

Under the title of "Enright Out-maneuvered," Alfred Henry Lewis has written one of his best western stories. It will appear next Sunday in The Sunday Call

THE CALL



For every woman who sews or is fond of fancy work, timely and helpful suggestions are contained on the "Hints for Home Dressmakers" page of The Sunday Call

VOLUME CIII.—NO. 16.

SAN FRANCISCO, MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1907.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

Battleship Fleet Will Be Reviewed by President and Start for Pacific Today

SUITS PLANNED TO GAIN STOCK OF FAILED BANK

Depositors Will Institute Actions Against the Share Holders

OPPOSE WEBB'S PLEA

Committee Will Appear to Fight Appointment of Receiver

MEET AT NOON TODAY

Creditors of the Defunct Financial Institution Are Skeptical

Suits are about to be brought by the depositors of the California safe deposit and trust company who are in the association headed by Superior Judge Carroll Cook to cancel the stock of the company now held by the stock holders. J. W. Raphael, the original chairman of the committee, said yesterday that the depositors were skeptical of the intentions of the stock holders and desired to gain possession of the stock in a legal way at once.

"If the stock holders really are in earnest in their expressed desire to do all in their power to meet their liabilities they can offer no objection to our step," said Raphael. "They can simply confess judgment in the suits we will bring and by an entirely legal process give the stock into the hands of the persons to whom it belongs—the depositors."

On Tuesday the depositors' committee will be represented in Judge Coffey's court when the application for the appointment of a receiver of the bank will come up on motion of Attorney General Webb. The depositors' committee will oppose the appointment of a receiver. On its committee are Attorneys Bertin A. Weyl, Sanford Felgenbaum and Samuel Rosenheim, and they probably will attend to the civil suits instituted in the name of the associated depositors. The committee probably will retain an attorney to act as special prosecutor in the criminal prosecution to be instituted against officers and directors of the bank who may be indicted. Every energy will be used by the association to procure convictions of the bankers who violated the law.

The meeting of the committee of 21, whose appointment was announced in yesterday morning's Call, will be held at noon today instead of tonight. The gathering will be at the chambers of Judge Carroll Cook, 1702 Fillmore street. The exigencies of the situation demand that a meeting be held as early as possible.

Many money brokers and sharks are canvassing for pass books of the defunct bank, offering the pitiful sum of 10 cents on the dollar to the hapless depositors. The depositors' committee insist that the affairs of the bank are in such shape that if the depositors assume the management of the bank a dividend of 10 per cent can be declared shortly. Raphael said yesterday that it was the intention of the committee to send an investigating party, consisting of a lawyer, an expert and two businessmen to report on the valuation and earning capacity of each of the industries into which the money of the depositors was sunk. After this committee has reported the value of the bank's property can be appraised more closely than at present and the exact condition of the wrecked institution's assets described to the public.

DREARY DAY IN JAIL

Imprisoned Bankers Remain Unnoticed in Their Cells

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TELEPHONE KEARNY 86 MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1907

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LUCE COMES IN SAME CAR WITH FRANKLIN LANE

Southern Pacific Freight Agent Still Seeks Immunity

HIS EFFORTS FAIL

George A. Knight's Presence in Coach Also Causes Surmise

RESULT OF INQUIRY

Commissioner Says Disclosures Are in the Hands of Justice Department

Franklin K. Lane, United States interstate commerce commissioner, arrived in San Francisco early yesterday morning on a hurried trip here, and in the same coach with him were George A. Knight, attorney for the Pacific Mail company, and General Freight Agent Luce of the Southern Pacific. The presence of Knight and Luce on the train was a distinct surprise to Lane. The commissioner was traveling alone, and Luce was the last man on earth he wished to meet. It was Luce who arranged the special rates, according to the testimony of the favored shippers in the investigation recently started by the interstate commerce commission, and it was Lane who effectually blocked Luce's attempt to testify and thereby give himself a refreshing immunity bath.

STILL SEEKS IMMUNITY
Under the circumstances it is more or less of a mystery why Luce, accompanied by Knight, should precipitate themselves into the same coach with Lane. The general belief solves the mystery by hinting broadly that Luce is still panting for that immunity bath and was attempting to obtain it in his own way. This, however, Luce and Knight deny.

"Purely accidental," said Luce, indignantly, when asked how he came to be on the same train as Lane. "Purely accidental," said Knight, virtuously. The latter then commenced in the style common to the Harrimanians to enlarge upon the coming presidential election.

If, however, Luce has any idea that Lane would turn on the cleansing waters for the immunity bath, he was grievously disappointed.

"The whole matter," said Lane, referring to the disclosures brought out by the recent investigation, "is in the hands of the department of justice. They will be pushed to the end." Speaking on the aims of the commission, Lane said that it was absolutely necessary for the interstate commerce commission to be given the power to suspend rates and that efforts would be made to embody this in the forthcoming report of the commission to congress.

