The San Francisco Call

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THURSDAY.....MARCH 14, 1895

The people win.

Progress has the pull.

A word to the Governor—sign.

The day of the cinch has gone.

Monopoly has lost its cunning.

The push of the people is beginning to be felt.

There seems to be a new era just now in everything.

Probe the scandal to the bottom; turn the rascals out.

When honest men fall into line thieves will get their due.

We shall have the road and the road shall have the terminus.

Somebody has got hold of the hot end of the poker at Sacramento.

The ball that Biggy has started rolling may turn out to be an avalanche.

The competing road will improve not only the mud flats but the whole State.

It appears there was something worse than the useless attache in the woodpile.

There is still a chance for our Legislature to make the Indiana racket look small.

Now then, what kind of thing would a legislative investigating committee have been?

Some orators talk through their hats, but Biggy talked through the cap of the climax.

Colonel Mazuma must have had a feline heart as well as a cat-like tread, for he came back.

This time the charge of bribery must not be dropped in the waste-basket nor lost in the shuffle.

The storm center at Sacramento is almost fierce enough to make the golden eagle scream.

There is nothing on the inside of a silurian worth having, but it might pay to skin him for his hide.

There are black spots in some places, but fortunately they are mainly around the eyes of the monopoly.

Send the WEEKLY CALL to your Eastern friends and give them a comprehensive idea of the Pacific Coast.

If the competing road will help your business and improve your property, why don't you subscribe to it?

If you can do nothing else toward street improvement, you can at least talk for it and help formulate the demand.

There is so much harmony in the State now that all the Counties can sing in concert instead of doing the choir act.

Improving the streets will not only be a step in the right direction, but it will make it easier for every other step that is taken.

It is now evident we can invite the next Republican National Convention to come to San Francisco and see a progressive city.

The Legislature will not adjourn in a blaze of glory, but there will be blaze enough to roast a good many members of it.

Get the WEEKLY CALL that appears this morning and take a general review of the events of the last seven days all over the world.

Boom enterprises in the past were in the habit of lying around, but the business enterprises of the present spring up and go ahead.

Turning dreary mud flats into a solid foundation for industry and trade, will be a good symbol of the work which enterprise and progress are about to perform all over the State.

When you are denouncing the iniquity of the Legislature don't forget to do justice to those honest and fearless members who fought for the interests of the people and maintained the cause of justice.

The property-owner who, despite the fact that he will derive large profits from the competing road, refuses to subscribe to its stock, is a kind of sneak thief who enriches himself by picking the pockets of other men's enterprise.

The Madera *Mercury* is doing good work in rousing the people of that county to a comprehension of the importance of assisting the railroad enterprise and very justly says they cannot afford to lag while the rest of the valley is moving.

The Los Angeles *Herald* says: 'The San Francisco CALL 'expects Los Angeles to stand in with us on the competing road.' What! to Bakersfield?" Why, certainly. It is better to stand in than to sit down even at Bakersfield. Let Los Angeles meet us there and have a combination fiesta.

Senators Aram, Arms, Dunn, Hart, Henderson, Hoyt, Linder, Mahoney, McGowan, Mitchell, Orr, Seawell, Seymour, Shine, Simpson and Toner voted against the people in the interests of the monopoly on the San Joaquin terminal bill, and their constituents will either find out why they did it or indulge in a huge surmise.

The Del Norte *Record* calls attention to a curious eddy in the current of trade exhibited by the fact that "pickle roll butter which was shipped below last fall by some of the dairymen is now being shipped back again, as it can be sold here for more than it can be in San Francisco, after paying the cost of transportation both ways."

Reid of Trinity asserted in the Assembly on Tuesday that he had never talked at that time with any representative of the Southern Pacific in regard to the terminal bill. C. W. Cross, attorney for the Southern Pacific, is reported to have said the same evening at the Golden Eagle, that he talked with Reid on the subject that morning. Here there is one of those contradictions in life that perplex ingenuity, and we submit it as a mystery for clever people to explain.

BEFORE THE GOVERNOR.

Now that both branches of the Legislature have passed the bill authorizing the Harbor Commission to lease fifty acres of the mud flats of San Francisco to the San Joaquin Valley Railroad for terminal uses, the Governor's approval is all that remains to make the bill effective. While it is hardly conceivable that he will fail to approve the bill, it is well to consider the two objections which were raised in the recent discussions over it.

The first of these was that by reason of its general character either the valley road might secure a lease in the interest of the Southern Pacific Company or that any other railroad company (which means the Southern Pacific) might lease similar lands under its provisions. It would be difficult to imagine any proposition more farcical than that an enterprise started by capitalists for the sole purpose of breaking the chains which the Southern Pacific has fastened upon them should begin by assisting that monopoly in increasing its bondage over them. It is equally absurd to imagine that the Southern Pacific, which already owns many times the number of mud-flat acres required by the San Joaquin Valley road, should desire to lease more from the State at a heavy annual rental—especially in view of these facts: First, that its own lands are more convenient to its purposes; second, that these lands can be improved at far less expense than the State's; third, that improvements placed upon its own lands will belong to it for all time, whereas under this act of the Legislature they would have to be surrendered with the land at the end of fifty years. This assumed danger is not worthy of any serious consideration.

