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Entered at Postoffice, Los Angeles, as Second-class Matter. THE HERALD IN SAN FRANCISCO—Los Angeles and Southern California visitors to San Francisco will find the Herald on sale daily at the news stands in the Palace and St. Francis hotels, and for sale at Cooper & Co., 245 Market; at News Co., 8 P. Ferry, and on the streets by Wheatley.

THE HERALD'S CITY CIRCULATION

The Herald's circulation in the city of Los Angeles is larger than that of the Examiner or the Express and second only to that of the Times.

It is an amazing revelation that county constables are working a lucrative graft by acting for Los Angeles collection agencies, using their official functions to spur delinquents. Such officials should be "bounced."

As a new start is to be taken in the project to install a municipal garbage cooking plant, the paramount spring question in Los Angeles will be a continuance of the one that has had precedence for several months.

There is one peculiarity in that race for the Harbin stakes. There is no doubt about its absolute "squareness." Neither the Japs nor the Slavs will be likely to "throw" it purposely. It comes the nearest of all to a safe race betting proposition.

From Chicago comes the report of a serious revolt in the ranks of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The blood of their forebears tingles in the veins of the daughters, and the latter are ready for any patriotic act except throwing tea overboard.

It will not be for lack of plans if the temperance movement in Los Angeles proves to be a failure. The most effective of all plans is the kind that persuades a man not to crook his elbow when there is stuff in his hand that "stingeth as an adder."

Tourists who now visit the orange groves have the interesting treat of seeing the fully matured fruit at its best and also the full bloom of next season's crop on the same trees. Some varieties of lemon trees show a similar spectacle nearly all the year.

At a national religious congress in Columbia, Mo., a speaker expressed the opinion that "if the Apostle Paul were on earth today he would start a newspaper." He would not get many women subscribers if his editorials were in line with his recorded writings.

That was an interesting call upon the mayor by the distinguished Chinese reformer who is said to have a price on his head amounting to about \$100,000. The mayor is in the reform business also, but he was not dignified with a head figure at last accounts.

Boston ministers and others of New England are protesting earnestly against the acceptance by the American Board of Foreign Missions of a \$100,000 donation from John D. Rockefeller. There may be an odor of oil about John's money, but probably not of sulphur.

The National City bank of New York has resources aggregating \$320,000,000. That is one of the banks in which the Standard Oil clique is largely interested. Evidently that clique is getting as strong a grip on the country's financial control as it has on the railways.

The auction method of selling forfeited saloon licenses has been abandoned, and sealed bids will be received instead. A good opportunity for the promoters of the Gothenburg saloon plan to make a start will be offered. Even one saloon might demonstrate the utility of the plan.

The agitation of the lighting and telephone service question in New York has had the effect of forcing telephone rates down about 20 per cent. The gas monopoly still roasts high there, but the authorities are getting the range of it with a gun. And Los Angeles congratulates New York.

FOR PARENTS TO PONDER Several weeks ago when the police raided a gambling place maintained by boys The Herald expressed the belief that other places of similar type were in operation. The correctness of that judgment was attested in the account of another police raid made Tuesday night on Maple avenue. As reported, a poker game "has been in operation for several months at which schoolboys, some of them mere children, have lost all the money they could earn or, in some cases, steal."

What a revelation for the parents of Los Angeles! Only by such disclosures are fathers and mothers brought face to face with the perils that beset their boys. Parental love is blind and fails to see these perils. When The Herald gave the warning intimation before concerning the likelihood that groups of boys in various parts of the city were addicted to gambling it is safe to say that not many parents thought the subject was of personal concern to them. Only other people's boys are prone to do evil.

"Schoolboys, some of them mere children," drawn into the gambling maelstrom while yet in their early "teens," using all their wits in efforts to get money wherewith to gamble, finally leading to the crime of theft.

But how can parents expect any other result when schools of crime flourish, openly and defiantly? Only a few days ago public spirited citizens of Los Angeles were beseeching the legislature to close the most pernicious schools of crime in the state, those of the race track gamblers. The influence of the gamblers was stronger than that of reputable citizens at Sacramento, however, and the crime schools continue to do a thriving business.

