



Three of San Francisco's most powerful families erected major commercial buildings on Market at Third Street in the last decade of the 19th Century, all three to house newspapers. Michael de Young's Chronicle building, with a rather clumsy clock tower (left) was the earliest, followed by William Randolph Hearst's Examiner building directly across Market Street. But Claus Spreckels outdid them both by building the city's first real skyscraper, 18 stories high including the ornate dome with bulls-eye windows, and a fine lantern with a flagpole on top, to house his newspaper, the *San Francisco Call*. All three buildings survive today, in much altered form, thanks to their steel frames. This photograph, taken in 1904, shows the city at its prosperous best, with streetcar and cable car lines on Market Street and not a single automobile in sight. (Courtesy San Francisco Public Library)