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SUPREME COURT ANNULS PHONE RATE ORDER

SWEEEPING VICTORY FOR BAY CONCERN

Railroad Commission Powers Limited by Decision Regulating Rates in Long Distance Connections

The supreme court today cut down the powers of the state railroad commission. In a decision filed at noon the state board is ordered to annul the demand made upon the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company several months ago to establish long distance rates to Tehama, and connecting with the bigger concern.

When the state commission arbitrarily made a schedule of rates for joint service and intermediate connections between the independent companies and the Pacific company it overstepped its authority, the decision says.

WIDNEY, SLAVER, GRANTED PAROLE

A. E. Widney, former Los Angeles realty broker, convicted of accepting money from Noel Murphy, a woman of the underworld, was today granted probation when he appeared before Judge Dunne. For three years he must report monthly to Probation Officer Nichols.

Widney, who had been four weeks in jail—since his conviction—was aided by letters from all over the state in securing leniency.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Prompt and Efficient Holiday Service
Glove and Merchandise Orders Issued

See Regular Ad on Page 3
Raphael Wall & Co. Inc.

THE SMILE

A movie film in many acts and more scenes. Passed by the national board of censorship. Film by California Motion Picture corporation.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE
The Hero... Sam Shortridge
The Index Finger... By Itself

Our hero enters, wearing a toga and with the index finger concealed in his right hand. All about him is the Great Listening Public; in fact, some of our best little listeners are there.

Our hero is surprised, really astonished. He had not expected to be called upon for a speech and was totally unprepared, but—and here the index finger enters the plot—but—and with this second But the Great Listening Public is transfixed upon the Impeachable Index Finger—but he will speak a few words.

Our Hero's face is solemn. Not a hint is given of what intends. Then suddenly and without warning from those lips come eloquence, wit, wisdom.

The index finger utterly annihilates the atmosphere, and on our Hero's face comes a strange look. Can it be the beginning of a smile? Answer: It can, and perchance it is. Read on if you would know. It dawns upon the G. L. P. that Our Hero is telling a funny story.

He gives the prelude, and the strong titters in expectation, while upon Our Hero's face that strange look deepens, and at once we find it not so strange. In fact, we knew it all the time.

He approaches the climax boldly, index finger now fully warmed to its work and swinging downward to an awaiting palm.

There is a pause—a hush comes over the crowd, one moment of suspense, and then—finger, fist and palm come together with a resounding smack, the point—of the joke, not the finger—bursts from Our Hero's lips, and the G. L. P. roars its laughter across the room like a South sea hurricane.

And Our Hero? He only smiled, but it was the Shortridge smile. The world was glad. The sun had risen!

Miss Anna M. Van Fleet, niece of Judge Van Fleet, and Eugene S. Thorne, son of E. B. Thorne, Oakland realty millionaire, today secured a license to marry in San Francisco.

According to announcement made by their friends, the ceremony was performed immediately, quietly.

The match is the outcome of a business romance. Recently the elder Thorne turned his business, the Keystone Lang and Brokerage company, over to his son. Three months ago the latter was taken ill, suffering from throat trouble.

Miss Van Fleet was employed in the office as stenographer. The task of keeping the business running fell to her. The ability she displayed won Thorne.

Thorne told the marriage license clerk he was divorced.

Works Presents Bill to Repeal the Hetch Hetchy Water Grant

Congressman Pepper Suffers Relapse

Wireless Saves Passengers

OPERA HOUSE VETO IS UPHOLD

But Alternative Ordinance May Save Plan for City Theater for S. F.

By a vote of 14 to 3, Mayor Rolph's veto of the municipal opera house ordinance was sustained by the board of supervisors today. This does not mean, however, that the opera house is lost to the city, as several supervisors favoring the bill voted for the veto in order to clear the decks for a new ordinance that will be introduced a week from Monday.

The new bill, according to Supervisor Payot, will meet the objections of the mayor and is agreeable to the subscribers.

