiress. After Bohmer had been arrested he told the police where he had secreted Mrs. Fuller's purse, and it was found and returned to the loser during the evening. The hotel people and the police de-

STUDIES MEDICINE TO PLEASE DEAD SPOUSE Mrs. Henrietta Damkroeger Intends to Practice Here CHICAGO, March 10.—In keeping with her promise to her husband, a physician, who died some years ago in San Francisco, Mrs. Henrietta Damkroeger is one of four women taking the civil service examinations for internes in county institutions. If she is successful she will remain here until she has served the 18 months required, and then will enter general practice in San Francisco.

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