

The Call

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MONDAY, MARCH 30, 1896

THE CALL SPEAKS FOR ALL.

The early bird in the East gets a worm and finds a blizzard.

It requires no Roentgen ray to expose the inside of Rainey's politics.

If Peffer is right a senatorial funeral is only another name for a junketing tour.

Even the free-trader is not so bad a foe to home industry as the lottery swindler.

Up to date Democratic enthusiasm remains barreled up and waiting for a bung-starter.

The campaign this year will not be a struggle for protection, but a general ratification of the principle.

Cleveland may settle the Cuban question this week, provided he does not decide to take a fishing trip.

Olney should have at least vigor enough to haul the Cuban question off to one side before the campaign opens.

Some of these Democratic Presidential possibilities might get a move on if Keely could make his motor work.

The thing which will make Democracy sweat most this summer will be the effort to drag the tariff out of politics.

Gold has never yet relieved a man of the whisky habit half as completely as whisky relieves a fellow of the gold habit.

The people will have an easy way to follow a straight road to honest politics by joining the Republican procession.

The festivals will be holidays for the people, but money will have to circulate just as hard as if business were rushing.

If we had known Mr. Depew was coming we would have had the festival season hurried up a little so as to be ready for him.

Wilmerding and Lick are a good pair of public benefactors, and their schools might as well stand together for mutual benefit.

A good many of our Eastern exchanges begin to show signs of being edited by a Presidential bureau that thinks it has the gift of prophecy.

Peffer's bill restricting expenditures for Congressional funerals would find more support from his colleagues if it would assure them against having a funeral at all.

The only way for Democracy to get a Presidential candidate is to give a guarantee that whoever volunteers to lead the forlorn hope this year may have another trial in 1900.

Cleveland's objection to middle-aged ladies riding the bicycle has not led to any attack from the ladies, so the conclusion is clear that none of them feel themselves included in that class.

Bayard may pretend to take no notice of the censure of the House of Representatives, but all the same he is talking neither so much nor so loosely as he was, and it is clear that he felt something hit him, with a sobering effect.

The people having shown signs of weariness over the frequent iteration of the phrases "sound money" and "honest money," an attempt has been made in the East to relieve the strain by setting up a cry for "untarnished money."

A London newspaper commenting on the rapid growth of the smoking habit among the ladies of that country says it is becoming as common in England as "it is among Americans," and now we know how well we are understood abroad.

While eighty per cent of all women who attain a marriageable age elect to marry and have a home of their own, only twenty per cent of college-bred girls are willing to take the risk, and it would seem they regard their learning either as a caution or else as a self-sufficiency.

A bill has been introduced into the Massachusetts Legislature requiring all money received for liquor licenses in cities and towns to be turned into the State treasury, and while the rural delegates speak of the bill as an act of virtue, Boston scoffs at it indignantly as an attempt at petty larceny.

We have already six first-class battle-ships built or building and the new appropriation bill provides for four more, making ten, but Captain Mahan, who knows more about the influence of sea power in determining the result of wars than any one else, says we should have at least eighteen, and the chances are he is right.

Charles C. Harrison, Provost of the University of Pennsylvania, has just given to that institution the sum of \$500,000 to establish twenty-seven scholarships, the object being to group around the university a number of men devoted to the advancement of learning who will live among the students and exert an influence in the direction of higher scholarship.

The naval appropriation bill as arranged by the committee of the House provides for one battle-ship and one torpedo-boat to be constructed on the Pacific Coast, "if the cost is not excessive," but there is no such provision in regard to those to be built on the Atlantic Coast. This does not look like a square deal, but perhaps our shipbuilders can meet the conditions and win out anyhow.

THE MERCHANTS' PLANS.

The published correspondence between the Superintendent of Streets and the Merchants' Association discloses the fact that the current year's municipal funds available for street improvements do not permit of good town pavements, and that while the Superintendent will labor with the Board of Supervisors for a sufficient levy for next year the Merchants' Association will perfect a scheme of downtown improvements and be ready to see that the money is employed to the best advantage.

