

Close Range
Snapshots at
People of Note



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GOVERNOR GEORGE C. PARDEE.

SINCE earthquake and fire visited San Francisco and other cities and towns of California the people of the United States have often seen in print the name of the governor of the Golden State, Dr. George Cooper Pardee. He is a physician and a specialist in diseases of the eye and ear, a graduate of the University of California and of the University of Leipzig. He was born in San Francisco in 1857 and is the first native of California to be chosen to the office of governor. His election occurred in 1902, and during the campaign considerable was made of the fact that he was a son of the state. On one occasion an old timer came up to shake hands with the gubernatorial candidate. He was introduced to the doctor as "one who came to this state earlier than you did."

"Glad to meet you, sir," responded Dr. Pardee briskly. "I came to California in 1857. When did you arrive?" "I came in '53," said the voter, "but you look much too young to have been in the '57 bunch."

"Well, when I came," said Dr. Pardee, "I had fewer clothes on than you had." And it suddenly dawned on the old pioneer that he was talking to a "native son."

The governor is known as a fighter in politics. He fought corporations while a member of the board of health of Oakland and later as mayor of the same city, and his nomination as the Republican candidate for governor four years ago was called a victory for the element opposed to corporations.

Brigadier General Frederick Funston, whose energy in handling the situation in San Francisco during the week following the earthquake elicited great praise, has been captured several times in the course of his career. Once he was captured by the Spanish in Cuba and again was made a prisoner in the very San Francisco which has been the scene of his most recent triumphs. The second time he was captured it was by a pretty San Francisco girl, Miss Eda Blankert, while the regiment he then commanded, the Twentieth Kansas, was at the Presidio awaiting orders to proceed to the Philippines. The latter came before the lovelorn colonel of the regiment had been acquainted with Miss Blankert a short six weeks.

It was a curious and exciting series of adventures which was experienced by Miss Josephine Jacoby, the noted singer of the Conried Metropolitan Opera company, on the day of the San Francisco earthquake. Miss Jacoby and other members of the company were staying at the Palace hotel, and when the earthquake shock awoke her a few minutes after 5 o'clock in the morning she at first thought she was dreaming. She rushed to the window for a breath of air and saw that the buildings opposite were swaying. Without waiting she ran downstairs clad in her night robe. Afterward she went back to her room and put on her clothing and the slippers she had worn the night before as Mercedes in "Carmen." In Union square she found Signor Caruso and other members of the opera company, and there they sat down and held on to the ground with their fingers, fearing it would slip away from them. They watched the flames eat up big buildings and saw giant structures collapse with a roar as dynamite was exploded beneath them. Through streets in which lay the dead and the injured and between avenues of flame Miss Jacoby later walked for miles and was nearly killed by getting too close to a building which crumbled like a castle of cards, amid a cloud of white smoke. The flames drove her from one place to another, and with a friend she at last succeeded in hiring two teamsters to undertake the perilous drive to the Oakland ferry. The men were too drunk to care where they went and drove down a steep hill at terrific speed, saying something about "shooting the chutes." After being nearly crushed on the ferryboat

In the trip to Oakland Miss Jacoby got aboard a train bound for New York.

Representative William Alden Smith of Michigan, who is a candidate for the seat in the senate which General Alger will vacate next year, is famous for his fiery speeches. He "speaks out in meeting" whenever he feels like it and with a disregard of consequences that is astonishing to his more timid colleagues. The congressman who aspires to be a senator was once a newsboy in the streets of Grand Rapids. He now owns the paper that he used to peddle. His first rise in the world came when he was appointed a page in the Michigan house of representatives, and the story is told that in order to get to the state capital he stole a ride on a railroad. At any rate, he afterward became general counsel for the corporation owning the road. While running errands for legislators he saved some money and formed a resolution to study law. When he called at the office in Grand Rapids where he had hoped to obtain a clerkship he found a card on the door saying the members of the firm had gone out of town for a few weeks' vacation. Nothing daunted, he looked up the owner of the building and procured the loan of a key to the office. When the lawyers returned they found everything swept and garnished and a brisk looking young man installed at a desk diligently reading law. He said he was the office boy at nothing a week and had come to stay. He did and in seven years was a member of the firm.



WILLIAM ALDEN SMITH.

Captain Richmond Pearson Hobson, U. S. N., retired, who recently defeated Representative John H. Bankhead in a contest for the congressional nomination in the Sixth Alabama district, was the young hero who took the old collier Merrimac into Santiago harbor during the Spanish war and sank her in the channel in order to bottle up Cervera's fleet. After the war Hobson built up a great reputation as a kissing man, lectured on the navy and other topics and retired from active service. To Homer Davenport, the cartoonist, Captain Hobson recently explained how he acquired his unwelcome notoriety as "Hobson the Kisser." He said he had spoken at a big public gathering in some middle western state. At the close of his speech an old lady came tottering through the crowd toward him and on reaching him said:

"Captain Hobson, it was my son Jack that was with you on the Merrimac, and he has written me how kind you were to him, and I want to kiss you."

The captain, moved by the tearful old mother, stepped forward and kissed her and her granddaughter, a girl of fourteen years.

"These two," he said, "are all the people I have ever kissed in public, and I think the sensational American newspapers have done me a very great wrong, a wrong that money or retractions could never right."

General James Franklin Bell has become chief of staff of the United States army just in time to assume important duties in connection with the movement of troops and handling of supplies for the protection and relief of the San Francisco sufferers. General Bell was born in Shelbyville, Ky., in 1856 and is a graduate of the West Point academy. He served on the plains with the Seventh United States cavalry for sixteen years and was on the staff of General Forsyth just prior to the outbreak of the Spanish war. In that war and in the Philippine insurrection he fought in the principal campaigns and in the three years from 1898 to



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1901 rose from lieutenant to brigadier general. One of his exploits in the Philippines was swimming around the Spanish earthworks fronting on Manila bay at night in search of information. He holds a congressional medal of honor for gallantry in action near Porac, Luzon, and is the first chief of staff to serve without the rank of lieutenant general. General Bell was once called on for a speech at a dinner given in the cause of education, and in expatiating upon the value of learning remarked:

"I am reminded of the story of the boys who were playing poker in a doorway, using kernels of corn for checks. 'During the game one pushed in a bunch of kernels and said, 'I'll bet you a hundred.' 'I'll raise it a hundred,' said the other. 'I'll raise that a thousand.' 'I'll see the thousand and raise it a million.' 'I'll raise that a million a billion.' 'I'll see the billion and raise you a trillion.' 'The other boy was stumped. He thought a long time, but he couldn't remember what came next, so he exclaimed bitterly, 'Take it, you educated son of a gun!'"

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Special Articles to Appear in Our Magazine Section Next Week.

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