The San Francisco Call

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THE CALL SPEAKS FOR ALL.

All right, President Jordan, "Bionomics" goes.

Whenever monopoly assumes anything it assumes too much.

To enjoy the Olympics hereafter one must be an Olympian.

Politicians will please catch on to the "bionomics" of reform.

Modern business needs high buildings and high buildings it must have.

If Chicago turns her attention to developing South Africa who will free Cuba?

Perhaps Mr. Huntington has concluded that the Railroad Commission is another toy.

In Democratic factions there is always the consistency of two lumps of the same mud.

If the law of California has a strong hand the place to play it is in Round Valley.

Mr. Buckley has perhaps forgotten that Napoleon returned just in time to be present at Waterloo.

The Episcopal convention has about as many nuts to crack as anybody, and they are not chestnuts, either.

The fellows who were so eager to tinker with the tariff a few years ago are not even willing to talk about it now.

We furnish the heiress and England furnishes the Duke, but France furnishes the milliners and will get the trade.

The average boss sincerely believes he has no hand in politics, so long as he has not got one in the City treasury.

We are surely right in thinking that prospects are clearing up since we can see another railroad coming our way.

The cut in freight rates at Denver may be cited as another illustration that when railroads fall out just men get their dues.

Every successive season brings us nearer to the London fruit market, and when we get close enough to reach it well it will be ours.

The principal feature of the much-discussed bull-fight at Atlanta turns out to be a trick bull, and for the fighters it is no trick at all.

If Gorman could only get Baltimore's baseball team to travel with him there is no doubt every voter in the State would follow him.

The Marlborough and Vanderbilt wedding will get out of the way by the middle of November and then we can have Thanksgiving.

The line of defense for Democracy next year will probably be an attempt to prove an alibi for the party during the Cleveland administration.

The Sacramento Valley editors have outlined a programme of work big enough to furnish them with editorial subjects for ten years to come.

The Southern Pacific of Kentucky may assume to ignore the Railroad Commission of California, but the law knows which of the two to respect.

It is a proof of the rapidity with which the Valley road is going forward that every day is furnishing new items of interest in the way of its progress.

It will be a heavy strain on even a Democratic conscience to point with pride next year to a tariff they denounced as perfidy and dishonor last year.

It is believed in some quarters that Corbett and Fitzsimmons may be able to find a hole in the Texas law big enough to punch one another through.

The difference between the technology of science and the slang of the streets is only the difference in the time it takes people to learn what it means.

If it be true that Chicago is in danger of being affected by the South African intoxication her capitalists had better come to California and get the genuine gold cure.

Cleveland is now hesitating whether to make his next message so short no one will expect much of it, or so long no one will read it and see there is nothing in it.

With wars now going on in Formosa, Madagascar and Cuba it is time to ask if the islands of the world have not some rights that continents are bound to respect.

Judge Thompson's article in the American Law Journal reviewing the decision in the Stanford case may not be pleasant reading for those who wish to indulge in blind and unthinking reverence for our courts, but nevertheless it is pleasant to know we have lawyers brave enough to make it clear to the people when the courts go wrong.

The claim adjuster of the Southern Pacific Company says that last spring he received every day about thirty-five complaints of injuries caused by the electric-cars, and now he receives only ten a day. From this he infers that people will soon get used to the cars and quit complaining, and the inference is not illogical. If ten people are knocked over every day it won't be long before the town is silenced.

THE VALLEY EDITORS.

Among the important policies agreed upon by the editors of the Sacramento Valley, whose convention at Marysville has just been held, was one for the advocacy of an immigration headquarters to be located somewhere in the valley for the temporary care, free of charge, of immigrants pending their selection of a home. The idea is original and valuable. The reports of the meeting do not indicate the plan for installing and maintaining the headquarters, nor for informing immigrants of the accommodations provided for them, nor for inducing immigrants to come and avail themselves of the opportunity; but we assume that an intelligent plan has been devised and that the editors are prepared to urge its promotion and know how to accomplish it.

At the same meeting a discussion was had concerning the proper means for the use of the $1000 which Boards of Supervisors are authorized by law to expend annually for advertising the resources and attractions of their counties, with a view to induce immigration, and the sense of the meeting was that the money should be distributed among the papers of the county in payment for special descriptive articles.

It is entirely right that the money should go to the county papers and that there should be an intelligent plan for their distribution. This idea worked in connection with the one of having an immigration headquarters constitutes an admirable scheme for promoting immigration, and the intelligence and energy of the Sacramento Valley editors may be depended on for its successful operation. If the local governing bodies of the interior counties should display the earnestness charactistic of the interior press the evil of bad roads, neglected industries and the unscientific handling of natural resources would disappear. As the most efficient agency to that end the newspapers deserve to have their power for the good of the State increased by the payment to them of whatever public moneys are set apart for advancing the interests of California.

