

The San Francisco Call

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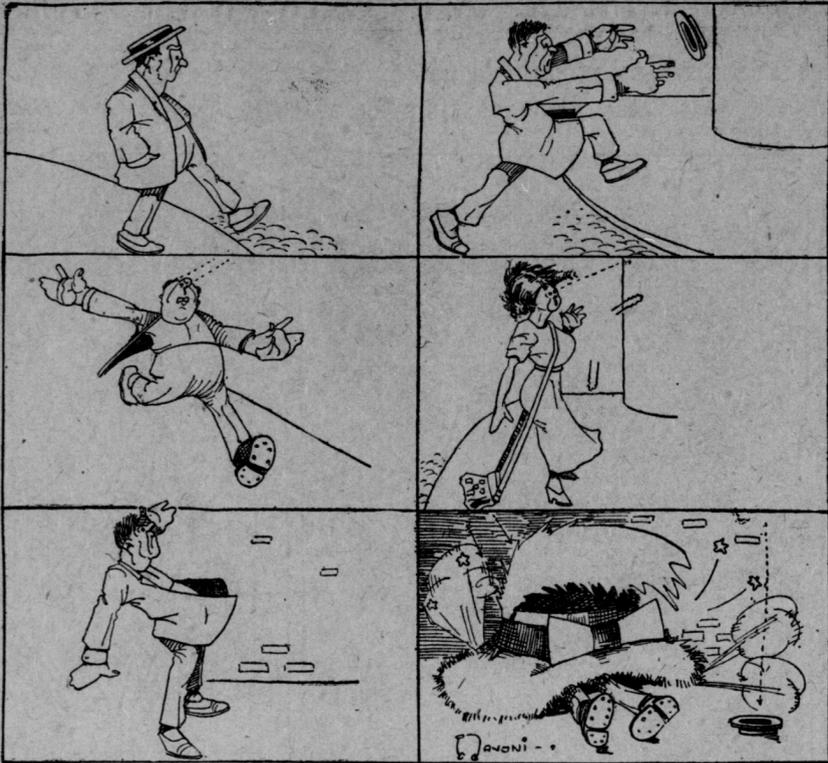
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At Powell and Market streets



result was amply evidenced by the distribution of Northern Securities and even more vividly illustrated by the plan announced by Standard Oil.

The Standard Oil company has been ordered to dissolve. It purposes to do so, and to reorganize on a plan that will give no government agency any greater hold on it than the government now has and at the same time immeasurably increase the power of the men who dominate the combination as it now exists.

The movement to replace the Sherman law with an act of some workable value has an importance other than that to be found in the fact that congress has finally decided to give some attention to the idea of regulation of corporations through control of commodity charges. No less important is the fact that congress is in a position to act, and that, despite the fact that one house is nominally republican, the other democratic.

The senate committee on interstate commerce is almost evenly divided between insurgents and regulars of both parties. The insurgents and democrats have demonstrated their ability to legislate in combination. They can not escape responsibility for the failure of congress to replace the Sherman law with some measure of affirmative relief.

THE nation wide fight to prevent the spread of disease through the adoption of radical methods of sanitation speaks eloquently of an aroused public sentiment and is full of promise for better things.

The scientist by no means escapes his measure of ridicule. That is one of the prices of progress. Indeed, there is much in the earnest pleas for radical methods that could not fail to excite the ridicule and sullen if not active opposition of the man who talks about what "was good enough for my father" and who is congenitally against all "new fangled" notions.

Fortunately, that kind of man is in the minority. He has had his day. His moon has waned even in Chicago. Proudly conscious of her own achievement in the completion of the partially deodorizing drainage canal, Chicago has turned her hand to a new work. She has not established marine life saving crews in the streets of packing-town, but she has decreed the extermination of the roller towel.

St. Paul is looking askance at the same breed of bugs, and under the leadership of the municipal health officers a vigorous anti roller towel campaign is under way.

In Baltimore the crusaders are hunting the pestiferous and pestilential house fly with might and money. They are paying ten cents a quart for flies and furnishing traps for the hunters. Their campaign started with a vim, and the first treasury check up resulted in an estimate of 7,500,000 flies slaughtered and consequent thereto the prevention of the propagation of untold millions of the disease spreading insects.

One of the leading health officials of Kansas has started a movement looking to the shaving of cats. He declares that the long whiskers of the family tabby and the alley tom are the most prolific of all germ conveyers. Kansas has ever been prone to whiskers, and there is a well defined fear that if the health officer works his scheme on the cats he will next turn his attention to the chin alfalfa crops of the men who have made Kansas great.

