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Why Does the Mayor Delay Geary Street Railway?

THE Richmond district improvement association calls on Mayor McCarthy and the municipal administration to proceed at once with the construction of the Geary street railway. It seems strange that any demand of this sort should be deemed necessary, in view of the decisive vote at the polls in favor of this enterprise, but the facts of the situation undoubtedly justify the action of the Richmond people.

Not a single step in prosecution of this project has been taken since the administration took office, and there is every symptom to indicate that the mayor is engaged on a course which the street, in its perhaps vulgar but certainly expressive language, describes as "stalling."

The mayor has been credited with vague talk about "legal entanglements," "friendly lawsuits," and the like, as if a multitude of obstructive forces were conspiring to restrain and hamper his public spirited impatience to fulfill the popular will. There may be legal entanglements later in the proceedings, but none has yet arisen and none can arise until the city moves by taking steps to finance the construction.

The mayor and the board of supervisors, no doubt under his direction, appear to be acting on the rule that every little delay added make a little bit more. If the beginning of these dreaded "legal entanglements" can be postponed for awhile, why that course will assist the ingenuity of corporation lawyers in their business of promoting delay. The city will have enough of that sort of thing to contend with, without any help from the mayor.

It is the duty of the municipal administration to offer bonds for sale at once. Then if "legal entanglements" arise by creation from outside sources the law department of the city can attend to them. It is not the duty of the administration to create or manufacture these entanglements. As the Richmond district, being most concerned in this matter, points out, it is time to quit "stalling."

THE San Francisco bar association does well to undertake an examination of the causes which have made the administration of justice and the law in this city a byword and a reproach. It is already a grave scandal that conditions in the courts of this city should have been permitted to continue, without any serious endeavor at improvement, and this reproach lies at the door of the legal profession, because none but the lawyers themselves is competent to point out the way of reform. We are aware that this is an ungracious task in some of its features, and that members of the bar shrink from apportioning the blame among their learned brethren of the bench and forum, but the evil has grown to such magnitude that the association is now compelled to take steps in the way of self-defense. Conditions have become such that a recourse to litigation is a luxury in which none but the very wealthy can indulge. The condition practically amounts to a denial of justice.

The Call puts little faith in what the association describes as "the mechanics of justice." What is wanted is not so much a reform of the rules of practice as a radical change in the spirit in which they are administered. There are laws aplenty already on the statute books to expedite justice, if the courts would apply them. But expedition of justice will continue to be ignored if the association does not take steps to let the public know the names of the men who are responsible for the delays and the congestion. With that knowledge plainly set forth, the public will know how to act. If the Bar association merely sets out to give good advice, in the way of abstract reforms, it might as well drop the whole affair before it begins.

There are judges on the bench who are responsible for permitting these delays, and there are lawyers in apparent good standing at the bar who use such means to hamper the administration of law for dishonest purposes.

They will continue to do so in spite of all "the mechanics of justice" that ever were invented, unless the Bar association uses its knowledge to expose them and their practices.

THE straits to which the defense of Secretary Ballinger is reduced appear, from the charge made by cross examining counsel, that Glavis stole, or procured to be stolen, certain letters from his own box left in the custody of the Seattle grand jury. As these letters, as far as they are pertinent to the Ballinger affair, are injurious to the secretary of the interior, the charge made by Glavis that the accusation is a "frameup" on behalf of the defense, in the hope of discrediting the witness, will receive general credence. We may expect that all the machinery of the interior department will be applied without much scruple to this purpose of breaking down or casting imputations on the testimony against Ballinger.

One of the significant incidents of this inquiry was the reluctance with which the interior department surrendered to the congressional committee certain documents of record called for by counsel on behalf of Glavis. In response to a demand by the committee a sheaf of documents was submitted, but certain specified records were kept back. On the suggestion of counsel the committee then made a peremptory demand for the papers.

These mysterious records were finally produced, and will, no doubt, become public later. But their production caused a sensation in the committee, and a hurried consultation followed. It was decided to withhold the documents from the public for the present, but it is known that they have an important bearing on the case. It is reasonable to conclude, from the surrounding circumstances, that they do not help the defense of Ballinger. If they carried any such favorable significance there would not have been in the department this reluctance to give them up, and if they were unimportant the committee would have turned them over to the press at once.