PRIZE-FIGHTING LAWS.

An interesting phase of the American eagerness to have laws covering every contingency of public policy was displayed in Texas when the Governor hastily convened the Legislature in special session and secured the passage of an act prohibiting prize-fights, in order to check the impending "contest" between Corbett and Fitzsimmons. It is now asserted that Nevada is in a predicament similar to that of Texas before the enactment of the new statute, and that consequently lovers of the brutal "sport" of prize-fighting are moving to have the "contest" take place at Carson. Governor Jones, while appearing to be somewhat distressed, announces his determination to "enforce the law."

In every State there are general laws which, to a person of ordinary intelligence, would seem sufficient to serve as a check on these disgraceful occurrences. Because in Nevada there is a law permitting the licensing of decent sports, including boxing, which when decently done is one of the finest and manliest of sports, the promoters of prize-fighting assume that their favorite "sport" may be licensed and that Corbett and Fitzsimmons may fight on Nevada soil.

Yet we feel confident that if Nevada has no law expressly forbidding prize-fights, it has general laws prohibiting indecent and demoralizing practices of all kinds, and that if it should be so extraordinary a State as not to have them, the courts still have the power under the common law of prohibiting acts and practices opposed to public morality. Prize-fighting unquestionably comes under that category. If the peace officers would take the proper initiative steps on these lines and the courts would exercise their discretionary power for the public good there would be no great need for special prohibitive legislation.

THE STATE GRANGE.

THE CALL has for some days past devoted considerable space to Grange affairs, and its intelligent and comprehensive dispatches from Merced during the meeting of the State Grange must have commended themselves to the farmers of the State who are anxious to know what is proposed by this old and well-tried farmers' organization. The information was almost equally valuable to other classes whose members all well understand their own prosperity to be bound up in that of the farming community.

The State Grange, as is its custom, has expressed itself sensibly on many questions of public importance, but the thing which it has resolved to actually do, and do now, is to enter upon an organized and vigorous campaign of education along agricultural and economic lines. There is no question of the wisdom of this action or that it will lead more quickly to material results than any other course. The Grange as a social institution will prosper as the farmers' prosperity affords the means and the inclination for social enjoyments; as a co-operative institution it will prosper as the education of its members permits it to co-operate wisely. The thing to do first is to educate, and since it has made that resolve, it will be the pleasure as well as the duty of THE CALL to afford such aid as it can render by giving the widest possible publicity to its intentions and plans for executing them.

THE OLNEY HUMBUG.

It has been a long time since the country was informed from Washington that the advent of Olney to the office of Secretary of State would infuse a new vigor into the foreign policy of the administration. It has been a long time since the first report was sent out that foreign nations would find the Boston lawyer quite a different man from the placid Illinois Judge, and that the little finger of Olney was to be mightier in diplomacy than the whole hand of Gresham. It has been a long time since these tales were first told, and the people have waited with a growing impatience to see signs of the new vigor and receive some proof that the Cleveland administration really intends even at this late day to maintain the traditional American policy in dealing with foreign nations.

Secretary Olney has had abundant opportunity to show whatever vigor there is in him, nor has he lacked for cause to make the most of the opportunity. The affairs of Venezuela, of Madagascar, of Cuba and of our own Alaskan boundary have not merely offered him occasions for action; they have forced them upon him. Time and again have issues arisen from these various international complications that called for prompt decision and determined action on the part of our Government, and yet to all appearance nothing has been done. Great Britain has not yet consented to arbitrate her dispute with Venezuela. Our ex-Consul, Waller, lingers in a French prison, Spanish outrages in Cuba continue and the Alaskan boundary question remains in an unsettled and exasperating condition.

It is true that reports follow one another from Washington of what Secretary Olney intends to do. According to these he is always on the verge of some mighty action and the people are asked to wait a little longer before concluding that the new man is as futile in the role of Blaine's successor as was the unfortunate Gresham. The people will recall, however, that when Olney was Attorney-General we heard similar reports about the vigor with which he was about to prosecute violators of the anti-trust law. None of these reports were ever found to be true, nor is it likely that those now sent out are any more reliable. The Cleveland administration began with an un-American foreign policy and will continue to the end.

THE FLOURISHING "BULLETIN."

The *Evening Bulletin* in issuing yesterday a special edition to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of its first publication succeeded fully in making the celebration worthy of the occasion. As in its forty years of life the *Bulletin* has made an almost complete record of the history of California as an American State, so the edition of yesterday was an epitome of the conditions that exist now. It was, in fact, a type of the best journalistic work of the day, both in literature and illustration, and the editors may well be satisfied with the success accomplished.