The other objection is that the act is unconstitutional. All other considerations laid aside for the present, it is clear that the Supreme Court, particularly in this case, is the only proper tribunal for passing upon the constitutionality of the act. It is altogether unlikely that the question will ever be raised in the courts, equally unlikely that the Supreme Court would declare the act unconstitutional if the question were brought before it, and certain that whoever would raise it must bear a most uncomfortable load of public odium. And it cannot be assumed that the men who have so much at stake in the matter, and who have declared that they are ready to proceed under the provisions of this act, have neglected any precautions in securing the best legal advice obtainable. If they are willing to take their chances on the constitutionality of the act, it would be ridiculous for any one else to make an objection.

Standing infinitely above all other considerations is the fact that the Legislature has passed the bill. For this act it deserves the most generous praise and the heartiest thanks. It cannot be doubted that the temptation to err was exceedingly strong; and while it is expected of every public officer that he will do his duty the history of California Legislatures has made it possible to be thankful for the performance of a simple act of fidelity. The CALL heartily congratulates the people of the State on this their first great victory over a formidable power that hitherto has been deemed invincible. It congratulates them on having as the champions of their liberty and the guardians of their prosperity men who have the courage to attempt and the ability to achieve so tremendous an undertaking.

This victory means not alone that a competing local railroad can have terminal facilities at San Francisco; not alone that the vast fertile plains of the San Joaquin may become densely populated with a happy and prosperous people who may keep for themselves a fair share of their earnings; not alone that thousands of unemployed men may have an opportunity to work for a living, and not alone that San Francisco may become what its natural advantages long ago might have made it—one of the greatest cities in the United States. Above and beyond all these things the victory means that the sleeping giant has been roused at last and is stretching his great limbs in the consciousness of a power that long ago might have been employed to burst asunder the flimsy walls of his prison.

THE BIRTH OF FELLOWSHIP.

The Los Angeles *Express* cheerfully agrees with the sentiment expressed by the CALL that "the interests of all parts of California are the interests of San Francisco." And, while it charges, perhaps with a sufficient foundation of truth to entitle its assertion at least to respectful attention, that "there is too much of the idea prevailing in San Francisco that it is the only place on this Coast," and "that she should no more be expected to interest herself in the rest of the State than a grown man would be expected to go out and play marbles on the street corner with a crowd of boys," it generously refrains from singing the old song of Southern California's superiority over the rest of the State, and expresses a desire for the prosperity of all parts of California.

It is true that a wise consideration of her own interests might years ago have made San Francisco more alert to the importance of lending her sympathy, enterprise and capital to all parts of the State. For her shortcomings in this regard she has suffered abundantly and justly, and in addition to this she has received due punishment and disgrace from neglect of her internal affairs.

But all this is past and gone. The first departure from the old order came when the Merchants' Association began to clean the streets and take pride in the appearance of the City, and then, feeling at last the great heart of the whole State pulsating in harmony with her own, she has stretched forth her arms and taken to her bosom that splendid garden through which the San Joaquin wends its shining way to the sea. Into these smiling plains will she now pour her hoarded millions, and be the benefactor that one is who makes a flower grow where none had grown before. Is not this a splendid evidence that San Francisco has awakened from a dreamless sleep and will nourish and fraternize with her sisters and children wherever they may be?

AN ELOQUENT QUARREL.

The suddenness with which the Senate yesterday disposed of the San Joaquin Valley terminal matter may or may not have been inspired by the scandalous disclosures of bribery which have been made in that dignified body. Still another chapter of the story was the exciting episode at the Golden Eagle Hotel Tuesday evening. That episode is valuable as showing unmistakably the source of all the opposition which has been brought to bear on the bill. In that affair C. W. Cross, an attorney and lobbyist for the Southern Pacific Company, permitted his zeal to overcome his discretion so far as to denounce the bill as a "steal." The effectual manner in which he was taken in hand and disposed of by Colonel Preston was fully set out in yesterday's CALL. If this incident is not sufficient to explain the earnestness which has been exhibited lately in efforts to show that the bill was "unconstitutional" or "in the interest of the Southern Pacific Company," we are far at sea in our knowledge of that sort of human nature which has the knack of disclosing itself at Sacramento. If the bill should be further assailed it is not permitted to us to exercise any extraordinary mental faculties in identifying the assailant.

THE "WEEKLY CALL."