Fond parents of Los Angeles, how many of you curse the delusion that your own boys are proof against the enticement of gambling?

ISTHMIAN CANAL BLUNDERS

So far as the American people are concerned, there is only one point of particular interest in the Panama canal controversy into which both the president and Secretary Taft have been drawn. The hitch now disclosed dissipates hope for a reasonably early completion of the great project. It means a fresh start in the executive organization for practical work.

The original plan of a cumbersome commission, which seems to have frittered away more than a year of time without tangible results, is an admitted failure. The president says in his part of the controversy: "It appears that the chief difficulties that have arisen have come from the inherent faultiness of the law under which the commission was appointed."

Secretary Taft is rather more caustic in his utterance on the subject, declaring that the trouble "results from the inherent clumsiness of the commission as an executive body."

In conformity with the extraordinary power now vested in him by congress, the president will at once practically wipe out the canal commission. Secretary Taft is formulating a plan for the president's consideration which will be ready "in a day or two," as he says in his letter. The radical character of the change that will be recommended may be inferred from the secretary's statement that the mistakes would "be remedied by placing the control of the canal under one head, or at least under a commission composed of not more than three members."

Here we have the direct confession from the president and his secretary of war that an egregious blunder was committed at the very outset of the canal enterprise. That blunder has practically caused a year's delay in beginning the work.

Now arises the important question whether the proposed new departure will be productive of any better results than the old one.

About all that has been accomplished practically is the determination to change the canal plan in a manner that will add about one-third to the time required for its completion. It is said by experts that a sea level cut will be a work of from fifteen to seventeen years. The lock plan, which had been definitely decided upon, would admit of completion in from ten to twelve years at the outside. Not only will the date of the canal's usefulness be set several years farther in the future, but the cost of the change, according to the best estimates, will be double the original figure.

Through two administrations and starting on a third one the Republican leaders have been fooling with the isthmian canal proposition. Nearly five years ago, May 2, 1900, the house of representatives passed a bill by a vote of 225 to 35 providing for a canal by the Nicaragua route. That action was taken after long and exhaustive investigation of all routes and plans. If that bill had been passed by the senate the completion of the canal would now be nearly in sight, as it was figured that it would require not more than eight years and much less by putting on the full head of Yankee steam pressure.

The Nicaragua proposition was defeated, and after blundering along until the present time we get the promise of a canal some fifteen or seventeen years in the future!

ELECTRICAL DEVELOPMENT IN CALIFORNIA

Although California is on the extreme western edge of the United States, it is on the highest level of modern progress. The application of electricity to practical purposes, for instance, has reached its highest development in the Golden state. This mighty power of the twentieth century has been introduced more widely in California than in any other state of the Union.

It was in Los Angeles that street car locomotion by electric energy first became a commercial success, and from that beginning, about a dozen years ago, the use of electric power has broadened to all large manufacturing industries and many others.

It is estimated that the electric power plants already in operation in California represent a money value of \$50,000,000. There is now in use electrical energy equal to 140,000 horse power, and it is said that expansion in progress will add \$0,000 more. And besides what is thus present and in sight, locations for power plants have been filed to cover probably 500,000 horse power.

But all the electric power already harnessed or within reach constitutes only a fraction of what may be developed in the future from the resources of our vast mountain ranges.

The use of electricity is broadening every day in California. Here in Los Angeles it is employed in a great variety of uses, and new applications of its utility are constantly coming to public notice. Not only the local transportation of Los Angeles and its environs, but a large part of the machinery that moves its many and widely diverse activities are dependent on electric energy.

In all this advancement California has blazed the way for most of the other states. The practicability of long-distance electric transmission was first demonstrated between Santa Ana canyon and Los Angeles, and the first manufacturing industry from a power source nearly a hundred miles away is credited to this city.

All this has been accomplished within but little more than a decade. What electric development will do for California in the decade just ahead, and particularly for this section of California, must be left to the imagination.