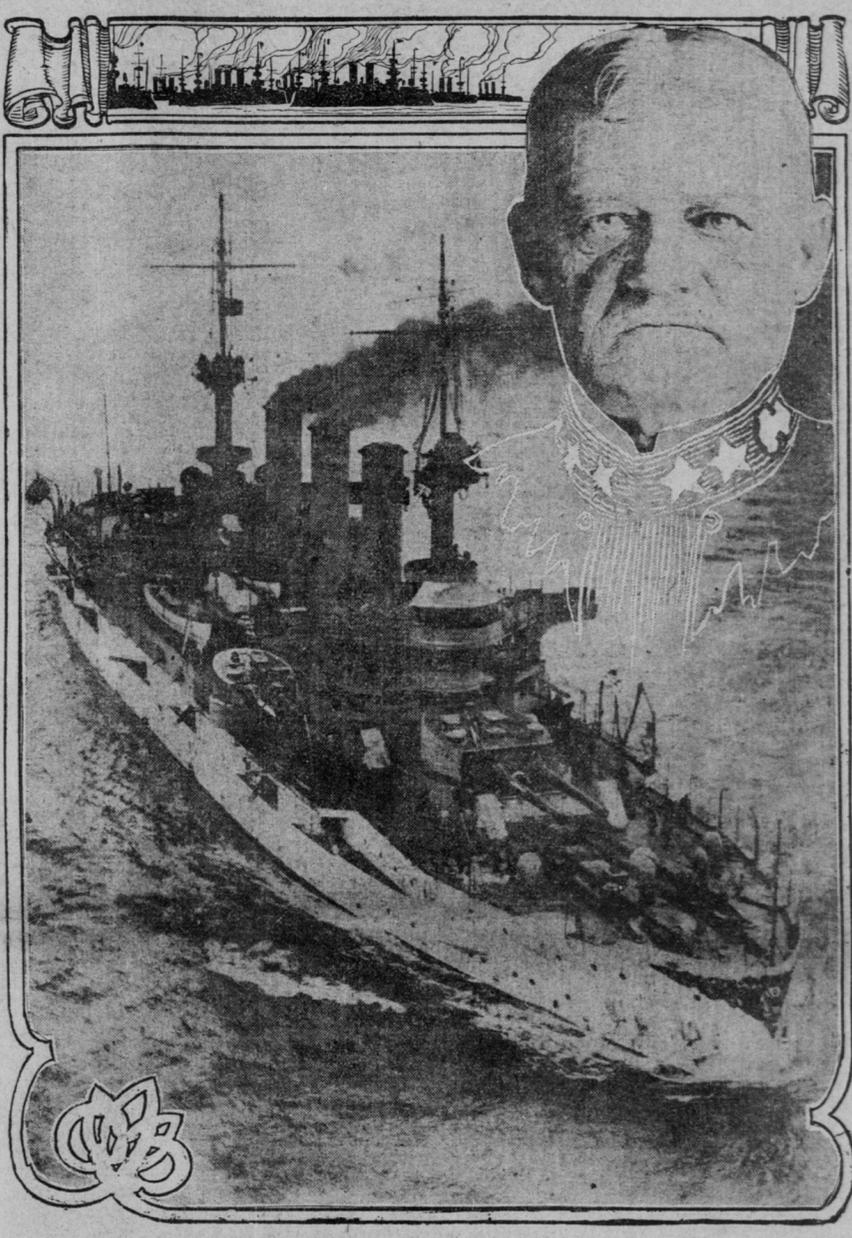
"The scheme that I favor," said Lane, "is on the order of that proposed by the lumbermen of Washington and Oregon. This in brief is that the interstate commerce commission should have the power to suspend an increase in rates on the protest of a shipper or party interested until the increase can be investigated."

WOULD ENJOIN RAILWAYS
"As to what constitutes a just and reasonable rate the commission alone has the power to say, therefore it is but logical that the commission should also have the power to enjoin a railroad increasing its rates. Now the court is called upon to enjoin a railroad, but the court cannot say whether or not the rate is reasonable. "The law holds that the rates now in effect are just and reasonable, and therefore when a railroad wishes to increase a rate which is already just and reasonable the burden should be borne by the railroad and the explanations made by it."

TO ACT AFTER PROTEST

"Why wait for a shipper to protest?" he was asked. "Would it not simplify matters if the proposed increase was taken directly before the commission for its approval?" "Such would be impracticable," was the answer. "The commission would not be physically able to attend to the volume of business. There are naturally numerous increases with which the shippers find no fault and for the commission to examine all of these would be a waste of time. If all parties are satisfied with a rate the commission could do little good by interfering. It is only when a protest is made that the commission should investigate." Lane has come to visit his mother, who is seriously ill.

View of the deck of the battleship Connecticut of the Atlantic fleet, taken while that vessel was passing under Brooklyn bridge, and photograph of Admiral Robley D. Evans, commander in chief of the armada that will start upon its long cruise today.



