

The San Francisco Call

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PRESIDENT McCREA of the Pennsylvania railroad is regarded as the ablest representative of the transportation interests of the United States.

His testimony given before the interstate commerce commission in the pending inquiry concerning freight rates has been considered the best presentation yet made of that side of the case. Yet Mr. McCrea appears to entertain but slender confidence in the validity and force of the railroad argument for higher rates.

In fact he is reported to have visited Mr. Taft to make a plea for mercy which, in his sense presumably, means increased freight charges, and these in the last resort must be borne by the consumer.

The railroad plea in this relation is in substance that the high cost of living has compelled the roads to raise wages. Therefore, they argue, they must have higher freight rates, involving a further general increase of the cost of living, which would again compel increased cost of operation, followed, on the same line of argument, by still higher freight rates, and so on ad infinitum.

This is, of course, a vicious circle of argument that reduces itself to absurdity, and it seems clear that Mr. McCrea begins to realize that the railroad position is logically untenable. Accordingly he visits Mr. Taft to beg that "agitation" shall cease, and this plea is accompanied by the customary half veiled threats that the roads will cease buying materials and making improvements if they are not permitted to have their own way about everything.

So far as Mr. Taft is concerned the only "agitation" pending is the effort to enforce the law and strengthen it, so as to make the official machinery for the regulation of railroads more complete and effective.

The fact is that it is only now, after the continuous popular effort of more than 20 years, that the railroads are for the first time face to face with a real regulation of their business. Hitherto they have been permitted to run loose and make their own laws, imposing on the shipping public such taxes as seemed good to them. Now that they are confronted with regulation they bitterly resent the change of position.

At the same time they are all at sea concerning the situation, and this condition is made to appear in a striking way by the puerile argument which they have advanced in support of their demand for higher rates. They do not appear to understand that, in consequence of the establishment by the railroads of a virtual monopoly of a prime public necessity and use, the people are compelled in self-defense to create an effective and even stringent means of regulation. By the creation of this monopoly they have acquired a power of arbitrary taxation which can not be permitted.

Mr. McCrea may be assured that the roads will get justice at the hands of the interstate commerce commission, but justice to the customers of the transportation agencies is of quite equal importance. The regulation of the railroads—call it "agitation" if you please—must continue, and, if necessary to make this policy effective, the powers of the interstate commerce commission and the government machinery for this purpose will be increased. To this extent the "agitation" will be continued.

DR. FREDERICK COOK, the arctic explorer, who has been gazzetted from Copenhagen to Shanghai and from Greenland's icy mountains to the inhospitable steppes of Patagonia as the most monumental liar and impostor in history, at length comes out of hiding and begs for pity's sake. He seeks to be restored to some status of public consideration, so he might make his Christmas at peace with the world and rehabilitate in some lame fashion a sorely damaged reputation.

We would not rub salt in a man's wounds who is down and out and begging for mercy. It may be conceded that a painful and dangerous arctic experience may not promote human sanity and might easily unsettle a mind already half crazed by a perilous ambition.

If Doctor Cook is prepared to accept this status of mental condition by way of explanation for his extraordinary delusion the world may very well be content to let it go at that and take back the erring son so prodigal of dreams.

Doctor Cook's plea ad misericordiam offers example of the imperious need and craving for human sympathy. No man may live the life of Ishmael and be content. He craves the consideration of his fellows and would once more be regarded as a man among men and no longer an outcast.

Let Doctor Cook come back.

WHAT is the population of California? The Riverside Press, as the result of a careful computation and estimate based on the returns already announced for cities in the state, figures that the total population south of Tehachapi should count up something like 700,000, and gives these specifications:

Table with 2 columns: City Name and Population. Includes Los Angeles (475,000), San Diego (55,000), San Bernardino (50,000), Orange (35,000), Riverside (35,000), Santa Barbara (30,000), Ventura (25,000), Imperial (15,000).

The figures appear moderate, and it is quite certain from the returns already in hand that the population of the counties littoral to San Francisco bay will probably exceed the total south of the pass. The population of four cities—San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley and Alameda—fronting on the bay totals, according to the census, 631,165, and this does not include Marin and San Mateo counties

THE WEAKER SEX?



—Los Angeles Herald.

nor that part of Alameda outside of the cities named. It does not seem unreasonable to add at least 100,000 for the population of this territory, which is thickly studded with towns. With those parts of Santa Clara and Contra Costa lying on San Francisco bay it seems fair to estimate the population of this area at 750,000.

The total of these figures gives us nearly 1,500,000 for two comparatively small areas and leaves out of the count altogether the populous cities and counties of the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys. With the other coast counties and the Sierra and foothill region we should be able to add at least 750,000 to the estimates for the bay counties and southern California. These figures should give us somewhere around 2,200,000 for the whole state and this estimate may even be below the mark.