It is not difficult once in a while to publish a newspaper of forty pages. Many country papers have done as much and many will do so again. For a San Francisco paper to perform such a feat is of course nothing. When it comes, however, to filling forty pages with live news, clean, interesting, instructive matter charged all through with the vitality of the passing day and yet in many respects possessing a force worthy of permanent record, the task becomes difficult for any paper in any city. This is the work which the *Bulletin* has accomplished on its fortieth birthday and the pleasure which the public derived from the number will give a greater sincerity than usual to the congratulations the stanch old paper of pioneer times will receive from all sides.

PERSONAL.

E. W. Fogg of Oroville is at the Palace.

A. J. Hassell of Visalia is at the Palace.

Rev. E. Graham of Chico is at the Grand.

C. M. Weber, the Stockton capitalist, is at the Grand.

Judge F. M. Angelotti of San Rafael is at the Grand.

Garrison Turner, a Modesto banker, is at the Grand.

Senator John Boggs of Colusa is at the Palace.

H. J. Small, a railroad man from Sacramento, is at the Grand.

Victor L. Gerstle, a coffee planter of Guatemala, is at the Lick.

C. P. Berry, a large land-owner of Mountain View, is at the Russ.

A. T. J. Reynolds, a fruit man from Walnut Grove, is at the Grand.

William Agie Jr., a mining man from Alaska, is registered at the Russ.

Henry Marshall, a prominent merchant of Sebastopol, is at the Russ.

Railroad Commissioner H. M. La Rue of Sacramento is at the Occidental.

Commander D. W. Mullan of the United States steamship Mohican is at the California.

Captain H. L. Howison, commandant of the Mare Island Navy-yard, is at the Occidental.

Mrs. W. S. Green of the Colusa Sun is stopping at Mrs. Campbell's, 605 Stockton street.

King Creig, King of the islands of the South Seas, Washington and Fanning, and his son are stopping at 605 Stockton street, with Mrs. Campbell and her daughter, an old Alabama family.

Charles T. Bacon, Helen Bertram Henley, Rosina Henley, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Clay Barnabee, Miss Louise Cleary and Eugene Cowles of the Bostonians are registered at the Baldwin, and Jessie Bartlett Davis and Sam L. Stadley are at the Occidental.

CALIFORNIANS IN WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 8.—Arthur M. Brown of San Francisco registered at the Riggs House to-day. Among other hotel arrivals are H. S. Wise of Los Angeles and Edgar Beard of Portland, Or.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

FATHER OF HIS COUNTRY—California, City. No, Washington was not the only one who was called the "Father of His Country." This name was applied to Cicero, who broke up the Catiline War (B. C. 106-43); to Julius Cæsar, after he had quelled the Spanish insurrection (B. C. 100-44); to Augustus, pater atque principes (B. C. 63-31 to A. D. 14); Cosmos de Medicis (1389-1464); Andrea Dorea, called so on his statue at Genoa (1468-1560), and to George Washington, defender and paternal counselor of the American States (1732-1799.)

LARGEST NUGGETS—Miner, City. Among the largest nuggets of gold of which there is any record are the following: "King of the Water Moon," found in Australia, 1852, 223 pounds 4 ounces; "Welcome," found at Ballarat, Victoria, Australia, 1854, 184 pounds 10 ounces; "Barkary," found at Carson Hill, Cal., 1854, 180 pounds; "The Corona," found in Tuolumne, Cal., in 1850, 147½ pounds; "The Farrish," found in Sierra Buttes, Cal., 133 pounds.

LONE MOUNTAIN CROSS—G., City. The cross on Lone Mountain was erected in April, 1888, its construction being paid for by the late Mrs. Theresa Fair. It was built to replace one that fell some time before and had been erected in 1864, about two years after Calvary Cemetery was opened, that event occurring on the 17th of August, 1862.

VIOLIN—C. O. S., City. Probably the lightest violin (full size concert, in good condition), is one in this City. It is a Jacob Stainer (1699), as it came from the maker, in the best condition, and is the property of William Cullen, property clerk of the Police Department of this City. It weighs 12½ ounces.

PARDONING TRAITORS—A. S., City. The President of the United States has the power to pardon a traitor, for the constitution says: "He (the President) shall have the power to grant reprieves and pardons for offenses against the United States, except in cases of impeachment."

GARDEN OF FRANCE—W. S. B., City. Amboise, in the department of Indre-et-Loire, is known as the Garden of France.

BRODIE AND STANLEY.

STEVE PROVES TO BE MORE APPRECIATIVE THAN HANK.

Steve Brodie, a New York Bowery boy, grew rich and famous through the celebration of the metropolitan press of his jumping off the Brooklyn bridge. He recently partially paid a part of his debt to journalism by appearing at the annual benefit of the Minneapolis Press Club.

Henry M. Stanley, the African explorer, member of Parliament, and at one time correspondent of the New York Herald, arrived in New York recently. Mr. Stanley saw fit to be gruff with the members of the profession he once decorated, and added to the reporters' dislike for him that has grown rapidly in recent years. One of the newspaper men asked Mr. Stanley if he remembered when he was a news-gatherer himself. He glanced at the questioner from head to foot, and then, turning his back, walked away.—New York Fourth Estate.

