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On Thursday no indictments were returned against San Francisco grafters. The fact was sufficiently novel to be telegraphed as news.

One of the new laws signed by Governor Sheldon last week makes hog stealing a felony. This is fine. Under the prices prevailing lately hog stealing has been almost high finance.

Ambassador Bryce asked soon after getting foot on American soil what has become of the dude who was so conspicuous an element in American life when he was here twenty years ago. Sure enough, the dude has disappeared and we hadn't noticed it.

An astronomer once asserted that the earth could not be inhabitable for a period exceeding 2,000 years and that somewhere inside of 16,000 years its complete destruction must come to pass. Thus we always have something to look forward to with apprehension.

There will be this year thirty-two professional base ball leagues in addition to the two great leagues. The salaries paid to players in the major leagues alone run close to three million dollars. Americans probably contribute not far from \$100,000,000 annually to the national sport, just about what our navy costs.

After reading Grover Cleveland's recent interview deprecating the "attack" on the railroads and calling for a campaign on the tariff issue, Morgan J. O'Brien said: "What the country needs is a second Cleveland." This is the Mr. O'Brien who was appointed one of the commission to pass upon the sanity of Harry Thaw, and subsequently resigned.

The successful bidder on the Pennsylvania capitol received \$789,743 for painting a certain number of square feet. An unsuccessful bidder had offered a good guarantee that he would do the work satisfactorily for \$164,473. Facts like this are coming out fast enough now to satisfy the most confirmed muck raker in the land. That building was certainly a masterpiece of graft.

It appears that "certain suggestions" made to the coal carrying roads of Indiana and Illinois by the interstate commerce commission have resulted in an abandonment of the plan to increase rates two cents per ton into Chicago. Before the new rate law went into effect, it will be remembered, the commission could suggest until the members were exhausted without any appreciable influence upon the schedules.

Even Kansas now forges ahead of Nebraska in higher education. The present Kansas legislature has appropriated \$690,000 for the current expenses of the academic and agricultural colleges, and \$470,000 for buildings for the biennium. Kansas university has an attendance of about 1,600 as compared with 3,100

in Nebraska. It has been customary to make fun of Kansas and Missouri, but the record of these states in higher education is such that Nebraska must be silent. Nebraska's total appropriations for the same purposes are \$640,000.

A consignment of frog skins imported from Japan awaits the coming of a Solomon at the New York custom house. The Dingley law strangely failed to specify a rate of duty on frog skins. The collector of the port proposes to tax them as leather. The importer insists that they be entered at a lower duty as fish skins. The newspaper paragrappers, remembering a former defrog legs as dressed poultry, insist with one voice that frog skins are chicken feathers and dutiable as such.

Andrew Carnegie "endorses absolutely" the attitude of the president on the transportation question. "The railroads had better stand with him," Andrew insists. "If they do not accept his moderate measures they may be confronted by a man in the white house who will approach the question of the railroads from an entirely different standpoint."

That the managers have not been in a mood to accept this wholesome advice is indicated by a private letter from a Wall street broker who says: "The corporation monarchs and kings of high finance have begun the fight early for Roosevelt's scalp. They not only want his scalp, but purpose to pillage his camp and lay waste his policy, leaving such a wreck that his successor, be he democrat or republican, will not dare ever to think even of following in his footsteps."

The latest escapade of Buster Brown in the "comic" supplements will cause the bankers of the country some justifiable uneasiness. Mr. Smith, the banker, kicks Buster's dog. In retaliation the child goes down the street spreading a story that Mr. Smith's bank is about to fail. This starts a run as naturally as a match in a barn loft starts a fire. When the extra newspapers are out announcing the failure of the bank Buster boasts that he "wrote the words and music of that song and the accompaniment, too." No punishment follows, and no hint is given of the criminal nature of the act. In communities where these supplements circulate the bankers will not dare kick a dog or scold a child for a dozen years. If the object of the pictures was to encourage politeness among fat financiers it will achieve its mission, but unfortunately it gives an idea to children that is more dangerous than a stick of dynamite.

Ambassador James Bruce, who gets into the headlines almost every day, would not be an ambassador, not even a chief secretary for Ireland, hardly so much as a common member of parliament, if it were not for his wife. Until Mr. Bryce married the rich Elizabeth Ashton of Manchester in 1899 he was a college professor and author, with a fair chance of remaining in that useful but inconspicuous employment for life. He had to keep grubbing to make a living. Mrs. Bryce changed this. Her money gave Mr. Bryce time and means to enter politics, and her personality helped him to gather about him a social circle of the best minds in London and Great Britain. She made speeches in his liberal campaign, acted as president of the national organization of women liberals, accompanied and encouraged her husband on the travels by which he added to his breadth and political usefulness, and already in Washington is coming to be recognized as his chief backer. When Mr. Bryce is mentioned in the dispatches fairness requires to think also of Mrs. Bryce.

Unbounded satisfaction everywhere and particularly in the white house is justified by the reports of the many different official, semi-official and private visitors to Panama noted almost

every day in dispatches. Whether from commercial clubs, congressmen, or tourists the report is the same, surprise and satisfaction over the remarkable progress being made. The revel of graft and inefficiency foreseen by the timid mind has not developed. Despite the repeated changes in generalship the work has gone forward without interruption. After a close inspection Congressman McCall of Massachusetts, a capable critic, finds "nothing to criticize" in the management of the enterprise. He thinks it will cost more than was expected, as all great enterprises do, but the work will be achieved and honestly. If this proves true it will be good evidence that the graft and plotting for privilege with which the country has been made familiar in late years is only a symptom of the American scum and dregs; that at heart American integrity and nerve for great achievement are strong and sound.

