

The San Francisco Call

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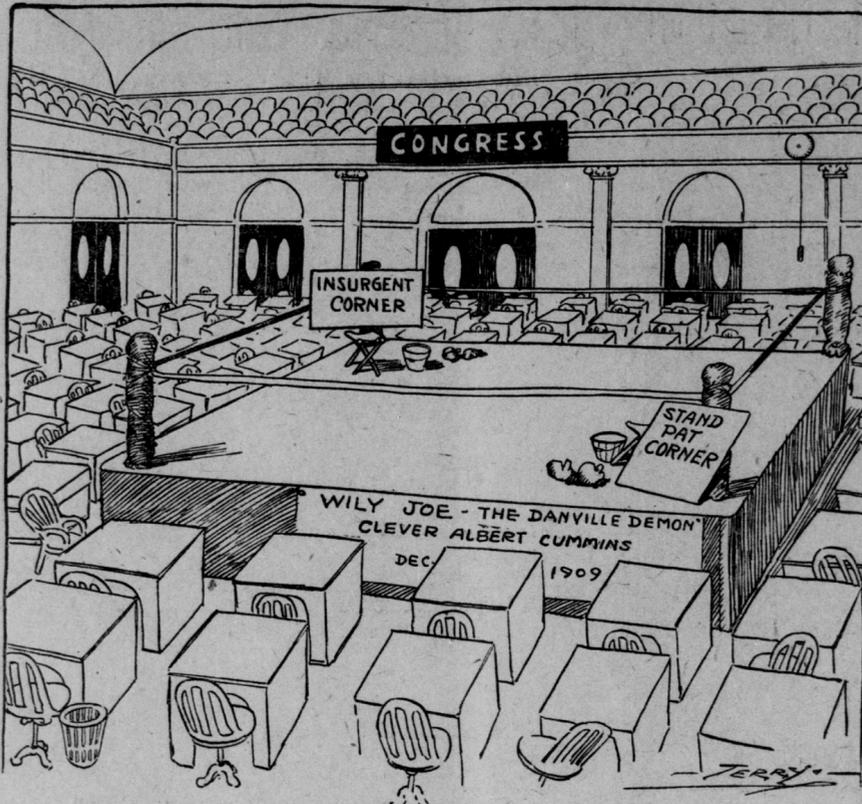
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The Next Fight to a Finish



REPRESENTATIVE SMITH of Bakersfield discusses in the columns of the Echo of that town his proposition to turn over to the states the full control of water rights and rights of way for the same, now held by the national forest reserves.

Representative Smith on Water Rights

Mr. Smith is in a great hurry to get these rights turned over to state control and it is not impossible that our past experience in this relation may explain the reason why.

Mr. Smith urges that there is no danger in giving the states full ownership of these rights, because, after they pass into private hands, they will still be subject to the regulation and control of local governing bodies. Thus Mr. Smith:

A good deal has been said about the rising "water power trust" in the country. Two things should be kept in mind. First, a water power is a natural monopoly since not more than one concern can use the same water at the same place at the same time.

The Call concedes Mr. Smith's sincerity of position, but he seems to have got hold of the question by the wrong end. That all these water powers must ultimately come under state control may be conceded, but before that is done a complete revision of the state laws and policy relative to such property will be necessary.

To turn them over under existing conditions would mean that all these rights would be seized at once and alienated for private use forever. That has happened already to most of the water powers in state control, but the creation of national forest reserve has held off the grabbers from a part.

The principle for which the conservationists contend is that these public rights should never be parted with in perpetuity. They may be granted under franchises for a term of years as street railroads are enfranchised, but at the end of that period they must return to public control for revision of the terms on which they are held.

When the California statutes make provision for control of that sort there will probably be no opposition to Mr. Smith's measure.

Mr. Smith's argument that water and other public service corporations are by law subject to the control of boards of supervisors and other governing bodies is merely theory. In practice, as everybody knows, it does not work. It is because this method of control is ineffectual that the public service corporations want it extended to everything that remains in the way of public property.

