

The San Francisco Call
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Let the Merry Dash Go On



What the State Owes the Call

From Reading Courier-Free Press
AMONG our metropolitan contemporaries none has probed us with caustic pen as has The San Francisco Call. This prefatory remark is made with the twofold view of reminding that powerful journal that on some issues we remain as "we were," yet note without equivocation its sterling service to the state of California on the county assessment situation as brought into public focus by the action last week of the state board of equalization.

AFTER it has recovered from a not altogether pleasant shock of surprise, the west will begin to see that President Taft's verdict in favor of Secretary Ballinger is about the equivalent of "not proven." Only in the official sense is it a conclusive judgment. Ballinger must get his final certificate from the public, which is now fully on its guard with respect to his affiliations.

Technical Verdict for Ballinger
The Call has no desire to indulge in loose or heated criticism of the acts of President Taft. He is in the best position to determine the merits of a controversy which will not be ended by executive declaration that the acts of one of the parties thereto fell strictly within the letter of the law. It is only natural that the president should lean, if he leans at all, to the side of one of his own appointees, when that appointee was squirming under the lash wielded by one of the most vigorous subordinates of the preceding militant administration. President Taft is a good lawyer. It is only natural that he should make up his verdict as a lawyer, bound by the letter of the law. The text of his vindication of Secretary Ballinger indicates the lawyer's strictest adherence to those technicalities of the law which must needs be invoked to give the secretary of the interior a certificate of unbiased official conduct.

With reference to the coal land fraud cases, Glavis said that if he was not hurried he could make his cases without the entymen; that if he was driven he would be compelled to rely on the testimony of entymen. There is no denial of the charge that he was driven. There is no denial of the charge that stenographers and clerks in the offices of eastern promoters were among the entymen. Glavis withheld something and Glavis is already dismissed from the service by his vindicated chief.

Gifford Pinchot, chief forester and chief accuser, has said that he will not resign from the service which he has made of inestimable value to the American people and a thorn in the flesh of the timber thief, the water pirate and the mineral grabber. It is to be hoped that he will not resign as a result of the "not proven" judgment rendered for Ballinger.

The effect of Glavis' summary dismissal will be strongly to deter other subordinates, who may feel like questioning the acts of their superiors. It will clear up the atmosphere in one branch of the interior department and it will insure for President Taft's official family at least a superficial peace. But it will not convince the west or convert it to Ballingerism. The west knows Ballinger too well. It knows his associations. The west knows Pinchot and his work. The vindication of yesterday is not conclusive of the west's interest in this matter. The west is willing, even anxious, to be convinced. It will wait to see who gets that Alaska coal, and whether Ballinger or his friends share in the profits.

There is no regularly constituted court of law to which Pinchot can appeal. He can, however, appeal to the highest of all courts—that of public opinion—and public opinion has not yet been turned against Pinchot.

HERE is a matter that is not very important, perhaps, but yet significant in that it serves to illustrate in a striking way the lengths to which politicians will go to punish a man whose head is wanted by the machine. Something has been said in these columns concerning the tyrannical methods used by the machine to punish Game Warden Welch of Santa Cruz county. Welch had offended the "higher ups" in the political machine and had chiefly got himself disliked by General "Lydia Pinkham" Stone, who commands the state fish and game commission and applies its fat revenues where they will do the most good.

It was no trick at all for "Lydia" to persuade certain useful supervisors of Santa Cruz county to dispense summarily with Welch's services, but the dismissal as programmed did not stick. Judge Lucas Smith of the Santa Cruz superior court decided that it had been illegally done and at the same time administered a stinging rebuke to the superserviceable benchmen of "Lydia."

That might have discouraged most men with any sense of public decency, but not these hardy swashbucklers of "Lydia." On the word they proceeded in a novel way, thus described in the Santa Cruz News:

The most shameful thing about this resolution is a clause finding Welch guilty of not performing the duties of fish, game and fire warden since May 19, 1909—the date when the supervisors threw him out of office and invested Mallott with full authority as an officer. That would be as if Mayor Drullman should seize the records of the water department, bar Water Superintendent Tait from admission to his own office, notify the public to have no further dealings with him, appoint his successor—and then file charges against Tait for failure to do his official duty from the date he was deprived of his position.

That is to say, they find Welch guilty of their own wrong. Having unlawfully dismissed him from office they find him guilty of not fulfilling its duties from the date of his dismissal. It is an example of stupid malignity entirely characteristic of its source.

Speaking of Taft's Visit

One of the skyscrapers he will not see—the Hearst 23 story building.
When the president visits Yosemite the guides spiel about "another wonder in the valley."
After the president has sampled Spring Valley he will be stronger than ever for Hetch Hetchy.

