



THE EVENING POST

THOMAS GARRETT, PUBLISHER
Valencia and Twenty-first Sts.



San Francisco



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Business Office, Valencia and Twenty-First Streets.



Scoundrels of the Press.

It has, from time to time, been a source of chagrin and humiliation to the people of San Francisco, and we might even say of California, to be forced to admit that a large number of the daily journals published on this Pacific Coast are blackmailing sheets, piloted by scoundrels who have long deserved a coat of the proverbial tar-and-feathers. Built upon foundation stones that stand today as a reeking monument to the criminal tendencies of the men who wielded the pen in the earlier days of California, several of our journals have brought the blush of shame to the fair cheek of this community; and yet the people of San Francisco have now come to find out that, after all, even with such rottenness and corruption to be found in a certain section of our own local press, we cannot attain to that dizzy height of complete debauchery in journalism that is to be noted on the part of certain of the newspapers of eastern cities. We cite as a fair example of this refined scoundrellism in the editorial room, that much-quoted and proud newspaper, the Washington Star. The Star is published in the city of Washington, D. C., and finds its way into many decent homes despite the fact that when the Thaw trial was in full blast it printed nasty excerpts from the testimony which the author of the most vile hand-dogger ever known in these parts would not dare to bring to the light of day. And this rottenness, which flourishes in high places as we occasionally find it, now leads the editors of the Washington Star to publish a tirade against the Board of Education of San Francisco, which tirade makes of this vehicle for slime, the Washington Star, a ridiculous crier that plainly deals in defamation as a mere matter of course, and that seeks popularity by pandering to the passions of whatever element it most desires to please. In speaking of the Board of Education of San Francisco, the Japanese matter, etc., the Washington Star on March 22, 1907, employs in part the following language:

Some of the men implicated were leaders in the episode which for a brief season so greatly embarrassed this government in its relations with Japan.

They were active to the point of danger and overflowed with bluster. It was no fault of theirs that our friendship with the greatest of the Asiatic powers was not destroyed and that the relations of the gravest

of the Star to know that the people of the Pacific States respect and applaud the Board of Education for heeding the wishes of the President in the Japanese matter, and, like reasonable men, shaping their course so as to make the way easy for this nation in the task of avoiding war with a foreign nation. It might also interest the reportorial hacks who fling this slime for the discredited Star to know that the rational and sane stand taken by the members of this Board of Education in interpreting a law that rides upon California's statute books, has won the admiration and respect of the legislators of this entire country and of the highest and best element in all the States. Of course the bespectacled blockheads who sit at the helm of the Star's private ship of defamation do not even know that the District Attorney of San Francisco, who is the head and front of the so-called crusade against "grafters," but recently emerged from the School Department, where he served a term as Superintendent of Schools, and that he says the School Department is clean, and the school directors honest, fair and decent men.

Like many another far-heralded institution in Washington, D. C., the Star, of which so much has been heard, dwindles upon close examination to a petty, barking, subservient sheet, and the muck-flingers who run it become common scoundrels at short range. The Star goes down in a heap with the rotten legislators, the unworthy institutions and the disgraceful combinations which so astounds a Californian when he visits the East; and it can only be noted finally that the Star, finding its level, as all foul waters must, with the very lowest of the blackmailing founts of this country, is but to be classed with the rest of the licensed crooks of the "dignified" East, where flourishes many an institution that would be flung to the junk pile did it but dare to raise its head hereabouts.

The Board of Education need feel no sadness at the lying and unjust comments of the putrid Star, for the people of the West are now made acquainted with the actual caliber of this unworthy sheet from Washington, and the people of the East, we have no doubt, have been aware of the exact character of the lying newspaper these many years.

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They were active to the point of danger and overflowed with bluster. It was no fault of theirs that our friendship with the greatest of the Asiatic powers was not destroyed and complications of the gravest character precipitated. There was even some wild talk about defying Uncle Sam and taking California out of the Union in order to preserve her civilisation.

We see now the true inwardness of the whole business and the true character—or want of it—of these men. First they were driven from behind that squad of schoolchildren, where, in the name of the American home, they had intrenched themselves, and now they are exposed as false in their claim to be acting as champions of American labor.

Their school maneuver was a fraud and their expression of devotion to labor is no better. They are simply boodlers, working in office or out of it for their "own pocket all the time." They have made the old offense, so long the standard of meanness, of "stealing the coppers from a dead nigger's eyes," look respectable by comparison.

The looting of a city in its flush days, its boom days, is bad enough, but to seize a city prostrate from ~~some~~ calamity and hold it down for booty is the ~~same~~ ~~kind~~ of rascaldom. And that is what these men have done. Some of them are confessing in the hope of escaping punishment.

Japan will not crow over this exposure, though there is the excuse that her friendship for us survived the flurry produced by these men and their abettors, and she will take note rather of the energy with which we are moving against them. In the phrase very familiar among themselves, they "overplayed their hands at every point of the game."

Of course the wild asses of journalism who wield the muck-spade for this dirtiest of all the proud metropolitan journals in the East, are not aware of the fact that the Board of Education is not under accusation at all, that its members hold the respect and the confidence of the people. Also the affairs of the School Department are clean, and are conceded so to be even by the bitterest enemies of the Union Labor administration.

For the editorial whiffets who prepare for publication falsehoods and unjust theories such as the above, to say that the Board of Education acted fraudulently in the Japanese matter is to slap the President of the United States, Mr. Root and the members of the California delegation in Congress squarely in the face. It is to say further that the Federal authorities at Washington, who participated in the negotiations over the school matter, are frauds, grafters, untaught thieves and the like. It is to say that Vice President Fairbanks, who entertained the Mayor of San Francisco in his home, and that Samuel Gompers, who resolved the Californians most cordially, to say nothing of Governor Blanchard of Louisiana and Mayor Berman of New Orleans are unworthy too low to be described. And it is such idiotic contentions that have dragged the edi-