



CHARLES M. SHORTRIDGE, Editor and Proprietor.

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THE SUMMER MONTHS. Are you going to the country on a vacation?

FRIDAY, JULY 26, 1895

THE CALL SPEAKS FOR ALL.

An honest public officer is the noblest gift of politics.

It is only the knave that finds rascality more profitable than honesty.

It would be hard to find a political party willing to father the Solid Eight.

We cannot condemn the Solid Eight without confessing that we elected them.

There are many of us who want somebody else to be progressive in a public sense.

Wages are advancing, but they are still a long way below the standard of Republican years.

The best test of citizenship is the application of private business rules to the conduct of public affairs.

Let it be hoped that to-day's hanging at San Quentin will be regarded as a rebuke both to crime and folly.

While we are blaming the Solid Eight so vigorously we should not forget the strength of Folsom and San Quentin.

The reprieve to which Fredericks, in the exercise of the eternal scheme of justice, is entitled, will come to-day at the end of a rope.

As the spirit of Americanism is opposed to a third term of any President, the Cleveland administration is naturally in favor of it.

He is a hardy citizen who is willing to brave the prevalent spirit of indifference and make a fight for a people careless of its own interests.

The California display at the Atlanta Exposition should be sufficiently inviting to induce thousands of people to come here and be captivated.

Up to date Olney's foreign policy has confined its vigor to an attempt to suppress American sympathy with the struggle for Cuban independence.

The fame of the coming school of instruction at Camp Roache has already reached the East, and Southern granges are talking of imitating the example.

Every successful advance made by the Market-street Railway Company in its dealings with the Solid Eight is an encouragement to political adventurers.

Unless something is done for the promotion and encouragement of the American merchant marine we may be stripped on the seas by a little country like Japan.

Whatever may be the influences directing the conduct of the Solid Eight, we must not forget either that we elected them or that we have the power to punish them.

If it be true that the new members of the Board of Health have been offered bribes for positions they ought to name the bribers and get positions for them in the penitentiary.

The pretty girls coming back from the mountains or the seashore only remind us by their yellowed complexion that wherever the sunshine of California falls it produces gold.

Hoke Smith's campaign for the gold standard in Georgia has been a little bit complicated by the republication of a letter from him a few years ago declaring for free silver coinage.

The new woman may find an opportunity for the exercise of her beneficent influence in an endeavor to prevent women from loading Durrant with flowers and traveling 800 miles to see him.

The easiest way of slipping through life may be without discovering that there are people on every hand digging pitfalls for our self-respect, but it is hard to imagine a soul falling into these traps finding very wide views hereafter.

In offering the Valley road a choice of five sites, Fresno shows she has a full hand for enterprise. In matters of business Fresno may be even described as holding four aces and the joker.

Judge Sanderson's instruction to the Grand Jury, "Your duty is to act rather than to criticize, and if you see any wrong exists you ought to indict instead of writing your opinions," is good law, good sense, and, if carried out, will have good results.

That private or corporate interest which appears to enjoy the largest share of public benefits which a local governing board can strain its power to grant must be either mesmerizing the officials who confer the privilege or, like Joshua, effecting the retroversion of ordinary forces by means unknown to economics.

In devising a scheme to sell a valuable franchise to the Market-street Railway Company for \$500 the Supervisors combine has wronged the taxpayers and practically robbed the City of a considerable revenue. Fortunately, however, the scheme involves a violation of law that works a forfeiture of office, and the people, therefore, may get a profit out of it after all.

A SHAMELESS DEAL.

Let us assume that a wealthy citizen owned a very large and populous region, cut by highways, over which the privilege of running street railways for the benefit of his tenants would be very valuable and should bring the owner a handsome revenue.

