

The San Francisco Call

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

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THERE is no essential difference between the policies of conservation laid down by Gifford Pinchot and those attributed to Mr. Taft as likely to be given full statement in his forthcoming message to congress. The only question is whether Secretary Ballinger is the right man to give effect to these policies. It is useless to deny that the American people, rightly or wrongly, have conceived a deep distrust of Ballinger, and this distrust is accentuated by the gossip afloat in Washington to the effect that Pinchot's resignation will be demanded. This gossip is, of course, the merest conjecture based on the fact of official resentment provoked by Pinchot's outspoken habit and his refusal to stay quiet. There is nothing in the world that officialism hates and fears as much as the man who makes open appeal to public opinion. If the chief forester is removed from office for this cause it must have a disastrous effect on the general estimate of Mr. Taft's administration.

The distrust of Ballinger is not removed by the fact that in his recent annual report his recommendations go further in the direction of conservation than even Pinchot has ever advocated. It is a distrust based on Ballinger's former affiliations and his utterances of a nonofficial character. To show how deep rooted is this distrust we offer a quotation from an editorial article in the Boston Transcript, a careful and conservative newspaper, and a consistent supporter of the republican party. We quote as to Ballinger:

He has not impressed the country by either his greatness or his sincerity. His recent report, which spoke loudly for conservation, as if he were himself the Christopher Columbus of the movement, is recalled in connection with his long sustained attitude of belittling and discrediting in private conversation most of these efforts. It is an open secret that President Roosevelt, contented to his retirement from the land office without extreme regret, and it also seems clear that Mr. Garfield, who as secretary of the interior had found Ballinger, soon came to have little sympathy with him. Indeed, as the McClure article shows, had congress followed Ballinger's advice instead of Garfield's, all these coal lands would almost certainly have been lost to the public. In fine, Ballinger seems to have been worked off on Taft by some very shrewd northwestern interests which were desirous of mitigating the rigors with which the law was administered.

It is seldom that a cabinet officer has in so short a time provoked the degree of criticism that has overtaken Ballinger. It is highly desirable to have the occasion for it investigated. Meanwhile Mr. Pinchot is remaining in the public service because he feels it his duty to fight it out on the line of his public spirited interests, lest the damage, were he to desert his post, should prove irreparable. The office has been made decidedly uncomfortable for him. Most of the other Roosevelt appointees of the interior department have been got out of the service in one way or another, and the few who remain are manifestly doing so not because they want the place or the salary, but from a perception that it is a duty to keep on guard.

It will scarcely be denied that this is a strong and lucid statement of the condition of public opinion east and west wherever it is not sophisticated by the special interests that are seeking to exploit the coal measures and the water powers for their private profit.

THAT it was the duty of the state railroad commissioners to intervene on behalf of the producers and shippers of California when the overland roads last year levied a 10 per cent increase of rates will scarcely be disputed as matter of policy and honest administration. That the law directs such intervention is not quite true, because the statute in this regard contains a "joker," doubtless put there by design, which appears to confide to the commissioners a wide discretion. They are directed to intervene "when public interest requires," and as they are the judges of what constitutes the "public interest" the statute leaves them virtually free to follow their own sweet will.

The only outcome of the law is to supply another example of the firm flam legislation prepared by corporation lawyers, which pretends to give with one hand what in fact it takes away with the other.

The remedy does not lie in impeachment of the commissioners, but in electing men to this office who are not mere tools of the Southern Pacific political bureau, men who have a widely different conception of the "public interest" from that held by the present commissioners and most of their predecessors in office.

It may even be that the shippers and producers who were hurt by the increase of rates were themselves a little remiss in prosecuting their remedy before the interstate commerce commission. It is true that this remedy and its processes are so painfully slow as to make it a discouraging undertaking. That is largely the fault of the interstate commerce law, which does not give the commission power to suspend new rates on complaint pending inquiry.

Mr. Taft will ask congress to correct this defect in the law, and it is important that public attention should be concentrated on the course of the national legislative body in this regard, because the amendment will be bitterly opposed by the railroad lobby.

