

THE BOODLER IN POLITICS.

Chris. Buckley, Frisco's Boss for 15 Years, Gives Away SOME RICH SECRETS.

Caught in London, on His Way to the Baths at Wiesbaden,

HE TALKS UNRESTRAINEDLY. Reformers in Plenty Who Want to Get Office Themselves.

The Ex-Leader Says True Reform is Not to Be Attained in That Way—Not Given to Boasting, Yet He Declares His Way of Running Things Was a Magnificent Success—Young Hearst and His Paper Get an Awful Roast—The Legislature of a Thousand Scandals Touched Up—How Senators, Judges and Commissioners Are Sometimes Made, and What It Costs.

LONDON, Dec. 25.—[Copyright.]—Christopher A. Buckley, the famous blind politician of Frisco, whose movements for some time past have been a mystery, arrived here Wednesday night from New York on his way to Wiesbaden. He is supposed to have left Frisco through a revolt in his party following, his rivals having succeeded in getting an indictment against him by the grand jury, though it appears from the following interview that the Supreme Court of California checked this ambition of the unruly members by throwing the indictment out of court.

Buckley consented to an interview with THE DISPATCH correspondent, and gave a most remarkable account of the State of affairs in California. He is evidently much more than an ordinary man. It has always been a mystery how he, though stone blind, has not only obtained but held absolute sway for 15 years over Democratic political destinies in the city of Frisco and the State of California, making boards of supervisors, Governors and United States Senators entirely as he chose, but this mystery becomes clear when he begins to talk.

"The indifference of citizens is such that politics is a very easy job. Public spirit is a much weaker force than private ambition that a managing man has a good game to play if he has brains enough to play it. This newspaper, which has plenty of money behind it, but is not successful, makes a lot of talk of public interest in order to increase its circulation. It has always been with me when it could make anything by it, but now it thinks to fool the public by fighting me. That's the way we do things out West. And Buckley laughed, while a couple of Englishmen present at the interview also thought it very funny.

"When did you leave Frisco?" "I left Frisco on the 1st of September to take a trip over the Canadian Pacific, then to the Wiesbaden, which place did me a lot of good last year. I went to Montreal to make a visit of two months. After I left William T. Wallace, ex-Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, now head of the Superior Court of Frisco, took the law into his own hands, called a grand jury of his own, and had me indicted for bribery.

"A Deaf and Dumb Buckley in It." "It seemed that a man named Mayne got a street car franchise from the Board of Supervisors. On his books was an entry of 230 shares to be delivered to Buckley and Fire Commissioner Sam Rainey when they were called for. I knew nothing about the matter, as I was in Europe when the alleged agreement occurred. This took place two months after I left. The grand jury had been in session four weeks before I came away, but said nothing to me. The charge was not true, legally, or any other way, I having been in Europe at the time.

"The whole thing was absurd. If this man Wallace had been a public-spirited citizen, backed by honest popular indignation, I should have nothing to say, but I put Wallace on the Superior bench. This ex-Chief Justice begged me to put him back into politics, which I did. He first sent to me some years ago a man named D. H. Bibb, who arranged an interview.

"The Man Who Made Wallace a Judge." "I went to Wallace's house and was hospitably received by him at least a dozen times. At his request I made him one of the judges of the Superior Court. He wanted a judicial position so he could be in the running for an appointment by Cleveland to one of the United States Courts in Frisco when either Sawyer or Hoffman, the existing judges, died—both being pretty old.

"Wallace is a rich man and always has had an inclination for the Supreme Bench. I refused, for several reasons. One was that that party would not have him; another was that charges made against his integrity on his own affidavits, I believe by a local paper, when he was once before a grand jury for office, had never been satisfactorily answered, so far as I know. He could not have been elected, and could not get over 100 out of 600 votes in the convention. When I refused he was bitterly angry and swore in the presence of the Superior Judges at San Jose that he would put me in jail. This he tried to do in selecting a grand jury for overriding the law by respectively laid it down himself when Supreme Judge.

"Not the Material for a Reformer." "I don't think a man of this kind, whose first idea of reforming a city is treachery to his friends and gratification of personal spite, will ever reform the city to any great extent.

"The same thing is true of the newspaper. This is a sensational paper named the Examiner, hitherto called by other papers 'Buckley's' and was once owned by the property of a young Hearst, son of Senator Hearst. He is a good enough young fellow, but is father-headed. He is handled, however, by men who are not good enough for reformers. This young fellow owes me very possible debt of gratitude. I made his father United States Senator when a vacancy in the Senate from California was filled by the appointment of another man, Stoenman wanting a renomination for Governor for himself. This was all settled when a friend of Hearst's came to me and said Hearst wanted the appointment. There was no reason for my consenting, but I consented on condition that this friend would fix the matter with Stoenman and relieve me of all obligations to the latter, which he did. I got nothing for it.

