

The San Francisco Call

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The Man of the Hour



Billy Bellon Double Cross

By GEORGE A. VAN SMITH
"Take it from me, kiddo," said Billy Bell, with a long drawn sigh, "the peccan what thinks he's got a line on the speed limit in this game is a sure thing cadpate for a one piece uniform and a steady sit in the foolish factory."
The sage of thirtieth district politics had been discouragingly unconvictional for a quarter of an hour. Wide eyed, breathing heavily, Mr. Bell had neglected his "steam" to revel in the chaste phraseology of John F. Murray's "Destiny of Man" message to the state central committee.



SOMEbody once remarked of Mr. Hearst that he regarded himself as three-fourths of the American government and had a poor opinion of the other quarter.

His amusing egotism finds new illustration in his recent overtures to the democratic party. He is willing to forgive that organization on his own terms and he issues a manifesto, personally or by proxy, once a week. His political plenipotentiary, Mr. John Temple Graves, declared to the Jeffersonian banqueters in Washington during the small hours of the morning, with a startling arithmetical paraphrase of Lincoln, that the democratic party could no longer exist "half Bryan, half Hearst and half Ryan."

In fine and in sum Mr. Hearst is willing to be reconciled "if," in the words of his political plenipotentiary, "the democratic party is ready for the principles that our league has fought for." Mr. Hearst will read himself back into the party if the principles of the independence league are accepted as the political gospel. There are certain attractive features about the league, which has been described as a "payroll" rather than a party, but the only essential fact bearing on the present problem is that Mr. Hearst is the league. The democratic party, then, will be restored to grace and favor if it surrenders without discretion to Mr. Hearst.

Mr. Hearst now supplements the overtures of his plenipotentiary with a personal manifesto in which he is good enough to approve the work of Mr. Taft in the way of giving the Roosevelt policies the force of law. In this approval the whole country will readily acquiesce, but we seem to miss Mr. Hearst's repeated asseveration that he himself was the true originator of all the Roosevelt policies.

Loose methods of the local immigration bureau in regard to the admission of Hindu laborers constitute a grave public scandal demanding the attention of the central office in Washington. It appears that the rules in this regard are being grossly relaxed and that Asiatic aliens who are quite likely to become a public charge are admitted as a matter of favor.

Two powerful interests conspire to break down the laws made to restrict undesirable immigration. The Pacific Mail steamship company has always driven a profitable trade in this field and the buyers of cheap labor are moved in the same direction by an equally strong interest.

Pending the adoption of more stringent legislation to restrict Asiatic immigration the local officials will be held to a strict accounting for the rigid enforcement of such laws as we already have. Commissioner North owes an explanation for the course of his office in permitting the recent wholesale landing of these aliens, which, it is charged, was permitted without the exercise of due discrimination.

California does not desire or want these Hindu immigrants. They are distinctly undesirable people. British Columbia will not have them, although they are British subjects, and it is intolerable that they should be dumped in great numbers on the California labor market for the profit of greedy contractors and steamship companies. Organized labor will have unanimous support from this commonwealth in making a demand on Washington for a rigid enforcement of the laws to restrict this class of immigration.

GRAVEST perils threatens the "pork barrel." This favorite and much coddled institution makes the chief reliance of a whole brood of anxious statesmen who are today scanning the political horizon for signs that might indicate what will happen in November. The vitals of the pork barrel, if one may broaden the metaphor, take their nutriment from the river and harbor bill, which deals the fat opportunities that make a smiling constituency and help the war chest of congressmen who want to go back to Washington.

The cloud that darkens the political horizon in the neighborhood of the cherished barrel is no bigger than Senator Burton of Ohio; but he is quite big enough and strong enough to put an ugly stumbling block in the primrose path of the pork hunters. When Senator Burton was in the house he was chairman of the rivers and harbors committee and always stood like a rock in opposition to extravagance. In the senate, as a member of the commerce committee, he takes the same course, and as an expert on the subject of appropriations in this

The Smart Set

THE brilliant reception of the week was held last evening at the Officers' club at the Presidio, when the officers of the Thirtieth infantry honored Colonel Charles St. John Chubb and Mrs. Chubb. Colonel Chubb came here recently to take command of the Thirtieth, and he has been showered with congratulations. Mrs. Chubb shares the popularity of her husband. She is a charming matron and one of the well known army women who has friends in many cities. Mrs. Chubb is a daughter of the late General Thomas Eaton, and she will add to the gaiety of the group of army hostesses at the Presidio.

General and Mrs. Pickett, Captain Erwin, Captain and Mrs. Davis, Captain George Grimes, Mrs. H. D. Green, Captain William Welch, Major Joseph P. O'Neill, Lieutenant M. C. Cozer, Major and Mrs. Frederic, Lieutenant Ben Wade, Lieutenants George B. and John S. Cox.