DETERMINED effort is making to persuade congress that the 10 cents a pound tax on oleomargarine, colored to look like butter, should be reduced. The Texas stockmen have united with the beef trust of Chicago to press this legislation, and Representative Burleson of Texas is in charge of the bill which would equalize the tax on the colored and uncolored product.

This would mean a reduction from 10 cents a pound to one-quarter of a cent. Burleson is working in conjunction with Moxley, a butterine manufacturer recently elected to congress from a Chicago district. The reduction is urged on the ground that it would help to reduce the cost of living, and that plea might be valid if it were sincere. As a matter of fact, the suggestion is offered of a compromise by which the tax on the colored and uncolored product would be equalized at 2 cents a pound, and it is in this shape that the measure is likely to be pressed.

That would make things worse than they now are for the consumer. If he wants to eat oleomargarine he can do so now by using the uncolored article taxed at a nominal figure. The coloring does not improve the quality at all, and the tax is imposed to discourage the sale of imitations. The manufacturers pretend that oleomargarine is as good as butter, but their practice shows that they do not believe it themselves. They simply desire to impose a spurious product on the public under false pretenses.

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Two Days in the Life of a President

MONDAY

HEAVENS!

(Special Dispatch to The Call)
 CARE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCES
 West of the Alleghenies:
 Roosevelt 1,000 (pinchot)
 La Follette 1,000 (Cannon)
 Hughes 100 (Bryan)
 Cummins 125 (Catterlin)
 65
 116

The Chicago Tribune in the morning will print the following:
 When the Tribune asked the newspapers west of the Alleghenies to express their opinion as to whether or not Cannon should be speaker of the next congress and whether they endorsed the Aldrich tariff law it also asked them to give their presidential preferences.

JUST THE THING FOR HIM!

ROOSEVELT MAY LEAD ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION
 Trip From Heat of Africa to Coldest Zone Is Planned
 PORTLAND, Me., Feb. 14.—Former President Roosevelt may lead the antarctic expedition to be sent from the United States, was the statement made today by Professor Donald McMillan of Peary's successful north pole party.

TUESDAY

"STATUARY HALL" in the national capital is in the way to become an unfortunate joke. This institution was created as a place of memorial for the worthies of the several states, where their effigies might be enshrined for the admiration and emulation of future generations, but the hasty selections of objects for worship made by some of the states have already, in more than one case, assumed an aspect of the grotesque. In other cases the statues themselves have become a cause of derision as examples of ridiculous sculpture.

The other day the state of Idaho installed in the hall of fame the statue of a blameless but insignificant politician, who had represented that commonwealth for a term without attracting the notice of anybody but his constituents. The installation was made the occasion of a sort of carnival of oratory in congress, from which we may select a sample from the able mouth of Mondell of Wyoming.

This is how Mr. Mondell felt about it:

I know not how others may feel, but as for myself, I would rather aid in placing in the azure blue of my country's flag two fixed and permanent stars than to rank in persuasive power and eloquence with all of the world's orators, past, present and to come. I would rather have stood watch and guard on the outposts of civilization while the industry and courage of my countrymen transformed the indolence and silence of the great American desert into countless fruitful fields and happy homes. I would rather be the recipient of the heartfelt gratitude and gentle blessing of one pioneer mother whose child I had rescued from savage torture than be any king, or prince, or potentate that ever sat upon a throne.

Congress thereupon proceeded to order the printing of 16,500 copies of the speeches at public cost for distribution through the mails under the franking privilege. It is one of the ways in which congress wastes public money. It seems unfortunate that the memory of Senator Shoup—a useful but not distinguished man in his way—should be made ridiculous by a flood of guff, and thereafter be made the occasion for an unconscionable waste of public money.

