

THE SAN FRANCISCO CALL
"AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER—THE PAPER OF AUTHORITY"
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Confess and Correct Mistake

The fire committee of the board of supervisors has advised the school board to go into court with an action to recover on a bond covering the lease of the old Denman school property at Bush and Taylor streets.

That advice, good in itself, was accompanied by the committee's refusal to revoke a permit for a garage which it is proposed to erect on the property, in contravention of the terms of the lease, as construed by the board of education.

In view of the circumstances involved in this case, the supervisors' committee is not to be congratulated either upon its advice or its refusal to revoke the building permit.

The school board made a lease, improper and unwise on its face. It leased the school property for 35 years at a rental of \$60 a month. Seemingly, the lease was accompanied by a bond to insure that Burns, the lessee, would keep his agreement to erect a building satisfactory to the school board.

For some reason the members of the school board were under the impression that Burns would erect an apartment house, which was to revert to the city at the termination of the lease.

Burns exhibited a business acumen seemingly foreign to the good natured men and women on the school board. He turned the lease over to his wife. She sublet it for \$250 a month to the firm which purposed to erect a garage.

The school board, through Director Sally Jones, applied to the supervisors' committee for an emolument for its painful sting. The committee told Miss Jones it had been given no good reason for revoking the garage permit and advised her to go to court.

The school board should go to court, and not alone with an action to recover on the original lessee's bond, but with an action for the abrogation of the original contract and the correction of the school board's mistake.

If the statements made in behalf of the school board are correct, the contract has been vitiated by collusion, which means fraud in the first instance.

If that be untrue, the fact remains that the school board made a lease that was not for the public good. A ground rental of \$60 a month with a building reversion after 35 years for property at Bush and Taylor streets is ridiculous.

The terms of the sublease would leave no room for argument on that score, if it were not precluded by a common sense appreciation of property values.

Of course, the supervisors' fire committee is not responsible for the school board's mistake. It is responsible to the public for its full share in the correction of any mistake which involves a drain on the public purse. Revocation of the building permit might have worked to prevent a subsequent offset claim for damages by the sublessees.

Be that as it may, the school board has made an unfortunate contract. If that contract was consummated through misrepresentation it is void. Anyhow, the terms of the contract prove it to be contrary to public policy and the school board should confess its mistake by going into court with a demand for a cancellation of the lease.

Suffrage Reduces Crime

The extension of suffrage to women has resulted in a reduction of crime. That epitomizes a speech made by Chief of Police Sebastian of Los Angeles before the National Association of Police Chiefs in Washington.

Chief Sebastian is an excellent authority upon the practical relation of women's suffrage to the crime problems of the American city. His is a first-hand knowledge based on actual experience.

In his speech before the association of police chiefs, Mr. Sebastian indulged himself in no theoretical speculation. He talked about concrete results.

Among the interesting things said by Chief Sebastian was that the enfranchisement of women had helped to break down a wall of false reticence that had prevented public discussion and public understanding of one of the most vital crime problems—the vice question.

None will be heard to question the sanity or the accuracy of Chief Sebastian's statements. The enfranchisement of women undoubtedly has decreased the ratio of crime. In that it has worked a tremendous good.

It has worked and is working other great goods. Every principal city in California, if not every city in every suffrage state, has felt the beneficent effects of the enfranchised woman's influence.

Her influence is making for new standards of governmental efficiency. She has stopped waste. Her votes have given San Francisco and other western cities the right and the opportunity to enjoy the practical application of modern governmental ideas.

Most of her influence, as suggested by Chief Sebastian, has been exercised through educational channels. And in her home, apart from every civic or political organization, enfranchised woman is carrying on her greatest educational work.

By her direct participation and her home discussion of the human interest problems of government, she is unconsciously equipping her sons and daughters with a practical knowledge and an interest in governmental affairs which are the foundations of good citizenship.