The WEEKLY CALL is keeping pace with the Daily and many improvements have recently been made both in matter and make-up. It is a valuable publication to send to friends in the East, as it contains not only the most important items which appear in the daily, but also a summary of Pacific Coast events prepared especially for it.

This week's issue is a reflex of events at the State and National capital, as well as of happenings the world around.

Under the head of Agriculture and Horticulture will be found articles of practical value relating to these industries.

News from the gold mines of California, and, in fact, the entire Pacific Coast, will be found upon the page devoted to that interest.

The news of the coast will be found condensed under the head of Coast Review. Every county, every town and every industry receives attention as opportunity offers.

The fraternal world is photographed for the benefit of our readers, and the Query Column is an encyclopedia of information.

The household department contains recipes, fashion notes and information of value to the housewife.

A resume of the markets is given, which is reliable and up to date.

A feature just introduced is a collection of birth, marriage and death notices from all over the State.

The subscription price of the weekly is $1 50 per annum.

LAW NOT ANARCHY.

In commenting upon our opposition to the income tax, the Willows *Journal* says:

That usually well-balanced and conservative paper, the CALL, has recently become thoroughly anarchist and outlaw in some respects. It is engaged in inciting opposition to the law and the powers that be; and if that is not anarchy—aye, worse, treason—we do not know the meaning of the words.

Well, the *Journal* doesn't understand the meaning of words. Opposition to law through the medium of the courts is not anarchy, but a resort to means provided by the constitution for the protection of the people against the encroachments of Congress.

What would have been the condition of this country had there never been any one to dispute Congressional and legislative enactments and bring them to the test of the courts? The liberties of the American people are largely due to those who at their private cost and risk fight the battles of the public and appeal from legislative injustice to the abiding principles of the constitution. If the income tax is constitutional we will obey it, but we propose to test it before we do.

Although the Assembly has refused permission to San Francisco to throw a bridge across East street at the foot of Market, by the time that the new ferry building is completed another Legislature will be in office, when the subject may be reopened, perhaps with better results.

If there is no way to get the cobblestones off the streets we had better move the streets out of town.

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

One of the best acts of the State Legislature was the making of an appropriation to establish a forestry station on Mount Hamilton, in this county.—Mountain View Register.

The publication of railroad time-tables by the CALL is a good stroke of policy. Although it is published without price good returns will come from it by additional sales of the paper.—Berkeley Gazette.

A new hazing fraternity has been organizing at the State University. If the faculty would adopt the policy of publicly hazing the hazers this barbarous sport would soon be eliminated from college life.—San Jose Mercury.

Mrs. Dominis has been found guilty, and she will probably be presented with a ticket for America. If she comes, we ask, after she has taken a good look at California, that she go straight to Cleveland.—Santa Cruz Sentinel.

An item in yesterday's CALL contains a whole lesson in itself. It is as follows: "When you help your neighbor's business you put him in a position to help yours." Every man in Galt should paste this item in his hat, study it over carefully and profit by it.—Galt Gazette.

San Franciscans desire to tax by high license the quiet innocent flower-sellers that ply their vocations on the corners. Who says that San Francisco does not possess statesmen? Kick the flower-girl into the bay, but let the octopus ride you to death.—Porterville Enterprise.

The rumor that the proposed change in the time-table, so that the afternoon train will leave Sacramento half an hour later, is to enable San Francisco members of the Legislature to reach home after night, when the Legislature adjourns, lacks confirmation and is probably untrue.—Woodland Democrat.

Merced may get two roads out of the competing San Joaquin Valley proposition. Of course the line south from Stockton will touch Merced, and many believe that if a branch line should be built through the Santa Clara Valley and Pacheco Pass into the San Joaquin Valley it would come direct to Merced from Pacheco Pass.—Merced Sun.

Talk up your town. Don't run it down. If you do not like it leave it, but don't stay here and abuse it. As long as you choose to reside here you are a component part of the place, and are very foolish to seek your own disparagement. Talk up your town, write and speak in its praise and show yourself worthy of your home and your friends.—Marysville Appeal.

An editorial paragraph in the CALL contains a whole lesson in itself. It is as follows: "When you help your neighbor's business you put him in a position to help yours." The Telegraph says every one in Grass Valley should clip this out and place it in his hat, study and profit by it. Every business man in Truckee would do well by doing likewise.—Truckee Republican

Adventuresome young men who want to go on a polar expedition at small expense can strike out for the Western Kansas prairies and wrestle with the blizzards. True, they will not find the north pole, but polar expeditions never do that. They can get out of sight of human habitations, and freeze and starve, and thus have the same sort of fun they would enjoy in the Arctic regions.—Alameda Telegram.

The present Legislature has been reckless with the taxpayers' money, and the appropriations already provided for far exceed those of former years. Governor Budd has it in his power to give the people relief, as the law provides he can approve or reject any part of an appropriation bill, and it is hoped he may use his power discreetly when the appropriation bills come before him for consideration.—Bakersfield Democrat.