Mrs. Mrs. Robinson entertained at an informal luncheon yesterday at the Palace for less than a dozen guests. The hostess recently returned from a motor trip through Lake county with her daughter, Miss Elena Robinson, and several other friends. Mrs. Robinson will remain in town for several weeks, but will leave early in June for the south, where she expects to pass most of the summer.

Mrs. Lawrence Hamilton Austin, who was Miss Roma Paxton, is the recipient of many social compliments on the eve of her departure for the east. The attractive young matron will leave early next week, accompanied by her husband, Lieutenant Austin, who has retired from the navy. They will make their home in New York, much to the regret of their friends here. Mrs. Austin was the guest of honor at an informal tea given yesterday by Miss Edith Treanor at her home in Pacific avenue. There were only a few of the close friends of Mrs. Austin bidden to the farewell party.

Among the weddings that are scheduled to take place in June none is more interesting than that of Miss Edith Draper and Midshipman James Lawrence Kaufman. Although the date is not announced the event is to be celebrated early in the month and will be an affair of social importance, with the elaborate appointments that belong by tradition to the service weddings. The fact that Midshipman Kaufman is to be stationed at Mare island will lend additional interest to the social affairs that are to be given for the couple in the days preceding the June wedding. They will be entertained in the naval set and in town, as well as in San Rafael, which is the home town of the bride's mother, Mrs. T. Wain Morgan Draper.

Another wedding of June will be that of Miss Dorothy Draper and Midshipman Kirkwood Donovan. It will be a brilliant affair also, with the appointments that are inseparable from a navy wedding. The plans for the wedding are indefinite, but in the days preceding the ceremony the popular bride elect will be the center of many entertainments.

Miss Anna Nicholson Scott, whose wedding with Aimer Newhall will take place next Thursday, is to be the guest at several parties preceding that interesting event. She is a favorite with the younger girls and many luncheons and teas have been given in her honor. A tea party is to be given tomorrow by Mrs. Edwin Newhall for the attractive bride to be.

Miss Myra Josselyn has been entertaining at a series of weekend parties at her country home at Woodside and at the girls of the younger set have enjoyed many happy outings at the hospitable country home. Among those who have just returned to town after visiting at the Josselyn country place is Miss Ethel Cooper.

The Complication of City Charters

ER. ZION, who has had some official experience with municipal affairs, addressed the Commonwealth club on what he regards as the unnecessary complication and elaboration of city charters and state constitutions. In an abstract sense Mr. Zion is right. The fact is that our organic laws, state and municipal, represent the sense of civic despair straining after machinery to make men honest by process of law. These laws are filled with what might seem superfluous and usually ineffectual restrictions designed to act as restraints on official dishonesty, corruption and that wide field of effort generically described as "doing politics." The purpose is to prevent the use of official powers to promote special interests.

It must be confessed that the result is largely failure, with the added disadvantage that honest officials are to a large extent limited in the exercise of a wise discretion. As Mr. Zion says:

Our charters are unwieldy and unsuited to the expeditious handling of a large business. We have a charter of over two hundred pages and collect about \$8,000,000 annually. Some private corporations collect as much as \$25,000,000 annually and are governed by short charters, which are seldom amended. They govern by their bylaws. The city should handle many matters by ordinance that are regulated by the charter.

It is this sense that city charters are of little use to prevent the official promotion of special interests that has persuaded so many cities of moderate size to adopt the commission plan, which concentrates the responsibility for government on a small number of men who are paid large salaries. Even Pittsburg is now discussing the adoption of the commission plan and talks of paying the commissioners \$8,000 a year. The result is expected to be that a better class of men would be secured in official place. Doubtless the chances favor such an outcome, but there is nothing certain about it.

No matter what laws or what machinery of restraint we may invent, we can not eliminate the human equation. In San Francisco some of our most highly paid officials have proved the most corrupt. The concentration of power is regarded by some men chiefly as an increase of personal opportunity.

THE catching of rats is on the way to be raised to the dignity of a learned profession since San Francisco undertook a determined municipal extermination of these pests. So in New York Mayor Gaynor has been holding improving conferences with a learned graduate of the famous university of Zurich in Switzerland, who follows rat catching as a trade, and between times discusses the philosophy of Epictetus and the "Rubaiyat" with his honor. The learned doctor explains his choice of a profession thus:

I was impressed with the fact that knowledge without wisdom is of small account. So I looked about me for some business that had virtue in it and yet was not overcrowded. When I was at the university I especially liked some experiments showing the effects of certain acids and gases on insects. I used to be a laboratory assistant at these experiments, and because I was I decided to be a rat catcher. And that's what I am now, doing a work as important as that of any three doctors you may pick out, as I told the mayor.