When the president views Van Ness avenue: "That reminds me of Oyster Bay—so much like a lonesome town!"
One of our best local exhibits for the president—a contented Japanese community. Tokyo papers please copy.

"Yes, I know," said W. H. T., with a smile, "Cook and Peary are on their way home, but I'm on my way west."
Next week "The Gentleman From Mississippi" as a local attraction. Two weeks later, the first gentleman of the land from Washington.

Yes, indeed, Professor McArdie, it's a superb brand of weather you're giving us. But please save some of it for our honored guest from Washington.

When President Taft takes another look at the Pacific he will discover that it can easily accommodate a permanent battleship fleet. We won't be happy until we get it.

A pleasant incident of the president's visit to Los Angeles will be when he is the guest of his sister. Picture his broad smile when she asks him if he remembers when they used to call him "Little Willie."

Letters From the People

WOULD STOP THE POSTAL DEFICIT
Editor The Call: Last year's deficit in United States postal accounts is said to have risen to \$20,000,000. On the other hand, Great Britain's profit on its postoffice annually foots up some \$25,000,000. Why is this?

Cook Broke The Polar Etiquette

THE awful charge is now presented that Doctor Cook's "dash for the pole" was not really "scientific." It was not stamped with the hallmark of the schools, and, therefore, does not rise above the dignity of an athletic event. Neither was the "dash" conducted in accordance with the rules of the game. The etiquette of polar exploration was violated by an ill bred intruder who butted into Peary's reservation.

Los Angeles Assessor Defies State Board

ASSESSOR HOPKINS of Los Angeles goes on hurling defiance and bad language at the state board of equalization. With a characteristic gesture, Hopkins declares that he and Los Angeles will not submit to the indignity of being compelled to pay their fair share toward the support of the state government.

THE SMART SET

THE wedding news of the season is taking a prominent place in the gossip of the day, and several of the brides elect whose engagements have been announced during the summer are deep in preparation for the autumn weddings. The marriage of Miss Helen Baker and Drummond MacGavin will take place the first week in November and will be an important affair in the evening at Trinity church, but the exact date is not yet announced.

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Sloane Watson are at their country home, Oakcroft, near Redwood, where they will remain probably until late in October, but Mrs. Watson is a frequent visitor to town and has been entertaining her friends at a succession of informal house parties this season.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Deering will return later in the month, after passing the summer at their country home near Redwood, and will occupy their house in Broderick street this winter.

Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Whitney have taken a house in Vallejo street near Franklin, where they will be established for the winter, and it is probable that Mr. and Mrs. J. Parker Whitney will stay at the Fairmont this season, after their usual custom.

Mr. and Mrs. Parker Currier are among those who have returned to town recently and are at the Fairmont hotel, where they will remain until after the winter festival, but are anticipating a trip through the northern and eastern cities later in the season. They will visit Portland and Seattle before going to New York after their custom for several years to pass part of the winter in Chicago, where they will return for the later gayeties in town.

Mr. John Dickinson Sherwood and her sister, Mrs. M. R. Runyon, who have been at the Fairmont for the last month, left last night for their homes at Los Mochis.

The management of the Burlington has adopted Doctor Eliot's "five foot shelf" library for its new Chicago-Denver train.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES

CLOTHING—A. B. C. City. Is it unlawful to purchase a suit from the United States navy, and is it unlawful to purchase one from a dealer who has purchased a lot of coats?
It is unlawful for a sailor to sell any part of his clothing. Any such clothing is liable to be confiscated if found in possession of a dealer unless it is part of a lot sold by order of the United States government and bearing the announcement that it was sold by order of the government by auction.

ALIENS VOTING—Are there any states in the United States in which an alien may, after having declared his intention of becoming a citizen, vote before he receives his naturalization papers?
An alien who has declared his intention of becoming a citizen may, after residing a stated time in the state, varying from six months to two years, vote at any election in Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas and Wisconsin.

Gossip of the Railwaymen

THIS town is entirely too hot," said Phil K. Gordon, Pacific coast passenger agent of the Washington-Sunset route, several days ago. "I'm going out of town to get cooled."

McKay was in Manila during the battle of Manila bay, when Admiral George Dewey wiped out the Spanish fleet.
Orders were issued by the admiral that no person should be allowed to go ashore during the bombardment of the city, but at last a half hour before the shelling of the city had been stopped, McKay was on his way back to town, and in another hour he had completely plastered Manila with advertisements of the Overland route, which he was representing in the orient.

The Southern Pacific will put on a new fast train between this city and Stockton Sunday, September 19. The train will leave San Francisco at 12:30 p. m. and arrive at Stockton at 3:30 p. m. This will give fast train service to Stockton at a popular hour, allowing passengers to leave this city just after luncheon and arrive at Stockton in three hours. Leaving Stockton at 7:25 p. m., the same train will arrive in this city at 10:35 p. m.