Manufacturers of pickles in California put foreign labels on the bottles "to make them sell." They say the pickles would not find a ready market at home if they were sold for what they are. The manufacturers probably speak from experience, for they would not be likely to discredit their own wares without strong reasons. It is no wonder, therefore, that California prunes are sold at home as French, and the olives as Spanish, when the consumers pay 200 per cent profit to those who fool them. If Californians would prefer California products they would save money and enable home producers to make money. The preference for foreign products offers a premium on dishonesty and retards home progress.—Stockton Independent.

TILLIE SALINGER TALKS SHOP.

When I look back at the first four years I spent on the stage they seem like a gorgeous, unreal dream. At that time, though, it seemed quite the natural thing to be singing for nizams and rajahs and all sorts of other serenities and highnesses.

I made my debut in Calcutta, and after that my father's company toured through India for two years, singing operas like the "Grand Duchess" and "Pinafore." Among other distinguished Europeans that we played before were the Duke and Duchess of Connaught. The most interesting part of our travels was when we strayed into native states and principalities. The Nizam of Hyderabad was very kind to us, and when the Gaikwar of Baroda was married he sent for our company to the palace to assist in the wedding festivities, which lasted a week.

What a gorgeous place that palace was! They had so crowded it with guests that latecomers had to live in tents. The word tent does not give any idea of the canvas pavilions and palaces that the Gaikwar had caused to be erected for his guests. They were all padded and hung with magnificent tapestries. Our feet sank into the carpets and cushions that covered the ground, and every necessity and luxury, even to beautiful baths, had been provided.

We were given six elephants to go about on to the races, bull-fights and other amusements that were provided for the guests, and a large sum of money was paid us for two performances in the hall of the palace, where the Gaakwar had a handsome stage set up.

Our audiences were composed entirely of wedding guests, and the bride, a very young girl, whose face was heavily veiled, sat in a

MISS TILLIE SALINGER.

box near the stage when we sang "Pinafore" and the "Pirates of Penzance."

Although we attended the wedding we never saw the bride's face. The ceremony took place in the palace and was the sort of scene one would imagine in the "Arabian Nights." Although it was daylight all the light that entered was colored, as if it had shone through a rainbow. The dresses and jewels of the distinguished people present were dazzling. The rites were very imposing, though they were in Hindostani, of course, but there were performances by dancing-girls, as well as strange, weird music made by tom-toms and other native instruments.

After leaving India we went to Burmah, and were in time to see something of the war—indeed, we were only a few miles from Mandalay when the King capitulated..

I have some very curious relics that were brought from the palace. One of them is an embroidered umbrella that the Princesses had used.

Penang and Hongkong were our next destinations, but the strangest adventure we met with happened in Japan.

A number of opera companies had privately advertised to play "The Mikado" there, but had always been threatened with imprisonment if they persisted in giving the performance, so the work had never been played. Well! we advertised it as "Three Little Maids from School," but of course the European and American colonies knew quite well what it was. The English Consul wanted to curry favor with the Emperor, so he represented that the opera was very disrespectful to the Mikado, and kept sending us letters saying that he would have us all arrested if we went on with it. The strangest thing was that the attorney who wrote the letters quietly told us to go ahead and play "The Mikado" in spite of the Consul.

Right up till 3 o'clock of the day advertised for the performance the Consul kept saying that he would arrest us. That afternoon a number of officials came down from the palace with a long document asking whether there was anything offensive to the Mikado in the opera. As we had changed the word "Mikado" to "King" and had not used the word "Japanese" in the libretto, my father signed the document with a clear conscience, but all the same there were a number of officials present at the performance, who watched every word, to see if it reflected on the Mikado.

The next morning the papers contained passages something like this: "If her Majesty's Consul had gone about the city as a sandwich man he could not have given a better advertisement for the Salinger Opera Company." And they must have been right, for we were able to double the prices all over the theater and pack the house for two nights, which is an unheard of thing in Tokio, where the white theater-going population is so small.

Tillie Salinger

PERSONAL.

H. R Bush of Suisun was at the Lick yesterday.

F. D. Chandler of Elmira was at the Lick last night.

W. G. Hickman of Georgetown is a guest at the Russ.

P. A. Buell, a lumberman of Stockton, is at the Grand.

J. B. Porter, a merchant of Salinas, is at the Occidental.

H. Gunnsey, a cattleman of Nevada, is registered at the Lick.

R. H. Willey, an attorny of Monterey, is registered at the Grand.

Dr. Elmer E. Stone of Marysville is at the California with his wife.

J. H. Flickinger, the San Jose fruitman, is registered at the Palace.

Thomas Dunican, a large cattle-owner of Empire, Nevada, is at the Russ.

