

The San Francisco Call

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In the current "campaign of education" financed by the lumber ring to defeat the issue of bonds for the purchase by the state of Islais creek lands needed for harbor purposes Luther Wagoner has been one of the most active agents in support of the selfish interests in opposition to the vote. Mr. Wagoner is the author of a pamphlet or folder widely distributed to help that cause, in which he commits himself to the doctrine that the state has no right to share the "unearned increment" in the value of lands due to increase of population and business. Apparently in Mr. Wagoner's view the state should wait until the value of the lands needed for public purposes has enormously increased and then buy at the top of the market.

No doubt that plan would suit the lumber ring very well, but we scarcely expected so candid a disclosure of their purpose.

These are Mr. Wagoner's words:

Here is a proposed purchase to be made now and to lie fallow for years that the state may get the "unearned increment." If this be sound and a just public policy, why not be logical and extend it to the present business front and buy, say three or four blocks deep back from all of the water front to hold and rent? Assume that the state has power to do it, would it be just to the present property owners who invested their money for precisely the same purpose? And if it would be unjust to deprive the present holders of land along the present improved water front of the benefits of their foresight, how is the injustice cured by shifting the locus of purchase to the 63 blocks on or near Islais creek?

This is to argue that the state must not do business on business principles. The state, declares Mr. Wagoner, has no right to benefit by the foresight of its administrators. It must wait for the last moment of emergency and then pay through the nose.

The whole argument is based on a stupid fallacy. If any person, body or organization has the right to benefit by the "unearned increment" surely it is the government, which is only another name for the people, whose industry has caused the enhancement of value. The very phrase employed by Mr. Wagoner destroys his argument. The enhancement of value, he says, is "unearned" by the holders. Therefore, he argues, it is theirs and can be held against the people, whose industry is the direct earning cause of the increment.

This is the most topsy-turvy application of logic for the moment visible above the California horizon. Not only is Mr. Wagoner's logic absurd, but his facts are wrong. It is not proposed to buy these lands for indefinite future use, but on the contrary the work of improvement will begin directly following the purchase. In a word, Mr. Wagoner invents his facts and then proceeds to build a ridiculous fabric of argument on the invention.

TRADE circles are greatly interested in the oil war for the control of the European and Asiatic markets between the Standard and the combination of which the Shell trading and transportation company is regarded as the head. This is a powerful organization whose constituents are said to represent a total capital of \$200,000,000. The Standard is understood to command capital resources amounting to \$300,000,000. Some particulars concerning the rate war are given in a London dispatch:

Members of the Shell group, which includes the Royal Dutch company and the Asiatic company, assert that in the petrol trade of Europe the proportion of the Shell's business is 65 per cent, to the Standard's 35 per cent, but that the Standard does perhaps 65 per cent of the total kerosene distributing business. The Standard approached the Shell company with a proposal that the latter should hand over 25 per cent. This was refused. The Shell and Royal Dutch companies have now made themselves sole proprietors of the Sumatran oil wells.

The attacks of the American trust are said to be manifested in various directions. It has lowered prices in the East India markets to a rate which gives, it is alleged, no return for the oil it is shipping. To counteract the development of the oil fields in Egypt it has greatly lowered the price of kerosene there.

The Shell and Royal Dutch companies, on the other hand, have disposed of 50,000 tons of petrol for the United States at prices 50 per cent above those which the Standard is realizing in Europe. Therefore, they say, they do not fear competition.

Representatives of the Standard in Europe deny that any price war is being waged or contemplated, but these denials are discredited by the official statement issued from 26 Broadway and heretofore quoted in these columns. It is a most unusual thing for the Standard to issue an authorized official statement, and this departure from the rule shows that the competition is seriously regarded.

