

Cliff House Is Destroyed by Flames
Famous Hostelry by Golden Gate Reduced to Ashes in Few Minutes

DEMOCRATS ARE MYSTIFIED BY POLITICAL MOVE

Inclined to Take Seriously McNab's Opposition to Langdon

PROSPECT WORRIES

Fear Party Will Be Placed in a False Light by Leader

SOME ARE SILENT

Decline to Discuss Delicate Problem to Be Solved in Convention

By George A. Van Smith

Gavin McNab's opposition to the nomination of District Attorney William H. Langdon is either one of his inscrutable jokes or McNab is riding to a fall from the back of the faithful donkey that has carried him so far.

The democrats themselves are inclined to believe that McNab is serious and that he really intends to attempt to force the democratic convention into a false position before the people in order to pay off a personal score, and, at the same time, make good with some of his close friends.

The other recognized democratic leaders naturally enough are reluctant to discuss the reason for McNab's post primary opposition to Langdon and prefer to dismiss the subject with an energetic assurance that "Langdon will be nominated by the democratic convention."

By the merest chance I dropped in on two prominent democrats yesterday afternoon. They were shaking their heads and fists and there was also a shake of rage in their voices.

"I never permit myself to think of Langdon the man. I admit that I do not like him personally, but you may wager anything you like that the Langdon issue will be met squarely by the democratic convention and that McNab will not dare go into the convention and oppose his nomination. If he does, Langdon will not be the only man outside the democratic breast-works—McNab will go too."

Both these democrats have been faithful followers of McNab ever since he adopted the democratic organization. Neither agreed with my suggestion that McNab was merely beating political cymbals and entertained no serious intention of attempting to put the democratic ticket in the field without Langdon's name upon it.

At that time neither McNab nor any of the practical and professional politicians believed that the regular republican league tickets would win out at the primaries. They expected the republican machine to be successful again and figured that this success would make Langdon's chances for a republican nomination exceedingly slim.

As a plain, practical, political proposition a democratic nomination for Langdon after the republican nomination had been refused him would be the ace of political trumps for the democratic boss. When the sweeping victory for the Ryanites disclosed the fact that Langdon would be given a republican

INDEX OF THE SAN FRANCISCO CALL'S NEWS TODAY

TELEPHONE TEMPORARY, 56 SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1907

WEATHER CONDITIONS YESTERDAY—Clear; maximum temperature, 64; minimum, 54.

FORECAST FOR TODAY—Fair, with fog in morning and at night; light west winds becoming brisk in the afternoon. Page 45

NEWS BY TELEGRAPH EASTERN

President of manufacturing company embezzles \$315,000 and leaves his children to starve. P. 24

National conference on trusts will be held in Chicago next month and civic leaders say that the assembly will be of great benefit to the people. Page 25

Miss Julia Kuttner denies that she caused estrangement of F. P. Earle, the artist socialist, and his wife. Page 25

Federal court of appeals reverses the decision of the lower court in the Chicago traction case. Page 24

Official count of the ballots cast by the grand jury of San Francisco shows the election of the entire administration ticket headed by Theodore A. Bell of California. Page 24

Remarkable honor is paid to memory of Detective Robert A. Pinkerton by the attendance at his funeral of criminals who laud him as having been a square dealing man. Page 25

National association of manufacturers, representing 3,000 industries and backed by 15 billions of capital, will demand revision of tariff during next session. Page 25

FOREIGN

Members of Arctic exploring party reported lost and safe in Alaska. Page 21

Rival sultans of Morocco will clash in first battle of civil war for throne at Rabat, on which both are marching at the head of troops. Page 23

Japanese troops are ordered into Korean territory disputed by China and settlement will be forced at once is statement of cabinet. Page 23

COAST

Game of stud poker and mixup in certificates of deposit cause of legal battle between two banks. Page 25

People from all parts of state enjoy the mardi gras festivities at Santa Cruz. Page 25