None of these radical preventives is as funny as it may be made to seem. There is a sound scientific reason behind every one of them. Some of them will not be adopted readily, but they stand for better health and a smaller doctor's bill.

THE Washington dispatches suggest that President Taft has determined the text of the veto for the wool bill and that its completion involves only its typing and transmission to congress.

The same dispatches suggest that the insurgent-democrat hopes of passing the bill over the executive disapproval have gone glimmering.

The democratic house is said to be ready and anxious to repass the bill. Also it is considered certain that a coalition of insurgents and democrats in the lower house will produce the necessary two-thirds vote.

The situation is different in the senate. In the upper house there were enough republicans willing to lend themselves to the "put him in a hole" game to pass the bill originally, but there are not enough republicans of that sort to make up the two-thirds necessary to keep him in a hole.

Indeed, it is suggested that some of the original "put him in a hole" senators have contracted severe attacks of cold feet. They have heard from home—always a disconcerting thing for an ambitious statesman. They have heard that their constituents are of the opinion that dominated them when they rallied to the president's support in his fight for a permanent tariff commission and revision to the exclusion of log rolling.

It may be that they have heard, and unmistakably, that the people understand their "put him in a hole" game thoroughly and the motives behind that game. Certain it is that the demand for the wool bill, the free list and the cotton bill did not come from the people. It is equally certain that the people generally understand that those measures were presented solely for the purpose of doing party or personal politics at the expense of the president and that the people will indorse the vetoes that none doubts he will announce this week.

RAILWAY EPIGRAM INSPIRES POESY

S. P. Train Dispatchers Are to Use Telephones for Communication

WHEN Roy Bishop of the Southern Pacific ticket office sprang his famous epigram from behind the Pullman counter that "an upper's lower and a lower's higher," he inspired all the poets and the near poets of the system to a fine frenzy of rhyme. Without placing the blame, we quote this offering from a switchman.

The wondering conductor stood within the Pullman aisle;
There was trouble in his visage and his face had lost its smile;
For a passenger was asking him to fix him with a berth.

"All the uppers now are lower," the conductor softly said,
While with nervous, trembling fingers through the book of cost he sped.

"How is that? An upper lower? queried the prospective buyer.

"This is it," the wan conductor then attempted to explain;
We have lowered all the uppers that we used to have upon the train.

"Thus we have the lower higher than we used to have the upper?"

"Hum," the passenger then asked him, "What did you drink with your supper?"

"Can't you understand?" then answered the conductor with a sigh.

"Though the higher uppers are lower, still the lower are as high.

"With the higher lower than they were, the lower are but seem higher."

"You're off the water wagon," vowed the man,
And the passenger then left him and went to another car.

While the poor conductor mumbled, "Don't you see, sir, where you are?"

"Then he plunged into the diner for a glass of joy bestower."

I. D. Fryckholm of the passenger department of the Western Pacific, will leave Monday for Salt Lake in personal charge of the Moore special. He will go as far as Salt Lake.

C. J. Birchfield, advertising manager of the Santa Fe, has come up from Los Angeles for a few days on business.

J. N. Duckworth, city passenger agent of the Santa Fe, will leave the service of the company today and will shortly take passage for Australia. He will go into business in Sydney.

The Southern Pacific is rapidly extending the use of the telephone for train dispatching. It has been found more prompt and satisfactory than the telegraph.

At the present time telephone dispatching is in operation between San Francisco and San Bernardino on the coast division of the Southern Pacific; over the entire Ghasta division; on the Sunset, the Sunset and Western and the McKittick branches, and will soon be installed between Sacramento and Sparks. Exchanges are being established and any operator on the line need only take down his receiver and pronounce the name of his station to secure the immediate attention of the dispatcher. The dispatcher has full control over the line, and no operator is allowed to call up another station. The dispatcher will do the calling for him if business requires it. It is only a question of time until the telegraph will serve only as an emergency service on the Southern Pacific lines. Another advantage of the telephone system is the simplicity, it being possible for any member of a train crew to tap a telephone line and tell of a train wreck, while in teaching an expert to tap a telegraph line.