The learned rat catcher sought out the mayor to gain exemption from jury duty on the ground that his business was affected with a public interest. He was a public utility not incorporated. So does modern progress extend the field of the learned professions.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES

GOLDEN GATE—E. G. C. Elk Grove. How did Golden Gate, the entrance to the bay of San Francisco, receive its name?
The straits were given that name by Colonel John C. Fremont, U. S. A., in his "Geographical Memoirs of California," published in 1848. The term was descriptive not of the literally golden region that exists, but as yet undiscovered, but of the rich and fertile country which surrounded the shores of the bay.
REOPENING—S. City. If an Englishman comes to the United States, becomes naturalized and in the course of years desires to return to his native country, there is any right of an Englishman, can he do so?
Yes, by renouncing his allegiance to the United States and making application to become a citizen of Great Britain.
THE MISSISSIPPI—F. A. P. City. To describe the course of the Mississippi river would require more space than can be devoted to one answer. Consult any geography, which will show you at a glance what you want to know.
LAST PERFORMANCE—Pioneer, City. When was the last performance of the old Metropolitan theater in Montgomery street between Washington and Jackson?
April 28, 1875.
BUG—D. L. Cayuse. My garden is infested with a small bug that just cleans up everything that sprouts. I find little little green colored eggs on the ground, which I suppose are the eggs of these bugs. To whom shall I write for information about destroying such bugs and eggs?
To the state horticultural station, ferry building, San Francisco.
CAN VOTE—A. C. S. City. Is a boy born to foreign parents in the United States entitled to vote when he attains the age of 21 without taking out naturalization papers, his father not having been naturalized at the time he died?
Being a native of the United States he is an American citizen and does not have to be naturalized.
BOOKS—A. O. H. Oakland. How can I obtain books issued by the United States government?
Ask the representative of the congressional district in which you live to secure such books as you want.
THE VAMPIRE—R. O. G. City. Where can I find the poem, "The Vampire," by Kipling? Can not find it in his printed books of poems?
It is to be found in the latest edition of his works.
PRESIDENTS—Sub. City. How many democratic presidents has the United States had since Lincoln's second election?
One, Grover Cleveland, who was elected in 1884 and again in 1892.
AN ACRE—T. T. Fruitvale. How many feet are there on one side of a square acre?
Two hundred and eight feet eight and a half inches.
POINT BONITA—F. City. What is the distance from Sausalito to Point Bonita?
About seven miles.

PERSONS IN THE NEWS

DR. AND MRS. LE MOYNE WILLS are at the Palace. Doctor Wills, who is a member of the state board of health, is on his way to his home in Los Angeles after attending the meeting of the California medical society at Sacramento.
CAPTAIN AND MRS. JOEL R. LEE, Twenty-third infantry, who returned from the Philippines on Wednesday, are visiting Mrs. Lee's parents, Captain and Mrs. John L. Hughes, coast artillery, at the Corcoran apartments.
A. B. REYNOLDS of Sacramento, R. M. Brim, a mining man of Inlay, Nev.; J. H. Barker, a businessman of Ukiah, and G. G. Lute, a rancher of Lakota, N. D., are among the recent arrivals at the Argonaut.
PAST COMMANDER I. H. TUTTLE, Knights Templar, is at the Palace. His remarkable likeness to Admiral Farragut was much commented on. He is from Watsonville.
E. T. PRICE and H. K. Johnson of Sacramento are staying at the Turpin. They are attending the Knights Templar convention.
CHARLES D. PIKE, city passenger agent of the San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake railroad, is at the Palace.
THE Visalia and Fresno delegation of the Knights Templar attending the annual convocation at the Maun.
MR. AND MRS. J. D. HELSBY of Fresno are at the Maun.
W. H. ROCHE, a Nevada cattleman, is at the Stanford.
E. S. KILBORN, a capitalist of Modesto, is at the Dal.
JUDGE NICHOLS of Sonora is at the Norman.
O. ARNTZEN, a banker of Copenhagen, is at the Palace. He has been spending some time at Sausalito.
W. B. DAVIS of Seattle is at the Colonial. Davis has large agricultural interests in the state of Washington.
L. LINDBERGER and N. Lindberger, salmon packers of Astoria, are guests at the St. Francis.
A. CHAPPELLE, a mining engineer of Los Angeles, is at the St. Francis with Mrs. Chappelle.
J. H. HANCOCK of New Hartford, N. Y., is among the recent arrivals at the Stewart.
J. C. YANCEY, an oil operator of Portland with interests in Bakersfield, is at the Palace.
S. W. JOHNSTON, a prominent merchant of Long Beach, is staying at the Colonial.
E. J. ALLEN, a prominent merchant of Sonoma, and Mrs. Allen are at the Normandie.
C. JESSE TITUS, a business man of Sacramento, is at the Palace with Mrs. Titus.
R. E. NUMAN, paymaster, U. S. A., of Manila, is staying at the St. James.
H. E. MOTZ, a well known real estate man of Stockton, is at the Dal.
JOSEPH SHELL, a jeweler of Nome, Alaska, is stopping at the Stanford.
H. I. SEYMOUR, an attorney of Sacramento, is registered at the Palace.
AL THACKERY, an oil operator of Bakersfield, is at the St. Francis.
C. S. BANNER, a manufacturer of Chicago, is at the St. James.