Low rates in force on transcontinental roads are expected to bring 25,000 residents to state at the rate of 2,500 a day. Page 40

Miners of Angels Camp declare they were tricked into going back to work. Page 35

Present railway to La Jolla and Pacific beach near San Diego may be sold and changed to an electric system. Page 35

Ten thousand persons attend exercises held in San Diego to mark beginning of track work on Arizona and Eastern railroad. Page 23

Governor Gillett says that graft prosecutors should force the hoodlum state railroad commissioner, Andrew Wilson, out of office. Page 25

Irrigation congress decides to avoid politics and rejects resolution declaring against president's free Philippine sugar policy; free lumber proposal withdrawn, and gathering adjourns after proposing world's congress of arid land farmers. Page 25

EDITORIAL

The president and the editors. Page 26

Watch us grow. Page 26

Spring Valley moonshine. Page 26

POLITICAL

Democrats resent false position party is placed in by McNab's opposition to nomination of District Attorney Langdon. Page 21

CITY

Turret car ends rapid dash down Cliff avenue by hurrying four electricians, one of whom is believed to be drunk, in debris. Page 48

Supervisors will let a contract for street cleaning, meantime stopping work which costs city \$30,000 a month. Page 30

Milan grand opera company will begin season at Cantieri theater Wednesday with presentation of "Aida." Page 34

Louis Levy, works board secretary appointed by Schmitz, will be removed for petty graft in publishing building laws. Page 30

Mrs. Nathaniel James, wife of major general of national guard, returns from Washington to fight his suit for divorce and file one of her own, which alleges moonlight auto rides with stenographer. Page 34

Tragedy is narrowly averted on sunken liner Acropolis when breaking of pump leaves six divers in the depths without air. Page 34

Friends of Horticultural Commissioner Cooper and J. W. Jeffrey, aspirant for Cooper's place, are carrying on lively campaign. Page 30

Jewish New Year will be celebrated in city synagogues, where ram's horn will call Hebrews to meditation and deep devotion. Page 30

Aid society will build hotel for boys who pay their way and give each a separate room. P. 48

The Cliff house, known all over the world as one of the sights of this city, is destroyed by flames; former proprietor, J. M. Wilkins, is saved from death by brave firemen. Page 21

Spot, little Dora Loag's puppy, doesn't walk three corners any more, thanks to Central Emergency surgeons, who treat first dog ever taken as patient in city hospital. Page 48

SUBURBAN

Sophomores vanquish freshmen in initial tryout at Stanford university. Page 30

Mayor Mott of Oakland will try to end Adams point park land controversy by purchase offer. Page 28

Many organizations of Alameda county will celebrate Admission day. Page 29

Professor Kroeber of University of California discusses Arapaehoe religion in bulletin just issued. Page 25

Ringling brothers' circus will begin engagement in Oakland this afternoon. Page 28

SPORTS

Matricee McLoughlin, the young Golden Gate park expert, wins the Pacific coast tennis tournament at Del Monte and will meet Champion Melville Long in the challenge match for the title. Page 33

Unusually large entry received for the open air dog show on Francis J. Carroll's polo field at Burlingame. Page 35

Bettors are nibbling at the proposition that Joe Gans will win within 15 rounds. Page 31

Ralph Ross of the Olympic club breaks the world's record, held by himself, for putting the 16 pound shot, in the championship contests at the Jamestown exposition. Page 32

LABOR

Local plumbers' union is sued for \$55,000 damages by Cincinnati firm because of boycott. P. 34