If by chance the total should run up to 2,500,000 that figure would give California three additional congressmen, assuming that the basis of apportionment will be one representative for every 220,000 of population.

NEXT week the public will be given such information concerning the expenditures of the congressional campaign committees as those bodies may think it good for us to know. This is not exactly the law in this relation, but it is probably the way these ingenious committeemen will construe the statute for our benefit. The law enacted by congress providing for publicity of campaign contributions has not hitherto been taken very seriously by the politicians, and the machinery for its enforcement is painfully defective. By consequence they will tell us very much what suits their convenience.

Congress in the first place enacted this law most unwillingly and took care to make it little better than a pretense of compliance with a popular demand by providing for publication of the accounts after election. This is about the same thing as shutting the stable door after the horse is stolen. The general scope of the law enacted last summer may be thus summarized:

The law is applicable to the national committees of all political parties, the congressional campaign committees, also to all committees, associations or organizations which in two or more states influence the result or attempt to do so in connection with any election of members of congress. It is not applicable to state campaign committees, which collect or spend money inside of a single state only.

The law requires the committees to keep exact accounts of all money or its equivalent received by or promised to the committee or to any of its members, the name of every contributor and of all disbursements or promises of payment. The names of the persons to whom the money has been paid must likewise be stated.

There must be a voucher for every disbursement amounting to more than \$10. These vouchers must be preserved for fifteen months after the election. Within thirty days after, the election committee-treasurers must file sworn statements with the clerk of the house, giving the name and address of every firm or person contributing not less than \$100, the total sum of all contributions, promises or loans, and the name and address of every person to whom more than \$10 has been paid.

If these provisions were honestly and fully complied with they should give the country some valuable information, but as there is no machinery for audit and none for detection of fraud or misstatement of the facts it does not seem that the returns will be good for much.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES

AIR TIGHT—J. F. G., Sacramento: What is the process by which sail cloth is made air tight?
The following method is said to make it air tight: The ingredients are 2 ounces of soap and 4 ounces of glue to a gallon of water. The glue is softened in cold water and then dissolved with the soap in water by agitation and heat. The cloth is filled with this solution by boiling in the liquid for several hours, the time depending on the fiber and thickness of the material. When properly saturated the excess of liquid is wrung out and the cloth exposed to the air, then digested from 5 to 12 hours in a solution composed of 15 ounces of alum and 15 ounces of salt to 1 gallon of water. The cloth is then rinsed in clean water and dried at a temperature of 80 degrees F.

Uncle Walt The Poet Philosopher

My feet are broad and flat and large, and either shoe might be a barge. My feet are always in my way; I stumble o'er them every day; and all the people that I meet are ever looking at my feet; I've heard them saying, as they passed, that Cinderella is out-classed. I gaze upon my trilbys wide, and oft my bosom swells with pride, for, though they look like hods of bricks, I've trained them to some useful tricks. If there's a sick man, needing aid, those feet will give a street parade, and hasten to his humble door, that I may do some helpful chore. If there's a neighbor plunged in woe, those blamed old trilbys seem to know, and they go scorching down the road, that I may ease that neighbor's load. If there's a sane and helpful plan to benefit the creature man, those feet are straining in their shoes, and not a minute will they lose; they carry me in haste away, that I may butt into the fray. If earnest men, with weapons strong, are battling with some grievous wrong, those trilbys fairly paw the ground, as though they heard the martial sound, and bear me to the scene of strife, that I may fight as for my life. Some people hand me large bouquets, and praise me forty-seven ways, but I'm an idle, trifling skate, content to go a careless gait, who shies at care and toil and sweat—my feet deserve the praise I get!



WALT MASON

USEFUL FEET
Copyright, 1910, by Oscar Mason

The Morning Chit-Chat

THERE, I know she'll never forgive me, but I just couldn't help giving her a piece of my mind. The lady who spoke had just said all she thought—and in the heat and abandon of the moment, a good deal more, I suspect—about a certain cult to which one of her dearest friends was deeply devoted.



RUTH CAMERON

She had been impolite. She had been undignified. She had hurt her good friend deep, deep down where burts are powerfully apt to fester instead of healing. But she had had the exquisite pleasure of giving away a piece of her mind. Wonder if it paid? Looks to me like a very big price to pay. I should think you might call that being "generous to a fault"—that is, being willing to give away a piece of one's mind at such a cost.

And what a lot of people are generous that way. I was talking just the other day to a clever girl who has somehow failed to receive the advancement in her business career that one would expect from her unusual brains and ability.