In the meantime the shippers and manufacturers should proceed without delay to press their petition to the interstate commission for an inquiry into the reasonableness of the 10 per cent advance in rates. That course was taken by the Oregon lumbermen with eminently successful results, and their case with findings in their favor is now under consideration by the federal supreme court. Like action should have been taken long ago in this state, and probably would have been taken had there not been some conflict of counsel concerning policy.

As for the state railroad commission, nothing can be expected from that body as at present constituted.

THE HUNTER AND THE HUNTED



COLONEL ROOSEVELT HAS DISCOVERED A NEW ANIMAL - THE OTOCYON VERGATUS. - News Item -



PRESIDENT TAFT GAVE UP MOST OF YESTERDAY LISTENING TO THE SPECIAL PLEA OF SIX RAILROAD PRESIDENTS. - PRESS DISPATCH -

THE incorporated body is developing a soul—becoming, in fact, partly human. It was, we believe, Daniel O'Connell, the Irish statesman, who said that "a corporation has no body that can be kicked and no soul that can be damned." Yet it seems as if the modern corporation were developing, in process of evolution, some sort of rudimentary soul. On occasion it gives evidence of feelings and the possession of bowels of compassion. The corporation which nowadays undertakes to run its business on the basis of "The public be damned" is hopelessly out of date and old fashioned.

The railroad companies have begun to pension their old employees, acknowledging a human relation growing out of long and faithful service. The Southern Pacific and the Santa Fe are building comfortable club houses at division points for their employees, and provision is made for first class medical and hospital service.

The use of safety appliances to guard the lives of employes has become virtually universal on the railroads, and although these precautions were compelled by law, the roads that at first opposed this legislation have now loyally accepted it. A summary of results under this law as detailed by the interstate commerce commission shows that: "While in 1903 one man was killed out of every 349 employed in coupling and uncoupling cars, in 1908 the ratio had been reduced to one in 983; and that while in 1903 the number of injured was one in 13, in 1908 it was only one in 62. In other words, two out of every three of the great number of lives lost in former years among the men engaged in this work might have been saved if the safety appliance law had been put into effective operation, and of the injuries of various degrees of seriousness short of killing four out of every five would have been prevented by the same means."

It is right to say that the railroads have been pioneers in the evolution of the corporation soul. There are plenty of belated survivals of the old dispensation, like most of the public service corporations of San Francisco, which are run on the principle that it is good business to keep up a perpetual quarrel with their customers and patrons, giving them the worst of it at every turn. But the railroads appear to have discovered that this is not good business. They find that it pays to treat their employes like human beings and to give the public good service, even if they do charge high rates. With most of the public service corporations of San Francisco it is high rates, bad service, and "the public be damned."

PROF. SPENSER WILKINSON, an English publicist of impartial mind and habit, writes instructively of the pending political conflict in Great Britain, which, in some countries, would look like revolution rather than evolution, one way or the other. In a logical sense the issue is between representative government and the domination of an hereditary caste, and in that view the result might seem a foregone conclusion where the electoral body constitutes the final logic. But the Englishman, and perhaps the American, mixes little logic with his politics, and both are quite likely to be turned from the contemplation of ultimate principles by material considerations that touch them more nearly. Mr. Wilkinson sums up:

In practice it is not clear whether in this country the plain man cares a straw for a theory of the constitution. The constitution has always been, and will always be, a means by which the people get what they want. If Mr. Chamberlain has converted the majority to protection, they will vote for protection and let the constitution take care of itself. If not, if the majority is satisfied with the budget and not convinced that protection will benefit them, they will not let the house of lords stand in their way.

In any case, however, the house of lords has burned its boats. The issue raised by the rejection of the budget can in the long run only be settled in one way. The process may be prolonged for years; but from the division by which the house of lords determined that parliament should be dissolved dates the beginning of a new stage in the development of democracy, a stage which in any other country would be revolution.

The conclusion is not so certain. Very much the same things were said in 1832 when the lords rejected the "reform bill," but for nearly a hundred years since that acute political disturbance the upper house has been permitted to go on meddling and muddling on sufferance, enjoying the toleration which the Britisher accords to established institutions, for which long habit has created in his mind a sort of sneaking kindness, although he knows in his heart that the whole thing is absurd and illogical.