Bad government and bad public officers are the

penalties of a community's political ignorance. The enfranchised mother has proved herself to be the nation's best political educator by the work she is doing to train her boys and girls up to a majority which shall find them something more than adults ignorant of, and averse to, the performance of the duties involved in their citizenship.

She is breaking down the wall of political ignorance, behind which bad government is entrenched.

High Cost of Living

The unfortunate New York woman who asked for only \$78,000 a year alimony, is a fine example of feminine extravagance.

She says that she and her two small children can't live for less—that is, live in the manner that her social position entitles her to adopt.

This is another case like that of Eugene Walter's play, "Fine Feathers," except that her husband in this instance seems to have been lucky to escape such extravagance.

Her hotel rooms ought to cost, she thinks, at least \$10,000 a year, and she should have a waiting maid, chamber maid and personal maid. It is unfair to think of her doing anything for herself. She couldn't. Her sad plight suggests the lines, "She is more to be pitied than censured."

For the sake of such women, it is devoutly to be hoped that before long science will discover the art of transferring existence from one person to another. How peaceful it would be to take some opiate which entitled you to an enjoyment of life without thinking, or even living, as you are obliged to do now.

An English nurse and governess for her boy and girl are also requisites for my lady. How could such hothouse plants thrive with common public school surroundings?

Board and service ought to be \$35,000 a year, she claims. This is indeed cheap. Services must be extensive. Riding, dancing and swimming lessons must be indulged in to make her little children healthy, graceful and strong, so that they may get all the exercise needed, and thereby offset the use of only two automobiles, which must be worked overtime to average the \$10,000 a year she wants for them. French lessons, too, are to be added to the accomplishments of the little ones, so as to give orders, you understand, in later years, to French maids and valets.

And with such well tutored minds, it is extravagant to think of a paltry \$25,000 going into clothing for covering these precious frames, who, by their sheltered existence, will some day give to the world something worthy?

Three hundred and seventy-five dollars per gown is necessary to draw attention to the brains, for is it not said that "fine feathers make fine birds"? We do not disparage the desire to get the best of everything. Then there are charities, doctors', dentists' and florists' bills, house furnishings, tips and traveling expenses, all of which go to prove that \$78,000 a year alimony is really necessary for a poor woman.

How unfortunate she is that she won't get it. The pitiless decree of the court gave her only \$15,000 a year—with a scolding. Think of the misery of being forced to live on only \$15,000 a year—and a scolding—when the average income of every family in the United States is about \$500 a year!

Philippine Trade Worth Having

Thirty-six million dollars and more trade between the United States and the Philippine islands in the last nine months is a trade worth having.

The exports from the United States to the islands in that period were \$19,468,592, and the imports to this country from the islands were \$16,837,116, the exports to the islands from here being 44 per cent of the total value, and our imports from the islands being 39 per cent of their total.

In both cases a substantial increase was made, showing that our trade with the islands is steadily increasing, the balance of trade being in favor of the United States proper.

With the growth of American institutions in the islands as they are growing, commerce will steadily increase. In fact, it has increased already as to be well worth retaining.

When the time comes when the population of the islands as a whole shows that it is capable of self-government, it will naturally acquire it. That time is far off still, but a steady increase of commerce will bring it rapidly nearer.

Under the new railroad baggage tariff, which provides for excess baggage rates on all baggage in excess of 45 inches breadth, height or length, except immigrants' baggage, there is likely to be a phenomenal increase in would-be immigrants.

Mayor Gaynor of New York is quoted as saying that exposures of graft and corruption have had a bad effect on the police force as a whole. Isn't he thinking only of that part of the force in Sing Sing?

Any one who has had to eat the chopped excelsior sometimes used as breakfast food will welcome the suit against the oatmeal trust as the beginning of the end of feeding people hay and shavings.

Declaring a funeral "unfair" seems to be reducing the "scab" idea to an absurdity. The right to bury one's dead without interference is one that has been granted by savages.