"Cost of a Western Senatorship." "Hearst put, I was told, \$100,000 into his fight for renomination and re-election when his term expired, but I never got one dollar of it, and did all I possibly could to re-elect him. The Examiner, since the young fellow has been the ostensible head of it, has always been with us when there was anything to be done. When Hearst senior wanted the nomination for Governor, in 1882, the only way he could hold off the railroad company, which is a very powerful force in the California elections, was by a combination of his fight with Hearst, by lending his strength to the nomination of their man Humphries for Railroad Commissioner.

"Young Hearst came to me at San Jose, last year when Steve White was seeking the endorsement of the Democratic State Convention for the United States Senate and I was asked to give my endorsement to White. I could not do this, White being a personal friend of mine, and making the fight quite independent of me. Because I wouldn't do what I couldn't do, young Hearst, who had been getting up, raising, information and political aid for a long time through me, turns into my enemy and starts in to down me.

"The Public Not Exactly Fools." "I don't believe and never did believe that a paper which fights me on such motives can ever get very far with the public. The people are not fools. I found this out some time ago, and the younger generation are fine old fellows, perhaps, before he gets to be an old man.

"I'm willing to leave the thing to the people," continued Buckley. "I've been managing it for 15 years. During all that time our party has never had a defaulter. My business is politics, and they say the politician is a noble profession. How is it that Frisco pays less taxes than any other large city in the Union? How is it that after 15 years of nearly continuous Democratic administration the city is not poorer than any other? How was it that when we came in, in January, 1883, with the city \$200,000 in debt, at the end of the year we had paid off the debt, and now we are paying out \$2,000,000? How is it that the City Hall Commission, where millions have been spent, has never had a charge of any kind made against it? I could not say that I have any opinion on that commission, who would have wasted or stolen hundreds of thousands, I always maintain, with the help of my friends, men who were unexceptionable.

"I'm not talking to boast. I never did that. But I say that my consideration of the city very well bears comparison with the Examiner's purpose and motives, past, present and future, and the more the people think about the more they will be convinced that it cannot be made to pay more than \$2,000 per annum.

"The Board of Appraisers will have to be appointed for Philadelphia in a few weeks to do the work for 1892. The appointments rest with City Treasurer McCreary and Auditor General McCamant. The fear that the office is likely to be abolished in a year from this has frightened off many of the candidates.

"PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 25.—[Special.]—It was stated to-day, on pretty good authority, that the various boards of mercantile appraisers will be abolished by the next Legislature. It is stated that Governor Pattison has given the matter serious thought, and that the expediency of doing so with the positions will be one of the main topics to be discussed in his message to the General Assembly.

"It is claimed that the work now done by the mercantile appraisers is very readily done by the real estate assessors. It only consumes a very small fraction of the year. Before the scandal in this city the place paid from \$4,000 to \$5,000 a year. Now it is said that the rates will be so strictly enforced that it cannot be made to pay more than \$2,000 per annum.

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NO WAR, BY JINGO. Plenty of Signs of Peace in Both Valparaiso and Washington.

BLAINE AND SENOR MONTT To Dine Together at the latter's Table This Afternoon.

REPARATION FULLY EXPECTED For the Baltimore Incident, but Nothing Said About Egan.

SENOR MONTT'S SIGNIFICANT TALK.

THREE MONASTERIES RAIDED. THE ENFORCEMENT OF A MEXICAN LAW RAISES FIERCE RIOTS. Many Priests, Monks and Clerical Students Thrown into Prison—The Rabble of Puebla Take Their Part and Attack the Soldiers and Police.

CITY OF MEXICO, Dec. 25.—Further particulars of the religious riots in Puebla are to the effect that they were caused by the enforcement of an old law against organized religious bodies. Priests and students for the priesthood had organized themselves into societies of monks in various places, and it was the efforts of police to break up these organizations that aroused the people.

The first arrests took place in Cholula last Monday morning, nine priests being placed in prison. The work was done so quickly that the populace was utterly ignorant of what was going on. On the evening of the same day the "Rurals," with a company of policemen, entered the church of San Augustine and arrested a number of other priests and students. As the soldiers of the "Rurals" were very numerous, a jail a rabble gathered, filling the main streets and endeavoring to rescue the priests.

All sorts of missiles were hurled at the officers, and many of the rioters had pistols in their hands, but owing to the coolness of the military officers and policemen, only one of the rabble was shot and killed, while another was severely injured. A number were more or less injured by the horses of the "Rurals" as they forced their way through the mob.