From certain eastern states reports of spring floods are coming, with prospects of great damage in some sections. At the same time we get from Alabama the account of an appalling tornado, which caused the death of nine persons. The spring calamities in the east are following closely in the wake of those of winter.

It might have been expected that the refusal of the California legislature to give the elective franchise to women would lead to trouble for men. In the report of a recent meeting of Los Angeles literary women it is stated that there was a discussion on "Words Our Weapons," and also on "How to Strengthen Our Vocabularies."

Just when two or three of the European governments had preparations about ready for sending warships to Venezuela as collection agents the news comes that President Castro has agreed to a new plan for the payment of his country's debts. Uncle Sam, therefore, has only the obstreperous Dominican infant to quiet just now, but the whole nursery of infant republics may yawp at any moment.

It is gratifying to know that there was only about 10 per cent of negative votes in the election to decide upon the bond issue for school building purposes. The smallness of the total vote, however, showed plainly the apathy of citizens when the general result was practically assured. It was not expected that any considerable opposition would be offered to the raising of funds absolutely necessary for school building purposes. Now let a plan be matured, as The Herald has often suggested, for providing school building funds by regular yearly appropriations.

SOCIAL DIARY AND GOSSIP BY GRACE GRUNDY

Mrs. Mattison B. Jones of 2226 Haight avenue, entertained yesterday afternoon in honor of her cousin, Mrs. J. M. Black of Knoxville, Tenn., who is visiting in Los Angeles. In receiving the hostess was assisted by Mesdames W. D. Matthews, Robert Westbrook, R. W. Vincent, William Russell Hubbard, Le Mar Harris and among the other guests were Mesdames Robert J. Burdette, D. K. Edwards, Cash, Boyden and Hall of Tennessee; Herbert Leslie Harris, C. P. Crowell, Kalt, Melville Dozier, C. S. De Lano, Hansel Wood, Dr. Elizabeth Springs and Miss Arnold of Kentucky.

A wealth of early spring flowers were used in the decorations. Mrs. Black, who will remain in Los Angeles for another month is staying at Hotel Cumberland.

Mrs. Harold H. Braly of 1615 West Seventh street, will give a luncheon of fourteen courses next Saturday in honor of Miss Stella Bumiller, who is to marry Mr. Paul Burks in April.

Mrs. E. R. Prewitt and Miss Eva Prewitt who were to have left this month for an extended visit in Europe, have postponed the date of their departure until sometime in April.

A military euche was given recently in Muskegon, Mich., in honor of Mrs. John J. Fay, jr., of Los Angeles, who is visiting in that city.

Mrs. T. D. Mott, who went to Santa Barbara early last week to meet her son, John G. Mott, and his wife, on their return from their wedding trip, and who was held in the Channel city for several days on account of storm-bound trains, returned home yesterday.

The return of Senator Frank Flint will be made the occasion of a glad welcome by a number of his friends in East Los Angeles. To this end elaborate preparations are being made for an out of door banquet to be given in Eastlake park Wednesday, March 29. Beside an abundance of edibles there will be music by fifty children and an address of welcome by Clementina Griffin, who will represent Columbia. The affair is in charge of Joseph Mesmer.

The marriage of Mrs. Purden Smith-Miller and Dr. W. H. Hall of Butte, Mont., occurred last evening at the home of the bride's sister, Mrs. W. T. McArthur of 333 West Twenty-eighth street.

The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Horace Day, and music was furnished by Arend's orchestra.

For the occasion an altar was erected in one corner of the drawing room, Easter lilies, potted palms and graceful ferns being used effectively. Overhead was a canopy of white tulle and smilax. In the dining room, where supper was served, pink was the prevailing

color. Pink carnations, large bows of tulle and ribbon and pink-shaded candles made a pleasing table arrangement. In the center of the bride's table was a mound of pink carnations and maidenhair ferns surrounded by masses of pink tulle.

At either end of the table were candles shaded in green and places were marked by boxes of wedding cake bearing sketches of orange blossoms. In the library pink carnations and ferns were banked on the mantel and used elsewhere in clusters.

