

Today California Fixes Her Status in the World's Esteem

THE CALL is not supporting Mr. Taft because of his known friendship for San Francisco, though we are free to say that this friendship offers a better reason for supporting him than any argument we have yet seen advanced in support of Mr. Roosevelt.

In these columns we have criticized as sharply as any one what we conceived to be the mistakes of Taft's administration. But nowhere, at no time, have we, nor has any one else worthy of the slightest credence, ever charged Mr. Taft with dishonesty.

Mr. Taft is no demagogue, no politician. Neither was Lincoln. Mr. Taft is braving, as Lincoln did, the assaults of a faction that, while it may mean well by the government and its people, is impatient of orderly progress and is willing to take the short Titanic route that abounds with danger.

A short time ago we challenged Mr. Medill McCormick, the Chicago millionaire editor, to discuss Mr. Taft and Mr. Roosevelt in these columns. Mr. McCormick is a keen editorial writer and we urged him to expound and defend his views. He refused. We make free to say that not a single advocate of Mr. Roosevelt would dare to enter into a public controversy of this character, where the charges and claims would be set down in cold type side by side with the answers that could be made thereto.

But even though all things were equal between Mr. Taft and Mr. Roosevelt, we would still favor Taft for the active, affirmative friendliness he has ever displayed toward this city, and we would oppose Roosevelt for the unfriendliness he has exhibited toward us when called upon to act on matters affecting our interests.

As you vote today you will fix for your city and state its character. Today this city is going to stamp two crosses on the presidential ballot that will come pretty near determining her status for good or for bad in the eyes of the world.

Not in California alone is it known that Mr. Taft, through his influence, obtained the fair for San Francisco. The world knows it. That fair is going to advertise us commercially as nothing else could do.

Mr. Taft made the fair possible in San Francisco. How shall we answer him? He has stood bravely for what he considered the best interests of this nation as a whole. He has never tried to fool the people. We have watched him closely and critically and never could there be detected in any act of his an attempt to fool the people.

Open Race for the Democratic Nomination

Wilson comes next with 130 delegates, and it is anybody's race. Obviously, on the figures, it is anybody's race. Obviously, on the figures, it is anybody's race. Obviously, on the figures, it is anybody's race.

Bryan charges that Underwood, who has 84 votes from southern states, is nothing more than a stalking horse for Harmon, and the charge has elicited a sharp retort from the Alabama man, who protests his singleness of purpose to secure the nomination for himself.

In view of the likelihood of a deadlock, it would be interesting to know how delegates stand on second choice.

Prospects of a Reduction in Fire Rates

Presumably when the auxiliary fire protection system is completed and put in operation insurance rates will be reduced. Existing rates are high, probably as a legacy from the great fire of 1906, although, in fact, the city of San Francisco, as far as its business quarter is concerned, is today more nearly fireproof than any other town in America.

The most important parts of the work of installation for the new system have been completed. Cisterns of large capacity have been constructed at all strategic points. The big reservoir on Twin Peaks, the highest point in the city, will supply sufficient pressure to throw water to the tops of the loftiest buildings without pumping.

The work of laying the street mains appears to drag, and from one cause or another has undergone annoying delays. The work in Market street, for example, has been excessively prolonged. But things are moving with new energy under the impetus of a municipal administration pledged and determined to get results.

Pipe Lines for Oil and Gas in California

Hitherto the abundant gas output of the oil fields has been suffered to run to waste almost completely, because no pipes existed to carry it to market. This neglect of opportunity is in the way to be partially corrected and a gas pipe line from the Midway field is being laid to transport the product to Los Angeles.

Woodrow Wilson, democrat, is one of America's most fortunately unlucky men. Four times during his life he has had a fine career blasted and prematurely closed, and has had to step into something better.

When Wilson was a young man, he studied law, and opened an office in Atlanta, where, had he remained, he might have risen to eminence and acquired a big business manufacturing loopholes for corporations. But he knew so much about history that he was compelled to give up the law and go back to Princeton university, where he remained for several years teaching and writing. He was beginning to get a reputation as a historian, to say nothing of a check every few months from some publishing house, when another great misfortune struck him down. He had to give up history and become a college president.

PRESIDENTIAL POSSIBILITIES

WOODROW WILSON By GEORGE FITCH Author of "At Good Old Steam"

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This Is the Way to Vote For California's Friend

OFFICIAL PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT REPUBLICAN PARTY Thirty-first Assembly District, May 14, 1912. Includes columns for Roosevelt, Taft, and La Follette candidates, with instructions on how to vote.

EVERY republican man or woman who wants his or her vote for President Taft to be counted next Tuesday should exercise care in marking that ballot. To vote for Taft and the Taft delegate the elector must stamp a cross (X) after the name of the president in the second preference column at the head of the ballot and another cross (X) in the square opposite the center of the Taft list of delegate candidates in the second lower column on the ballot.

PERSONS IN THE NEWS

- J. J. MACKINNON, a hotel man of San Diego; THOMAS W. PRIOR and Frank M. Prior, amusement men of Venice; C. HENRY THOMPSON, who is interested in a coal mine at Coos Bay; OSCAR HYDBEK, a banker of Stockholm; BARON DIO CARBONELLI of Rome and Augusto Rosso, secretary of the Italian embassy at Washington, D. C.; BARON DE GARDARELLI of Rome and his guest, August Rasso, are among the recent arrivals at the Bellevue; W. M. WHIDDEN, a prominent architect of Portland, is at the St. Francis with Mrs. Whidden; GEORGE WINGFIELD, the mining millionaire of Nevada, is at the St. Francis with Mrs. Wingfield; IRA DAVIS of Chicago is registered at the Cadillac.