THEY GOT THE COWS.

Some time ago it was necessary to dispense with all the cows at the Good Templars' Home for Orphans. Since then the milk has been procured from one of the dealers, but the cost was so great it was considered best to secure a new herd. How to accomplish the same without cost to the order, to obtain the material and means for replacing the barn which was recently destroyed by fire, and also to make an addition to the laundry, was a subject of much discussion. Judge Robert Thompson, father of the order in California, finally solved the problem. He appealed to the public in the name of the orphans at the home, for cows (eighteen in number), about two carloads of lumber, and money sufficient for the erection of buildings. The morning following the appeal, which appeared in the San Francisco CALL, on passing down Montgomery street to his office, he was stopped three times and told in each case that a cow was waiting for him.—Solano Republican.

PLAIN TALKS WITH FARMERS.

A correspondent who wishes to learn, and don't care to hear argument on the necessity of learning, writes as follows:

"Reading the poultry notes of THE CALL, I am desirous to go largely into poultry. I wonder if E. F. A. will eventually give us specific information relative to poultry raising?"

I do not pretend to much knowledge or to any knowledge except as to a few matters of which the poultry business is not one, but from a boy I have been associated with business affairs and business men, and know how such persons investigate proposed business enterprises. They ascertain costs, markets and competition before they start. Of course, they study methods also, but the world is full of poultry knowledge on that line, and I shall not undertake from my ignorance to add to it. But I will make a study of the business side of it to show what kind of knowledge I think the poultryman should have, in addition, of course, to the understanding of the proper care of his flock. This knowledge all experienced poultrymen have, but I wish simply to show an example of methods of study, and the poultry business will serve that purpose very well, and incidentally I may give some facts of value to the inexperienced.

As a preliminary I may say that all poultry men agree that no one should engage in the business who is not a lover of fowls. Those who are not willing to be continually poking about henroosts after lice, or who cannot smile serenely when a Leghorn pullet in search of egg food sails cheerily over his highest barn and lights on his new-sown pea bed, should keep out of the business. Those who like myself cannot see a hen off her proper beat without an uncontrollable impulse to shy a rock at her should not even consider it.

Like most farmers I keep some poultry—thoroughbreds, crosses or mongrels, as it happens, but usually thoroughbreds. For two or three years I kept their accounts carefully and found the annual cost of keep to be $1 per laying hen, exclusive of green food and care, and the cost of eggs 12½ cents per dozen, which shows that my output was less than the average. My location, however, is not good for the egg business and feed was higher then than now.

With that knowledge and such common-sense as I can command I began my investigation.

For costs we must go to producers. I find there is no agreement as to cost. Most keep no books. Of those who do some keep them one way and some another. A business man going into poultry would charge up to cost interest on his total investment and wear and tear of plant. Farmers are apt not to know the amount of their investment, and I have found none who considered it. It is perhaps not essential. Most poultry men go into the business expecting by the investment of from $2000 to $5000 to provide themselves with a home and means of living. So I drop interest and wear and tear as an element of cost. I am also assuming that the location is favorable for the health of fowls, the preservation of eggs and convenience to market and that the industry is pursued as a principal business and not as an adjunct to other lines of farming.

I find a general agreement among poultry men that profit has hitherto come in California from the production of eggs rather than live poultry, but also an opinion on the part of some that perhaps this may be changed by a larger output of fall chicks to produce spring broilers. If eggs are the main object that involves the keeping of the non-setting breeds, raising the chicks exclusively by incubators, and considering the broilers and cockerels produced as a by-product and deducting their proceeds from cost of feed to show the net cost of keep of laying hens, I have had cost of keep quoted to me by poultry men all the way from 50 cents per annum to 95 cents. Doubtless there is a difference in cost to individuals, but not so great a difference by any sane methods of handling or bookkeeping. I am going to assume the necessary net cost at 75 cents per year per laying hen and the annual product at ten dozen, which makes the eggs cost 7½ cents per dozen actual cash paid out to those buying all their feed. Yields of twelve or thirteen dozen are claimed as possible and would seem reasonable, but no one claims such yields to be usual in this State. The question of necessary cost is open to discussion in the poultry column of THE CALL, and I should be glad to hear from the experienced.

I think where farmers fail most frequently is in computing costs they omit items. I once for some years made up the costs in a large Eastern manufacturing establishment. Our rule was to put in every item we could think of and add 25 per cent to the total. It is a good rule. It has kept that establishment solvent through two great commercial crises and it is rich to-day. I commend the rule to farmers.