The bride was attired in a handsome gown of pink and chiffon cloth elaborately trimmed with rose point lace and pearls. With this exquisite frock she carried pink bride's roses.

The matron of honor, Mrs. W. T. McArthur, wore a handsome gown of white lace and carried pale pink carnations. Miss Louise Burke, Miss Lily Fahs and Miss Bri Conroy, who acted as ribbon bearers, were daintily attired. Miss Burke in pink and the other two young women in white, and each carried Easter lilies. J. Ross Clark acted as best man.

The bride and Mrs. McArthur are daughters of the late S. Morgan Smith of York, Pa.

On their three months' wedding trip Dr. and Mrs. Hall will visit the latter's mother in York and will then make their home in Butte.

P. E. O. Society

The members of Chapter E of the P. E. O. society were delightfully entertained recently at the home of Mrs. Russell B. Hallett of 2827 West Seventh street.

A delightful time was spent and light refreshments were served.

Social Notes

Mr. and Mrs. I. Silver of 4012 Trinity street gave a reception a few evenings ago in honor of the confirmation of their son Bernie, more than half a hundred guests being entertained. The various rooms were decorated with red crepe paper, flowers and ferns, and music and dancing were enjoyed.

Fred A. Hines of 1834 West Eleventh street left recently for Manchester, Ia., called there by the illness of his father, Miss Martha E. Haskins and Everett J. Hall were married quietly Monday afternoon at the home of Rev. and Mrs. J. P. McKenzie, pastor of the Magnolia Avenue Christian church, who conducted the service. The couple now are away on their bridal trip.

Notes From Abroad

Howard Burmeister of Tucson, Ariz., is one of the recent arrivals here. He will be joined soon by his wife and the couple will reside at Ocean Park.

Frank R. Currie of Mason City is visiting his parents and sister in this city.

Mrs. Ella Leithold of Los Angeles recently received word of the death of her brother, Joshua R. Freeman of Watertown, N. Y.

Weapons." In concluding her talk Miss Trotter read sonnets from Chaucer, Marlow, Longfellow and Blanco.

Ruskin Art Club

Mrs. J. D. Gibbs, assisted by Miss Letha Lewis, had charge of the lesson yesterday morning at the Ruskin Art club meeting in the club rooms at Blanchard hall.

The subject under discussion was the nineteenth century sculpture in France, and a number of interesting papers were read.

Mrs. R. W. Pridham spoke on the works of David d'Angers and Mrs. A. E. Crandall read a bright paper on Rude and Barye. Mrs. William Bradley discussed the classic-naturalistic school at the time of Chapu. Mrs. E. J. Washburn spoke on the academic school and its early advocates and Mrs. Barber spoke of the later naturalists. Mrs. Morris Albee and Miss Letha Lewis spoke entertainingly on the works of Rodin.

Mrs. W. H. Housh, chairman of the art loan exhibit committee of the Ruskin Art club, met with her committee chosen yesterday afternoon.

Although no definite arrangements were made for the May exhibit, many features were discussed, to be definitely settled on at the next meeting.

Cosmos Club

A large gathering of the members of the Cosmos club participated in the discussion of Herrick's "The Common Lot" at yesterday's meeting at the Ruskin Art club rooms.

A parliamentary drill was ably conducted by Mrs. Alice D. Anderson and plans were discussed for the celebration of charter day, which will occur April 12.

As this is the first anniversary of the club there will be a delightful program and tea beside the regular discussion, which for that date will be the conditions in Japan and Russia.

The next meeting of the Cosmos club will be held at Blanchard hall and will continue to meet there for the rest of the season.

Wednesday Morning Club

The morning session of the Wednesday Morning club was devoted to the study of Shakespeare under the direction of Mrs. H. E. Brett. Act IV, of "As You Like It" was read and discussed. At noon luncheon was served and in the afternoon Mrs. F. E. Prior conducted the parliamentary drill.

Preparations are being made for "Reciprocity day," which will occur next Wednesday.