Answers to Queries

LABOR DAY—A. M. and Others, City. What is the origin of Labor day in the United States? The movement to observe labor day took form in a gathering of carpenters in New York city in 1882. It was proposed as a feature of the gathering that a parade be held with the dual object of paying honor to the craft and attracting public attention to the community of purpose prevailing among its members. After some discussion as to the name by which the occasion should be distinguished, it was decided to designate it "Labor Day." The first Labor day parade was held in New York city, Monday, September 4, 1882. The day thus chosen has ever since been adhered to, so that the first Monday in September in each year has come to be generally recognized as Labor day. The third annual session of the American Federation of Labor, held in New York city in 1883, adopted

Uncle Walt THE POET PHILOSOPHER

The way I slept when I was young! My nerves were never then unstrung. I was asleep before my head had fairly touched my downy bed, and then I snored a cheerful song, and night seemed but two seconds long. At morning father climbed the stairs and fondled me with clubs and chairs, and pulled me from my humble bed, and then he stood me on my head and rolled me round upon the floor until I ceased to sleep and snore. And now that I am old and sere, the night seems longer than a year. I go to roost and kick and toss, but slumber will not come across; or if it comes I have such dreams I rouse the neighbors with my screams. How often have I walked the floor and envied youths who calmly snore! How often fallen over chairs, and tumbled down the cellar stairs! How often have I stubbed my toes and barked my shins and bumped my nose while roaming in the midnight gloom about my sleepless sleeping room! How happy are the drowsy boys! Of all the boons that youth enjoys this trick of climbing into bed and sleeping like the sheeted-dead is first and best, and old, tired men can never have it back again.



WALT MASON

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You Can Elect San Francisco's Governing Officers on Sept. 26

The men who will be intrusted with the government of San Francisco for the next four years can and should be elected at the first, or so called primary, election on September 26.

If every San Franciscan does his duty they will be elected then. The election to be held on September 26 is not merely a nominating election. The candidate for any office who receives a majority of all the votes cast at the election will be elected to that office. His name will not appear on the ballot voted in November.

If all the voters of San Francisco could be induced to vote at the first election, all the uncertainty, expense and turmoil of a second campaign would be avoided.

Every citizen who has registered from his present address since January 1, 1910, is entitled to vote at the first election on September 26.

The fact that he registered as a partisan or declined to designate his partisan affiliations has no effect on his eligibility to vote at this municipal election.

Every citizen who has not registered since January 1, 1910, or who has changed his residence since such registration must register to preserve his right to vote at any election this year.

Registration for the first election is open until August 26. The registrar's office in the old city hall is open daily from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m. and again in the evening from 7:30 to 9:30 o'clock.

Branch registration offices have been established at Fourteenth and Valencia streets and at Market and Battery streets. Only new registration may be enrolled at these branches. Changes of residence must be registered at the registrar's office in the old city hall.

If you are a citizen of the United States, have lived in California one year, this county 90 days and precinct 30 days or will have such residence on September 26 you are entitled to register and vote at the election on September 26.

Register today.

PERSONS IN THE NEWS

- H. S. HUMNEWELL, Mrs. Humnewell, Miss Humnewell, Miss Ames, John E. Thayer and Miss Thayer, of Boston make up a group of tourists staying at the Fairmont.
W. H. CUNNINGHAM, general manager of the Continental Life Insurance and Investment company of Salt Lake, is at the St. Francis with Mrs. Cunningham.
JUSTICE HENRY A. MELVIN of the supreme court, who has been confined to his home by illness, has recovered and is expected to resume his duties today.
C. J. DUMAS, commissary contractor of the United States Immigration service at Ellis Island, New York, is at the St. Francis with his family.
GUS HOLMES, proprietor of the Semloh hotel at Salt Lake, is at the Palace with H. J. Garrett, manager of the Orpheum of that city.
MRS. CURTIS of this city is staying at the Bellevue, having returned from a trip through the northwest.
I. M. SCHWAB and Mrs. Schwab of Savannah, Ga., are at the Union Square. Schwab is identified with the cotton industry.
D. LEE, an automobile man of this city and of Houston, is among the recent arrivals at the Palace.
FREDERICK A. KRIBS, a timberman of Honolulu, is a guest at the Palace.
J. R. WHITMIRE, a capitalist of Medford, Ore., is a guest at the Stanford.
G. M. LUSSON, a business man of Boston, is staying at the St. Francis.
H. C. HIBBARD, an attorney of Riverside, Cal., is a guest at the Turpin.
LE DE SALLIER, an oil operator of Los Angeles, is staying at the Palace.
W. B. BUTTON, a railroad man of Denver, is staying at the Arlington.
MR. AND MRS. J. W. TREAT of Reno have apartments at the Manx.
G. W. BEALL, a capitalist of Fresno, registered yesterday at the Turpin.
DR. JACKSON TEMPLE of Santa Rosa is a guest at the Stewart.
R. E. GAUT, an architect of Portland, is staying at the Palace.
W. H. FALK, a hotel man of Boise, is a guest at the Palace.
J. E. TAYLOR, a merchant of Sacramento, is at the Baldwin.
H. GIBSON of Sacramento is registered at the Colonial.
W. MORGAN of Denver is staying at the Colonial.
MRS. M. J. ROUKE of Chico is a guest at the Belmont.
R. H. BRADLEY of Los Angeles is at the Adena.
J. DIEL of St. Louis and Mrs. Diel are at the Adena.
J. FRANTZ of Fresno is staying at the Belmont.