J. L. Goss of the printing press company bearing his name is at the Palace.

Twelve Japanese students en route from Germany to their native land are at the Occidental.

General Wesley Merritt, U. S. A., is a guest at the Palace. His two daughters accompany him.

George F. Swift and Ed Morris, two of Chicago's most extensive meat-packers, are at the Palace.

Isaac Phero, superintendent of repairs in the Western Union telegraph office at Decatur, Ill., and wife are visiting the former's father, Captain J. H. Phero, of the Pacific Coast Steamship Company.

PEOPLE TALKED ABOUT.

The story is told of the late Professor Blackie that when he once put a card on the door of his lecture-room reading, "Professor Blackie will meet his classes at 1 P. M.," some waggish student obliterated the "c" in "classes." Happening to pass that way the old professor saw the change. Stepping up to the door he obliterated the letter "l" and went grimly on his way without a word.

Juan Dias Faes died recently in the province of Asturias, Spain. He was a man of herculean build and strength; a giant who with his bare fists was able to fight and subdue bears in the mountains. With one blow he once almost killed a famous English boxer, and his hunting adventures formed the basis of novels and melodramas.

Stephen B. Elkins, United States Senator-elect from West Virginia, is in the City of Mexico. He is accompanied by his family, and his trip has a commercial and perhaps political significance.

On his way to Japan Colonel John A. Cockerill broke one of his arms.

AROUND THE CORRIDORS.

Frank Butler, an ex-mail clerk, who spent many years in the postal service, but who now takes life easy on a little ranch which he owns in the southern part of the State, was at the Grand yesterday, and in discussing various phases of a mail clerk's experiences incidentally referred to a late order issued by the Postmaster-General revoking all railroad passes held by mail clerks except on the divisions on which they run while on duty. "This order also provides that all mail clerks must live on the line of the road or division on which they run," said Mr. Butler, "and this will do away with the system of deadheading from the place of residence to the towns between which the men run. Hitherto it has long been the custom for mail clerks to live where it best suited them. For instance, a mail clerk having a run from San Francisco into Nevada or to Ogden might live in Los Angeles, and his pass would have been good for a trip to his home at any time. For some time past new men who have made application to take the civil service examination have been obliged to make an agreement that they would live on the division of the road assigned to them as a run. The matter was brought before Congress some weeks ago, and that body repudiated the order of the Postmaster-General, and a bill was passed which explicitly stated that the postal clerks should not be compelled to take up their residence on the line of the road. In order to circumvent this law the order first mentioned has been issued by the Postmaster-General."

The force of clerks, private watchmen and other attaches of the Palace are required to be constantly on the alert to foil the efforts made every day by disreputable people who seek to gain access to the upper floors, loiter about the corridors or obtain the location of certain rooms in the great hotel building. The long passageway leading from Market street through to the rear of the edifice is, through the courtesy of the hotel management, open to the public, and is used by many persons who have business in the branch postoffice located in the rear. This privilege gives the "trailers," who seek the acquaintance of male guests. opportunities which the hotel detectives find it difficult at times to overcome. The hotel register is the object of solicitous attention from these social vampires. Frequently a well-dressed woman will accost a clerk with the inquiry "Will you kindly inform me what room Mr. So and So has?" An inflexible rule of the house prohibits giving out the numbers of rooms of guests to strangers, and the invariable answer to such a question is a suggestion that the inquirer send up a card. The clerks of the hotel look with suspicion upon all letters addressed to male guests in a feminine hand, and nine-tenths of the missives of this character are delivered to the guest over the counter instead of being sent to his room.

R. H. Logan, a gentleman who is largely interested in mining properties both in this State and Nevada, is at the Lick. He says that prospectors who are possessed of means are constantly looking for opportunities to undertake the development of any kind of mineral or vegetable deposit nowadays, and that gold and silver are not looked upon as the only promising treasures concealed in the bosom of mother earth. "In Lyon County, Nev.," said he, "there is a very extensive deposit of gypsum, which has been located and relocated time and again. Aside from a load or two taken out at intervals, however, it has never been worked until recently, but now several enterprising gentlemen have taken hold of the property and propose to see if there is not money in it. They have within the past few weeks shipped a couple of carloads of the gypsum to this city. It is used for stucco-work, sidewalks, etc., and is said to be the finest material of the kind to be found anywhere."

General Wesley Merritt, who is at the Palace with his two daughters, is a noted character in military circles. He is a graduate of West Point, and in 1882 was placed in command of that institution, where he remained until 1887. During the war he was conspicuous in a number of engagements. When General Stoneman made his celebrated raid toward Richmond in 1863 General Merritt, who was then a captain, bore a prominent part in the campaign. For gallant and meritorious services during the battle of Gettysburg he received promotion and in March, 1865, he was brevetted brigadier-general and major-general in the regular army for bravery at the battle of Five Forks and his services during the final Virginia campaign.