Red clover is suggested as a state flower for Pennsylvania. No. It ought to be kale, or anything suggesting the long green.

Judge Dunne's action in dismissing the grand jury was not surprising. The only wonder is that he did not do it long ago.

A blind student was one of the honor men at Columbia university this year. He has nothing on Helen Keller.

FERRY TALES

By LINDSAY CAMPBELL

LET everybody cheer up and consider the following little extract from a conversation overheard on one of the Key Route ferry steamers the other afternoon. A stiff wind had been blowing in the city, and people were wondering, as they picked the silvers and straws and bits of paper from their eyes, when the city's salt water pumping plant was going to be brought into action for the suppression of the dust.

"Jee-rusaleem!" exclaimed a commuter as he greeted a friend with one hand while he used the other to dislodge debris from the inside of his collar; "Don't you find the streets of San Francisco very dirty?"

"Well," replied the other, "I used to think they were, but I've just been to Los Angeles, and our streets are a dream compared to theirs. We're getting better all the time. Down in Los Angeles they're not taking the pains they used to, and after a few days down there San Francisco is a relief."

"If you want clean streets," the man who had been in the south continued, "you should go to San Diego. There the streets are scrubbed by the city every night and during the day, everybody in the place helps to keep them clean. They'll arrest you down there if you throw paper in the street. And they leave you no excuse for doing it. At each corner is a receptacle for rubbish. Not the dirty little buckets that we have here, but good sized receptacles, with a wide opening in the side near the top."

"Here it is easier to throw paper in the streets than to ram it into one of the rubbish cans the city provides. There they make it easier to throw the paper in the rubbish magazine than to throw it in the streets. It's cheaper, too, for if you are caught littering on the San Diego streets—and where the streets are clean as they are there it doesn't take much to look like a litter—they make you pay a fine. When we do that we'll have just as clean a city."

We have laws in San Francisco which, if the police would enforce them, would give us a spotless town in a week. Talking about the police, here is another ferry tale, also with a moral:

A few days ago a party of Berkeley children were taken out to the beach near the Cliff house. One of the children was a young woman of the mature age of 1. After a picnic luncheon the children went in wading. The 7 year old girl joined the others—she was the only girl in the party—and was having a fine time when the stern hand of the law reached out and almost broke up the picnic.

The little girl, ankle deep in the dancing brine, was doing what little girls have done ever since wading was first invented. She was holding her skirts well out of the water's reach and shamelessly exhibiting a pair of sturdy and undraped legs. Down to the water's edge rushed a big policeman.

"Hey! You, little girl!" he screamed. "Pull down your skirts!"

"Don't you think, mamma," said the little girl, as they discussed the incident while going home on the ferry a few hours later, "that it would have been better for that policeman to have stopped people throwing glass and paper on the beach than to have bothered about my skirts?"

A policeman with such a delicate gift of modesty does not belong on a seaside beach, where even the beach is exposed. Chief of Police White should put him in the park.

LITTLE MOVIES

A Quandary

"I have put my faith in the wisdom of the plain people," said one conservative statesman.

"I used to," replied the other; "but after observing an era of ragnime and hobbies I'm wondering if I can stand by the plain people without violating my resolve to submit to the will of the majority."—Washington Star.

Young Parents

"What is the baby crying for, husband?"

"Wife, I can't imagine. He is only 8 months old and he doesn't know that there are such things as moving picture shows or candy."—Kansas City Journal.

The Brute

Co-ed—What tense do I use when I say, "I am beautiful?"

Bold Soph—Remote past.—Vermont Crabbe.

Time Saving

Dorcas—Won't your meeting be very late if all the members are going to take part in the debate?

Mrs. Dorcas—Why, no, dear! We'll all speak at once.—Judge.

Somebody Behind Them

"Where did these Balkan states get the money to prolong the war?"

"I think they must have been backed by the moving picture people."—Kansas City Journal.

