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 FOREIGN OFFICES WHERE THE CALL IS ON FILE
 LONDON, England—3 Regent Street, S. W.
 PARIS, France—52 Rue Cambon
 BERLIN, Germany—Unter den Linden 9
 SUBSCRIPTION RATES
 Delivered by Carrier, 20 Cents a Week; 75 cents a Month, Daily and Sunday Single Copies.
 Terms by Mail, for UNITED STATES, including Postage (Cash With Order):
 Daily Call (including Sunday) 1 Year, \$5.00
 Daily Call (including Sunday) 6 Months, \$3.00
 Daily Call—By Single Month, 75c
 Sunday Call, 1 Year, \$1.00
 Foreign Postage—Daily, \$8.00 a Year Extra; Sunday, 25.15 a Year Extra; Weekly, \$1.00 a Year Extra.
 Entered at the United States Postoffice as Second Class Matter

Opens a Glimpse Of Inside Politics

AN interested public gets a glimpse of what the politicians call "the low down" from the testimony of Louis Glavis for the investigation of Secretary Ballinger. Ballinger, during the interval while he was out of office, met Glavis in Seattle. He knew that Glavis had been engaged on an examination of the Cunningham coal land claims, and, after a friendly conversation, "he said," declared Glavis in his testimony, "that H. C. Henry and C. J. Smith, two of the Cunningham claimants, had usually been liberal contributors, but they were mad because they hadn't got patents to their lands and would not give anything. I told Mr. Ballinger I was under orders to investigate the claims held by these men. He said he wished I wouldn't act on them until after election. I told him I wouldn't and I didn't."

Now Mr. Ballinger is secretary of the interior, having the final say as to the validity of these enormously valuable claims to land in Alaska. He declares, of course, that he will not pass on the claims personally, but will turn over the matter to one of his subordinates. He might, if he continues in office, much better pass on the claims himself, because the ultimate responsibility must rest on him, and the pretense of assigning the matter to subordinates is just bunkum. The minor officials of a department take their tone from their chief, and are prone to act on a lively sense that a claimant is an intimate friend and business associate of Mr. Secretary.

Pursuing further the tortuous course of inside politics, this time in California, one learns from the testimony something of the nature of the support given to Commissioner Dennett of the general land office. Glavis was asked what backing Dennett had.

"I understood he had Representatives McKinlay and McLachlan of California and Representative Kinkaid of Nebraska behind him," replied the witness.

"Were any of these claimants under the Cunningham group?" he was asked.

"No," he replied; "they were all in the Green group."

The witness said he had learned also in a letter from H. H. Schwartz that Senator Guggenheim also was supporting Dennett.

An influential official friend in court was likely to prove useful to Messrs. McKinlay and McLachlan when their claims to coal lands were coming up for validation, and if Dennett had a sharp eye to the main chance he might have made himself persona grata to the congressmen by giving them a hint about the location of lands where money was lying around loose.

It is not understood that either McKinlay or McLachlan personally went in search of these lands. Did they get their information from Dennett, whom they subsequently recommended for office?

IT is not likely that congress will do very much this session in relation to Mr. Taft's program of legislation. The elections are close at hand and an early adjournment is expected in order that congressmen may have time to look after their fences, which are now threatened early in the season in all states where the direct primary is law. In some districts the fight for a seat in congress has already begun.

Among the measures recommended by the president, that covering the regulation of railways and interstate commerce is most likely to become law in one shape or another. The bill is concerned with a subject that has had the fullest discussion in the press, and there is a general agreement among the people that the interstate commerce commission must be given increased powers over rates. It is admitted that the present system has completely broken down and we now have regulation merely in name. John Callan O'Laughlin, discussing this feature of the bill, writes:

The administration considers it has protected the interests of the shippers by granting authority to the interstate commerce commission to control and have power of action concerning any agreed rate of classification. It is alleged, however, that under this section of the administration bill the commission may only attack the specific rate classification, thousands of which have been agreed upon, and that another provision of the bill provides that any classification or rate not acted upon within ninety days shall enter into effect.

The progressives assert this is pooling with a vengeance and apt to breed evils which will be most harmful to the shipping interests. The administration denies that the legislation it has proposed will have any such effect. It insists that the language of the measure is such that the entire agreement can be held up by the commission. If this be true, it would seem wise, in the judgment of experts here, to make the language clearer and incapable of two opposite interpretations.