To ascertain the market I consult the trade statistics, and have conversed with such dealers as I know. Until the past year or two we have had a home market—which is our best market—for all we could produce. Of late the product has increased, and at the height of the season we now produce more than will sell readily at prices profitable to the producer. The first two weeks of March in this year ranch eggs averaged 11½ cents in this market, probably paying producer, after deducting expenses, 11 cents. With a cost of 7½ cents and a yield of 10 dozen per hen per annum, this would show an annual profit of 35 cents per hen, or $350 per 1000 hens, to which is to be added the use of house and garden, which the ranch man would presumably have. If there is no interest to pay, and especially if there is land to keep a cow and horse and the family is not too large or luxurious, the thrifty man would pull through. If in debt, or with sickness, or with much feed to buy for cows and horses, he could not.

Fortunately, as conditions have been hitherto it is only for a short time that eggs sell so low. The quotations of ranch eggs in THE WEEKLY CALL for the last week of each of the past six months have been as follows: Last week of February, 15 to 16 cents; March, 14 to 15 cents; April, 12½ to 14 cents; May, 13 to 15 cents; June, 15 to 17 cents; July, 16 to 19 cents; August, 20 to 25 cents; September, 27½ to 32½ cents, in each case subject to 5 per cent commission. To-day the best select ranch eggs, such as my correspondent would doubtless have for sale, are worth 35 cents. The average price for the season which ranchmen with whom I have conversed tell me they expect is 20 cents, which would perhaps net 18 cents after paying commission and freight. This, with the assumed cost of 75 cents, would give an annual profit of a little over $1 a hen, which is what I am told is expected, and which, with thrift in other ways, will make a living for the producer. Farmers are apt to get wrong averages by simply averaging prices, regardless of the number sold at each price. The correct way to get an average price is to divide the total net cash receipts clear of all charges for the year by the total number of dozens shipped. As our egg season begins before that of the most populous part of the East, whenever our market reaches as low a point as it did last March (and it is the opinion of such of the trade as I have talked with that it will tend annually to go lower) this market can usually be relieved by shipments to the East. There were some so shipped last year, and some of those who had made shipments tell me they expect them to increase. The freight East amounts at the present rate of $2 10 per 100 to 4 cents a dozen in carload lots of 20,000 pounds. With eggs here at 12½ cents they must sell in the East at 18 cents to afford a fair profit. They would compete there mostly with eggs held in cold storage, and for a month or two they have a fair fighting chance, it would seem, sufficient to prevent eggs in our flush time going very much below this year's rates.

Few farmers proposing to go into the egg business are likely to understand how closely eggs are graded in the markets. They will be likely to suppose that "eggs are eggs," anyhow. The press quotations can never show all the gradations in price, and there are nearly always shipments that sell higher than the highest and lower than the lowest quotations. It is so in all produce. In gathering data for this article a dealer told me there was full 17 cents per dozen difference in the obtainable price of "ranch eggs" in his stock that day. The best he had sold quick at 35 cents; other lots were hard to move at all at 18. The latter were those that some thrifty housewife, noting that ranch eggs sold highest in the market, had been carefully saving for two or three weeks till she got a case full to ship. They complied with the description of ranch eggs, for they came direct from the farm to the market, but the hot September weather of the interior had been too much for them. They might not have actually spoiled, but they had evaporated until the contents got loose in the shell and the trip to the City had mixed their interiors all up. Their best use was for scrambled eggs in cheap restaurants. And still the shipper will be apt to denounce his commission merchant as a fraudulent rascal when he gets returns at 18 cents and sees ranch eggs quoted at 30 to 35 cents, as they are in this morning's CALL.

"Ranch eggs" are those put in cases on the farm and shipped direct to market. "Store eggs" are those collected by country dealers and cased and shipped by them. In the spring, when all eggs are good, they are but a cent or two below ranch eggs. As the season advances there is more difference. The California market demands white eggs, the Eastern market yellow. "Select" ranch eggs are all white, fresh, clean, of uniform size, and weighing about seven to the pound; "choice" have the same qualities, but weigh about eight to the pound. Any admixture of colored, dirty, small or stale eggs reduces them to second class and subjects them to rejection if sold for first. The purchaser cannot stop to go to the bottom of the case in examination. The producer must guarantee the quality. Nothing on earth except trouble and a bad name is gained by putting inferior eggs at the bottom of the cases, as I am told is done by some, who perhaps curse their commission man for dishonesty when they get small returns. What happens is this: The customer takes home his eggs, finds out what they are, decides what he will pay, and notifies the commission man that he will pay so much or return the eggs. He promptly gets a new bill at the reduced price, and the commission man, not wishing to drive away a customer by writing him that he has been caught cheating, says nothing about it. I am told by poultrymen, commission men and buyers that there is enough of this practice to justify this caution. The fact is—and we may as well concede it—we are none of us farmers smart enough to beat the city men by such methods. They are never practiced by experienced poultrymen.