The talk turned on this delicate subject. "I'll tell you just why I think it is," she said frankly. "You know I never could be smooth tongued and hypocritical like some folks, and even when people were above me I never could keep from giving them a piece of my mind once in awhile.

Lucky she was clever. If she hadn't been her propensity would doubtless have cost her her position as well as her advancement. Of course there come to all of us once in awhile these uncontrollable fits of generosity when we feel that we simply must give some one a piece of our minds.

To most generous impulses it is well to yield before a cold blooded second thought has time to annihilate them. But as to this kind of generosity—well it seems to me it is good to remember when one is attacked this way, that blessed as it is to give away things, most of us have need of all our brains for the business of living and can't afford to give away a piece of our minds, however small.

Ruth Cameron

The Way of a Woman
They had been quarreling, and, although hubby was willing to take the blame all upon himself and smooth matters over peaceably, she was still spiteful and indifferent. "Come over here, Jessie. Aren't you curious to know what is in this package?" "Oh, not very; I can stand the strain," she replied belligerently. "Well, it's something for the one I love best in all the world," he said coaxingly, trying to win a smile. "Oh, is that so?" she sniffed. "I suppose, then, it's those suspenders you said you needed."—Lippincott's.

Stroke for Stroke
Maud—What a fatterer Jack is. Marie—Why? Has he been telling you that you look beautiful? Maud—No; that you do.—Boston Transcript.

Couldn't Do Both
"Are you going to see the football game tomorrow?" "I guess not, I'm going to take a girl."—Cleveland Leader.

A Paradox
He—What is the best way to keep a woman's love? She—Return it.

Varsity Wit
Hotel Clerk—I found that "Not to Be Used Except in Case of Fire" placard those college boys stole out of the corridor. Manager—Where? Clerk—They'd nailed it up over the coalbin.—Lippincott's.

On Christmas Morning
Willie—Oh, papa, I heard Santa Claus last night. He bumped his foot against a chair and he said— Willie's Papa—There, there, Willie; I know what he said. Run away now.—Lippincott's.

PERSONS IN THE NEWS

T. DUNBAR, mechanical superintendent of the Pullman company, is here from Chicago to inspect the new plant under construction at Richmond.
MRS. SIDNEY M. COOPER, Miss Etzel Cooper and M. L. and C. H. Cooper engaged permanent apartments at the Fairmont yesterday.
F. B. ANDERSON of the Bank of California and Mrs. Anderson have registered at the St. Francis from San Rafael for the winter.
F. N. CHAPLIN, proprietor of a general merchandise store at Salinas, and Mrs. Chaplin are registered at the Argonaut.
T. J. WISEGARVER, a real estate dealer of Modesto, and Mrs. Wisegarver are recent arrivals at the Argonaut.
J. M. DANZIGER and M. P. Waite of Los Angeles are at the Palace. Both are heavily interested in oil.
SAMUEL PLATT, United States district attorney at Elgin, Nev., registered at the St. Francis yesterday.
J. A. DRISCOLL and Miss Mary Driscoll, Berkeley, have taken apartments at the Bellevue for the winter.
ERNEST WILTSEH, a mine owner of Santa Barbara, registered at the St. Francis yesterday.
A. HAZELTON, a prominent merchant of New York, is at the St. Francis with Mrs. Hazelton.
B. F. DILLINGHAM and wife are at the Stewart. He is a prominent contractor at Honolulu.
J. B. CORYELL and family of Menlo Park have taken permanent apartments at the Fairmont.
A. SAMUEL, a tobacco merchant of Stockton, is at the Maxx, accompanied by Mrs. Samuel.
ATTORNEY FRANK SHORT and wife of Fresno registered at the Palace yesterday.
CHARLES B. WILLIAMSON a Reno attorney, registered at the Union Square yesterday.
HOWARD CROZIER, a lumberman of Montreal, registered yesterday at the Union Square.
NAT STEWART, deputy sheriff of Santa Barbara county, is a guest at the Argonaut.
E. B. FERRIN and L. S. Williams arrived from Arizona yesterday and registered at the St. Francis.
WILLIAM G. BLATT and wife are registered at the Stewart. He is a shoe manufacturer of Detroit.
C. W. PENDLETON, collector of the port at Los Angeles, is among the late arrivals at the Palace.
WILLIAM CLUFF and wife and Miss Cluff of Menlo Park are at the Fairmont for the winter.
C. A. BAILEY, a Grass Valley farmer, is registered at the Stewart with Mrs. Bailey.
J. H. CROTHERS, who is now a farmer at Niles, is registered at the St. Francis.
THOMAS C. PARKER, mining man of Battle Mountain, Nev., is at the Argonaut.
C. L. FLACK, an attorney and promoter of Los Angeles, is a guest at the Palace.
M. W. WUESTHOFF, a capitalist of Cleveland, O., is registered at the Turpin.
GEORGE X. FLEMING, a Sacramento real estate man, is at the Stewart.
E. E. MANHEIM, a Fresno banker, is at the Palace with Mrs. Manheim.
MR. and MRS. C. C. JAMES, Washington, D. C., are at the Colonial.
DR. J. S. POITS and wife have taken apartments at the Turpin.
W. A. RIDEOUT, wife, and child of Honolulu are at the Palace.
W. MISNER, automobileman from Seattle, is at the Colonial.
LEE L. GRAY, a grape grower of Fresno, is at the Palace.
J. M. CHURCH, merchant of Lakeport, is at the Stanford.
PETER RICE, a Fresno oilman, is at the Union Square.
J. J. HALLOCK, Lakeport, is at the Stanford.