President Ripley's Conversion

PRESIDENT RIPLEY of the Santa Fe is an unexpected convert to the principle that railroads should be subject to control and regulation by the government. For many years Mr. Ripley has nursed a grudge, inspired by what he regarded as an unjust invasion of property rights which, like another railroad president of some fame, he believed were hedged about by a certain inviolable divinity.

If that frame of mind had been deduced from Mr. Ripley's past utterances on government control of railroads it seems that injustice was done him or he has come around to a totally different view. His opinions on the subject were stated at the annual banquet of the Railway business association in New York, where he declared that the ancient idea expressed in the famous sentence, "The public be damned," had passed out and the railroads had come to recognize that the people were the final arbiters of their fate. Mr. Ripley proceeded:

In this country the people rule—and in the long run that system, that method, or that personality that does not meet the approbation of the public can not succeed. Acknowledging as we must that the public is all powerful, the question is, How may we satisfy our masters and thus mitigate our woes and preserve our properties?

First—We must realize, as I think we all do (after a series of very hard knocks), that the railroads are not strictly private property, but subject to regulation by the public through its regularly constituted authorities—that the government may reduce our earnings and increase our expenses has been sufficiently proved.

Second—To meet this situation we must endeavor to get into touch with public opinion. Perhaps you will smile when I say that for years I have read every article on railroad matters in each of the papers published along our ten thousand miles of road—not an easy task for a busy man—but while I have waded through much chaff I am sure it has resulted in some returns.

Third—The avoidance of action seriously counter to public opinion except for compelling reasons.

Fourth—The disposition to explain these reasons through officers and employees of all grades. Generally the loudest criticisms come from those who are not anxious to know the truth.

UNCLE JOE CANNON is fighting mad. He scents a conspiracy of unprincipled newspapers to down him and at the head of this villainous combination he names the Chicago Tribune. The speaker of the house "hurled" defiance at the Tribune and its wicked partners in a speech delivered at Bloomington, Ill., some ten days ago and he dared the chief conspirator to print his speech. The dare was accepted and the minatory and defiant fulmination was printed from the notes of Mr. Cannon's private stenographer.

Uncle Joe Discovers a "Conspiracy"

The burden of Uncle Joe's fulmination is that these foul conspirators are angered because he fought the reduction of duty on wood pulp for making paper. It is the sort of motive for political action that appeals to men of Cannon's mind and habit. He is wholly unable to conceive such a thing as an honest fight for principle.

Among other things included in the speaker's excited rhetoric was some denunciation of Congressman Herbert Parsons of New York, who had accused him of making a political trade with democratic members of the house in order to get votes enough to sustain the rules that constitute him czar of the house. "They weren't Tamman men, anyhow," exclaimed Uncle Joe triumphantly, "but McCarren men."

A thoroughly angry man always offers an amusing spectacle when his anger is due to the exposure of ignoble and unworthy motives. So Cannon's speech inspires the New York World to ridicule, like this:

As for Mr. Cannon's charge that the metropolitan newspapers have conspired to drive him out of public life on account of his attitude toward the duty on wood pulp and print paper, it is not even a good fairy story. So far as this town is concerned nobody has been harassing Uncle Joe much except Herbert Parsons, and Herbert Parsons is not a metropolitan newspaper. When the speaker was a candidate for re-election and Mr. Taft was supposed to be using his influence in favor of Mr. Burton, we have a distinct recollection that a great many of the leading newspapers, regardless of Mr. Cannon's attitude toward paper duties, joined the World in protesting against presidential interference in the choice of a speaker. This is not to say that the World did this out of love for Uncle Joe personally or because he is kind and good and beautiful, but because we are opposed on principle to all executive meddling with the constitutional powers of either branch of congress.

Uncle Joe's picture of himself as the martyred victim of a foul conspiracy is not convincing. When a man in public life becomes ridiculous the end is not far distant.

THE opening of the New theater in New York may be regarded as an event of national importance. It is an undertaking on a magnificent scale to reproduce in this country something of the success and prestige enjoyed by the great endowed theaters of Europe, with their consequent influence on the status of the drama.

An Endowed Theater in America

An endowed theater has never before been attempted by an English speaking people, but on the continent of Europe such institutions are common, from the historic Francais at Paris and the Hofburg in Vienna down to the subsidized playhouses of minor principalities. England has never had anything of the sort and a copious controversy has simmered on the subject pro and con.

