

CLEARING OF TITLES MAKES PURCHASE SAFE

Mayor Declares Costly Litigation Was Reason for Previous Opposition

McCarthy Reiterates Statement That Garfield Hetch Hetchy Grant Is Worthless

grants to the city an easement under the law and that such would be sufficient to tie the hands of the government.

In speaking of his letter of yesterday, Mayor McCarthy took occasion to emphasize the fact that he had made no attack on Hetch Hetchy. His criticism had been directed to the proposition as it stands between the municipality and the interior department.

PURCHASE SAFE NOW

"I believe that the Spring Valley water company now has something to sell which the people of the city can buy with safety," said he. "I do not know how acceptable my figures are to the company but I have not consulted the stock holders about that. In fact I have had no consultations with the company or any of its officers prior to my communication to the board."

"I am convinced that the Hetch Hetchy grant is worthless and entirely unsafe for the city as an investment. The source is all right, but the proposition as it stands between the people of this community and Washington is too unsatisfactory. We have no title in the land, and while we have a permit it can be revoked."

"My opposition to the bonds last year was based on the fact that the company was in court with a mass of litigation regarding its titles. I know how expensive to a community such a condition of affairs is, so fought the proposition. Since that time the company has settled these suits and can give the city a clear, clean, fee simple grant to all its holdings, without litigation or clouded titles."

HELLMAN RETICENT

I. W. Hellman Jr., vice president of the Union trust company and a director of the Spring Valley, said yesterday that he had no opinion regarding the acquisition by the city of the Spring Valley. He said that he did not know what the plans of the city were, but he had heard it discussed by the directors.

"I represent only the bond holders on the directorate of the Spring Valley," he said. "My position as a director is merely to see that the interests of the bond holders are protected. I have always maintained that if the city required a municipal water system and required it in a hurry, that the Spring Valley was the most available."

Hellman would not discuss the mayor's letter regarding the Garfield grant, saying that he was not familiar with the grant.

Former Mayor Taylor reiterated his statement of yesterday. He declares that the city has a permanent usufructory right and a valid easement into the valley he does not dispute.

OAKLANDER TO MARRY A SANTA ROSA GIRL

[Special Dispatch to The Call] SANTA ROSA, Aug. 30.—The engagement was announced today of Miss Dorothy Sibley of this city and Emerson West Gould of Oakland. Miss Sibley is an estimable young woman who has been educated in the schools of Santa Rosa. Gould is a member of a prominent Oakland family. The wedding will take place about the middle of September at Stony point.

Another engagement announced here today which comes as a surprise is that of Miss Florence Pool to Harold James. Miss Pool graduated from the Santa Rosa high school last June. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Pool of this city and is an active member of Lily of the Valley chapter, Order of the Eastern Star.

TWO CHILDREN DROWN IN COLORADO RIVER

YUMA, Ariz., Aug. 30.—Locked in each other's arms, the bodies of a girl of 4 and a boy of 9 were sent ashore by the current of the Colorado river today a quarter of a mile below Laguna dam. The little victims of the river were the children of Dr. L. T. Jackson. They were drowned yesterday while playing along the banks of the stream.

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WATER PLANS CHANGE SPRING VALLEY GAINS

By CHARLES WESLEY REED

THE trouble with the water question in San Francisco is that the city's representatives have no policy that they consistently follow. Mayor McCarthy defeated the purchase of the Spring Valley water works in January. In August he recommends it. In January he recommended the Hetch Hetchy plan to the people as the system sufficient for all their future needs. Today he says that the permit of the secretary of the interior is not worth the paper it is written on.

We find the Phelan board of supervisors adopting the Hetch Hetchy system and the Schmitz board formally renouncing it. By this time one would think that the policy of the city in reference to the Spring Valley water company would be decided, but apparently there is small hope of continuity of action by our officials.

The city gets it in the neck and the Spring Valley water works emerges from each trial smugly complacent.

If Mayor McCarthy would fight for Hetch Hetchy first, last and all the time, and never say die and never give aid or encouragement to Spring Valley, the city would win out. The city is in a fight with Spring Valley, and yet all our officials seem to think they must strengthen the hands of that monopoly.

We should make all preparation to build the Lake Eleanor system, and then firmly and finally say to Spring Valley: "We will buy you out, lock, stock and barrel, if you want to sell; but if you do not, we will go to the Sierra, and never more bother you." That would bring that recalcitrant corporation to terms. But as long as Mayor McCarthy changes his mind every six months what has the Spring Valley to fear?

DEJECTED WRITER TRIES TO END LIFE

Vera Fitch, Piqued at Coldness of New York Editors, Shoots Herself

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old and of striking beauty, fell to the floor of the room, a handbag clattered down beside her. It contained \$175, but no clue to her identity.