ROOSEVELT always was lucky. It seems as if he never had a bigger stroke of luck than in his recent escape from a political alliance with Hearst. Hearst was eager to climb on the Roosevelt bandwagon in New York and it was the general understanding that the dubious support of his kept party organization would be thrown to the republican ticket. But the so called independence league convention in New York appears to have slipped a cog and got out of hand at the last moment. Hearst was at sea during the session and his orders were transmitted by wireless, but apparently the most important part of the program got lost in the vast inane of the north Atlantic and may be supposed to be making a dash for the north pole. Anyway the program slipped up and the republican ticket was delivered from the danger of a compromising alliance.

But the relations of Hearst with his doodle dee following that would not follow the bellwether lend themselves to humor, as described in the New York Evening Post:

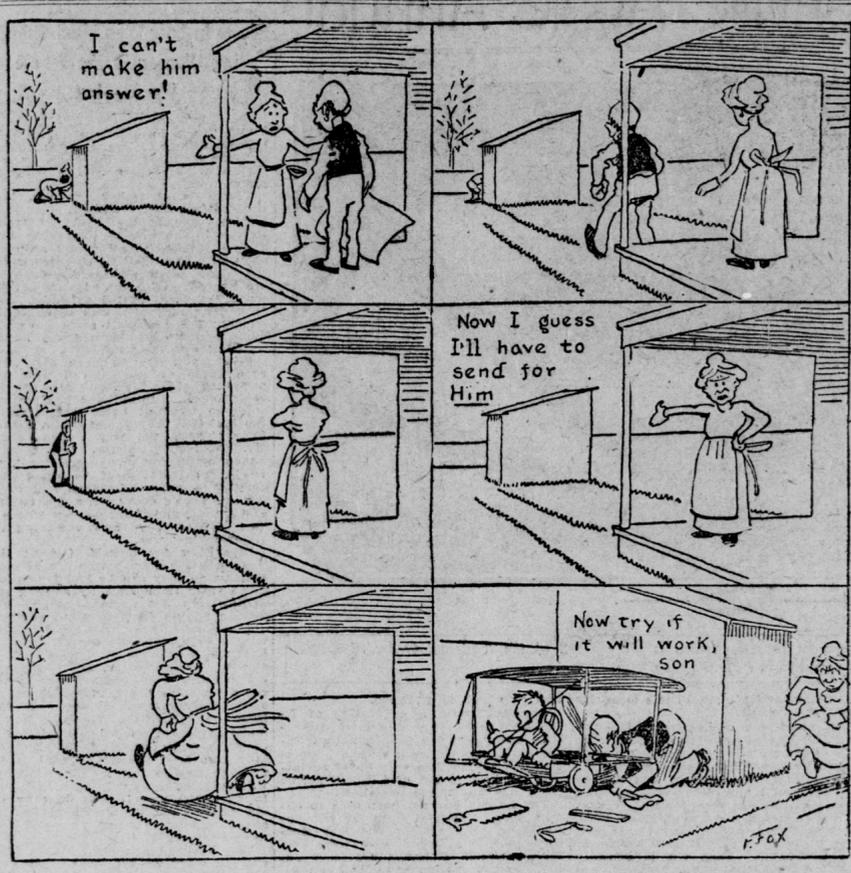
The beneficent boss paid all the expenses, but the delegates overruled his judgment of what they ought to do, and as a result, we honestly believe, the independence league stands higher today in public estimation than before. Its members, at least, could not stultify themselves by going into the republican camp. Mr. Hearst might forget what Roosevelt and Root had said of him, might be willing again to join the republican forces, but even his tools revolted at this. Of course, this meant quick work in the Hearst office, where everything was in readiness to explain just how necessary it was to embrace Stimson and oppose Dix. As it is, the outcome is most satisfactory. We shall be able now to take the actual measure of the independence league's strength at the polls. It will draw from both parties, and we heartily congratulate them both that, in addition

Foolish Argument by Lumber Ring Mouthpiece

Worldwide War Over Oil Markets

Roosevelt's Luck Spares Him Hearst's Support

The Craze



to their respective burdens of Rooseveltism and Murphysm, neither of them must shoulder that of Hearstism. Think of the money that must be spent by the Hearst treasury if there is to be anything like a decent showing at the polls. Plainly, when Mr. Hearst returns to utter his joy over the only unbossed convention, his lieutenants will have a bad quarter of an hour explaining just how that Cooper union gathering got out of hand.