SHIPS READY FOR LONG CRUISE

Fleet to Be Under Way by Ten O'Clock

Roosevelt Will Bid Its Officers Goodby

No Time to Be Lost in Passing Out to Sea

Christmas Trees and Pudding for Crews

OLD POINT COMFORT, Va., Dec. 15.—The Pacific bound Atlantic fleet will leave tomorrow morning on its journey through the straits of Magellan, en route, so the official order reads, "for the west coast of the United States." The president is expected to arrive in Hampton roads on the Mayflower shortly after 8 o'clock. His coming will be timed as near that hour as possible, without preceding it, for salutes can not be fired before 8 o'clock under the navy regulations.

From the time the president's yacht casts anchor in the center of the fleet the events of the departure will move rapidly. Rear Admiral Evans, commander in chief of this most notable of American peace expeditions, will board the Mayflower and pay his respects to the president, and will be immediately followed by the other flag and commanding officers of the fleet. The reception will be brief and more or less informal. As time will figure heavily in rank will be waived in favor of the officers whose launches first reach the Mayflower's gangway after Admiral Evans has gone on board.

WILL START BEFORE NOON

The reception and the journeys of the admirals and captains to and from the Mayflower are expected to occupy more than an hour, and a half hour more will be consumed in lifting anchor and getting ships in position for the start, which, it is expected, will be made about 10 o'clock. Two hours later the first of the long line of fighting vessels should have cleared the Virginia capes and turned its course to the southward. The reviewing of the passing fleet by the president will take place near Thimble shoal lighthouse, 19 miles down the bay, and should be ended by 11:30 o'clock.

Threatening weather and occasional rain squalls marked the last day of the fleet's stay in port, but tonight a cold wind from the west dispelled the storm clouds and the 16 smoking battleships were bathed in moonlight.

IMPRESSIVE NIGHT SCENE

The view down the long twin lines of the fleet was impressive. An occasional searchlight flash or the red and white glow of an ardois signal from the yardarm of one of the big lighters added to the picturesque effect. On shore the hotels are crowded entirely beyond their capacity by wives, sweethearts, officials and friends who have come to say goodby. Many of these will have to sit up throughout the night or lounge as best they can in the chairs of the hotel lobbies. Shore liberty for the sailors ended at 10 o'clock today, and at that hour the enlisted force of each ship, numbering

Men of American Federation Tell Funston They Lived in Terror of the Miners

Until Troops Came Craftsmen in Gold Camp Say They Were Forced to Go Armed to Work

By Harry Quinn

GOLDFIELD, Nev., Dec. 15.—A delegation from the local council of the American federation of labor called upon General Funston this afternoon and declared that the men affiliated with that organization who are employed in the mines have been living in constant terror of the western federation of miners. They told Funston that for six months they had been working carpenters, machinists and artisans with sawed off shotguns at hand, fearing attacks from radical members of the miners' organization.

Funston refused tonight to give the names of the men who had visited him. They came to him secretly and made the request that their names be not divulged.

"I have never seen a finer lot of workmen in my life than those who called upon me today as representatives of the American federation," said Funston. "They were in earnest about their mission and impressed me deeply. They stated that they had been living in terror during the last six months. One, a carpenter, said that until the arrival of the troops he had been working at his bench with a shotgun near by. Another, a machinist, said that he was in constant danger of attack. All agreed that this camp would not be safe for members of their organization were it not for the presence of the troops. They also said they would be compelled to leave if the troops were withdrawn.

"Sheriff Ingalls visited me today," Funston added, "and we had a heart to heart talk over the situation. He confirmed my opinion that the soldiers were needed. He admitted that he would have been powerless to cope with the situation alone."

TO GARRISON CAMP

"All the regulars now here will remain another 10 days if my recommendation to the war department is acted upon. I do not think it is necessary for all to stay longer than that. About half will constitute a garrison during the rest of the winter, or so long as this labor dispute is unsettled.

Big Gusher Is Brought in at Santa Maria

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE CALL

SANTA BARBARA, Dec. 15.—A 7,000 barrel "gusher" was brought in yesterday by the drillers of the Union oil company at Santa Maria. For more than 24 hours the oil spouted from the 3,700 foot well and disproved the many hints that the Santa Maria territory is on the wane. Indeed, it is taken to mean that the possibilities of the district may be even greater than has been believed by the optimistic ones.

The new gusher is in the Hartnell field. It is located west of the Pinal and Brookshire holdings, some distance from the famed Hartnell gusher. The latter, it will be remembered, poured out many thousands of barrels before its flow was controlled.

It is also believed that the life of the new well will be longer than that of the first Hartnell gusher because the gas pressure seems to be not so great and the flow is steady and not in intermittent spurts.

Renewed energy has been given the developers in the Santa Maria field by the new gusher. This is one of the deepest wells in the district and it may result in the deepening of other wells in that part of the county.

Impertinent Question No. 29

What Is a Financier?

For the most original or wittiest answer to this question—and the briefer the better—The Call will pay FIVE DOLLARS. For the next five answers The Call will pay ONE DOLLAR each. Prize winning answers will be printed next Wednesday and checks mailed to the winners at once. Make your answer short and address it to

IMPERTINENT QUESTIONS, THE CALL

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