It is quite clear that if pooling is to be permitted the conditions of the agreement should be subject to the approval of the commission. More vital still is the power to suspend a rate on complaint before it goes into effect. If this provision does not go into the law it will be as much a dead letter as the present statute, which, instead of redress, gives the complainant a lawsuit that may last anywhere from three to five years, according to the ingenuity of corporation lawyers in securing delays. There will be small help in a law that gives with one hand and takes away with the other. That is what we have now and that is what the railroad interests in congress will seek to perpetuate.

ALL this boycotting business and the fine frenzy over the dinner tables of eastern cities appears to be a case of history repeating itself. The whole performance was enacted in detail as long ago as 1865, just after the war, before even the verb to "boycott" had been invented. At that period wheat sold for \$2.60 a bushel, pork was \$40 a hundred pounds and beef \$20 for the same quantity. The New York Times of July 28, 1865, offered this editorial advice to its readers:

Every family that leaves the butcher severely alone acts simply with common sense. Diminished consumption was never yet known to fail in reducing the price of any article of large supply, nor will it fail in the case of meat. The whole cause of the present complaint is that a number of speculators are trying to train the public into paying permanent exorbitant rates. They think that if they can hold out against public indignation for a while people will get used to extortion. But this is a mistake. Prices must come down, and the sooner these speculators succumb the better.

Then, as now, there was guessing aplenty about the cause of oppressive prices. Some of them blamed the speculators. Others put it on the retailer. Still others thought it was the price of gold. Gold was scarce then and is in full supply now, but it seems to have served its customary function of scapegoat in 1865 as well as it does today when the circumstances are reversed.

The boycott of 1865 did not effect much. Prices did not fall until 1866, when a panic started in London with a failure of worldwide consequence and interest. This was an even more expensive price to pay for beefsteak.

FORMER CONGRESSMAN BINGER HERMANN, on trial in Portland for complicity in land frauds while he was commissioner of the general office, put the blame for everything that went wrong on the lieu land law, which he declared opened the way for fraudulent entries and left him powerless to defend the public interest. It is the accustomed defense in such cases to blame the law and the unwisdom of congress, but Mr. Heney in his cross examination of Hermann completely broke down the legal fence behind which the defendant sought shelter. He showed, and the witness admitted, that he could have prevented speculation in proposed

forest reserves by the simple expedient of ordering withdrawals and making investigations afterward, instead of first investigating and then making the withdrawal. It was shown that during the investigation and before the withdrawal the speculators informed of the proposed reserve would swarm into the territory and take up the unappropriated public lands. That is to say, the action of the land office advertised the plunder and invited the speculators to come in and help themselves.

Hermann was full of excuses. He knew better than any one the defects in the lieu land law, and while he was in congress introduced a bill for their correction, but it does not appear to have been pressed very hard, as it never got out of committee. It may be that Mr. Hermann was the helpless victim of an oppressive "system," for he declares that the tyrant Cannon would never let him make the speech of which he was full, the speech that once delivered would have made all things straight and converted the general land office from a nest of thieves into an association of the saints. It seems as if Uncle Joe Cannon might be made to bear the sins and lapses of all the politicians.

THE astonishing and even portentous growth of cities at the expense of the country is nowhere more evident than on the Pacific coast. In proportion to the coast population the cities of San Francisco, Oakland, Los Angeles, Portland and Seattle are growing by leaps and bounds, while the country districts report slow progress. A return on building permits for the month of December, compiled by the Chicago Construction News for the principal cities of the United States, brings out the facts in a striking manner. We quote:

City	Number of Estimated Buildings	Cost
New York	74	\$10,351,350
Brooklyn	265	5,863,920
Chicago	490	6,725,900
San Francisco	490	2,077,793
Philadelphia	702	1,868,460
Portland	291	1,426,225
Los Angeles	696	1,238,244
Detroit	296	1,083,670
Seattle	950	1,040,470
Newark	180	1,040,425
Washington	409	1,027,509
St. Louis	333	880,674
Minneapolis	233	855,170
Baltimore	190	723,590
Pittsburg	223	670,212
Atlanta	287	591,776
St. Paul	166	562,549
Denver	124	504,820
Buffalo	170	475,000
Des Moines	82	423,652
Memphis	163	414,047

Oakland follows closely with a total of about \$300,000 and with the figures for Berkeley and Alameda—practically all one city—would come well up among such centers as Buffalo and Denver. San Francisco, Portland and Los Angeles show an astonishing growth, and Seattle is not far behind.