GENERAL GRANT AND COLONEL MOSBY

Editor Call: The following was printed in a recent issue of a San Francisco newspaper concerning the relations between General Grant and Colonel John S. Mosby of the confederate service:

General Grant was fond of Mosby. He remembered that the Confederate raider, who seized 500 men, had done such damage to outposts, railroads, scouting parties and camps that he finally neutralized the complete services of 40,000 men who had to guard thousands of points. This was the soldiering, and Grant knew it. Afterward, when Mosby had shown the moral courage to accept the results of the war and cast in his lot with the republicans, Grant knew and while president he kept Mosby in office, part of the time as a general at Shanghai. His interest added him under the Hayes and Arthur administrations, but Cleveland let Mosby go.

Some years ago I made a railroad trip with Colonel Mosby of several days' duration. In the course of which he gave me much information as to his experiences in the civil war. One of these related to his becoming acquainted with General Grant and differs somewhat from the quotation above given. In effect, it was this: "When the war closed I returned to my home at Abingdon, Va., and tried to resume practice as a lawyer, but was frequently harassed and annoyed by visits at my house of detachments of the union provost guards. My wife became alarmed and on one occasion in my absence from home went to Washington to see the President Johnson in order to get some sort of a paper that would protect me. He was an old friend of her father, former Governor Clark of Kentucky, and was present at our marriage. Our young boy was named for his grand-father Clark and she took him along, thinking that the president would be interested in seeing the namesake of his old friend.

"She was admitted to Mr. Johnson's room and told her story, but was coldly received. The president not only refused her request but he took no notice of the child and referred to me in contemptuous terms. Leaving the room my wife walked down the steps of the White House, almost blinded with tears, and was met by a union officer, who asked if he could be of any service to her, whereupon she told him of her mission and of her disappointment. He said, 'Come with me,' and took her to the office of General Grant, where he introduced her to the general and told her to repeat to him the story she had told on the White House steps.

This she did, still crying, and General Grant wrote a few lines, and handing her the paper, which proved to be a safeguard for me, said, 'Give this to Colonel Mosby, with my compliments, and then he picked up the little boy and kissed him. After that I was free to go and come without molestation.

"When General Grant was a presidential candidate in 1868 I canvassed Virginia in his behalf, having in mind the great service he had rendered me. After the election he sent word to me that if he could do anything for me in a political way I should let him know of it. I replied that I appreciated his kindness, but that I had no desire for an office of any character. But I soon found that I had ostracized myself by my course and the result was my old friend, all turned from me, and in entering a courtroom, even the judge would treat me with only the coldest civility. Being unable to make a living at my profession I then called on President Grant with a statement of the situation and he appointed me to represent our country at Shanghai, and when I was finally relieved by President Cleveland, he asked Senator Stanford to give me a place in the law department of the Southern Pacific company, which he did."

The first time Colonel Mosby presented to Assistant Treasurer Charles H. Redington of the Southern Pacific a pay voucher he remarked that he supposed that he would have to be identified, whereupon Redington (who had belonged to the Eighth Illinois cavalry) replied: "No, that is not necessary. I have changed you and been chased by you too many times down in Virginia to need any identification for you."

Mosby was not present at the surrender of Lee's command and insisted that he would not surrender until John Johnston surrendered to Sherman in North Carolina. General Hancock then in command of a district with headquarters at Winchester, Va., and Mosby's communications with him were by flag of truce. He was so coy in the matter of giving himself up, that the delay exasperated the war department, with the result that a reward of \$5,000 was offered for his capture unless he surrendered by April 20. In the meantime many of his men were slipping into our lines, and on the night of April he disbanded the spare remnant remaining.

JOHN T. BELL
 Oakland, Cal.

VOCALISTS SING FOR SMART SET

Music Divides Interest With Army and Navy Club Reception

THE concert given last evening in the colonial ballroom of the St. Francis musical art society shared the attraction last evening, as far as the social set was concerned, with the reception at the Army and Navy club. There was a goodly attendance at the dance given in the California street clubhouse after the concert, but for the most part society chose between the two events. There were several dinner parties at the St. Francis before the concert, one notable affair being given by Mr. and Mrs. Sam Knight for a dozen friends, and the usual round of supper parties afterward.