The New York experiment is backed by an ample endowment, guaranteed by men of great wealth. The house is splendid in appointments and in its exterior and interior architectural beauty. Yet with all the money spent on it the theater is not a complete success. The acoustics, for one thing, appear to be inferior. The New York Times says of the first performance:

The theater itself is a delight to the eye, even if, as appeared on the opening night, something yet remains to be accomplished to bring complete satisfaction to the ear; it is rich in detailed comfort, and in every sense equal, if it does not surpass, the promise that the founders made. It provides, in other words, a playhouse which if not superior in beauty and appointments to the great state endowed theaters abroad is yet the peer of any of them in solidity of construction, beauty of design and splendor of decoration; it is an institution of which the city may be distinctly proud and deserves liberal patronage and encouragement at the outset. There was less complaint of the acoustics last night than before the theater is completely satisfying in this respect. And the question of whether the house is not too large for modern drama and more intimate comedy may not well be decided until experiments have been made.

This fairly represents the general tone of criticism in the press. It is a strange fact that architects have never yet been able to master the science of acoustics as applied to theaters. As far as the public knows, good acoustics in playhouses appear to be very much a matter of accident. It may be that modern fireproof construction and the absence of wood in the auditorium work evil as to the acoustics of a building. Indeed, the experience of architects in this regard runs in favor of small theaters. They have not yet discovered how to make people hear in all parts of a big theater built of steel, stone and brick.

Gossip of Railwaymen

THE businessmen of Leavenworth, Kan., recently asked the Union Pacific to put an additional passenger train on its line running west from Leavenworth 100 miles. The management declined the request because the train would not pay its running expenses. The businessmen, determined to have better service, then offered to buy a motor car themselves and run it, paying for the use of the track. The proposition has not yet been acted on by the railroad.

H. J. Small, general superintendent of motive power of the Southern Pacific, will depart on the steamer Manchuria today, taking his family for a three months' trip.

J. J. Byrne, assistant passenger traffic manager of the Santa Fe, left on the Mariposa yesterday for a vacation trip.

Great outpourings of people are greeting the special demonstration train which is visiting various sections of the Sacramento valley under the operation of the Southern Pacific company and direction of the University of California. Much enthusiasm and interest is being displayed, many present at the demonstrations and lectures asking questions on care and treatment of crops and insect prevention and methods of cure.

J. C. Stubbs, traffic director, and E. O. McCormick, assistant traffic director of the Southern Pacific, are reported on their way to San Francisco. They are on an inspection trip.

A comprehensive campaign to promote immigration from foreign countries has been instituted by the Santa Fe within the last few weeks through the printing and extensive circulation of literature describing the San Joaquin valley in foreign language. Handsomely illustrated folders containing views and descriptive writings of the farm lands of California are now off the press and are being sent to all foreign countries for distribution.

Telephone circuits for train dispatching are now in use on the Burlington system to the extent of 2,500 miles of road, and on more than half of this mileage there are no telegraph circuits in use, the telephones being used not only for all railway business, but also for Western Union messages.

After November 24 the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul will no longer make through freight rates on oriental traffic. It will follow the policy of other transcontinental lines in exacting the same rate on traffic moving to the orient that is charged on traffic for Pacific coast points.

One hundred cars of celery have already been moved by the Southern Pacific and Santa Fe lines out of Antloch and Holt. This is only the beginning of the celery movement, as there are at least 1,000 more cars.

It is announced that the Grand Trunk Pacific will build a fleet of large steamships for use on the Pacific ocean where its railway lines have been finished to Prince Rupert.

Roger A. Clark has been appointed auditor of the Central railroad of Oregon, with office at Union, Ore., succeeding Wilbur Davis, in charge of all matters pertaining to the accounting department, and until further notice will have charge also of the general freight and passenger departments.