At the same time another body of soldiers and policemen proceeded to the old church and convent of El Carmen, and arrested eight or nine priests and students, who, it is said, were not taken into custody until they had been given orders of monks in that place. The mob that gathered around these and followed them to the jail was nearly as great and nearly as violent as the one already mentioned. The rabble was very numerous, and many were killed on the line of march. Seventeen were captured in the two convents of Puebla and nine were brought in from Cholula. Many others were arrested and retained for a short time, but discharged for want of evidence.

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CHEATING JACK KETCH. SAWTELLE, THE NEW HAMPSHIRE MURDERER, DYING.

A Stroke of Apoplexy Carrying Him Off—The Warden and His Deputies Working Hard but Unsuccessfully to Save Him for a Day.

POUGHKEEPSIE, Dec. 25.—Tales of passengers avoid new horrors to the New York Central accident at Hastings-on-the-Hudson, full details of which were given exclusively by our correspondent in this morning's DISPATCH. The roll of dead has been increased to eleven names, and some of the injured may die. Among the passengers on the Niagara passenger train last night was Mr. John Buckley, who was on his way here to spend Christmas with friends. He and a friend were in the smoking car of the train. In an interview today he said:

"Just above Tonkers the airbrakes of our train were applied so suddenly and so hard that nearly every passenger in the car was thrown forward. When the train stopped I and others went out on the front platform of the smoker to see what was the matter. We had stopped within 30 feet of a Croton train, which was also bound north.

"The Fate of a Handsome Woman." "We returned to our seats in the car, and were talking about a very handsome woman who had passed through the car toward the rear. Suddenly there was a terrible crash, and everybody in the car was thrown out of their seats. I saw the woman who had been talking to me lying on the floor of the smoking car. She was dead. We looked at her, and she had recognized her as the handsome woman who had passed through the car toward the rear. We saw one man leaning over the prostrate form of another, the latter exclaiming: 'I am dying.' His friend spoke cheering words to him, but he died in less than five minutes.

"There were 18 passengers in the Gibraltar, and all but three of them were killed or injured. The shunting of escaping steam from the car and groans and wailing and dying passengers could be heard a long distance.

"The Frantic Work of Rescue." "A moment later the Gibraltar took fire. The employees of both trains quickly recovered from their shock and rushed to the aid of the imprisoned people. The passengers from both trains followed suit, and soon a score of persons had organized themselves into a relief party. One after another the wounded and dying were taken out of the Gibraltar. A woman carrying the light of lamps and torches men began to chop away the burning woodwork of the Gibraltar. They were urged on by the cries of the injured and dying women.

"To add to the horror of the occasion thieves got to work and began to rob the injured passengers. How much they received is not known. A number of the passengers were among the injured at the time of the accident, and the fact was not discovered until this morning. A number of volunteers worked through the night, and it is probable that this work made a cloak for stealing by some. This morning undertaker Vanderbilt, in preparing the remains of Mr. Polley, one of the dead, discovered that the body had been robbed.

"Aesthetic Scenes at the Station." "The scenes about the waiting room at Dobbs' Ferry were pathetic. Little Holmes Baldwin, a son of the man who was crying for his mother. His arms were bruised, but the child seemed anxious to know how his mother was. He did not know that she had been lying in the same berth with her.

"Among the passengers in the Gibraltar were E. C. Gould, Travelling Engineer of the New York Central. He was one of the three men who escaped unhurt. He said that no one in the Gibraltar had any idea of their danger until they heard the roar of the St. Louis express right behind them. The next instant the crash came. In less than a minute the locomotive was thrown out and the following train, Buffalo and Niagara Falls special, which left at 7:30 P. M., was stopped about three-quarters of a mile south of Dobbs' Ferry station.

"The conductor of No. 45 immediately sent brakeman Herrick back to signal the coming train. He proceeded as far as the crossing at Hastings-on-the-Hudson, and talked with the station master, waiting for the Cincinnati and St. Louis express No. 7, which left the city at 8 o'clock. While Herrick was standing near the door the St. Louis express whizzed past, running at the rate of 40 miles an hour.

"Engineer J. Donohue, of the St. Louis express train, refused to wait a moment for the presence of the Buffalo express on the track ahead until he was almost upon the train. He reversed his engine, put on his brakes and jumped for his life. The engine of No. 7 crashed into the rear sleeper, Gibraltar, of the Buffalo special with terrific force. There were 22 people on the sleeping car at the time.

"The ballast of the New York Central is of stone. Here and there between the tracks are great blotches of blood, dried and clotting, two and three feet in diameter. All that remains to-day to tell the story of the disaster is the tin roof of the Wagner sleeping car Gibraltar.