Identified by Mother

Seven letters pinned to her undershirt offered the only indication in that direction until her mother, Mrs. Henry Fitch, visited her at the hospital and set all doubts at rest.

Mrs. Fitch gave what information she did to the police only in the belief that her daughter could not recover.

Miss Fitch is the daughter of the late Henry Fitch, United States army, and a cousin of the late Clyde Fitch, and is a sister of Mrs. Roy W. Conger, who as Grace Fitch was a belle in San Francisco a few years ago and who is about to make her stage debut under that name. Grace Fitch's husband is a nephew of Edwin H. Conger, former United States minister to China.

Vera Fitch was living at 1570 Broadway. This is facing Longacre square, a favorite residential district for theatrical people. The three story building is only a stone's throw from the Hotel Astor.

Airs of Distinction

Vera Fitch came to the Astor directly from the theater apparently. She wore a pink net shawl over her head, a white opera cloak and a dainty blue silk frock, which set off her slender figure to fine advantage. The air of distinction with which she carried herself attracted attention to her immediately upon her appearance at the hotel.

At the Flower hospital she said she had found the struggle to be respectable and honest in New York harder than she had supposed possible, and that since she was not equal to it she wanted to die in peace.

When her mother visited the hospital the whole story of the girl's ambition and disappointment was revealed. She had come to New York to win a place for her writing. She had already written an excellent thesis on English literature and had started a text on English history which members of the faculty at Columbia considered quite remarkable.

Found Editors Heartless

She wrote much verse as well, and it was the difficulty she met in her efforts to place these verses that first discouraged her. A number of them had been published in the west and had been extensively copied, but the editors here seemed indifferent to them. She took this so much to heart that some time ago she told one of her friends that she was nearly at the end of her resources. In her black silk handbag were found three letters, bearing the date of August 18. They were addressed "Dearest Blanche," "Dearest sister" and "Mother dear."

"It is really deplorable that a girl can not get along honorably in New York," ran the letter to her mother. "In some things I might have succeeded had I conformed to the wishes of men (I cultured (?) usually moneyed, but minus morals."

A typewritten manuscript called "Thessalia" was found and under it, in her own handwriting, was scrawled: "My pet story, which I want buried with me. I wish I could take books as companions into the unknown world with me."

CZAR AND CZARINA OF RUSSIA VISIT GERMANY

Police Arrest Two Men on Suspicion as Anarchists

FRIEDBERG, Aug. 30.—Emperor Nicholas and Empress Alexandra of Russia arrived here this afternoon. They were accompanied into German territory by a suite of 50 persons.

Great crowds gathered in the streets in hopes of having a view of the visitors. They were not disappointed, for the emperor and empress were driven from the railway station to the castle, which they will occupy while here, in an open automobile.

The Russian secret police have been here for several days on the lookout for anarchists and last night at Bad Nauheim arrested a Russian named Mandelberg. Shortly before the royal party arrived today the police arrested another man who was believed to be an anarchist.

BOYS KILLED PLAYING BANDIT—Cleveland, Ohio, Aug. 29.—Two boys playing bandit were killed and another's arm was broken today when the roof of a "treasure" cave they were digging in the sand bank along Walworth run collapsed.

ROOSEVELT'S TALK AROUSES LAWYERS

Washington Attorneys Discuss Criticism of Supreme Court and Suggest Contempt

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American federation of labor. The cases are not parallel, however, for Gompers criticized the court's decision in his own case, while Roosevelt's criticism was sweeping, and he was not personally concerned in any decision it had rendered.

Lawyers Uphold Roosevelt

The general opinion of the lawyers was that Roosevelt was well within his rights as a private citizen when he made the criticism. They say that as long as his speech did not deal with cases under consideration there was no contempt involved. Members of congress and even President Taft have from time to time pointed out that the supreme court sticks too close to technicalities. President Taft has made the direct criticism in one of his speeches delivered here in Washington.

It was due to his belief that statesmen rather than mere lawyers should comprise the supreme court bench that President Taft selected Governor Hughes as associate justice. In line with that conviction Hughes will be made chief justice. The other places on the bench will be filled with the object of having accurate in touch with public sentiment on questions of the day.

Right of Free Speech

Commenting on Roosevelt's remarks, Percival M. Brown, one of the leading lawyers of the capitol said today:

"Colonel Roosevelt's criticism of the supreme court has no bearing on pending cases. If he had criticized the court in regard to a particular proceeding in a pending case he might have been in contempt of court. But his criticism was general, and therefore he was well within his right, being entitled to the freedom of speech guaranteed by the constitution. Anybody can criticize the court except in regard to certain cases."