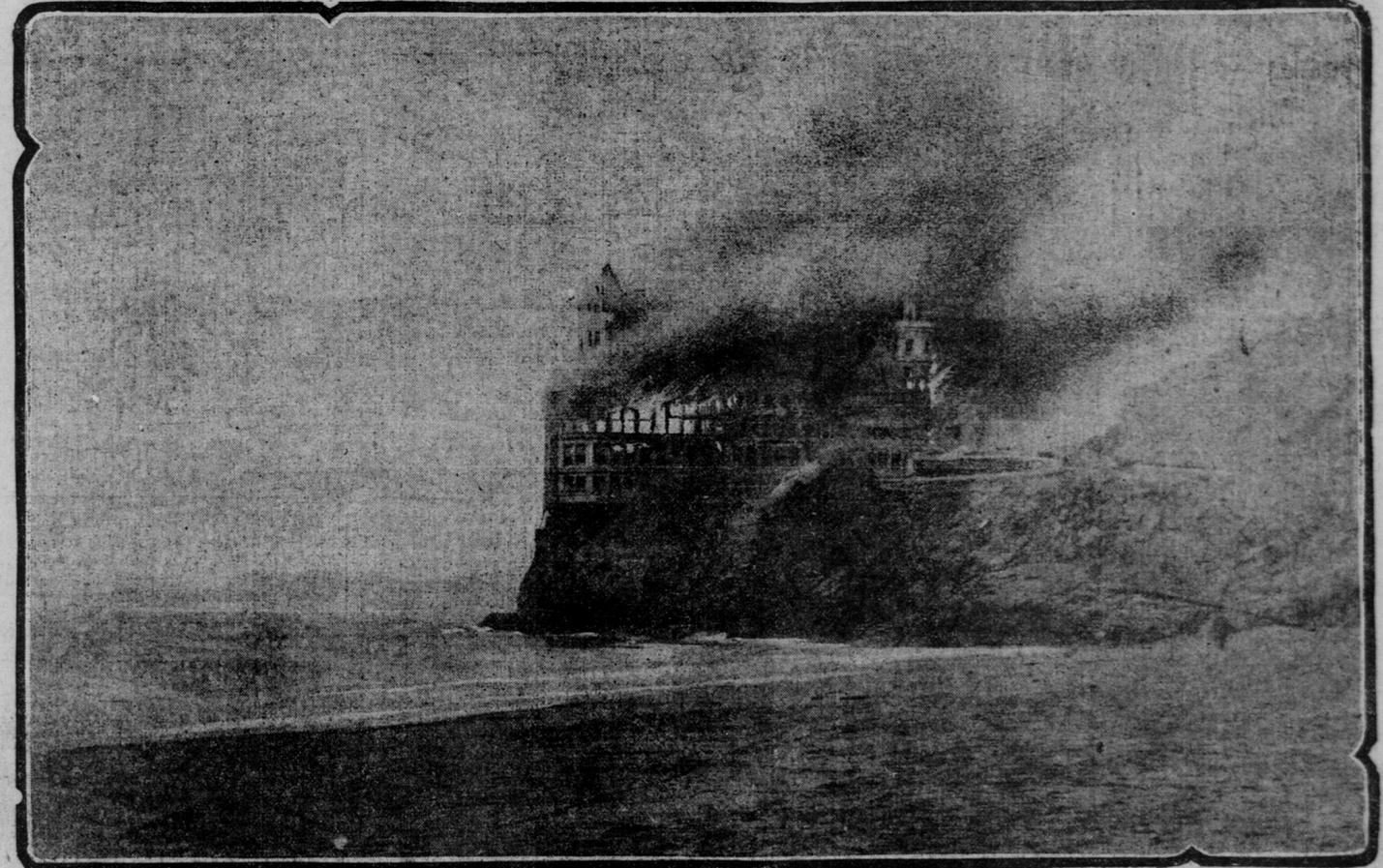
MARINE

Army transport Thomas sails for Manila with Sixth cavalry and a company of field artillery. Page 45

MINING

Large block of Goldfield Consolidated Mines stock is thrown into market by brokers and interferes with price. Tonopah mines improve. Page 17

Burning of the historic Cliff house yesterday afternoon. The accompanying photograph, taken by J. L. Walthal for The Call, shows the burning building just as the flames were bursting out of the first story, with the smoke sweeping out over the ocean. This photograph gives a graphic idea of the fierceness with which the conflagration attacked the dry wooden building.