The enemies of Roosevelt openly exulted in the news that Hearst intended to support the colonel in the New York campaign. Said the World the day before Hearst's convention:

When Mr. Hearst's independence league holds its state convention tomorrow the Roosevelt-Hearst agreement will be carried out in all its details, and the Roosevelt-Hearst forces will enter upon the same kind of campaign against Mr. Dix that they made against Judge Gaynor last fall.

The doodle dees have been described as a payroll and not a party, but this revolt appears to put a certain measure of independence to their credit. It is funny, but expensive for the man who foots the bills.

EDITOR ROWELL of the Fresno Republican does not hold with the obligations of party loyalty and refuses to see any binding force affecting individual members arising from the party verdict given at a primary election. The Republican is right in saying that there is no moral obligation binding voters at a primary to accept the ticket. The obligation is political, if you will, and it is the basis on which government by party is founded.

The Call does not assert that the voice of a primary is the voice of God, but it is evidence of what the party wants and should be respected as such. The essence of government by party is organization for certain definite purposes and it can only be made effective by loyalty to the majority consent. It has no higher sanction than the efficiency that comes from union, unless it be that a man is bound in honor to play the game and observe the rules.

The first rule of the political game is that the will of the majority should bind the minority. This is not only the rule, but is likewise the law, when it comes to a general election, and it is the very foundation of republican institutions. Whether and in what degree this obligation binds voters who have taken part in a primary may be a nice question of metaphysics, but it will not be disputed that united action is the first condition of party efficiency.

It is ill disputing about metaphysics on the firing line, but we grant Editor Rowell's contention that there is no moral question involved. Play the game and quit larking. What we want is team work.

Gossip of Railwaymen

CAPTAIN W. G. LEALE, who is well known in railroad circles and has just returned from the east, tells a funny story about himself. Before he went on the trip he had occasion to visit the Transportation club at the Palace hotel. He had just entered the lobby of the hotel when a stranger accosted him.

"I beg pardon; could you tell me what this Transportation club is?" Captain Leale replied that he could, and invited the stranger to dinner, showing him the clubrooms and introducing him to a number of members. Inasmuch as there was to be an excursion on the bay the next day, under the auspices of the club, Captain Leale invited the stranger to that as well. The stranger accepted, and after an enjoyable day parted company with Captain Leale with many words of thanks.

The Topeka and Northwestern branch of the Union Pacific, which has been under construction for five years between Topeka and Marysville, Kan., is nearly ready for operation and is to be opened for traffic November 1. The new road is to be made a part of a new freight route to the west and northwest. The effect will be a saving of 94 miles in distance and several hours in time to this coast. So far as passenger service is concerned it probably will be confined to local train service between Topeka and Marysville and may be extended to Lincoln and Omaha over the Blue valley branch of the Union Pacific.

The Santa Fe has just published and distributed a pamphlet entitled, "Why Railroads Need Higher Rates," and it contains the arguments advanced by E. P. Ripley while a witness before the examiner of the Interstate commerce commission in Chicago August 29 and 30 in support of the advances in freight rates suspended by the commission. Ripley's evidence is given in full from the stenographic report.

The publication is a complete exposition of the argument of the western roads for increased revenue from the position of the Santa Fe in particular, though in its broader aspect it is a valuable comment by a recognized authority on the railroad situation in general. It is made convenient for reference by a complex index of the subjects covered, and the booklet presents also comments by newspapers in Ripley's testimony.