The significance of the figures bear strongly on the increased cost of living. The strong tide that years ago set in from the country to the cities not only has not yet turned, but even appears to gather force. This congestion of population necessarily makes for increasing prices of food products.

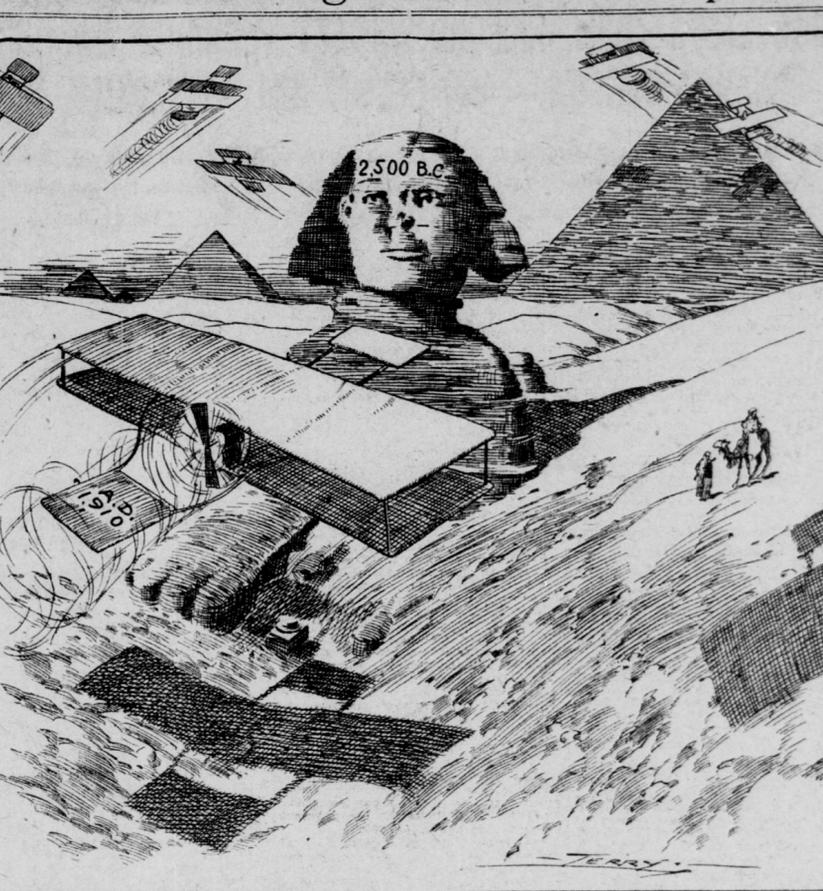
THE New York Tribune is busily employed imploring Uncle Joe Cannon to take himself off the political map, resign, get out, vanish and generally eliminate his inconvenient and disturbing personality. It is even hinted that these appeals are inspired from "exalted circles" embarrassed and made uncomfortable by the necessity of maintaining official relations and being polite to an old gentleman whose popularity is sadly on the wane. In court circles, where the manners of diplomacy prevail, it is against the rules to kick a man downstairs, however compromising his association may be to his fellow sufferers.

It is distressing to learn that these appeals to uncle are only met with a copious flow of picturesque profanity coupled with a challenge to come on and fight. So long as Danville, Ill., stands by its Cannon he will never flinch from the heady onset. This business of offering himself up as a voluntary scapegoat has no attractions for uncle. Rather he will die in the last ditch and is determined to take all summer doing it. If he is doomed indeed, at least he will make "exalted circles" think he has been like the superfluous English monarch, unconsciously long in dying.

It has been the historical fashion to treasure up the last words of dying great men. If that time honored practice should be followed with Uncle Joe the printer who records the final sentiment will be driven to refuge in the dash box.

There are wheels within wheels of government, but Uncle Joe no longer fulfills the function of rotation in office. He is a monkey wrench chucked into the machinery

Almost Enough to Make It Speak



THE PLEET—R. City. What was the route of the United States fleet on its voyage to San Francisco, the names of the places it anchored at and the distance from one to the other?