It is time for plain talk about the office of registrar of voters and Registrar E. C. Harrington. By taking the selection of election officers out of the hands of Registrar Harrington and giving that work to Chief Deputy Zemansky the election commission admitted Harrington's incompetency, if nothing more.

Plain Talk About E. C. Harrington

That admission was followed by the open charge of incompetency made by President Cator at the extraordinary session of the board held on Saturday. The records of the department disclosing the schemes Harrington has fathered in the last few weeks strongly suggest something more than incompetency.

As to the first count, it is an open secret that Zemansky's investigation of the lists of election officers has disclosed that Harrington named scores of men for service as election officers in precincts other than those of their residence and in which they could not serve legally.

Perhaps that was only incompetency. It smells strong of something else, and the unpleasant odor is not allayed by an investigation of other of Harrington's activities. He has demanded the appointment of special clerks in the election department with a persistency indicating an intention to make the public pay dear for a few hundred votes for the administration.

That his demands have been partially satisfied may or may not be due to the interest some of the members of the commission have exhibited in caring for political friends of their own. On July 1, when the registrations were not approaching the one hundred a day average, Harrington went to the commission with a demand for the appointment of twenty additional clerks.

On a showing of the work done by the men in his office he was forced to see his demand cut to five men. On Saturday he demanded a special meeting of the commission at a time when only a few working hours could elapse before the regular meeting scheduled for Monday. He wanted thirty-five more clerks. The civil service list contained the names of only five eligibles. That list exhausted, Harrington could go afield with clerkships to peddle where they would do the most good.

Harrington has a force of eighty-four clerks and subordinates now. If his demands had all been allowed he would have a force of one hundred and nine. A visit to the registration rooms a few days ago disclosed thirteen registration clerks trying to enroll two citizens. One clerk can enroll one hundred electors a day under favorable circumstances; from fifty to seventy-five a day when they come slowly. This is the second year of the present register. Two branch offices have been established for new registrations. The work of the office will not reach one thousand a day until the last hours of registration; still Harrington has been demanding more men for weeks.

The public is entitled to the services of a registrar whose every act need not be the subject of a commission investigation. The commission should not be made to feel that it must institute an investigation every time its representative makes a recommendation. And at that the public owes its thanks to President Cator for those investigations. Only he and Commissioner Uhl seemed disposed to stand between Harrington and the public purse.

The registrar of voters stands in a peculiar relation to the public. Extraordinary trust is reposed in him. Harrington seems not to understand that he is the people's servant; that it is no part of his duty to buy votes for the administration at the rate of \$100 a month taken from the public purse. It is up to the election commission to make this clear to Harrington or replace him.

AS far as the business interests of the nation and the general welfare of the people are concerned, the most important work of the extra session of congress is the agreement between the democrats and the republicans of the senate interstate commerce committee to take up anew the question of federal control of corporations.

The decision of the supreme court of the United States in the Standard Oil case and the announced plan of dissolution of that corporation in accord with the rule of reason are frankly enough the moving causes for the agreement reached by the members of the interstate commerce committee.

The hearings are to begin on November 15. Undoubtedly they will attract a degree of public interest and attention greater than that aroused by any question before the senate in many years. They are expected to result in a report that will divide the nation into two great camps. The issue will be, Shall congress attempt to maintain the competitive conditions sought to be maintained by the Sherman law or shall it adopt the plan suggested by Judge Gary of the steel corporation and seek to control corporations through regulation of prices?

It is freely admitted that the anti-trust campaign to date is a failure, as far as tangible results are concerned. That the Sherman anti-trust law was a failure was evidenced when the Northern Securities merger was ordered dissolved. Now that it has been further weakened by the "rule of reason" read into it by a majority of the supreme court, none but the majority stock holder of a dissolved trust, or one susceptible to the rule of reason, pretends to believe it anything but a hopeless failure.

As the law stands, elaborated with the rule of reason, the department of justice may prosecute from now on until doomsday without accomplishing any affirmative results other than delivery of minority stock holders into the hands of the captains of industry. The facility with which the Sherman law can produce that sort of

Federal Control of Corporations

Senators That Have Heard From Home