If he discovers that his agents have discriminated among applicants for the privilege of running streetcar lines over the highways; that in one case an applicant is charged \$6100 for one such privilege and another only \$500 for one equally or more valuable; that although in the case of the applicant who paid the larger sum an additional fixed charge of a certain percentage on his earnings had been made a part of the contract, in the other case there was no such stipulation; that a certain applicant was invariably favored by the others, not only in the extent of granting it such privileges, but also with the accompaniment of a charge less than one-tenth of that levied upon other applicants—the private owner should see all these things he would instantly infer that his agents were diverting to their own pockets the revenues to which he is entitled, that he has been defrauded, betrayed and deceived, and that in a wise protection of his interests a felony prosecution against his unfaithful servants is necessary.

MR. ASHWORTH AGREES.

Several times within the last few months THE CALL has clearly expressed its disapproval with Street Superintendent Ashworth's course in antagonizing the popular movement for an honest and faithful performance of official duties. It had always seemed improbable that a man of his shrewdness and high character should not only have failed to observe that no antagonism could repress this oncoming wave of right conduct, but should apparently have been blind to the fact that whatever were the motives of his conduct they could be construed only as having an inspiration of sympathy with the evil things that have cast a shadow upon the name and prospects of the City.

It is therefore exceedingly gratifying to learn that he has placed himself in line with decency and reform, and that he has announced to the Mayor his willingness to open his books to inspection and to cooperate in the movement for securing an honest administration of the affairs of his department. It would be both unfair and unkind to doubt his sincerity. Time will determine these things. Meanwhile we may be sure that Mayor Sutro, the minority of the Board of Supervisors, the Civic Federation and the Merchants' Association will relax nothing of their vigilance, and that Mr. Ashworth will be held as strictly accountable hereafter as formerly.

In his case it has been always a question of judgment rather than of integrity. While the openest scandals were bruited concerning streetwork under his supervision, he angrily resented the decent, honorable and manly assistance that good citizens offered him. He proposed to conduct his department to suit himself, keeping in mind his obligations to the public and to his bondsmen. He thus placed himself in a light that all but ruined him.

When he comes to the end of his term he will not only have to answer for his dishonest or negligent, or that he fears a ruinous prosecution. Whatever it may mean from his point of view, it clearly means from that of the people that a wise public officer will not deliberately antagonize the forces which are making for decency in the conduct of our municipal affairs, and that his honesty and intelligence may be measured by his respect for and co-operation with the irrepresible sentiment that is now moving our people.

GRAND JURY DUTY.

Judge Sanderson has given the new Grand Jury excellent, important and timely advice in saying to them: "Grand Jury reports are not contemplated by the law. Your duty as a Grand Jury is to act rather than to criticize, and if you see that any wrong exists you ought to indict, instead of writing your opinions. If the Grand Jury has no opportunity to act it should not report, and remain silent. The members of the Grand Jury are like private citizens, for whatever they say or write, and they ought to use discretion."

This counsel touches one of the practices of recent Grand Juries which have gone so far to make the system unpopular, offensive to justice and ineffective for good purposes. When a Grand Jury after secret investigation, on testimony often one-sided and frequently malicious, makes a report dealing in criticism and condemnation here, there and everywhere, but fails to back up its censure by indictments, the people naturally have little confidence in the statements of the report and pay no attention to its recommendations. As a result, we have had from our Grand Juries all the evils of inquisitorial star chambers without any benefit whatever.

If the rule laid down by Judge Sanderson is followed by the new jury we may reasonably expect a diminution of the evils which have so frequently attended the proceedings of such bodies, and gain a large increase of good. To act and not to criticize is a good rule of conduct for everybody. It is particularly so for those who are intrusted under our law with the extraordinary powers of grand jurors. Less scolding and more indictments may go far to redeem the reputation of the system. The new Grand Jury, therefore, has an opportunity to distinguish itself. There are plenty of evils in San Francisco to be redressed, and if the jurors will give their attention to cases where indictments can be found against guilty officials and will find such indictments instead of scattering their condemnations around the land, they will render good service to the public and achieve no little honor in their office.

NAME THE RASCALS.