	Nautical miles.
Hampson roads to San Juan	1,247
San Juan to Port Spain (via Virgin Pass)	574
Port of Spain to Para (east of Trinidad)	1,193
Para to Pernambuco	1,094
Pernambuco to Rio	1,109
Rio to Buenos Aires	1,656
Buenos Aires to Punta Arenas	1,369
Punta Arenas to Talcahuano (via Smyth, Sarmiento, Concepcion, Wide and Messier channels, Gulf of Penas, Wide and Messier channels, Coronado gulf and west of Chilo Islands)	1,290
Talcahuano to Callao	1,497
Callao to Panama	1,541
Panama to Acapulco	1,341
Acapulco to Magdalena bay	587
Magdalena bay to San Diego	588
San Diego to San Pedro	122
San Pedro (via Santa Barbara channel) to Santa Cruz	285
Santa Cruz to San Francisco light vessel	94
San Francisco light vessel to anchorage south of Goat Island	17
Total	15,990

RIGHT TO SELL—C. E. R. Petaluma. Purchased an article with the right to sell it in certain county. Another party obtained the right to sell the same in another county. The article was not sold in either county and the contract time has expired. I have altered the article by adding to it. Have I the right to sell it in either county?

Ask a lawyer.

FORESTRY—M. E. City. Where can I obtain information about forestry in the state of California?

At the office of forestry service in the First national bank building in this city.

PANAMA CANAL JOBS—Cotati. Where must an application be sent for a job on the Panama canal?

To the Isthmian canal commission, Washington, D. C.

INDIAN WARS—Reader, Tomales. Are United States soldiers who fought in any of the Indian wars entitled to a pension?

Only those who fought in the wars between 1856 and 1856.

PENSION—S. M. Willows. Are men who enlisted in the volunteer army in the war with Spain entitled to pension?

They are, if eligible to be placed on the pension roll.

THE Godfather's Rights

The rights of the godfather, even more than the rights of those non-descript and persecuted persons, the father in law and the grass widower, deserve the attention of legislators and jurists, says the Baltimore Sun.

Full many a man, dragged unwillingly into the baptismal font to assume spiritual responsibility for some friend's noisy and sticky child, has lived to rue it bitterly. Twenty years later, perhaps, that vociferous infant, now grown into a gawky and bumpy youth, appears before him with a request for a loan of \$10,000—to invest in a fine cafe business, to bet upon a sure thing or to pay for four years of intellectual irrigation at Harvard university.

If the young one is a girl, it marries, eventually a drinking man, and its godfather must rescue it from his clutches. In either case he falls upon days of vain remorse and ineffective regret.

PERSONS IN THE NEWS

H. C. FRYMAN, a hotelman of Los Angeles, is at the Palace with Mrs. Fryman. With Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Jenkins they came up in an automobile yesterday from the south. They reported that the roads are in good condition.

JOHN B. HOBSON, for many years identified with the mining industries of California, is at the Palace. Hobson is now living in Victoria, B. C., where he has large mining claims.

C. E. WHITLEY, general manager of the Atlantic smelting and refining company of Salt Lake City, is at the Palace. He is on his honeymoon and will make a trip to the orient.

MARDI GRAS IS PREMIER EVENT

Ball Tonight Eclipses All Lesser Functions Of The Smart Set

THE Mardi Gras this evening at Pavilion rink has eclipsed and absorbed, one might say, every lesser function, and the great festival will be enjoyed by several hundred society people and hundreds of their friends. The proceeds are to be given to the building fund of the children's hospital and no effort has been spared to make the event memorable socially. Among those who have taken boxes for this evening and will entertain guests are:

Mrs. Joseph D. Grant Mrs. Walter Martin
 Mrs. James P. Grant Mrs. Susan Palmer
 Mrs. Henry T. Scott Mrs. Francis Carlson
 Mrs. Alexander Hamilton Mrs. George W. Washburn
 Mrs. Horace Pillsbury Mrs. Latham McMillan
 Mrs. James Folias Mrs. Dan Murphy

Mrs. Phillip Bowles, assisted by her debutante daughter Miss Amy Bowles, entertained at an informal tea given yesterday afternoon at the Fairmont, and among others who greeted friends informally in the laurel court yesterday were Mrs. Harry Willard and Mrs. W. S. Miller. Mrs. Louis Risdon Mead was hostess also at a tea and among her guests were:

Mrs. Harold Naylor Miss Ellen Barry
 Mrs. Therese McEnery Miss Ruth Sailer
 Mrs. Harry Thornton Miss Mabel Gregory
 Mrs. Alexander Hamilton Miss Marian Lally
 Mrs. Florence Porter Miss Snowball
 Miss Henry Ferguson Miss Patwell

Miss Suzanne Kirkpatrick will entertain this afternoon at a tea to be given in the laurel court at the Fairmont for 20 friends and the younger girls will enjoy the reunion.