SUPPOSED TO BE HUMOROUS.

"Did you read about that man in Baltimore who swallowed his glass eye?" asked the youngest boarder.

"I did," replied the cheerful idiot. "And it does seem to me that he was carrying the modern weakness for introspection a trifle too far."—Indianapolis Journal.

Mrs. Jones—Charles has an unconquerable spirit.

Mrs. Smith—Indeed!

Mrs. Jones—Yes; he was two hours unlocking the front door early this morning.—Pick Me Up.

A girl whose first name is Merci is visiting in town. We would like to know what her name was before she began fooling with it.—Atchison Globe.

"My friend," said the solemn gentleman, "are you aware that even the heathen red Indian does not indulge in the pernicious practice of profanity?"

"I am," answered the man who had been trying to raise the car-window, "and I have no doubt that that is the reason the red man, when he gets mad, goes out and kills somebody."—Cincinnati Tribune.

"I should have you know, sir, that I am a Londoner, and was born in London."

"But I, sir, was born in Cork, and I am a Corker!"—Boston Globe.

Compensation—He—That's Mrs. Grimshaw, who lectures on bimetallism. I've heard her. How exasperatingly clever she seems to be!

She—Yes—but how consolingly ugly!—Punch.

In 1995—"You'll do just as I tell you," said the husband of the advanced woman.

"What?" shrieked his wife.

"I mean it!" said the husband. "I'd have you understand that I wear the skirts in this family."—Chicago Record.

"De great wisdom ob nature," said Uncle Eben, "am shown in the fac' dat de cullud gemman doan' hankah ahter terrapin, while de white gemman tuh'ns up he nose at possum."—Washington Star.

BACON Printing Company, 508 Clay street. *

CRYSTALLIZED ginger, 25c lb, Townsend's. *

CUR-IT-UP; heals wounds, burns and sores as if by magic; one application cures poison oak; it relieves pain and abates inflammation. *

THOSE WHO CONTEMPLATE BUILDING can do so advantageously to themselves by entrusting their building improvements to Jas. E. Wolfe, architect, Flood building. Specialties in flats.*

The great cable corporations and construction companies of the world own, all told, forty vessels, several of them over 4000 tons burden.

THE tortures of dyspepsia and sick headache, and the sufferings of scrofula, the agonizing itch and pain of salt rheum, the disagreeable symptoms of catarrh, are removed by Hood's Sarsaparilla.

"BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES" are unrivaled for relieving Coughs, Hoarseness and all Throat Troubles. Sold only in boxes.

MOTHERS give Dr. Siegert's Angostura Bitters to their children to stop colic and looseness of the bowels.

Correspondence, Milan ,February 19.

Let me try to describe what the theater of La Scala looked like last night at 8:45 when the Maestro Mascagni, the composer of "Cavalleria Rusticana," raised his baton to conduct the first performance of his new opera, "William Ratcliff."

Up, up so far away that the people seemed dwarfed, and right down to the vast stage itself, the eye wandered almost stupefied over the aristocratic crowd, a mass of blue and crimson, pink and azure silks, ribbons, laces and feathery embroideries, a stupendous color

MASCAGNI.

symphony, in fact, that made the six vast tiers of boxes look like flower beds in May, where the glitter of diamonds might have passed for morning dew. Perhaps we shall again see a theater as splendid as that of yesterday, but never one more splendid.

After seeing the opera we are still asking ourselves, What is there in Scotland so mysteriously romantic as to have given to literature Heine's "William Ratcliff" and to music Mascagni's triumphant notes? Mattei's translation of Heine's story is a masterpiece, though I can only give you a summary of the libretto:

Earl Douglas is betrothed to Mary McGregor and her father blesses the youthful couple, who kneel before him, while in a corner an old nurse, cataleptic and half crazy, sings: "Why is thy sword red with blood? Edward, Edward!" No one knows what the mysterious words mean, and Douglas does not heed them, being too much occupied in telling Mary how, in riding madly over valleys and mountains to reach her an hour earlier, he had been attacked by highwaymen, but rescued by an unknown knight. On hearing this Mary faints, and the old nurse helps her to her chamber. "Why," exclaims Douglas, "does Mary tremble at a danger that is past?" Then McGregor narrates the following brief and terrible story:

"A youth, William Ratcliff, whose father was my friend, courted Mary, but as she would have none of him he departed. After seven moons she was about to marry Macdonald, but on the wedding day the bridegroom came not. We sought him and found his corpse in a pond at the foot of the Black Stone. In the night an intruder stole into Mary's chamber and tore from her finger the wedding-ring—that intruder was William Ratcliff. Again Mary was asked in marriage by the powerful Duncan; I consented and the wedding veil once more crowned my daughter's blonde head—alas! the second bridegroom came not and his corpse was lying by the Black Stone. Once more the murdered groom's ring was torn from Mary's trembling fingers by William Ratcliff."