The Makeup Pieces

"Did you ever help put a puzzle together?"

"No, my wife always assembles herself alone."—Judge.

Just So

"A department store carries between 40,000 and 50,000 different articles."

"And a woman who drops in for a spoon of thread has to look over every thing else in stock."—Kansas City Journal.

Personal

Poser for a butcher who gives short weight: If it ounces go to a pound, where do you expect to go?—Boston Transcript.

Removed All Doubts

Scott—I dreamed last night that I died and went to heaven.

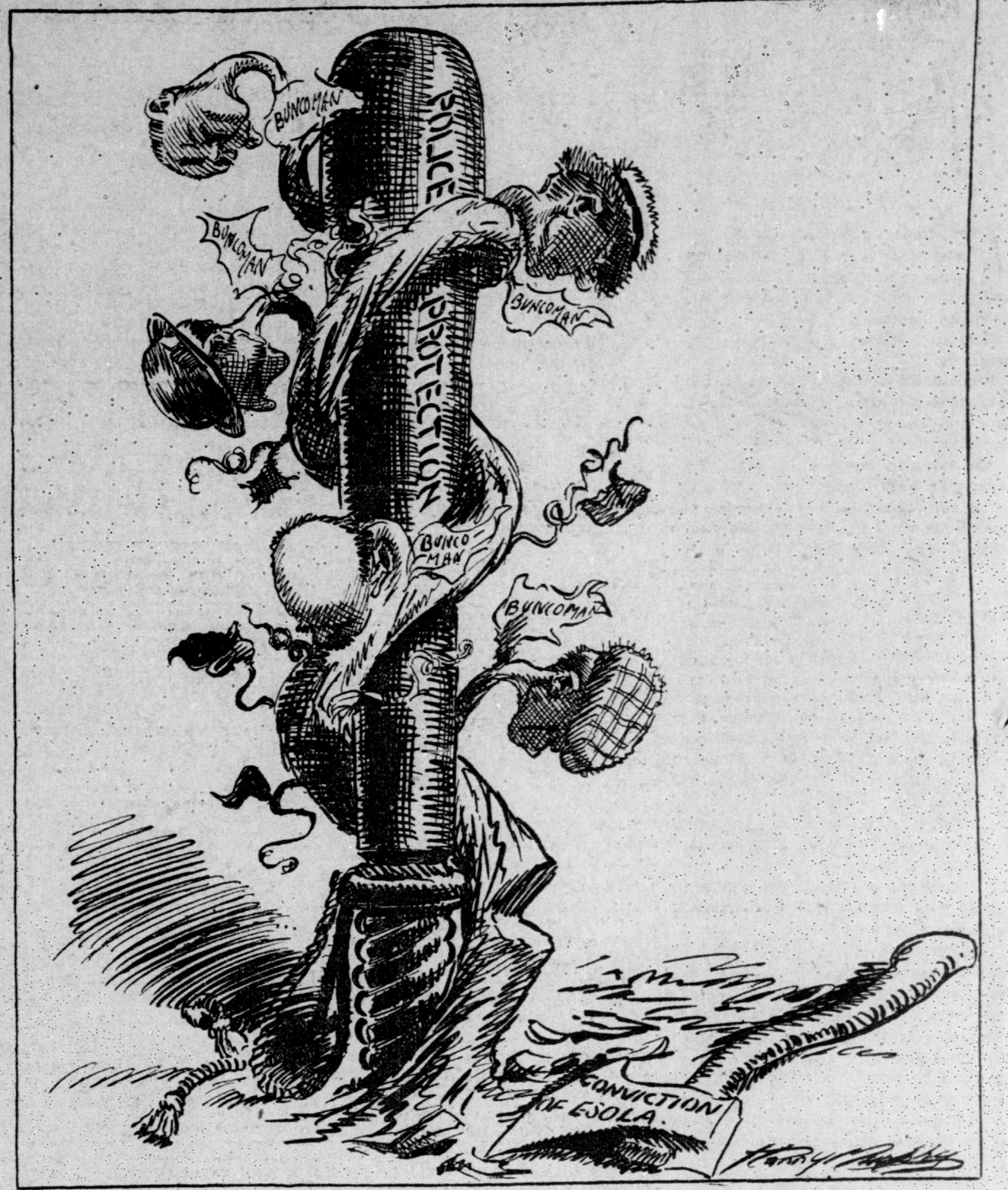
Mott—That settles it. Dreams go by contraries beyond question.—Boston Transcript.