Some of the members of the new Board of Health state they have been approached by office-seekers with offers of money if they would pledge themselves to make certain appointments. The members of the board have, of course, repulsed all applicants of this kind and there will be no suspicion among intelligent men that any of their appointments have been determined by any benefit of the brain.

All this is well enough, but the question arises whether in repelling the would-be bribers the members of the board have done their whole duty to the law and to society. There will never be an end to corruption in politics until the whole corrupting element has been uncovered and exposed. The men who approached the Board of

Health are very likely in affiliation with the bigger bribers who carry through greater schemes than that of obtaining subordinate offices. By bringing them within the reach of the law, therefore, we may get evidence against more dangerous and more insidious rascals. There is a widespread opinion that if the trail of bribery were followed up closely at this time we might be able to have street railway franchises sold to the highest bidder instead of being sneakily conveyed to a wealthy corporation for practically nothing.

The movement for reform at this time is certainly strong enough to assure public support to any man who will make an earnest effort to defeat corruption by exposing its agents. If any member of the Board of Health has sufficient evidence to convict a would-be briber he should begin proceedings against him at once. The time has come to substitute action for protests all along the line and make the campaign for honesty and law with the aggressiveness of men who are resolved to win it.

PERSONAL.

Adjutant-General A. W. Barrett is at the Call.

J. M. Fulwider, an attorney of Auburn, is a guest at the Call.

A. V. La Motte, a vineyardist of Sonoma, is a guest at the Grand.

M. M. Gregg, a rancher of Monterey County, is staying at the Call.

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Charles A. Dana, editor of the New York Sun, and Mrs. Dana, sailed for Europe a few days ago on the St. Louis. They will spend the summer in Holland and in the highlands of Scotland, and will return to New York about October 1.

OUT-OF-TOWN PERSONALS.

Santa Rosa, Cal., July 25.—Musicals are becoming one of the most popular as they are one of the most delightful features in the social world of Santa Rosa. There was a large gathering of friends at Mrs. Dr. Wright's residence on McQuinn avenue this afternoon.

Her parlors are large, and quite the thing for an afternoon tea and musicale, and the arrangements and surroundings are delightful. A constant stream of visitors came and went from 3 until 6 o'clock. Tea was served, and an excellent musical programme was furnished.

The programme of exercises contained a number of classical selections and these were rendered with an expression that demonstrated the ability of the musicians to interpret the works of the masters which were attempted.

The hearty applause of the audience, composed as it was of many capable musical critics, showed how well the music was presented and how much the hearers enjoyed it. The programme included the following numbers: Piano solo, Mendelssohn's Rondo Capriccioso; Miss Edith McDonald; song, "Ah, 'Tis a Breeze"; Spandling; song, "Call Me Back"; Miss Carrie Farmer; piano solo from Beethoven; Mrs. J. P. Berry; song, "A Winter's Lullaby"; Miss Florence Knicker; piano duet, Misses Edith Brooks and Hattie Austin; flute solo, A. B. Swain; song, "Dear Heart"; Miss Clara Hahn; violin solo, Miss George Stewart; song, "Good-bye, Sweetheart"; Will Falconer; piano solo, Frank Dana; piano solo, "Norwegian Huldre Procession"; Miss Frances Phelps; Miss Mace; Mrs. Ware and Mrs. C. A. Wright; dictated as accompaniment.

New York, N. Y., July 25.—The Californians registered at hotels to-day were: San Francisco—J. W. Flynn, St. Cloud; A. L. Mason, C. B. Thomson, Astor; S. Gladden, Cosmopolitan; H. J. Maxwell, Grand; Mr. Suter, J. H. Wise, Belvidere; Mrs. Cate, Bartholdi; Mrs. Dunk, House, Gilsey; Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Gerrish, Union Square; H. Parker, Brunswick; A. J. Mace, Albert. Los Angeles—Mrs. and Miss Mueller.

THE DURRANT CASES.

It being likely that the Durrant murder cases will be tried in this City, it becomes advisable to discuss their bearing on the morality of the community and the way in which the proceedings should be reported by newspapers appreciating their responsibility. It is advisable, in the first place, by reason of the peculiar circumstances of the crimes and the lessons which an understanding of them should convey to heedless mothers and ignorant daughters, that the essential developments of the trial should be published where that may be done in common decency.