FOURTEEN VOTE FOR MAYOR
Those voting to sustain the mayor were: Cagliari, A. J. Gallagher, George E. Gallagher, Giannini, Hayden, Hilmer, Hocks, Koshland, Mauzy, McLeran, Murdock, Murphy, Nolan and Payot.

The three who voted against the veto were Bancroft, Jennings and McCarthy.

In voting against the bill Payot explained that he wished to smooth the way for the proposed new measure and that it was necessary to first get the present ordinance out of the way. Paul Bancroft scored Payot and others for changing their minds. He declared the chances for securing the opera house did not look bright, but that he failed to find a single argument advanced by Mayor Rolph that was not advanced by Supervisor Gallagher and the Labor council a year ago.

Supervisor McCarthy also took exception to what he termed a change of front of Payot and others declaring that consistency was a jewel extremely rare in the board of supervisors.

MAY USE EMINENT DOMAIN
City Attorney Long rendered an opinion stating that the city would have the right under the law of eminent domain to take over all the property and special privileges of the opera house, provided a slight amendment was made to the code.

Payot's new ordinance will remove the objectionable features which provide for a self-perpetuating board of trustees and give the subscribers perpetual right to certain favored seats and boxes. Payot has been in consultation with the donors and announced today that the majority favor his new plan.

The amendment of Supervisors Hayden and Giannini provides that the city can take over the control of the opera house at any time by condemnation, and also that the property will revert to the city without any incumbrances at the end of a period of 50 years. This amendment was referred to committee.

Carried Into Court, Aged Woman Wins Suit

"I'll Leave U. S. Next Wednesday"—Zelaya

HUERTA SAYS HE WILL RESIGN

Provisional President's Terms Refused by U. S., Is Report; Garrison Deserts

BULLETIN
E LPASO, Tex., Dec. 20.—Provisional President Huerta has offered to resign on certain conditions, according to information received today from authentic sources. His proposition was made known to President Wilson, but the American government has refused his terms.

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 20.—The rebels have not returned to the vicinity of Tampico since their retirement on December 14. Everything is quiet there today. Telegraphic communication is open between Tampico and the federal capital.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Wireless from Rear Admiral Fletcher at Tampico received here today read: "Situation unchanged. Chester, Suffolk arrived from Vera Cruz."

MAYTORENA, Sonora, Mex., Dec. 19.—Deserters to the number of 500 from the federal garrison at Guaymas, a few miles to the south of the insurgent camp here, were arriving today.

Already 11 officers have surrendered. Among them was Major B. Figueroa, a member of the staff of General Pedro Ojeda, federal commandant at Guaymas.

The enlisted men appeared in groups of five and ten, dust covered and suffering from hunger and thirst. The federal officers here say that many are wandering from ranch to ranch or have become lost in the mountains.

"DEATH FOR HUERTA"—ZAPATA
MEXICO CITY, Dec. 20.—The traitors Huerta and Blanquet, after a very short process, will be publicly degraded and hanged from the balconies of the national palace as a warning to all. The rest of the cabinet will be shot after being judged.

Such is the sentence passed on the executive and his official family by Emiliano Zapata in a circular dated Milpa Alta, December 18, which appeared in the capital today. It was addressed to the inhabitants of the City of Mexico. Zapata adds:

"At a war council it was resolved to take the city by fire and sword on a day which, for the better success of the assault, is to be unknown until the moment the fight begins.

The lives and interests of foreigners will be respected if they remain neutral.

"All officers and chiefs of the so called federal army will be shot without trial.

PAUL ARMSTRONG IS MARRIED SECRETLY; ACTRESS IS BRIDE

Mrs. Paul Armstrong, wife of playwright, known to stage fame as Miss Katherine Calvert.

By Associated Press. NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—Paul Armstrong, playwright, and Miss Katherine Calvert, a Baltimore actress, were married Wednesday in New Haven, Conn., according to advices received here today. The marriage was not unexpected by the friends of the couple, though no engagement had ever been formally announced.