Under the direction of Joseph N. Harrison, Pacific coast passenger agent, the following appointments for the Washington-Sunset route have been made: W. F. Fitzgerald, traveling passenger agent, headquarters at Los Angeles, in charge of territory in California south of Bakersfield and San Luis Obispo, vice

Plot of 'The Day of Souls' Worked Out in This City

Charles Tenney Jackson, the author of the great novel 'The Day of Souls,' which begins serial publication in The Sunday Call October 23, has made an exhaustive study of San Francisco, which is the scene of his story. The plot of 'The Day of Souls' began to work out in his mind when he was sojourning here about five years before the fire. He had seen the city rebuilding after its disaster, however, before the novel was written. He was here during the heat of reconstruction, and the following paragraph from a letter to an eastern friend gives an idea of his impressions at that time: 'Life here this summer is not going to be any dream of rest-fog and dust as never before, and up through the chaos goes the rush and roar of the mightiest building, the most titanic activity of man since the tower of Babel was under way, and I guess for a gushing of teeth and an ebullience of humors and confusion of tongues this has that old stone pile beat a block as well. It's inconceivable, bewildering—it always amazes me anew, who was ever amazed by the kaleidoscopic life and entrancements of this astonishing city.'

Here is what the Oakland Tribune has to say of 'The Day of Souls,' which begins in The Sunday Call one week from next Sunday:

'The same vigor, the same strength, the same appreciation of virile, strenuous life that marked the work of Frank Norris, marks the work of Charles Tenney Jackson. With strong hands, with mighty strokes, he has molded the life of a city. The optimism of 'The Day of Souls' must carry a lesson of helpfulness into many lives, and its intense interest brings its forceful appeal.'

Abe Martin



You kin still git all th' beets you kin eat for a nickel in spite of th' trusts. While crosstin' th' street this mornin' in a hobble skirt Miss Tawney Apple wuz run down by a dray.

Holding Him Down

Doctor—You must be operated upon directly! Not a day's delay! Jones—Hold on, Doc! Stick to your automobile! Don't begin thinking about a flying machine!—Puck.

Uncle Walt The Poet Philosopher

Father came home sore and surly from his labors in the mart; came home from the hurly-burly with some wormwood in his heart; for the luck had been against him in the war of bonds and stocks, and the other brokers feped him up and pelted him with rocks. So his heart was sad and bitter, mangled by misfortune's pokes; like a wild and savage critter he kept ranting at his folks. And his wife was scared and worried by the smoking things he said, and the children, frightened, hurried pale and trembling, off to bed. And poor father roared and ranted, and he kicked at this and that, and he pawed the air and panted and he threw things at the cat. He was awful in his dudgeon, and his wife sat weeping there, when she should have got a bludgeon, or have slugged him with a chair. Oh the wrathful man who raises in his home, at close of day, fifty kinds of brimstone blazes is a chicken hearted jay; and his wife is weak and dollish if she bends before the storm; she should get a club and polish off his wild, rambunctious form.



WALT MASON

The Morning Chit-Chat

THERE is one reason anyway why I wish women would get the vote, even if I am not a suffragette. I wish they would get it and use it to purify the press. During the recent campaign, with all the talk about "white slaves" and other horrible evils, that I, a grown woman, had scarcely ever heard of before, the papers were anything but fit for a child to read. Such things should not be printed.



RUTH CAMERON

That was actually said by a grown woman before a large women's club recently. I clipped it from the paper. Think of it. It almost made me an anti-suffragist. It would if I thought there were many women as dangerously narrow and shortsighted as that.

To me it is one of the most splendid signs of the times that papers are giving so much space to "all this talk about white slaves and other horrible evils." I wish they gave double. The more space they give, the more rapidly the betterment of conditions that is undoubtedly coming through the awakening of the public conscience, will be brought to pass.

Let me tell you, Mrs. False-Modesty Club Woman, what Eva Booth, the head of the Salvation Army in this country, a woman who ought to know as much as anyone in America of conditions in the underworld, said to me about the white slave traffic in New York.

"There has been a tremendous falling off of this kind of business in the last year, not so much through the enforcement of the laws as through the fear which so much publicity has inspired in the white slave dealers and procurers.

"The Rockefeller investigation and the newspaper accounts of it have not only awakened the eyes of mothers of young girls all over the country to the dangers that lie in wait for them, but they have thoroughly frightened these wicked men."