The Insider

Tells how the doctor on a trans-Pacific liner taught a Chinese passenger how to play cribbage and then was compelled to pay for all the liquor drunk on voyage to orient.

Physician Beaten at His Own Game

TRANS-PACIFIC travel is always light at this season of the year," said the old purser. "I remember once that the Belgic left here December 29 with only one passenger, and that a Chinese. Frank Gates was surgeon, and when we sat down in the almost empty salon to tiffin that day he looked blue as mud. Before the pilot left us he was teaching the Chinese passenger to play cribbage. I passed near them an hour or so later and I heard Gates say:

"You know the game now. After this we play for something." "The Chink was a sport and agreed with a smile to Gates' proposition that the loser in the morning should pay for a bottle of beer apiece for tiffin and the loser in the afternoon for a bottle of wine for dinner.

"The Chinese wanted to begin right away and Gates looked almost guilty that night as he sipped the claret the heathen had bought. But he might have saved his blushes. The next day John began to show the doctor things about crib that he had never heard of before, and Gates paid for all the beer and wine the two drank together with their meals between that and Hongkong."

It was on the Belgic that Jack Hallinan, the well known gambler, met his match. Hallinan was sickening of the malady that later killed him, and on advice of his doctor took a voyage across the Pacific.

The only other cabin passengers were missionaries, and the proprietor of the Cremorne did not find them genial companions. He even wearied of the demijohn of whisky that was on tap in his stateroom and was getting desperate when one day he wandered into the steerage and there found three Chinese playing poker. Without enthusiasm they made room for him at the keg on which they were playing and not one of the six eyelids batted when he pulled out a handful of gold and asked if he might sit in the game. He made a fourth for the rest of the voyage, and when he threw down his last hand as the quarantine officer came aboard at Hongkong he was out exactly \$5,000.

During all the time he never exchanged a word with his despoilers. They paid no more attention to him, he told a friend afterward, when he got up the last time that they had when he first forced his way into the game. He called for cards by signs, his money did the rest of the talking, and except that they dealt him cards and took his money they seemed no more conscious of his presence than if he had stayed topside with the missionaries and played shuffleboard.

THE SMART SET

ON the social calendar there are teas and bridge parties that occupy time most acceptably, but the dancing parties have by far the most conspicuous place in the forecast of the days. The tea to be given this afternoon, at which Miss Janet Coleman will preside, is for the younger folk entirely, but the Cinderella dance that will take place tomorrow evening at the Palace is a matter for expectation among the older set quite as much as in the younger crowd.

While weddings and engagements form a greater part in the budget of news this week, most of these important and momentous affairs of particular interest to society here are taking place somewhere else. The wedding of Miss Caroline Seeley and Norman Livermore will take place today in Galveston, and the marriage of Miss Eleanor Cushing and James Jenkins will be an event of today, not yesterday, as has been erroneously reported. The ceremony will take place at 12:30 today in San Rafael.

The news of the engagement of Miss Bernice Drucker Wilson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander W. Wilson of this city, and Robert Schurman, the son of President and Mrs. Jacob Gould Schurman of Cornell university, is of the greatest interest to the friends of the charming bride elect. Miss Wilson is the sister of Mrs. Claude H. Smith of Ithaca, N. Y., and the announcement was made at a recent dinner given at the home of this hostess, where Mr. and Mrs. Wilson are visiting. The bride to be is a charming girl, exceptionally pretty and has a host of friends here who will be surprised to learn of her betrothal to the young college man. Schurman is a graduate of Cornell, taking his degree of A. B. in 1907.

The date of the wedding is indefinite, for Schurman, who is on his way west, will leave this city later in the week for China, where he goes on an extended business trip. One of the dancing parties of the week in which the interest of the younger set is centered and which is the second to be given by the university assembly, is set for Saturday evening, January 8, at Century club hall at Sutter and Franklin streets. The dance, given before the holidays, was a tremendous success and those who attended the initial party of the organization are looking forward with pleasure to the second reunion.