In its treatment of the Durrant cases THE CALL will present every iota of the news that in wisdom and propriety may be put into type. It will neither expand nor pad, and will in no sense try to be either a panderer or an advocate. If there are among us those of the imaginative kind who crave the unwholesome stimulus which adroit and unscrupulous journalism could impart to a report of such a trial, they must seek their indulgence in some source other than THE CALL, and their mental and moral companionship elsewhere than among its readers. If any phase of the trial deserves a column we will give it that much space and no more; if a page be re-

AROUND THE CORRIDORS.

"There are several kinds of type-writers," said Attorney Hegerty to a friend in the Occidental yesterday. "I do not refer to the machine, but to the operator. As a matter of fact there is at the present time in these United States a race of type-writing operators who are more distinct in their peculiarities and more unusual in their beliefs than any other class of professional people living."

"Well, for instance, state your case just as it strikes you, Mr. Hegerty. I have no doubt your conclusions are the result of close study. What would be better still would be to describe the kinds of type-writers you have in mind."

"I will," exclaimed the lawyer, inserting his hands in his pockets and putting on a contented smile. "We will begin with the girl who comes in with a satisfied air in answer to an advertisement and declares that she is the best operator in the City. More than that, she is the best in the State and has taken testimony right from a man's lips for four hours at a time."

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JUDGE ROSS' DECISION.

One effect of Judge Ross' decision will be to stop, at least temporarily, all projects for reclaiming dry lands in this State by means of irrigation on an extensive scale, and another effect will be to revive the doubt, suspense and animosities that characterized the discussion of the water problem several years ago. It is singular that a question of such almost vital importance to California has not yet been definitely settled. But as Surveyor-General Green said Tuesday in an interview with THE CALL, "Here we are at the end of nearly a half a century of struggle with the question in a worse mood than it was when the miners in the fifties found it necessary to make their own laws regulating the use of water. It looks as if the American people, with all their boasted intelligence, must admit that while they have an element worth hundreds of millions of dollars annually, an element on the proper handling of which the very life of the State depends, they are incapable of making a law for handling it."

It is possible, too, that the decision may affect the district drainage law, in which case this county will be directly interested. Taken altogether this decision is a most unfortunate one, and should it be sustained many sections of the State will be set back ten years with no immediate prospect of relief.—San Jose Mercury.

The question that has been raised as to the constitutionality of the Wright irrigation law is of interest to many of our people as foreign bond-buyers. Locally we are interested, because Sunset district warrants on a large amount to be held by many of our citizens, who have received them in payment for services rendered, and they are not financially able to sustain the loss that the invalidation of the warrants would entail. Without doubt the case decided by Judge Ross will be appealed, and be considered by the Supreme Court next fall in connection with the case taken up from the Modesto irrigation district. Judge Ross' decision does not apply to Sunset irrigation district anyway, as the proceedings of this organization have been confirmed in the Superior Court of this county, and it is held that the unconstitutionality of the Wright law would have no effect in such cases.—Selma Irrigator.

It is stated that the Ross decision invalidates the \$25,000,000 bonds of the irrigation districts in which confirmation proceedings have not been taken. The total amount of bonds reported by the United States District Court, said to exceed \$50,000,000, and they are held by American and European investors. The decision, if confirmed by the United States Supreme Court, will prove a most unfortunate one for the people of those localities in which irrigation has been authorized by the law. The numerous lawsuits that followed the organization of districts have delayed work and caused much expense to the people included in their limits. The fact seems to be that the Wright law is full of defects, and very little, if any effort, has been made to remedy them. It allows extravagance and jobbery, both of which have characterized the proceedings in some of the districts if newspaper reports be true.—Stockton Mail.