Our competition is from eggs produced in the Mississippi Valley and the South. Active buyers begin collecting eggs about March at the extreme south, working north as the season advances, and closing in Minnesota about July. They buy eggs during about the first two months of the laying season. Of course, buying goes on through the year, but the later eggs do not keep so well, and are not so much sought. These eggs, often supplying current demand, go to cold storage in distributing centers, and are brought out as the supply increases and the market warrants. There are at present about 1,000,000 cases in storage in the country to-day. A copy of the Waterloo Egg Reporter before me shows the usual prices paid producers in August of this year to be: In Tennessee 6 cents, in Iowa 9 cents, Wisconsin 10 cents, Texas 6 cents, Arkansas 7 cents, Missouri 8 cents, Minnesota 8 cents, Nebraska 8 cents, Michigan 10 cents. Earlier in the season they were doubtless lower, but I have not the data to determine how much. To these prices paid producers must be added local merchants' profit, freight to distributing center, and wholesale or commission merchants' profits, on sales in carload lots.

Whenever eggs in this market become so high that Eastern eggs purchased at above prices can be profitably sold here after paying 4 cents a dozen freight, plus refrigerator-car service of probably 1 cent, shipments begin. This season they began in June, when ranch eggs were 17 to 18 cents, in the face of which Eastern eggs sold at 16 to 16½. They are selling to-day at 17 to 21, with store eggs 18 to 27. Eastern eggs are preferred by the bakers' trade because they are yellower and "stronger," as they say—that is giving more of the appearance and results which should come from a liberal use of eggs than our own lighter-colored, wheat-fed product. They are also largely used by the poorer families. They will always prevent our own eggs from going above a certain point. We can only exclude them from this market by selling our own eggs so cheaply as to make the sales of Eastern eggs impossible. This is not what poultrymen will like, but we seem to be gradually doing it. In 1889 we imported 122,000 cases of thirty dozen, which has been gradually reduced to an importation of 66,000 cases in 1894.

The difficulty we have is that we compete with Eastern farmers, with whom eggs are mostly a by-product, costing them nothing as they reckon it. Increasing thrift of our own farmers seems likely to bring more home competition of this kind and become the factor which may drive out Eastern eggs, which should be possible with a protective freight tariff of five cents a dozen. But there will always be a market at fair prices for the best fresh eggs. Those who learn how to produce these at least expense will do well. Those whose fowls become lousy or sickly or who are otherwise careless or wasteful will lose money.

The above is a very imperfect study of the prospects of the poultry business, but points out the things which my correspondent should study carefully before engaging in it. And this is all that is appropriate in these talks.

EDWARD F. ADAMS.

SOUND REASONING.

AN IMPORTANT DECISION IN A RECENT TEXAS LIBEL CASE.

Judge Sinks of Texas rendered an important decision last week in favor of the Houston Post in the suit for libel brought against it by C. G. Dement.

The Post had published an item stating that Dement had been arrested charged with horse-stealing. On his release it had printed the fact and a statement of how the mistaken arrest had occurred. Dement, however, sued for $5000 damages.

Judge Sinks' decision was as follows:

"The conclusions of law are: When there is no malice, proof of the truth of the matter published is a complete defense to a suit for libel for the publishing of such matter.

"I conclude that the publication is literally true and that the arrest and imprisonment of the plaintiff being illegal and unjust does not affect the fact that he was jailed charged with horse-theft. The publication being true, the plaintiff has no cause for action against defendant and judgment will therefore be rendered for the defendant."

It is further stated by the court that "though the party may be illegally arrested charged with a crime, still as long as a paper only states the fact of the arrest and the accusation made against him; not charging him with guilt, it cannot be held liable on account of the illegality of the officer in making the arrest, and such publication is not false, but, on the contrary, true.