WAITER REVEALS TRUTH OF SOUP

Captain and Mate Learn to Recognize Liquid on The Water Front

CAPTAIN WILLIAM LEALE, who traces the Transportation club about noon every day and who delights in giving a story to members of that club, received a jolt yesterday when Jim Melvin, traffic manager for the California fruit canners' association, who has an office near the water front, handed out his occasional story. "Cap. Leale and his mate went into a water front restaurant a few days ago," so Melvin tells the story, "and ordered dinner. The waiter, with considerable flourish, placed a plate of thin, watery looking liquid before him. 'I say, young fellow, what's this stuff?' the captain shouted, as he gazed in amazement at the concoction he found under his nose. 'Soup, sir,' replied the waiter. 'Soup?' queried the captain. 'Soup, Bill,' turning to the mate. 'Just think of that! Here you and me have been sipping on soup all our lives and never recognized it until now.'"

O. W. Lehmer, superintendent and traffic manager of the Yosemite Valley railroad, with headquarters at Merced, is in the city for a few days. He is at the Palace.
Edward Adams, chief clerk in the local offices of the Erie, has resigned to accept a position in the claims department of the Southern Pacific. He has been succeeded by Reese T. Cropley.
William F. Schmidt, general western agent of the Missouri Pacific, who is responsible for the effusion in the time card about the trip of the Transportation club to Portola over the Western Pacific, left last night on a business trip to Portland.
Joseph I. Young, traffic manager for America for Thomas Cook & Son, with headquarters at New York, is in the city on a trip of inspection.
W. H. Sneider, general agent of the Illinois Central, who has been on a trip to Salt Lake City, is expected to return today.
Joseph Harrison, Pacific Coast passenger agent of the Washington-Sunset route, returned yesterday morning from Los Angeles, where he has been for the last 10 days.

An idea of passenger service as it is given in the east is shown by the new time table of the Pennsylvania for the trains to and from its new station in New York City. Westbound, weekdays, 8:11 trains; eastbound, weekdays, 5:55; Sundays, westbound, 4:45; eastbound, 4:35. The old station at Jersey City will have on weekdays 118 trains westward and 131 eastward.

Notice has been received at the local offices of the Union Pacific that the Union Pacific and its connections have tendered rates of \$50 from Missouri river points, \$57.50 from St. Louis, \$62.50 from Chicago and correspondingly.

San Francisco peddlers of general merchandise have to pay \$8 a quarter. Merchants' licenses are regulated by the character of the business and the amount of gross receipts. Those who sell by sample do not require a license.

IMPERIUM—C. W. H., Oakland: What was the date of the publication in the "Impertinent questions" in The Call of the "Matter With Today?"

The questions were not indexed, and it would require a search from day to day until found. That this department has not the time to do. The first question was published in February, 1907.

SALARIES—A. S., City: What is the salary paid the Governor of the state of California? What is the highest salary paid a governor in the United States? California, \$10,000; highest paid, Illinois, \$12,000.

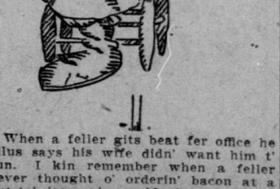
MATRIMONIAL—B. S., City: Are there any matrimonial clubs or societies in New York City or in Buffalo, N. Y.?

Suggest that you write to a New York newspaper for the information.

HOLY MOTHER—Reader, City: Have been told that there is a city called "the holy mother of Russians." Is that so? Moscow is so called.

TWIN PEAKS—Subscriber, City: If the Twin peaks tunnel project should be carried out, where is it proposed to have the eastern entrance? At the head of Market street.

WOOD—W. D. Y., City: What is the weight of a cord of hickory and one of yellow oak? Ordinary seasoned hickory is 4,468, and oak 2,920 pounds.



Abe Martin