Firemen Make Desperate Efforts to Save Far Famed Landmark

J. M. Wilkins, Former Proprietor of Cliff House, Rescued From Flaming Trap

The Cliff house, a landmark of San Francisco, was totally destroyed by fire yesterday afternoon. Where yesterday morning an imposing white structure stood, a guide to mariners and one of the first things to be pointed out to visitors coming to San Francisco by sea, is now a smoking ruin, with a few shattered chimneys to mark its site.

It was not long in burning. Fire fighting facilities on that edge of San Francisco are not of the best. From the time that the first flames leaped forth, the dry wooden structure went rapidly. The roar of the fire could be heard above the noise of the ocean, while over both was heard the bellowing of the seals, frightened by a sight they could not understand.

As the crackle of the flames grew into a roar the animals whooped loudly in fright and slid into the ocean. Now and then a glittering head would pop forth and a pair of beady eyes would be fixed for a moment upon the terrifying spectacle. But the rocks were deserted until after the building had been turned into gray ashes.

For as long as it takes ships that sailed yesterday to come to San Francisco from the ends of the world, mariners steering in by day will be puzzled in trying to get their bearings. There will be lights there as usual for ships that come in by night, but the daylight arrivals will look in vain for the huge white structure by which they laid their course.

The Cliff house will be missed by visitors to San Francisco. Its fame had spread all over the world, and it was one of the first things sought by tourists. Occasional visitors to the city would not go away without at least one visit to the place. So famous was it that today the news of its passing will be known in most of the civilized world. The building belonged to the Sutro estate.

At the time of the disaster of April 18, 1906, one of the first reports that went out was that the Cliff house had slid into the sea, and to many whose lives were not bound up in the town itself the news seemed more vital than that of the destruction of San Francisco.

Flames in Mine Kill Twenty-seven Men Asks Mercy for Man in Dark Cell 33 Years

Esperanza Property in Mexico Becomes an Inferno From Firedamp Ignition

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., Sept. 7.—A special to the Express from Monterrey, Mex., says: News reached this city from Musquiz, Coahuila, today that another terrible mine fire had occurred at the Esperanza mine, in which 27 men were killed. The fire originated in shaft No. 1 and is supposed to have been caused by firedamp. A large force of surgeons are at work alleviating the sufferings of the wounded, while every effort is being made to get the bodies of the dead men out of the mine.

Boston Society Criticises the Punishment Inflicted Upon Jesse Pomeroy, Slayer

BOSTON, Sept. 7.—The Society for the Promotion of Criminal Anthropology has filed a protest with Governor Guild against keeping Jesse Pomeroy, the murderer, in solitary confinement at the Charlestown state prison. The petition recites that Pomeroy has served a sentence in solitary confinement of 33 years, and the society brings forward a number of reasons why the governor should mitigate the harshness of the punishment.

Impertinent Question No. 15

Why Aren't You Rich? 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.

- Prize Answers to "What Is An Automobile?" \$5 prize to E. Winter, 2932 Pine st., city. A good thing; push it along. \$1 prize to Grace Hibbard, 1530 Sacramento st., city. A machine which enables a rich man to toot his own horn. \$1 prize to Gertrude Thomas, Los Banos, Cal. A toot-toot, a farewell; A big noise and a bad smell. \$1 prize to J. A. Jones, 1713 Sanchez st., city. It's a long way from being a water wagon. \$1 prize to J. Lillman, 2522 Warring st., Berkeley, Cal. The quickest way into and out of trouble. \$1 prize to Robert Madison, 1619 Fourteenth st., Oakland, Cal. Something out of the reach of the poor except when it hits them.