Old Notions Disappearing

Another distinguished lawyer, who practices often before the supreme court and therefore did not wish to be quoted, maintained that though the two cases are different both Gompers and Roosevelt were within their rights for the criticism was not made in open court in either case. He contends that a judge was as much to be criticized as any other public official and said:

"Freedom of opinion must not be interfered with even by so august a body as the supreme court. The old notion that courts are sacredly immune from criticism will not be tolerated by liberty and speech loving people."

Colonel Roosevelt, it is learned, has other sensational speeches pending, not the least interesting of which is one on the tariff. He will come out flat footedly in favor of the same kind of schedule by schedule, revision tariffs as has been proposed by President Taft.

DR. CRIPPEN COLLAPSES AND IS IN HOSPITAL

Alleged Wife Murderer Suffers Nervous Breakdown

LONDON, Aug. 30.—Dr. Hawley H. Crippen, jointly accused with Ethel Clara Leneve of the murder of his wife, has suffered a nervous collapse and was removed today to the hospital ward of Brixton jail.

Attorney Newton says that his client has given him an explanation of the farewell message found among the prisoner's effects by Inspector Dew, which will throw a different light on the matter when it is made public.

The message was read in court yesterday at the arraignment of Crippen and Miss Leneve and indicated that the writer contemplated suicide during his flight to Canada on the steamer Montrose.

INTERPARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE—Brussels, Aug. 30.—The sixteenth interparliamentary conference opened today with 80 delegates present. Auguste M. F. Bernart, the Belgian minister of state, presided.

SCANDAL DEVELOPS IN VAGRANCY CASE

Bunko Man Released on Writ, It Is Alleged, on False Representations

Something like a scandal has developed in the case of James Keller, a bunko man who was arrested last week by Detectives Murphy and McQuaide and charged with vagrancy. He was convicted by Police Judge Conlan last Thursday, and Keller was ordered into custody to appear for sentence on Saturday. On Saturday attorneys John J. Sullivan and Rose, representing Keller, made a motion for a new trial and arrest of judgment, asking for time to submit authorities. A continuance was granted and Keller was again ordered into custody without bail.

Sullivan and Rose applied for a writ of habeas corpus to Judge Cabanis for Keller's release on the ground that he had not been sentenced within two days after conviction, as required by law, and yesterday the application was granted and the prisoner released.

Keller's release on the writ was reported to Judge Conlan yesterday afternoon and he at once issued a bench warrant for Keller's arrest and fixed his bail at \$1,000 cash. He instructed Murphy and McQuaide to scour the city till they found Keller.

"It seems to me," said Judge Conlan, "that the fact that there was a motion for a new trial and arrest of judgment pending before me which, of course, prevented the sentence within two days coming into operation, could not have been made known by the attorneys to Judge Cabanis, and I presume the judge was led to believe it was an ordinary case of vagrancy, if that were the case, the attorneys were at fault in not apprising the judge of all of the facts, for if he had been so apprised and he knew that there was such a motion before me, he would not have granted the writ and released the prisoner."

INSPECTOR GOES TO EUREKA—George Birmingham, United States supervising inspector, left yesterday for Eureka on official business.

NOTED EVANGELIST IS MARRIED IN EAST

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Aug. 30.—In the presence of his coworkers in the field of religious endeavor Rev. Dr. J. William Chapman, the evangelist, was married today to Miss Mabel Cornelia Moulton at the home of her mother, Mrs. Ruth W. Moulton, in this city.

POOR AIM FATAL TO WOULD BE MURDERER

ST. PAUL, Aug. 30.—C. P. Welsh, a discharged special agent of the Great Northern railway company, entered the office of Special Agent A. G. Ray today and fired five shots at the latter, but missed him each time. Ray took a revolver from his desk and killed Welsh with one shot.

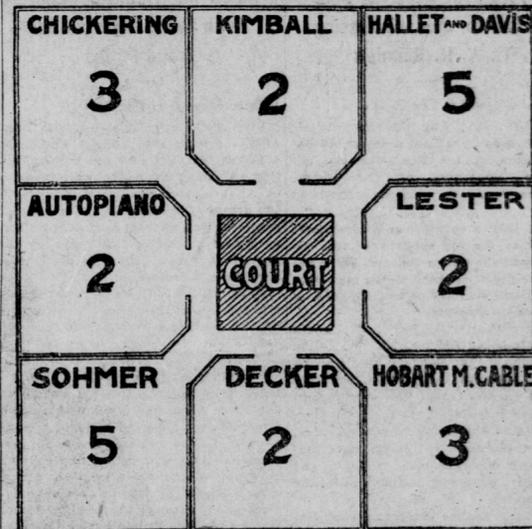
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