Miss Amajia Simpson, the daughter of Mrs. John Simpson, entertained less than a dozen of the younger girls at a tea given yesterday-afternoon at the St. Francis.

Among those who enjoyed the reception were:

Miss Jane Hotelling
 Miss Margaret Doe
 Miss Elva de Poe
 Miss Florence Cliff
 Miss Kathleen Farrell
 Miss Freda Smith
 Mrs. Frederick Stott

Mrs. C. O. Alexander has left town for a stay of several weeks at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Mountford Wilson in Burlingame while the latter are enjoying the tour of Mexico with Miss Jennie Crocker and her brother, Templeton Crocker. At her home in Pacific avenue Mrs. Alexander has been entertaining Miss Ysabel Brewer for several days, but she returned early in the week to her home in Mill Valley, where she will pass most of the summer.

Miss Emilia Hinchelwood, who has been visiting her sister, Mrs. Walter MacGavin, at the home of the latter in California street since the wedding of Drummond MacGavin and Miss Helen Baker, will leave in a few days for her home in Paris. Drummond MacGavin has gone to Utah on a business trip that will extend over several weeks, but Mrs. MacGavin remains in town as the guest of her mother, Mrs. L. L. Baker.

The friends of Captain and Mrs. Lucien Young regret that the popular couple who have taken an active part in the army and navy affairs at Mare Island and in town will leave shortly for Pensacola, where Captain Young has been ordered for duty as commandant of the navy yard there. The genial captain and his charming wife will be missed at the local affairs that interest many people and a number of parties in their set have preceded their departure.

Mr. and Mrs. Prentiss Cobb Hale, who lately returned from the east after several months' absence, are receiving a cordial greeting from their friends in town. During their stay in the east Mr. and Mrs. Hale visited Washington and New York, and stopped at Annapolis, where they visited Mrs. Hale's son, Hamilton Bryan. They enjoyed several of the army affairs at Annapolis, and were accompanied by Miss Mildred Baldwin, who was entertained extensively in the army set, and returned to her home in this city with Mr. and Mrs. Hale.

Miss Ruth Tisdale, who has been visiting Captain and Mrs. Robert Abernethy at Fort Monroe, has been the complimented guest at a series of teas given by the army matrons. Another young visitor who is enjoying her stay in the east is Miss O'Hara, who has been the guest of her brother, Lieutenant James O'Hara, and Mrs. O'Hara at Fort Snelling. Miss O'Hara will go to Washington for a brief visit before returning to this city.

Rear Admiral Louis Kempff and his daughter, Miss Cornelia Kempff, have returned after a pleasant sojourn in Texas.

Many messages of congratulation have been sent to the New York home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Klossman Allen, felicitating the young couple upon the arrival of a daughter. Mrs. Klossman was Miss Ethel Whitney before her wedding last season with the popular New Yorker, and has made her home in the east for several months.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Blithen, who was Miss Marie Crowley, are extending congratulations upon the arrival of a daughter a few weeks ago. Yesterday afternoon Mrs. Blithen held a reception for the little girl, who is called Janet. Mrs. Blithen was assisted at the reception by her mother, Mrs. T. Jay Crowley.

The Mills club gave an elaborate reception yesterday-afternoon in the Forum club rooms, the complimentary guest of the occasion being Dr. Luella Clay Carson, president of Mills college. Mrs. Susan Mills was among those present and a delightful program with tea afterward was the order of the day. The president of the Mills club is Miss Josephine Feussler, who was assisted yesterday afternoon in her duties as hostess by the following members:

Mrs. J. Wheeler
 Mrs. Grace Unger
 Mrs. John E. Wallace
 Miss Helen Burton
 Mrs. J. M. Littlefield
 Mrs. Marietta Edwards
 Miss Ruby Moore
 Miss Charlotte Lamb
 Mrs. J. T. Ware
 Miss Ethel Wilson
 Mrs. William Kemble
 Mrs. W. A. Porter
 Mrs. Samuel Lee
 Mrs. H. C. Capwell

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Letters From the People

DEFENDS DOCTOR BURKE
 Editor Call: I feel called upon to say a word in Dr. W. P. Burke's defense. I do not feel as though you are doing yourself or him justice. Your articles are overdrawn and unfair. I have known Doctor Burke for over 20 years and I know him to be one of God's grandest men—a man who has done more for his fellowmen than any man I have ever known. There are hundreds of people that he has treated and cured and never charged one cent. Your article, this date, speaks of some trout to be used at his own private table. Doctor Burke always eats at the table with the help. You speak of his nervous smile. If you knew the man, you would know that that smile, which is not a nervous one, is always with him. Now, I never at any time have been connected with Doctor Burke, and only write this out of justice to the doctor and a love of fair play.