The lugubrious story ends and at that moment a messenger arrives to remind Douglas of an appointment at the Black Stone. He answers, "I will go."

The scene changes to where Ratcliff is in a lurid tavern, surrounded by bandits. The innkeeper's child is trying to recite his paternoster, but he can never succeed in pronouncing the phrase: ("Non lasciarci tentar del male") "Let not evil tempt us"; and Ratcliff also tries in vain to say the words. Here begins the psychological treatment of Ratcliff, which reflects the mind of the great German poet. The hero's poor, passionate soul is chained to evil, because a fatal heredity keeps it from good. "Fatality!" is the word that colors it and the whole opera.

The second act keeps up the psychological study of Ratcliff, particularly where he narrates to his friend Lesley the dark dreams of his youth: "I saw in the night two phantoms chained together, but never touching one another. In one I could recognize myself, in the other McGregor's daughter. How I loved her, but now the white phantom has cursed my life." Then delirium seizes Ratcliff's brain and he exclaims: "Duncan! Macdonald! and to-night Douglas."

The third act takes place at the Black Stone. A terrible tempest is raging and amid the shrieking of the elements Douglas arrives and in the darkness distinguishes the voice of Ratcliff—that of the generous unknown who had saved him from the bandits. "We are friends," says Douglas. "No," replies the other, "for my name is Ratcliff." The two knights fight and the doughty bandit is vanquished, Douglas conceding him his life.

Only the inspiration of Heine's own words could give you the fervor and the delirium of Ratcliff's monologue—alone in the tempest of the elements and of his own heart. He curses the world and every living thing, crying aloud that Mary must be sacrificed to his passion for revenge.

The scene changes to where Mary, in her wedding-dress, is about to enter the chapel to be married. The old nurse tells her a piece of family history which explains the meaning of her weird song — Ratcliff's father, Edward, was murdered by McGregor in a fit of jealousy, because, years before, he and Mary's mother had been engaged. At this moment Ratcliff enters, and Mary, touched with love for him, binds up his wounds with her wedding-veil. "Let us fly," cries Ratcliff, but as old Margaret breaks again into her song of "Edward, Edward," delirium seizes him, and, stabbing Mary to death, he shoots himself. The drama is finished, and the two phantoms, so long linked together by destiny, are at last united in the cold kiss of death.

The curtain rises on the opera of "Ratcliff" without an overture, or rather the symphonic introduction sounds as the curtain rises—the mute and cold audience suddenly becoming electrified as Douglas narrates his meeting with the bandits. The sweet phrase in which the nurse comforts Mary when she faints caused a call for the author.

In the second act the child's paternoster caused an outburst of well-deserved enthusiasm, for the prayer is beautiful, powerful and original. Ratcliff's vigorous account of his dreams also earned calls for the composer. A marvelous effectiveness is added to his narration by the far-off arpeggios of a pastorale, mingled with the sound of a church bell, ringing vespers.

In the duet scene of the third act, the orchestra has a magnificent intermezzo between the snatches of Ratcliff's long monologue. In fact the orchestra replies to all the unfortunate hero's outbursts of passion and delirium. The scene was so persistently encored that it had to be repeated. This act was the one that most interested the public and that brought Mascagni the triumph of apotheosis. (By the way, in the hour of triumph the composer's wife was so overcome with emotion that she fainted and had to be carried out of her box.)

It was difficult to judge the fourth act as Mme. Vidal, who was to have played the nurse, was ill, and her part was taken at short notice by Mme. Rogers, who had not had time to learn all the long and difficult role. It is stated, however, that the part is magnificent. The fourth act conquered—if one can use the expression for an audience already conquered—universal favor, with the brilliant gavotte heard in the distance, to celebrate the wedding of Mary and Douglas. The final duet between Ratcliff and Mary touched the souls of the most unfeeling—it is music that makes one vibrate and shiver, the sweet and passionate concentration of the whole drama of love and death. To me it seemed that in the phrase,

Se cheto stai,
Si, negli occhi ti bacio,

One felt the violins render the music of that coveted kiss and the infinite delight that the touch of Mary's adored lips shed in the soul of the fierce and miserable Ratcliff. The last act ended amid frantic applause and calls for the author.

Was Mascagni's latest work a success? Yes, indubitably a grand success, although perhaps not so colossal as certain Milanese papers would have us believe. The critics are unanimous in stating that "Ratcliff" confirms Mascagni's title to be considered a great composer. It is a step, a big step, forward—so say the critics—one of the brightest pages in contemporaneous musical history. Above all, Mascagni is praised for his artistic taste in the choice of a libretto. A poem written with rhymed sevenths and sliding verses would have offered him easier musical triumphs, but Mascagni, who is an artist in the true conception of the word, grasped all the profound beauty of the tragedy and, defying its difficulties, vanquished them. The secret of the composer of "Ratcliff's" success is to feel intensely the poet's conception, the spirit of the characters and the grandeur of the situations. He shows his feeling in his music and makes the public feel with him.