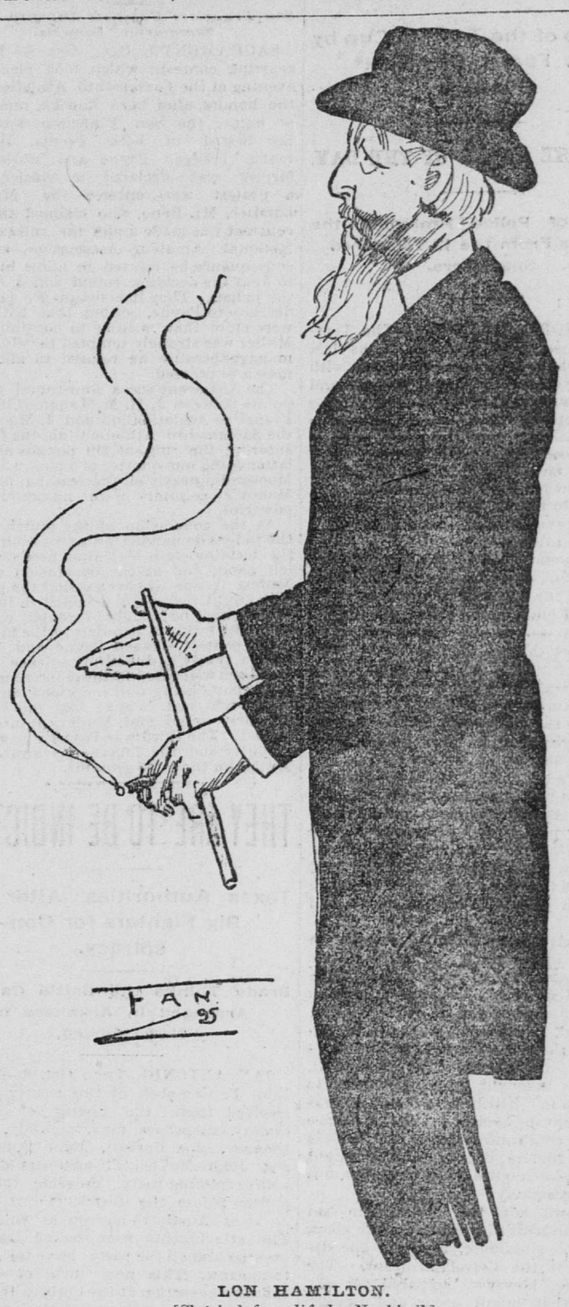
"The plaintiff was accused of a crime and jailed on accusation. The defendant, without malice, published it. In this it did not lay itself liable to plaintiff because he was innocent of the accusation and had been illegally arrested and imprisoned. The party who did him the wrong is the only one of whom the plaintiff can complain."—New York Fourth Estate.

AROUND THE CORRIDORS.

"Up our way it's not so much a question of Republicanism or Democracy as it is of silver," said Lon Hamilton yesterday, as he stopped to talk in the court of the Palace Hotel. "Silver aside, the Republicans are in the majority, but they are all for silver and most of the Democrats go with them on account of the white metal. Senator Jones has been elected and re-elected by the Republicans, but his championship of silver makes him all right with the people on the chief issue of the State. We will have our election next month, and I look for a Republican victory by a handsome majority. They have a good majority in the Legislature now, and they will have as big a one after next election.

"Two years from now there will be a big silver vote from Nevada, for it is the only live question up there. Years ago we could sell all the silver that came out of our mines at a good premium, and so could every one up there, but they have ruined the price by legislation. That's all it was; merely legislation. If they repeal the laws against silver, it will come up again as high as it ever was."

Mr. Hamilton has been away from his home in Virginia City for some months in search of health. He went first to Santa Monica, then East, and now finds San Francisco the best spot of all. He is a brother-in-law to Senator Jones, and is his confidential adviser.



LON HAMILTON.
[*Sketched from life by Nankivell.*]

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

COMMON-SENSE CAR-FENDERS.

CONDITIONS WHICH MUST BE MET, OR FAILURE IS INEVITABLE.

To the Editor of the San Francisco Call—SIR: "How Not to Do It" would seem to be the policy of the streetcar companies in the apparent effort to secure an effective car-fender. To make it appear to be impossible to find one which would meet the required conditions, and to weary the public by delays and occasional trials of absurd devices, might lead the public to the conclusion that nothing can be done, and that they must submit to let the subject drop or be content with the "double-scoop" from Baltimore, which is said to be Mr. Vining's preference, and which I am informed is used in Baltimore as a makeshift, or a sort of an excuse to appease the public, and this may prove to be the purpose in view in introducing it in San Francisco.

A common-sense car-fender will meet the following conditions: It will be wide enough to cover the entire front of the car, including the projecting steps on each side of the car, as nearly all the accidents prove that the person struck is seldom run down in the center of the track, but is nearly always near one side of it and not quite quick enough to escape. In such case the car-steps are apt to prove fatal.

In the next place the fender must be far enough in front of the car to prevent the person from being knocked down by the car and thrown with great violence upon the track, causing a fractured skull or concussion of the brain. If the victim should happen to fall inside of the rails the Baltimore scoop would pick up the remains for burial in fairly good condition.

As a third requisite the apron must be wide and high enough to receive and hold the form thrown into it and not permit the head to strike the car in falling toward it, for nine out of ten, as the records show, are in a standing position when run down by the car.

A fourth requirement is that the part of the fender which strikes the legs of the person must have instantaneous reflex action and recoil sufficiently to reduce the force of the blow struck, so as not to break the bones, and it should also be sheathed in soft rubber to avoid bruising the flesh.

A fifth condition is that it shall run very near the ground—say within two inches or less—so that a prostrate form will be simply rolled over into the apron and not be pushed along on the ground or under the fender. This will require that the tracks and adjoining two feet of the street on either side shall be put in such order as they now are on Market and Kearny streets, where an effective and reliable fender could be used at once.