The dates have been arranged with due regard for college work and have been planned without interference in the school curriculum, since most of the members are students at universities. The dance immediately precedes the opening of the college semester. The patronesses of the university assembly dances are: Mrs. Rudolph W. Baum, Mrs. James McNaughton, Mrs. Charles E. Buehler, Mrs. A. Schrock, Mrs. Wm. E. Palmer, Mrs. Henry St. Goar.

Miss Kathleen Farrell will be one of the most popular debutantes of the month. There are several informal affairs on the tapis for this charming girl, besides the several parties that she will give on her own account, before the beginning of Lent. Miss Farrell was the guest of honor at a theater party, in which there were 13 young people, given last evening by her aunt, Mrs. James Shea. Among the later affairs of the month will be the luncheon at which Mrs. Frederick Van Deventer Stott will preside. This will be given Tuesday, January 11. Miss Farrell will give a luncheon on a later date for a bevy of the debutantes. Miss Gertrude Perry will entertain at one of the informal teas of the month. It will, however, be on rather an elaborate scale, considering the number of guests, for it will exceed the usual score at afternoon teas, and will be given at the Palace. There will be probably half a hundred guests or more and the tea will be one of the enjoyable affairs of the month for the younger set. Miss Virginia Newhall, who has been enjoying the vacation season at home, will leave Friday for school in the east, where she will remain for several months. The days prior to her departure will be crowded with farewell compliments. She has been a favorite guest at the various dancing parties of the holidays, and with her sister, Miss Francis Newhall, gave one of the most interesting of the recent parties. Miss Newhall will be the incentive for a tea to be given this afternoon by Miss Janet Coleman, and 20 girls will say "au revoir." Friday of this week has been reserved by 20 more girls, who will be entertained at a luncheon, when Miss Newhall will preside as hostess. Dr. and Mrs. R. Langley Porter will leave during the month for the east and Europe, where they intend to pass a year or more in traveling. Edward M. Greenway was host at an informal luncheon given yesterday at the St. Francis. Among the guests who enjoyed his hospitality on this occasion were Mr. and Mrs. Latham McMullin. In another party that was at luncheon informally were Mrs. Willard Drown and Mrs. Clement Tobin. Another delightful bridge party has been added to the list of those already announced for this month, for Mrs. Russell Bogue will entertain at cards Monday afternoon, January 24, and while the affair will be informal there will be a score of guests. One of the interesting weddings of the week will be that of Miss Belle Schonwasser and Jerome Marx, which will take place Thursday evening at the Fairmont. The bride will be attended by Miss Juliette Goldman as maid of honor, while Lester Newman will act as best man. There will be a reception after the ceremony for several hundred guests. Mrs. James Robinson has returned to town after passing the holiday and weekend at Del Monte. Among those in the party with Mrs. Robinson that enjoyed the outing were Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Knight and Osgood Hooker. Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Joseph have returned to their home at San Mateo after passing the holidays at Del Monte and will remain there during the month.

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ANSWERS TO QUERIES

OCEANS—S. A. V. H., Petaluma. Why do some people say that on the line of the canal the tide runs higher on the Atlantic side than on the Pacific? The oceans are of the same level, but the tide runs higher at the bay on the Atlantic side than it does on the other side of Panama. It is the difference in height of the tides that has given rise to the belief that the two oceans are of unequal height. INVITATION—M. C. City. What is the shortest and yet proper form of written invitation to a young lady to a social at a friend's home? Dear Miss — A number of mutual friends will attend a social at the residence of Mrs. — Monday evening, —. Shall I have the pleasure and honor of escorting you on that occasion? PHEASANTS—Mrs. S. J. Hayward. Where are pheasants bred in this state? The breeding of pheasants has been undertaken by persons in different parts of the state. They are being bred on a large scale in the state game park a mile from Hayward on the road to Eden. CLERKSHIPS—S., Berkeley. How can I ascertain when examinations for clerkships in San Francisco are held by the civil service commission? By addressing a letter of inquiry to the secretary of the commission, Grant building, San Francisco. EMBEZZLEMENT—Reader, City. What is the penalty for embezzlement in California? The embezzlement of a sum not exceeding \$50 is not more than \$500 nor