The music of "Ratcliff" is a picture and a drama in itself—powerful in its strength and its suggestiveness. Its success has also been great, although the splendid execution of all the performers (it is sufficient to name Di Negri and Sthele) may have contributed to the triumph. Still we all cherish a high, a deserved homage for the maestro who has taken another step toward the luminous summit of musical art.—Translated from the Italian for the CALL.

HOLMES REPLIES.

The Chief Engineer of the Harbor Commission Explains.

To the Editor of the Call—SIR: The history of the description of the only available land in the China Basin is as follows: Sunday evening while at dinner I received a dispatch: "Come to Sacramento at 7 P. M. Bring maps of water front and China Basin. Meet Governor in the morning." All of which I complied with. My description was at the request and according to the instructions of the Governor and Senator Gleaves. I received no telegram from Mr. Reid and did not see his bill or its amendments. I met Mr. Reid for the first time in the Governor's office, and my description was filled in on a blank with the headlines that pertain to State property. From the Governor's office I went directly to the train. I have at no time been in the employ of the Southern Pacific Company in any capacity. On the other hand some of the largest and most active subscribers of the valley road are personal friends and clients of mine, viz: J. B. Stetson, Thomas Magee, Robert Watt, Alfred Borel and Captain Payson. I desire to call attention to the Sunday CALL's article on the valley road looking for a foothold on the water front. Furthermore, I merely acted as any surveyor or engineer would be compelled to do in giving the description required by Governor Budd.

HOWARD C. HOLMES,
Chief Engineer Harbor Commission.

The Cadmus Election.

The Cadmus Gold Mining Company at its annual meeting yesterday elected the following officers: Charles Stepp, president; J. M. Harper, vice-president; A. Goetz, treasurer, and Adolph H. Weber and George Joos the additional directors. A. Rapp was elected secretary and Charles Kohl superintendent.

AUCTION SALKS.

AUCTION

—BY—

VON RHEIN & CO.,

THURSDAY, MARCH 14,

At 12 o'clock M. sharp,

513 California Street.

Large Post-st. Cor.---Rent $200

87:6x87:6, SE. cor. Post and Buchanan.

With two stores and two 10-room residences on Post and flats and dwellings on Buchanan.

SECOND AVENUE.

CLEMENT ST. — CAL. ST. SO.

18 1st-ave Lots
1-2 Cash.

14 LOTS 25x120 — 4 LOTS 25x115

SUTRO R. R. — FIRST AVE.

Sacramento-St. Corner.
22x87:6; 1329 Sacramento st., SE. cor. Golden court, bet. Jones and Leavenworth sts.; 9 rooms and bath.

Ridley-st. cor. Flats—Rents $71.
25x75; 114-110½ Ridley st., NW. cor. of Elgin Park; 3 new bay-window flats; rents $71; sold to close an estate.

Pine st., near Powell.
23x69; 737 Pine st., E. of Powell, through to Felix place; 2-story house; 10 rooms; good renting locality; bank mortgage $3000.

Green-st. Corner.
420 Green st.; 20x57:6; cor. of Lafayette, bet. Kearny and Dupont; 2-story and basement house; rents $35.

Cor. Hayes and Webster—Rents $100.
800 Hayes st.; 25:2x100; NW. cor. of Hayes and Webster; new 3-story bay-window house, store and flats; rented low at $100.

Filbert-st. Residence.
22x137:6; 1216 Filbert st., W. of Hyde; brick foundation; 6 rooms and bath.

John st., off Mason—Rents $39.
22x61; 15 John st., off Mason, bet. Pacific and Jackson; 3 flats; rents $39; tenants been in the house four years.

Clay-st. cor. Residence.
27:6x100; SE. cor. of Clay and Broderick sts.; modern residence; 6 rooms, bath, etc.

Stanyan st., S. of Grattan.
2 lots; frontage 25 and 55, depth irregular, being lots 1 and 2 of Sutro Tract, as sold in 1893; completely sheltered; climate like Los Angeles.

Howard st., bet. 5th and 6th.
22:6x80; 920 Howard st., bet. 5th and 6th; front and rear house; rent nominal; $20.

Geary-st. Cottage, Stable, etc.
25x120; 2815 Geary st., 160 feet W. of Masonic ave.; 6-room cottage, basement, stable.

Van Ness ave., N. of Francisco.
25x123: W. line of Van Ness ave., 37:6 N. of Francisco; street-grading completed.

Jackson-st. Residence.
25x68:9; 1012 Jackson st., above Mason; 9 rooms and bath; rent greatly reduced; now $32.