Outwits Prying Schutzmann

From time to time we have shown the vexatious regulations in force in Alsace-Lorraine against the French born subjects. An amusing incident is given in the Journal d'Alsace-Lorraine of an incident which has just occurred. A shop keeper had placed in his shop a card with gold letters on a black ground, bearing the legend "Liquidation totale." A schutzmann noticed the card and interviewed the shop keeper. "You have up a notice," he said, "in French. It must be taken down and put in German." With this imperative though laconic command the official went his way. The shop keeper was very vexed to think that he had gone to the expense of having this beautiful card in black and gold printed, but what was to be done? Should he have another prepared? Then an idea struck him. The Germans place the adjective before the noun. He was at an end of the agonizing difficulty. He took a pair of scissors, cut the card in two and then placed the card in its case it now read "Totale Liquidation." The next day the schutzmann returned. "Good morning," said he. "Now you have it in German." So without any cost the shop keeper had met the requirements of the law.

The Insider

Tells how a Bohemian artist and his wife made a jest of their poverty by suggesting that they buy a safe in which to keep their pawn tickets.

Artist Had Little Use for Strongbox

THE agent for a house safe company called at the studio-residence of a very bohemian artist the other day and suggested that it would be a good thing for the lady of the household to buy one of the small safes to place her valuables in. "You see, in these studio buildings," he said, "the locks are not very strong, and the house is frequently entirely empty. If you knew your valuables were locked up in this little safe, which has a combination lock, you would feel so much more comfortable when you are obliged to be away some hours."

"But we have no valuables just at present," said the artist's wife, "and those we have are in a very safe place."

"So safe we can not get them out ourselves," added her husband, who loves to make a jest of his poverty.

"How much is the safe?" asked the wife, as she examined the miniature strongbox and its complicated lock.

"Twenty-five dollars," said the agent.

"That is very reasonable, indeed." And then the artist came in with a final contribution of humor, which was, however, lost on the safe agent: "We might buy one to put our pawn tickets in."

Mouse Leaps From Young Woman's Hat

The passengers in a Powell street car had a fright last Friday night, which some of them have not yet stopped talking about. A pretty young saleslady from the Emporium entered the car at Market street and sat down in a corner seat. She was just about to pay her fare and leaned over to look in her shopping bag, when, presto! forth from her hat sprang a mouse. It looked as large as a rat to the young woman, who gave a shriek, which was chorused by the other women in the car. The explanation of the mouse's dramatic appearance was that the hat had been hung in the cloak-room of the store and its artistic architecture probably appealed to the little animal's sense of comfort. But it gave the owner of the hat a fearful shock.

Mary's Little Lamb Getting Pretty Aged

A railroadman, who has been absent from the city for some years, returned to town Saturday and was much interested to note the changes in the architecture of the downtown district buildings. He was so much interested that he walked to North beach along Montgomery street, and back along Kearny. In the latter street he paused before a restaurant on the south side, whose sign attracted his notice.

"Mary's Little Lamb," he read aloud, "at 427 Pine street 29 years." By Jove! he exclaimed, turning to his companion, "29 years—I should think Mary's little lamb would have grown to a sheep in that time."

At which those in the immediate vicinity chuckled.

THE X SMART X SET

WITH the round of informal entertainments this week there seems, in truth, little time for aught else, with the necessary exception, to be sure, of the Thanksgiving holiday. The days are crowded with dinner parties, teas and luncheons. However, the engagement announcements of these days are very interesting and one of the latest bits of gossip is the news of the betrothal of Dr. Edward Cecil Sewall of this city and Miss Amy Heitshu of Portland. The announcement has just been made in the northern city and is one of the most interesting of the season on account of the prominence of the bride elect. The news will be received with great surprise by the friends of the popular young physician, since every one has considered him among those aspiring young professional men who are determined to work exclusively. He is clever and wealthy and one of the popular clubmen in town. The date for the wedding has not been mentioned.

One of the prettiest of the recent affairs was the tea given yesterday for Miss Kathleen Farrell at the Fairmont, when the presiding hostesses were Miss Rhoda Niebling and Miss Freda Smith. The decorations were entirely in violet and very effective, with a large centerpiece of the flowers and each card adorned with a dainty violet design. The girls bidden to meet the debutante were all members of the younger set and among those who greeted Miss Farrell were: Miss Ethel McAllister, Miss Irene Farrell, Miss Resda Dargie, Miss Ila Sonntag, Miss Anna Mearns, Miss Edna Mearns, Miss Walter Geare, Miss Kate Peterson, Miss Alma Thane.

Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Cook, who are visiting here from Los Angeles, entertained yesterday at an informal luncheon at the St. Francis for Mr. and Mrs. George Arnet.

Miss Janet Coleman is enjoying a visit in the southern part of the state and will be entertained by her sister, Mrs. Walter Coleman during her stay in Santa Cruz.

It will be a pleasant bit of news for the friends of Mrs. Peter Martin to learn that this charming matron will be here for a visit later in the season and that it is just possible she will be in this city for the Christmas holidays and will be a guest at the home of Mrs. Eleanor Martin in Broadway.

Mrs. Martin has been entertaining at a series of informal dinner parties. One of these pleasant affairs was given last evening for less than a dozen guests, an occasion preceding evening the dinner party was in compliment to Miss Ynez Dibblee.

Mrs. George H. Powers has returned after a visit of several months to the east and will remain at her home in Clay street for the winter.

Mrs. Josiah R. Howell has returned after a delightful visit at Los Molinos, where she was entertained for several days. She came back in time for the first Greenway assembly at the Fairmont.

Miss Genevieve Harvey is in town for a few days and is visiting Mrs. Eleanor Martin while her charming cousin, Miss Genevieve Walker, is the guest of friends at Burlingame for the week.

Mr. and Mrs. Hall McAllister are among those who will sail today for the Manchuria for an extended tour of the orient. Others who are leaving for the trip are W. H. Small and Miss Barbara Small. There will be a large group of friends at the dock this morning to wish the travelers bon voyage.

ANSWERS X TO X QUERIES

METRIC SYSTEM—Losers, City. What is the practical equivalent metric system, as compared with the American?
1 acre = 40 hectares = 4047
1 bushel = 35 litres = 35.23
1 cubic centimetre = .061 cubic inch = .061
1 cubic decimetre = 6.5 cubic centimetres = 6.52
1 cubic inch = .16 cubic centimetre = .1639
1 cubic metre = 35 cubic feet = 35.23
1 cubic metre = 1.3 cubic yards = 1.308
1 cubic yard = .76 cubic metre = .7645
1 foot = .30 centimetres = .3048
1 gallon = 3.8 litres = 3.785
1 gram = .001 kilogram = .001
1 grain = .0648 grams = .0648
1 hectare = 2.5 acres = 2.471
1 inch = 25 millimetres = 25.40
1 kilo = 2.2 pounds = 2.205
1 kilometre = 1.1 miles = 1.093
1 litre = .21 quart (dry) = .2041
1 litre = .21 quart (liquid) = .207
1 metre = 3.3 feet = 3.281
1 metre = 1.1 yards = 1.094

YORK TRIBUNE and published in that paper. The king, Count Bismarck, General von Roon, General von Moltke and Generals Sheridan and Forsythe stood in a group overlooking the principal field of attack."

TORRACCO-WHEAT—Two Subscribers, City. Had a dispute as to whether wheat can be raised in a field that has been used to raise a tobacco crop. Can it?

The year book of the department of agriculture for 1908 says: The crop following the tobacco, in Virginia and other southern states, in most sections is wheat. In experiments at Agonomat, in the Virginia dark tobacco districts, yields have been obtained of from 25 to 30 bushels of wheat per acre after tobacco, with heavy fertilization, costing \$32 an acre, and of from 12 to 15 bushels per acre on check plots where the tobacco was fertilized with 400 pounds of ordinary 3-3-3 fertilizer, costing \$5. No fertilizer was applied directly to the wheat in either case.

PUGILISTIC MONEY—A. S. Kendall, Mont. Please state in the query department of The Call the largest purse Jeffries ever fought for and how much was his share.

The largest amount Jeffries ever fought for was when he met Jim Corbett in San Francisco, August 14, 1905, when he knocked him out in 10 rounds. The house amounted to \$63,000. The man divided on a percentage. Jeffries' share, with his bonus, amounted to \$31,000.

BUSINESS ADDRESSES—Minnie R. Watsonville, Cal. Correspondents who ask department for business addresses will not be answered unless the question is accompanied by a self-addressed and stamped envelope. Questions of that nature are not answered in the query department.