Paul Armstrong is well known in San Francisco, both through the production of his plays and through having visited the city a little more than a year ago.

He is best known as the author of "Alias Jimmie Valentine," which has been produced here several times, as has also "Salomy Jane," another of his plays. He was formerly a newspaper man, who as "Right Cross" made a name for himself as a sports writer. His versatility is shown by the varying character of his plays, which include, besides those already mentioned, "The Heir to the Hoohah," "Going Some," "The Escape," "A Romance of the Underworld" and "The Deep Purple," the latter play having been written in collaboration with Wilson Miner.

Armstrong's first wife, Rolla Abel Armstrong, brought suit for divorce in the New York supreme court in October of last year on the grounds of cruelty and infidelity. The divorce was granted. His first marriage took place in London, June 24, 1899.

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EVIDENCE IN FUEL FRAUD CASE GONE

An important balance sheet has been lost from the records of the Western Fuel company, and both the officers of the concern and the government prosecutors, Matt J. Sullivan and Theodore Roche, are searching the records to find the coveted page.

The sheet missing is for 1905, and records all the details of the company's business for that year, as well as showing the amount of coal on hand at the beginning of the year. Without this record one group of figures important to the government's case can not be verified.

HAD SHEET IN FIRST WORK
David C. Norcross, secretary of the company, said today he has not seen the paper since the books were sent to W. H. Tidwell, special treasury agent, several months ago. He did not know whether the lost balance sheet was in the documents sent to the federal grand jury upon the recent court order. The government had the sheet during its preliminary work.

Prosecutors Roche and Sullivan are at a loss to account for the disappearance of the papers.

BATTLE TO GET GOLD FORTUNE ON SHIP

S. O. S. Cry Brings Help in Arctic Night and Many Are Transferred to Rescuing Vessel

S. O. S. signals thrown into the arctic night over Queen Charlotte sound saved the crew and passengers of the steamer Jeanie, bound from Skagway to Seattle, which went ashore on Calvert Island and is being pounded to pieces by the heavy seas. The British steamer Estera, hearing the faint click of the radiograms from the Jeanie, immediately hastened to the assistance of the imperiled ship and reached the Jeanie in time to take off all members of the crew and the passengers.

The Estera is standing by the wrecked steamer, which is being rapidly pounded to pieces, in the hope of saving the gold bullion on board and some of the cargo. A brief wireless from the Estera told of the rescue.

The Jeanie is one of the famous hoodoo ships of the Pacific. Six years ago it ran into the steamer Dix in Puget sound and caused a sea tragedy in which 50 or 60 people were drowned.

Formerly the Jeanie was a whaler, and while in the whaling business had a collision with another ship in which lives were lost. During its whaling career it had a mutiny aboard, and has been in repeated and various sea escapades. It was converted to a coast trading vessel afterward and is now completing its hoodoo career by hanging its hulk on the island reefs.

San Franciscan to Be Consul in France

President Wilson today sent to the senate the nomination of Clarence Carrigan of this city for the consulship of Grenoble, France. Carrigan is the brother of Andrew Carrigan, a member of the firm of Dunham, Carrigan & Hayden. He has been in the diplomatic service for several years, his first post having been at St. Johns, N. R. Recently he has occupied the position of vice consul at Lyons, France.

Dr. Currie Picked for Snow's Job on Board

Dr. Donald H. Currie of the United States public health service, located in San Francisco, was appointed by Governor Johnson today to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Dr. W. F. Snow, member and secretary of the state board of health.

He probably also will be elected secretary.

Dr. Currie has spent much time diagnosing plague infection from ground squirrels.

Bohemian Clubman Is Called by Death
Following an operation for appendicitis, John O. Harron, Bohemian clubman, died last night at the Hahnemann hospital. He was taken ill on Wednesday and operated on the same day. Harron was 64 years old and a native of Sacramento. He was for some years connected with the Parke & Lacy Machinery company and afterward founded the firm of Harron, Rickard & McCone, of which he remained the senior partner until his death.

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