State Federation

The following committees of the state federation of women's clubs have been named: Clivics, Mrs. E. L. Baldwin of San Francisco; forestry, Mrs. A. E. Osborne of Santa Clara; club extension, Mrs. Robert Potter Hill of

Eldridge, Sonora county; education, Mrs. John Swanner of Santa Ana; household economics, Mrs. Robert Watt of Oakland (reappointed); libraries and portfolios, Mrs. Shelley Tolhurst of Los Angeles; reciprocity bureau, Mrs. E. E. Benniston of San Francisco; history and landmarks, Mrs. John Bunting of Centerville, Alameda county.

In the interest of art a new committee has been created, and Mrs. W. S. Bartlett of this city has been named as chairman.

W. C. T. U. Annual Meeting

The all day annual meeting of the Los Angeles W. C. T. U. will be held today at the First Methodist church, corner of Sixth and Hill streets. The meeting will begin at 10:30 a. m., when reports of general officers will be read, also election of officers for the coming year. At noon a lunch will be served.

In the afternoon the report of the superintendent of department for the year's work will be read. The president, Mrs. Smyth S. Blanchard, will give the annual address. Mrs. F. B. Warner, chairman of the visiting committee, will speak on "Seed Sowing by the Wayside."

The meeting was to have been held last Thursday, but was postponed to today.

PRICE OF AUTOCRACY IN STRICKEN RUSSIA

Increase of Prosecutions for Alleged Political Offenses Under the Present Czar

LOS ANGELES, March 21.—(Editor Herald) — The Los Angeles Herald of the 20th inst. contained an article by Vladimir Gringmuth, editor of the Moscow Viedomosti, one of the leading conservative newspapers of Russia. The pith of that article was that the maintenance of the autocracy was absolutely indispensable to the integrity of Russia, and that the substitution of a parliamentary system would mean the shattering of the empire into a number of fragments—Russia, as such, ceasing to exist. The writer says: "The Russian empire is vast, but its vastness is still of very recent origin. Its western and eastern frontier possessions, Finland, the Baltic provinces, Poland, the Caucasus and the central regions have not yet assimilated themselves with Russia proper, but they do not even desire to do so; they entertain hopes of an independent national and even political existence."

This is the pith of the article and this is the plea that autocracy puts for the support of the world as against the forces now working its destruction; the plea that it has not yet had time to assimilate what it so remorselessly swallowed; that it should be allowed to live at least until it shall have fully digested its meal.

The destruction of the independence of Finland is a matter of recent date. So excellent an authority as Andrew White, for many years our ambassador to Russia and anything but a hostile witness, has denounced it, and the part that the present czar played in connection with it as the most defenseless crime of the nineteenth century, which is saying much when we consider that the last century also saw the absorption of Poland.

It is a good saying that bygones should be bygones, and that the memory of even the foulest crimes should be gradually wiped out by the finger of time. But the life of the nation is longer than that of the individual, and in the history of countries such as Finland and Poland their absorption by Russia is but the event of yesterday. Accordingly we find in both those countries today, when for the first time an opportunity of successful revolt seems to have shown itself, riot following riot and assassination trailing on the heels of assassination. All of which is simply "the breath of life that pants and struggles for relief."

To give Russia time to digest these indigestible morsels is to ask us to give the autocracy a further lease of life, at the very least, of another century, and the question immediately arises whether the game is worth the candle.

Much has been written lately of the poverty of the Russian people, of the load of taxation beneath which the peasant bends his back, and so forth, but in spite of all this there persists the thought that, so far as the czar is concerned, weak though he may be, he is liberal and peace-loving to a fault. We have now to thank Vladimir G. Simkhovitch for an article in the March number of the World's Work which completely shatters that delusion.

Simkhovitch states that the reign of Alexander II was noted for the severity with which political offenders were treated. He then gives, side by side, the official figures showing the number of political prosecutions during that reign, and the number of people directly involved in them, as compared with the ten years of the present czar's reign, ending with the year 1903.