A Young Philosopher

Mother—You disobedient boy! I've a mind to whip you.

Willie—What, ma, there's nothing so easy to change as a woman's mind, you know.—Boston Transcript.

One Good Stroke Deserves Another



HOTEL NEWS

John A. Rollins, a publisher of Tulare, is at the Manx. J. R. Hixon, an oil man of Coalinga, is at the Manx. Fred O'Brien, an oil man of Taft, is staying at the Argonaut. Edgar W. Clark of Los Angeles is registered at the Fairmont. Dr. Charles Friedman of Los Angeles is registered at the Palace. H. M. Schiaw, a merchant of Eureka, is a guest at the Argonaut. E. L. Sisson, county clerk of Santa Rosa, is registered at the Manx. U. R. Woolley and Mrs. Woolley of Santa Rosa are at the St. Francis. Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Waterman of Fresno, is stopping at the Stewart. E. P. Elder, an insurance man of Fresno, is stopping at the Stewart. Fred. E. Wadsworth, a banker of Yreka, is a guest at the St. Francis. J. B. Sanford, a banker of Ukiah, and Mrs. Sanford are guests at the Manx. Sidney C. Love, well known promoter of Seattle, is staying at the Stewart. Walter B. Pratt, a mining man of Goldfield, is staying at the Union Square. F. E. Osterhout, a banker of Madera, and Mrs. Osterhout are guests at the Sutter. Benton Van Nuy, one of the largest realty owners in Los Angeles, and Mrs. Van Nuy are staying at the Palace.

A BRIEF FOR BOXING

In an installment of his series of autobiographical sketches, Colonel Roosevelt takes occasion to file a brief for the many sports of boxing. He regards the sport as a first class one for young men's Christian associations and regrets to see young Christians with shoulders that slope like a champagne bottle. Boxing in the army and navy he believes has an excellent moral effect. When he was police commissioner in New York he encouraged the establishment of boxing clubs because he felt that as an outlet for the energies of young men boxing for points, or even slugging, was a social prophylactic of considerable value. Later, when he was governor, he became reluctantly convinced that the prize ring had become debased, and signed a bill to prohibit fights for money. But the commercialization of boxing did not serve to modify his views of the sport itself. The ring was hardly worse than the faces when racing was abolished by

prohibitive legislation in several states, but it is easier to separate racing from the parasitic and paralyzing evil of bookmaking, than it is to reform the prize ring. About the only excuse for permitting prize fights is that boxing as an athletic sport is stimulated by the professional phase of pugilism. Where there is no prize fighting the interest of young men in boxing dies out. Because this is true, it is regrettable that there seems to be no way in which to bring the tone of the ring up to reasonable requirements. If, for example, it could be made as respectable as tennis or golf, it might then be tolerated. Tennis and the turkey trot are both good exercises, of course, but neither is valuable in molding a young man's physique and giving him manly poise and a virile outlook upon life. It is a pity that boxing as an amateur sport does not survive when the prize ring is prohibited.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES

WHITE AND BLACK—S. C. City. Why white and black are not considered colors is fully explained by Ganot, who says: "When the white line which reaches us from the sun passes from one medium to another the phenomenon takes place—that is, the light is decomposed into several colors. There are generally stated to be seven colors—viz., violet, indigo, blue, green, yellow, orange and red. As these may be produced when light is transmitted through a prism they are generally called prismatic colors. They are not equally refrangible, violet being the most refrangible and orange the least. On the other hand, white light is really the first to decompose white light from the prism and again recompose it, bodies decompose light only by reflection and their colors depend only on their reflecting power to the different simple colors. These which reflect all colors in the proportion which they exist in the spectrum are white; those which reflect none are black; and between these two limits there are infinite numbers of tints, according to the greater or less extent to which bodies reflect some colors and absorb others. On this theory bodies have no color in themselves, but they are produced by the kind of light which they reflect. That which we call 'black' is really, therefore, the absorption of light, while 'white' is the reflection—without any sensible absorption of all of them."

INSURGENTS—N. G. City. The use of the word "insurgent," as meaning opposed to recognized authority, is traced back to the days of the Spanish-American war. The Filipino under Aguinaldo were referred to in the newspapers as insurgents, instead of rebels, because they refused to recognize the new form of government after the Americans took possession of the Philippine Islands. Two years after the war, when the machine organization of the house of representatives in Washington, D. C., attempted to force the Porto Rican tariff measure through the house, a number of republican congressmen refused to do the bidding of the machine, and their opponents likened them unto the Filipinos and called them "insurgents." From that time the word became a part of the American political slang and has since been applied to the opposition party in all kinds of organizations to distinguish them from the regulars or the power in office.

USE OF THE FORK—K. Y. Z. City. Whether or not a table when using a fork to convey food to the mouth should hold the same times up or down depends on the character of the food taken from the plate. If you were eating hash you would have the tines up; if eating steak the tines would be held down.

THE STATE PRESS

Lassen County's Soil

Who knows with any degree of exactness for what the soil of this county is best adapted? The man who raises alfalfa knows that it is good for this purpose, for he has had practical experience, but does he know why one field will turn out practically twice as much as another seemingly similar? There will soon be available data by which to test the fertility and adaptability of the soil, for the board of supervisors has ordered a soil survey.—Lassen Mail.

Sonoma Boys' Opportunity

According to the request made of the largely attended meeting of farmers and orchardists in supervisors' hall last Thursday that they place a bounty on gophers, the pesky little animals that have been doing so much damage in the orchards and fields, the board of supervisors passed a resolution offering five cents for the scalp and skin of every gopher caught in the county of Sonoma during the next 90 days. The slaughter can begin, the order becoming effective immediately.—Petaluma Courier.

That Yreka Trip

It is a good thing that a body of representative business men have gone to Yreka. This is one result of the promotion and publicity activities started here some six months ago. It may result in hastening the coming of a railway to this part of the coast. The Yreka people are in earnest. This will be the first token they have received that we, too, mean business. Let everybody rejoice that representative men are giving their time to this important matter at this time.—Humboldt Times.

SHARP POINTS

A Fifteen Minute Hour

Philadelphia physicians condemn unparagonably long hours of labor for children. They are right about it. An hour of about 15- or 20 minutes is long enough for a child to study or work when the sun is biting and the washin' hole, as they call it in South Carolina, is clear and cool.—Houston Post.

A Home Thrust

Of course, William Allen White is opposed to the harmony movement. At present William Allen is a national committeeman. Back in the republican party he wouldn't be an inch high.—Kansas City Journal.

The Latest Trip

St. Louis girls say work is waltzes is best. Sure; a proposal of marriage with every meal.—Portland Oregonian.

Need a Wire Stretcher

Tighter skirts for next fall. Will have to be done with a stretching machine.—Portland Oregonian.

It Is, You Bet

Another shipload of Australian meat has arrived at San Francisco. It must be a great thing for a town to have shipping facilities that can beat the trust.—Indianapolis News.

Arsonettes Now

Stragglers are now called arsonettes in England. If they should ever plant a bomb that explodes, they may be named anarchists.—Portland Oregonian.