Abe Martin

Who remembers in good ole times when Mabel and Myrtle spent their evenings at home? Mrs. Tipton Bud is in town today to hear her mother's will read and may buy a tourin' car.

The Colyum

The moving picture of three statesmen, standing each other around the plum tree to the tune of "démagogue," "traitor" and less mild terms will now be transferred to other states. We'd have the governor issue a "Thank-you" proclamation, but he would not do it until the votes are counted, so what's the use of asking him? "COLLEGE TRADITION"

THIS IS commencement week at Berkeley. The Colyum man had the pleasure of walking through the oak grove campus on Sunday evening. At the natural science, the engineering, the social science (that's the term) the social sciences—slides of the grounds, could be seen youthful couples strolling handlocked, absorbed in the dreading realization that Wednesday will separate them for "years or it may be forever."

The same delicious, wistful comedy is enacted every year on every college campus. Not that the college student is unduly romantic. Probably he is less romantic, and certainly more cautious of his heart than is the youth out-goes double for the maiden of the spectacles. The early Christian church, and some later sects, have had a charming device by which they symbolize and anti-ate the precept "love thy neighbor as thyself." This rite was called "The Kiss of Friendship."

It is curious how college students in commencement week will revive some of those old Christian rites, like making pilgrimages—and such things. ANOTHER CHILDE HAROLD. RENO, May 13.—Competing against 50 of the fair sex in a bread baking contest at the University of Nevada, Harold Manion of Portland, Ore., a sophomore in the agricultural department of the College, took second prize.—News Item.

Oh, you will be the treasure of the wife who's fond of leisure. Oh! Harold Manion of Portland, Ore.! Won't your service voluntary in the section culinary? Give the ladies endless pleasure? One will promptly get your measure. And you will surely get one wife or more— Before You have become the actual quarry Of a score.

The ladies up in Reno are notoriously keen-O. Young Harold Manion of N.e.v. When it comes to making marriages, they order up the carriage. And when it can be seen-O that you can parboil a bean-O You'll surely draw a sparkling divorce! You'll see, That's your future. Less you're very green-O. You'll agree.

Oh, pick a widow who is tony, with a lot of alimony. O. Harold Manion, the sophomore! And you'll not have to bake a loaf you'll only have to take a loaf. You'll find that matrimony is a trifle worse than stony. If you have to do the breadwinning as a chore, Before She'll let you go and make a loaf Up in Ore.

A niece of President Taft is spending this week at a vandeville playhouse. A niece of President McKinley is in vaudeville. Senator La Follette's daughter is an actress. But as for Roosevelt—why, he just naturally monopolizes all the dramatic talent in his family! J. B. M. of this city mails The Colyum a clipping from what he, for reasons of his own, has designated "The Colyum." It is a telegraphic account of an automobile accident, in which two machines collided, and concludes, in a way to please J. B. M., with the following paragraph: "The fender of the machine struck the woman's legs below the knees as her seat rested on the footboard of her machine and both limbs were badly crushed. It was found necessary to amputate the right leg at the ankle today, and the left may have to be amputated tomorrow. The others were not hurt."

Then J. B. M. concludes: "I am curious to know just how many legs the woman had?" Why the curiosity, old chap? LONDON, MAY 5.—The Rev. Alfred John Church has just died, had a record as a reviewer. He wrote 70 books and reviewed 40,000. He was for a long time on the staff of the Spectator. He discovered Louisa Alcott.—News Item. But at not so early an age as we did! THEY DON'T LEAD ANYBODY. William J. Statterly, who is our baseball champion, has been just elected yesterday's paper to the burial of the Seals by the Angels. This is the first time this year that the Seals, even traditionally, and, incidentally, have given an imitation of Moses.

RUBBING IT IN. D. J. C., after a visit to the relief home, writes to tell us that the path from the gate to the home is lined with primroses. Isn't it cruel? he asked, "to have that reminder of other days constantly before the inmates?" E. S. WENT to church on Sunday, he says, and had the opportunity of hearing this bit of wisdom after the collection had been taken: "Brethren, we have just taken up the collection, the offering which have been made by this congregation. While the collection was being taken, a count was made of the number of persons in this church. There were found to be 1,100. A count also had been made of the pieces of money placed in the contribution boxes. We find that there are present in this congregation just 1,000 deadheads."

LOCAL BREVITIES. A number of our citizens climbed Twin peaks Sunday. Mayor Jim Rolph says that the worst thing about twins is that they involve so much walking that you haven't any breath left for talking, and that goes double when they're twin peaks. A number of the prominent college graduates have announced their engagements. Notice of marriage later—when the employment agencies have done their work. Vote today. W. Anthony was a visitor at our theaters last evening. W. says he likes a good show once in a while—that is, not often, but twice a day. The appellate court yesterday released for serial publication the thrilling work "Life and Adventures of A. Ruel," by himself. The report that W. Herrin contemplates a trip east is grossly exaggerated. The green peas are about ripe now. If some neighbor's lamb would only stray away from home we editor could have company in to dinner Sunday. J. Kahn, our congressman, has just returned to Washington from Bohemia. Why not patronize home industry? Didn't you ever see ours? John A. Britton has just returned from a trip to the orient. He went over to Yokohama on one boat and returned in five hours on another. John reports that the Japanese, so far as he could judge, were a maritime people. A. L. P.