I understand that the people look for sensational reading, but it seems hard lines on the other fellow.

You may rest assured that Doctor Burke will come out of this all right. I hope that in your future articles you may see fit to give him a square deal. I have been a subscriber to The Call for the last eight years and hate to see you take the stand you have toward an innocent man. Yours respectfully,
 E. MILLER.
 San Francisco, Feb. 14, 1910.

Answers to Queries

JUMPING BEAN—R. M. Isell. What is the jumping bean and where does it grow?
 The so called jumping or Mexican bean is the seed of a shrub that grows in Mexico. At a certain time after the seed drops from the shrub it begins to develop in each seed. The insect feeds on the interior of the seed, and in going from point to point inside of the shell, causes it to turn from side to side.

DESERTER—L. Santa Rosa. (1) Does a man who deserts from the army or navy of the United States forfeit his civil rights as an American citizen? (2) If arrested, tried, convicted and served sentence, can he be restored to citizenship?
 (1) A deserter forfeits all his civil rights. (2) The disability may be removed by the president of the United States by granting a pardon.

RAIN—J. B. Berkeley. How many rainy days were there in March, 1909? What was the precipitation for that month?
 In San Francisco there were 12 rainy days. The precipitation during the month was 3.27 inches.

PERSONS IN THE NEWS

J. E. BARR, a cigar manufacturer of Santa Rosa; **G. R. Ryan**, a dry goods merchant of Eureka; **L. Chapman**, a grocer of Napa and **E. E. Pierce**, a lumberman of Fresno, make up a group staying at the Argonaut.

W. F. ARMSTRONG and **JOHN DEAN**, president and vice president respectively of the Copper national bank of Salt Lake City, are guests at the Palace.

J. E. FRICK, a mining man of Redding, who has spent three months in Mexico inspecting mining and agricultural property, is at the Stewart.

GEORGE STURGES, a member of that group of Fenianists capitalists who control most of the old Comstock mines, is at the St. Francis.

OTTO MEARS, one of the pioneers of Colorado, who is known as the pathfinder of the San Juan, is at the Palace, registered from Denver.

JOHN J. BYRNE, assistant general passenger agent of the Santa Fe, with headquarters at Los Angeles, is a guest at the St. Francis.

ROY L. DONLEY, a dealer in hides, is at the St. Francis. He comes from Knoxville, Wis., and is a yearly visitor to the coast.

A. C. CRAVEN, a businessman of Birmingham, Ala., is visiting relatives on the coast and is at the Manx with Mrs. Craven.

J. E. STURGES, president of the University of Nevada, is in town with Mrs. Sturges. They are staying at the St. Francis.

FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR THOMAS B. BARD came up from Reno yesterday and is staying at the Palace.

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FRANK ALLYN JR., a prominent insurance agent of Tacoma, and Mrs. Frank Allyn are guests at the Palace.

C. R. DOWNS, who is interested in electric power and mining in Sutter Creek, is a guest at the Stewart.

CASSIUS B. BARNES, chief engineer at the Mars Island navy yard, is registered at the St. Francis.

T. A. GRAHAM, a railroadman of Los Angeles, is at the St. Francis with Mrs. Graham.

L. T. HATFIELD, an attorney of Sacramento, is among the recent arrivals at the Stewart.

REAR ADMIRAL URIEL SERREE and Mrs. Serree have apartments at the Fairmont.

SIMPSON FINNELL, a rancher of Tehama, is among the recent arrivals at the Manx.

A. S. GLASGOW of Los Angeles is at the Fairmont.