Mrs. Herbert Moffitt entertained an informal tea given yesterday at the Palace for less than a dozen guests, and another tea that was attended by half a dozen friends and was a thoroughly enjoyable affair was given by Miss Cella O'Connor.

Miss Miriam McNear's luncheon, given yesterday at the Fairmont in compliment to Miss Jean Tyson, the fiancée of Harry Wiebe, was a jolly affair and among the girls who met the bride elect on this occasion were:

Miss Agnes Tillman Mrs. Walter Greer
 Miss Lillian Matson Miss Florence Beaser
 Miss Merna Melson Miss Lillian Van Vleet
 Miss Augustus Lutz Miss Mildred Whitney
 Miss Thomas Kurtz Miss Laura Baldwin
 Miss Grace Gilson Miss Laura Baldwin
 Mrs. Frederick Scott Miss Laura Baldwin

Plans for the wedding of Miss Ruth Bowditch and Ralston White that will take place in April have been changed materially—owing to the recent death of Lovell White, father of the bride—groom elect. The celebration will be celebrated without the least ostentation at the First Unitarian church, and there will be probably no attendants for the young couple who had planned to have a retinue of their friends at the pretty service. The plans for the wedding journey are also altered and a brief trip will be substituted for the proposed European tour, since the business interests of Ralston White will demand his attention.

Miss Louise Wallace entertained the girls of the tennis group that took part in the recent society extravaganza, "Professor Napoleon."

Miss Margaret Kemble gave an interpretative study of "Ariane et Barbe Bleue" yesterday afternoon at the St. Francis and a society audience listened attentively to the musical story in three acts written by Paul Dukas. The talented young speaker offered a clever exposition of the philosophy of the French writer and the modern music of the composer with illustrative piano playing by Miss Laura Anderson. The lecture yesterday was the second in a series that Miss Kemble is giving this season in the blue room at the St. Francis and nearly half a hundred society subscribers to the lectures and musical talks that are a dramatic innovation as well as musical novelty in this city.

Miss Margaret Calhoun and her sister, Miss Martha Calhoun, entertained at an informal bridge party yesterday at their home in Broadway, and the affair was enjoyed by a score or more of the younger girls. The party was of more than ordinary interest, as it is practically the last reunion at the Calhoun home before the young hostesses leave for the east. The Misses Calhoun will pass the latter part of the winter season traveling in the east and will be accompanied on the trip by their mother, Mrs. Patrick Calhoun.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Carolan have been giving a series of dinner parties at their Burgundy home in compliment to the Spencer Eddys, who have been so delightfully entertained by their friends during their visit here. The dinner given Saturday evening was enjoyed by the younger set, while the Burgundy party was enjoyed by the married set, and both occasions were marked by the elaborate detail that is characteristic of the Carolan affairs, particularly the parties given at the suburban home.

Mrs. James Robinson has returned to town after a delightful week end visit at Burlingame, where she has been a frequent guest at house parties.

Mrs. Frank Ames entertained at an elaborate luncheon yesterday at her home in Washington street. The table decorations were spring flowers in the favored combination of violets and daffodils and covers were laid for 20 friends.

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SCIENTIST DIES IN JAIL

Prof. Martin Ekstrom, the Swedish scientist, who on being arrested in London last fall, was held with complicity in several bomb outrages in Sweden, became temporarily insane, but was later committed for extradition to Sweden, died suddenly in Brixton jail today.

Taking Shelter Behind the Law

FORMER CONGRESSMAN BINGER HERMANN, on trial in Portland for complicity in land frauds while he was commissioner of the general office, put the blame for everything that went wrong on the lieu land law, which he declared opened the way for fraudulent entries and left him powerless to defend the public interest. It is the accustomed defense in such cases to blame the law and the unwisdom of congress, but Mr. Heney in his cross examination of Hermann completely broke down the legal fence behind which the defendant sought shelter. He showed, and the witness admitted, that he could have prevented speculation in proposed