During ten years of Alexander's reign there were eighty-four prosecutions for political offenses, and the number of people involved was 784. But—during the ten years of the present reign there have been 8468 political prosecutions, involving no less than 55,536 persons. In other words, during the ten years of the present reign there have been more than one hundred times the number of political prosecutions than there were under Alexander II, though the last named was noted for his severity, and the number of persons involved has grown from less than 1000 to over 55,000. During the last year of Alexander's reign there were eleven political cases, involving thirty-four persons; during 1903 of the present reign there were 8393 such cases involving 17,585 persons.

It is evident from the above figures that the "indispensable" autocracy comes high, and that if the Russians will put up with it it must be at a yearly increasing price.

A HERALD FRIEND.

HOW FAR WILL THE SQUIRREL TRAVEL?

SEAL CYCLOMETER GUESSES NOW IN ORDER

Eager Throng, Composed of Both Children and Grown-Ups, Watch Whirling Cage in Herald Window

If one squirrel travels fifty-four miles in twelve days how far will four squirrels travel by June 1st? If a squirrel travels all day and the sun rises earlier and sets later each succeeding day, how many miles will the squirrel travel?

If a squirrel increases his speed in proportion to loss of his own weight, through exercise, how fast will he go? If 20,000 persons guess on the chance the squirrels travel, who gets the \$100 lot?

A show is giving continuous performances in The Herald windows. It's a show that is drawing big crowds every day, crowds not always with aseye to the big prize attached.

The performers are a couple of lirs of little squirrels, a gray pair at a couple of red ground squirrels, sicy but not as wild as when they first re captured.

There is a revolving wheel in the little park arranged for them in the window and thereby hangs the je, the tale of why half of the big crowds before the window are composed of those old enough to be well versed the ways of squirrels.

The cyclometer in the squirrel's whi, which was yesterday sealed fast, is to be opened until June 10, records an exact number of miles traveled by these giddy little gray and red creatures in the next ninety days. And a fact that there is a big prize won \$100 for the subscriber guessing nearest the distance traveled is collecti an excited crowd of spectators in fro of the window.

In the front ranks always is a vari assortment of children of all sizes at colors, eagerly taking in this lesson natural history.

The antics of the performers in ti wheel amuse these little people by ti hour; the sharp-eyed inquiring litt red squirrels, so much less ornamenta have learned the ways of the quee revolving thing quickest, and occasio ally loop the loop for the admirin spectators.

The fluffy little gray fellows, on th other hand, are more timid. O Mount Lowe, where they came from there were no such strange engine and they distrust the queer whirling wires, preferring to eat nuts in que in the top of the scrub oak branche. Lately they have become more ventur some, much to the delight of the watch ing little people.

On some days the squirrels, durit the past week or so, have done somereat traveling, averaging fifteen miles a day; there is no telling how much they will cover before their ninety days-imprisonment is over.

In the meantime a great numb of youngsters, regardless of the gamt stake, and a great number of calculat ing grown-ups, are being delighteb by the continuous performance.

The window has been dressed to mek the bright-eyed little wild things el at home, oaks and pines and a se sandy ground, making the decepn perfect. To the crowds of visitors ty pay no attention, nuts and their iv game quite absorbing them.

But somebody in ninety days is go to draw a big prize because of the little travelers.

For one month's subscription to T Herald, a guess is allowed, for ty months, three guesses; three montl five guesses; six months, twel guesses, and for a year, thirty guesse will be allowed. The lucky guesse get an eleven hundred dollar lot.

New Pictures

Captain Lee placed a new picture i the chamber of commerce exhibit de partment yesterday. It is a large paint ing of Mt. Shasta, tastefully hung wit special consideration for light effects and as seen from the floor gives the visitor a good idea of the grandeur o the famous snow-capped peak. Below in the valley is a great field of bloom ing golden-rod. Across the room again the gallery rail is also displayed a pic ture of the Vernal falls of the Yosemite. Both pictures will be taken to the Lewi and Clark exposition at Portland, an hung in the California building.

In some German towns children ar allowed to travel free on the loca tramway cars if they are under a cert ain height, which is marked on th doors of the car.

CHECKS

Tailor—The suit speaks for self. Customer—But I don't like sh loud talk as that.