Would you have such things left out of the papers that the papers might be pleasanter to read?

Would you have such things left out of the papers because of the possibility that your child might learn some of the facts of life?

Do you know the only kind of child that will get any harm from such articles?

The child who has reached the age when children begin to wonder about the mysteries of sex, and whose father and mother have not done their duty in explaining such things to him, and who is consequently trying to piece together an explanation from everything that he hears and reads.

That child will morbidly devour such articles and may be harmed by them. But I do not think that any other child or any clean minded man or woman will derive anything from reading of such evils, except a burning desire to try to better conditions.

I hope the newspapers will go on giving all the space they can spare to telling about such things, and for those who still disagree with me and still disapprove, I want to tell a little story that I always think of when I meet people like Mrs. False-Modesty Club Woman.

When Dr. Samuel Johnson published his famous dictionary, a woman came to him and said, "Dr. Johnson, I don't like your dictionary."

"Why, Madame?" said the doctor.

"Because there are too many improper words defined in it," said the lady.

"Madame, replied Dr. Johnson, 'I see that you have been looking for them.'"

ANSWERS TO QUERIES

REMARRYING—A subscriber, Los Angeles, asks if a person in California obtains an interlocutory decree of divorce, how long after that can that person marry in any other state? A person to whom an interlocutory decree of divorce has been granted in California can not marry in any state until after a final decree has been granted, and the final decree can not be signed until 12 months have expired after the granting of the interlocutory decree.

RIP VAN WINKLE—C. W. C., City. Who wrote the musical composition entitled "Rip Van Winkle"? There is such a composition written by George Bristow, an American composer, and first produced in New York City in 1855. It is also the title of an orchestra overture by George Whitfield Chadwick, first played in Leipzig in 1879.

CISTERN—Farmer, Oakdale. What should be the dimensions for a cistern to hold say 2,000 gallons? A cistern 25 feet in diameter holds 3,943 gallons for each 10 inches in depth.

NONE—A. S., City. Is it proper to say "none of them is going"? Yes.

PERSONS IN THE NEWS

- D. L. STEVENS of New York, W. H. Robison of Chico and W. C. Ruckman, accompanied by Mrs. Ruckman, of Seattle make up a group of recent arrivals at the Marx.
BURTON E. GREEN, M. H. Whittier and J. B. Henderson, oil operators of Los Angeles, are among the recent arrivals at the Palace.
A. J. PEDERSEN, chief clerk of the Van Noy hotel of Los Angeles, is spending a vacation in this city and is a guest at the Palace.
W. G. BRIMSON, vice president of the Quincy, Omaha and Kansas City railroad, is at the Palace registered from Kansas City.
DR. J. HENRY BARBAR, and party are expected home October 17 after a long trip through the eastern states and Canada.
GEORGE H. PECK, a real estate operator of Los Angeles, is at the Palace with Mrs. Peck.
JOHN H. HOLCOMBE, a cattleman of Maxwell, Neb., is at the Fairmont with Mrs. Holcombe.
W. J. McGRATH, a fruit grower and real estate man of Watsonville, is at the Stanford.
W. B. WIGHTMAN, a banker of New York, is at the Fairmont with Mrs. Wightman.
W. G. HUGHES, a real estate operator of Los Angeles, is staying at the Fairmont.
L. A. SPITZER, county assessor of Santa Clara county, is staying at the Argonaut.
MR. AND MRS. L. H. WOODS of Stockton have apartments at the St. Francis.
R. C. HEROLD, a businessman of Tucson, Ariz., is staying at the Argonaut.
JOHN F. RYAN of Boston is among the recent arrivals at the St. Francis.
L. P. ST. CLAIR, an oil operator of Bakersfield, is a guest at the Stewart.
W. W. RITER, a banker of Salt Lake, is at the Palace with Mrs. Riter.
GEORGE LEBMAN of Bethlehem, Pa., is a guest at the St. Francis.