Under the party test proposed by the joint committee direct primary bill, to be eligible to vote at the primaries a voter must be ready to swear that he supported at the last election the candidates of the party whose ticket he desires to vote, and that he intends to support a majority of the candidates of the same party at the approaching election. This provision, which the house struck out and the senate has reinserted, disfranchises at the primaries all voters who happen to have changed party affiliations between elections. Doubtless no legislator intends or means to legislate men into party straight jackets by penalizing them for changing parties, as this does, but those who favor the restriction consider it necessary to safeguard against the packing of party primaries. Is there not a way, however, to guard against the packing of the primary, granting that this is a needed precaution, without the use of a provision so repugnant to freedom and fairness as this penalty on independence?

Apprehension is heard since the appearance of the Easter styles, that we are on the verge of an epidemic of wasp-waist-itis. The infection seems not to have spread far into the west as yet. Further east, and particularly in London, the literary files of twenty years ago are being consulted for proofs of the evils of tight lacing. Like panics and drouth cycles and locusts this appearance is periodical, and the disease will probably have to run its course. Sanitary measures may of course be applied to minimize the severity and duration of the attack. About ten years ago the western world was in a panic over a threatened invasion of the hoop skirt. The exorcism of the reformers had no more effect than to scatter the infection. But it happened that the women of sense were of one mind in applying antiseptics to the idea. The threatened raid was averted because not enough supposedly sane people enlisted to give tone to the army of the other sort that is always ready to form beneath such a banner. Possibly a similar situation will prevent many fatalities of the sort the London papers are already reporting as the result of waist strangulation.

Ex-Secretary Shaw stands pat on prosperity also. The panic through which Wall street has just passed was not altogether a bad thing, thinks the latest cabinet member to graduate into the presidency of a New York trust company. We were running too fast. Prices were getting too high, labor too scarce, railroad service too limited. The panic checked the pace, and now, he thinks, there is less danger of tripping and plowing the road with our nose than if the panic had not occurred. When we put this in with Secretary Wilson's opinion the skies look rosy again. It is assumed that good crops such as the country produced last year can save us from business depression. Secretary Wilson insists that a general crop failure is not possible in the United States; that the diversity of crops and conditions and

improved farming methods insure against this. In Nebraska we remember in this connection that a bad corn year is often the best wheat year as in 1901; that a bad wheat year is likely to be a good corn year; and that some way the cows and hogs pull through every year.

Servantless America is more than willing to follow patiently any experiment in co-operative housekeeping that other people are brave enough to make. Samuel M. Robinson proposes for the people of Montclair, New Jersey, a New York suburb, that they form a stock company and build and furnish a great central housekeeping plant. There will be laundry, kitchen, compressed air housecleaning wagons, and an automobile. Meals will be delivered to the patrons at their homes by the automobile, packed in heat tight boxes, the soiled dishes to be collected later and taken back to the kitchen by automobile. Washing would be handled in the same way, and housecleaning done by periodical visits of the air cleaning wagons. In case the people pay according to the service they get, this plan seems to differ from the ordinary commercial system of restaurants and laundries only in the ownership of an interest and a measure of control in the enterprise by those served. If it is proposed for everybody to pay equally regardless of consumption its future is dark. Human nature is not equal to that yet.

Some months ago the newspapers announced the engagement of Miss Theodora Shonts, daughter of the then chairman of the isthmian canal commission, to the Duc de Chaulnes et de Picquigny, a French title bearer with finances as short as his name is long. Shortly afterward the report was denied. The negotiations were not broken off, however, for the Duc is still in New York pressing his suit with all the vigor of a seasoned promoter. This affair would be nobody's business but that of the Duc and the Shontses, although the promotion of marriage by the overcapitalization of a title of nobility tends to retch the American stomach, except that people must wonder whether it was the necessity of buying the Duc that led Mr. Shonts to turn his back on the Panama canal in order to take a more lucrative job. At any rate the facts seem to be that Miss Shonts refuses to be happy unless her papa buys the Duc for her, and the result lies altogether in the ability of Mr. Shonts to overcome his conscientious and financial scruples sufficiently to come to her terms and the Duc's.

Questions of paving, transportation, taxes, lighting, street cleaning, police protection and liquor dealing continue to be the favorite issues with candidates for city office. In time, as these questions come one by one into an approximation of settlement there will arise a candidate with the pneumatic city his slogan. The city that can do a rushing business without unnecessary noise will in some future time have a claim on the sister virtue of getting on without unnecessary smoke their respective automobiles. The and dirt. Unnecessary blowing of boat whistles has been ordered suppressed in New York. The inland city of Lincoln has in a small measure the same problem, in the disposition of some people to use at least half their engine power in blowing the various forms of blasts pertaining to newsboy with the midnight extra is coming into disrepute in New York residence districts; in smaller cities he may in time be requested to suppress his Sunday morning announcements until a reasonable waking up time, say 8 o'clock. It may in time be a crime to rob people of their sleep as it is now a crime to poison their water.

Because Nebraska puts into effect a two-cent passenger fare the western railroads raise the rates on grain. Because Nebraska puts into effect a two cent passenger rate the railroads refuse to give their trainmen all they ask for in wage increases. Fifty