A sixth condition is that the whole framework and mechanism of the fender must be independent of and detached from the car body, which oscillates or bobs up and down and is depressed when heavily loaded so that no rigid device could be kept in place, but would be pounded off if near enough the track to be of real service on the first trip of the car. It must, therefore, run on its own wheels and be propelled by the truck of the car.

Such a bare outline is a common-sense fender and in the end it must be adopted if human life and limbs are to be successfully protected from the trolley juggernaut. I may add that such a fender has been tried by the authorities and was not accepted because certain portions of the streets and only very small portions at that would have to be put in order. Such a fender, too, could not depend for its success upon the attention or agility of the motorman.

JOSEPH A. JOHNSON.
11 Essex street, October 8, 1895.

TREES UNDER SLICKENS.

THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY PRESS LEAGUE'S RECENT MEETING.

To the Editor of the San Francisco Call—SIR: The Press League of the Sacramento Valley, which has just met at Marysville, is composed chiefly of the editors belonging to the small towns in the valley counties. There were many prominent citizens also present. The object of the league is not to stop hydraulic mining but to compel the enforcement of the law protecting the rivers and lands from the slickens resulting from the operations of the hydraulic miners.

All took carriages and rode around on the levees and near the rivers to see the immense damage already done. The Yuba River is ruined at this point, the imbedded slickens filling it so that a skiff cannot run where a few years ago steamers came and carried off produce.

Orchards stand dying in the slickens-covered valley lands, and in some instances the trees are struggling for life with only a few of their top branches above the devastating debris. Other lands have been swept by the overflow caused by the deposits in the rivers which forced the waters from the channels to take a new route to the sea. The devastation is far and wide. Those costly levees have been reared higher and higher, as the beds of the rivers have been filled, but to little or no purpose. The people from the headwaters of these rivers to the bay are asking relief, asking that the natural water channels be opened, that hydraulic slickens be impounded, asking protection for home and property.

October 8, 1895. S. M. GREEN.

The Best Sunday Paper.
Cottage Grove Echo-Leader.

If you want the best daily newspaper in San Francisco you must have the San Francisco CALL. It stands at the front in everything. The Sunday CALL is a marvel of excellence in combination of news and literature—having no competitor.

OLD-fashioned molasses taffy. Townsend's. *

BACON Printing Company, 508 Clay street. *

ROBERTS, card headquarters, 220 Sutter. *

Tramp—Yes'm, it's hard to break away from all yer bad habits at once; but I've given up some of 'em.
Lady—Which one have you given up?
Tramp—Well, mum, I don't get shaved on Sunday any more.—Brooklyn Life.

HOOD'S Sarsaparilla has permanently cured many thousands of cases of scrofula, rheumatism, nervousness and other troubles because it purifies and vitalizes the impoverished blood.

"Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup"
Has been used over fifty years by millions of mothers for their children while Teething with perfect success. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays Pain, cures Wind Colic, regulates the Bowels and is the best remedy for Diarrhœa, whether arising from teething or other causes. For sale by Druggists in every part of the world. Be sure and ask for Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. 25c a bottle.

On account of the election of H. M. Stanley to the British Parliament the contract binding him until 1900 to the service of the King of Belgium has been abrogated.

Look at This!

Writing Paper 5c to 25c per quire, Writing Tablets 5c to 35c each, Papeteries 10c to 75c per box, Playing Cards 10c to 75c per pack, Lead Pencils 10c to 75c per dozen, Blank Books 15c to $1 per 100 pages, Envelopes $1 to $2 50 per 1000. Tissue Paper 5c to 30c per roll, Tooth Brushes 5c to 40c each, Combs 10c to 60c each, Clothes Brushes 25c to $2 50 each, Hair Brushes 25c to $4 25 each, Hat Brushes 40c to $1 each, Cabinet Frames 10c to $5 each, Hand Glasses 25c to $5 each, Ladies' Purses 25c to $15 each, Gentlemen's Purses 5c to $2 75 each, Banquet Lamps $1 75 to $24 each, Piano Lamps and Onyx Tables from $4 50 to $20 each, Glass Panel Pictures 15c to $1 each, Stanly Fountain Pens $1 each, Crown Fountain Pens $2 to $5 each.
The best House Paint 25c per can, Wood Stains and Varnish 20c per can, Best Floor Paint 50c per can, Bath Enamel 75c per can, Bicycle Enamel, any color, 25c per can.

LEATHER GOODS

Our new Leather Goods for fall trade have just arrived. They include Ladies' Purses in giraffe, seal, grained calf, etc., in all the fashionable colors, either plain or silver mounted. Cardcases, Billbooks, Visiting Lists, Picture Frames, Lap Tablets and Traveling Cases. In addition to the Sterling Silver Novelties which came in during August we have just received hundreds of Quadruple-plated Silver Novelties for desk and table ornaments which every one will be pleased to see if not wishing to buy. All welcome.

SANBORN, VAIL & CO.
741, 743, 745 Market St.