Seeing that the law in question has been many times before the California Supreme Court and has been sustained by a unanimous vote every time, it is rather more than probable that Judge Ross of the United States District Court has erred and has rendered a decision which will not be affirmed by the United States Supreme Court. Judge Ross was on the bench of the California court ten years ago, and although he was recognized as a good judge, he did not show any special aptness as an expert on an extent to lead any one to believe that in this matter he must be right and all the others wrong. As Senator Nesmith used to say, the United States Supreme Court is the tribunal which has the last word in a case, and we predict that it will give the Wright act a constitutional—Oakland Enquirer.

Judge Ross of the United States Circuit Court at Los Angeles has decided that the Wright irrigation law is unconstitutional. The decision appears, however, that this decision will not invalidate those districts whose organization has been approved by the State courts, only affecting those which have not been so approved. Included in the former is the Folsom district, in this county, which is now approaching successful completion. It is to be hoped that this view is correct, as the district named promises to be a large factor in the development of a promising portion of the county which has been kept in the background because of the lack of water—a lack which could only be supplied by the district plan.—Bakersfield Californian.

The decision of Judge Ross that the Wright act is unconstitutional does not necessarily destroy the validity of all the bonds issued under the act, because in those cases where the courts have confirmed the formation of the corporations and their proceedings another question is raised, which the decision of Judge Ross in this matter does not touch. The case will be appealed at once to the Supreme Court, from which a decision is hardly to be expected for several years; meantime the effect of the present decision will be to prevent any more irrigation districts being formed under the law. The amount of water which is now available in the securities of these irrigation districts is estimated at \$75,000,000.—Los Angeles Express.

Faith in the wedding of land and water and growing confidence in the law was gradually building up the State, and Eastern capitalists were beginning to take hold of the securities offered. Under this law, with many others, the Ferris and Alessandro districts came into existence, and their bonds are outstanding, many of them being among the assets of the Bear Valley Company at the time of its failure. What the decision will result in, so far as these districts or the Bear Valley Company is concerned, is not now to be told, but sure it is that the decision will be read all over the State with the utmost interest.—Redlands Facts.

Judge Ross' decision declaring the Wright irrigation law unconstitutional affects bonds to the amount of \$19,000,000. The majority of these bonds, however, are still in the possession of the districts, though a large amount is held in Switzerland. The money expended by some of the districts, like the Sunset for instance, will prove a dead loss to those holding the indebtedness. Those holding bonds of any of the districts will be put to their wits' ends to secure anything on them. Of course the case is not ended yet. It will be taken to the Court of Appeals, and from there to the United States Supreme Court.—Hanford Democrat.

In view of the many decisions of the State courts upholding the validity of the Wright irrigation law, the decision of Judge Ross declaring its unconstitutionality on the ground that the property acquired under the law is not for public purposes is extremely surprising. It raises a question that was believed to be permanently settled; and not only that, but it appears to cut the ground from under the public spirit of the State.—Redlands Facts.

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"That's a grave mistake," said the editor. "He should not die before the reader does. I've heard of three men who actually finish your book before they gave in."—Atlanta Constitution.

UP TO DATE JOKES.

Mrs. Boardman—And what does it come to? Mrs. Clevers—Eight pounds, m'am, at 5 cents a pound. Eight eight and 88; take it for 80 cents.—Philadelphia Times.

Ella—Miss Ballard has a remarkably sweet voice.

Warburton—She ought to have. It has cost me about sixty pounds of chocolates in the past six months.—Boston Mail.

Housekeeper—You think you can do the moving in five loads?

Mover—Yes'm. That is, it will be five regular loads, but I s'pose there'll be two or three extra loads to take the things the teamsters forget.—New York Weekly.

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THE BIBLE IN JOURNALISM.

Editor Dana of the New York Sun has always held the Bible as the highest authority in literature, and the Troy (N. Y.) Telegram, a grammatical accuracy he has often claimed superiority over every other work, and he has administered many a stern rebuke to the presumption which ventured to call in question its perfect correctness. In the recent address he has given by an unmistakable sign his reverence for the sacred volume.