The people of the City have come to regard the Merchants' Association as a most useful agency, especially in matters related to street improvements. It is composed of practical, hard-headed business men, who cannot be cajoled into the belief that public funds are intended for political plunder, or that they should be used any differently from private funds.

The task which now confronts the merchants is difficult and delicate. They must not only exert their influence to keep the tax levy within safe limits, and to that end exercise patience and care in constructing their plan for downtown improvements, but they have an opportunity for performing a valuable service in mastering the whole subject of pavements. This should not be left to the political exigencies of the Street Department. In every city, particularly one that is growing, the demands for public expenditures are so urgent that the opportunity for securing political benefits out of them are tempting. Contractors represent another influence equally potent. The evils obtaining in San Francisco result in poor improvements requiring constant expenditure to maintain them, and that is one of the reasons why cobblestones retard business and depress property values in the downtown section.

A MODIFIED EVIL.

A few days ago a farmer near Lockeford made a small opening in the levee of the Mokenumbe River for some harmless purpose. Unexpectedly the river became greatly swollen by a heavy storm in the mountains, and before the small cut could be stopped the pressure of water had widened it to a crevasse and large areas of cultivated land were flooded. It was feared that many thousands of dollars represented by growing crops had been lost, but it is now learned that no damage was done by the submergence, and the contrary that a considerable benefit resulted—the flooding furnished just the amount of irrigation needed to insure good crops.

Of course this happy result was a mere accident. The danger lay in the fact that its elements were not under control. The accident was made possible by the fact that the bed of the river had been raised by the deposition of silt brought down from the mountains, where hydraulic mining, farming, natural erosion and denudation by timber-cutting had exposed the soil to the loosening action of frosts and the washing effect of rains. Levees had to be constructed to confine the river to its bed. As the river thus ran in a channel higher than the level of the contiguous country the cutting or breaking of the levee during a high water would result in the flooding of the land. This is a danger pertaining to rivers besides the Mokenumbe, and that is the main reason why hydraulic mining is opposed by land-owners in the valley.

But the important lesson has been learned in recent years that irrigation is essential to the best results in California farming. Millions of capital have been invested in irrigating systems, and the use of the privilege means an addition to the expense of farming. It is a curious turn of affairs which presents the "rivers ruined by hydraulic mining" in the light of excellent facilities for irrigation without an enormous outlay for dams, reservoirs and canals. The streams run along ridges through the valleys it is possible to make the levees safe and provide them with headgates, which would serve not only to relieve the heavy pressure on their banks, but also to lead the water through canals and ditches to the thousands of farms needing irrigation. The management of the rivers is yet in a very crude state, but in all plans looking to the development of their usefulness it might be well to consider whether their value as irrigating arteries might not be made one of the most important considerations.

JAPAN AND RUSSIA.

That the Imperial Government of Japan should send so imposing a delegation to the approaching coronation of the Russian Czar should be a matter of considerable interest to Europe, the United States and China. The delegation, now at San Francisco on its way to Russia, is headed by Marquis Yamagata, the foremost soldier and diplomat of Japan, and additional respect is shown to Russia by the inclusion of a royal prince in the suite. It will be noted with interest that the delegation is making a considerable stay in San Francisco, the nearest point of the United States to Japan, and that the distinguished Japanese visitors have selected the longest possible route to St. Petersburg.

It might be assumed that this choice presented a far more diversified and interesting trip than the one by way of the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea, as it will take the travelers through the heart of modern civilization. Japan is eager to acquire knowledge of the great world whose inspiration has begun to stir her energies, but at the same time she is seeking a profitable outlet for the products of her overcrowded population, and already California has felt the initial pinch of that pressure. While the adoption in Japan of American and European processes of manufacture will result eventually in modifying the squallor of her working hours by enabling them to live better on the unaccustomed profits which they will enjoy, very good thing which will come to them will be yielded up by the workers of the competing countries. We may be sure that Marquis Yamagata will not neglect his duty to his people by failing to take minute notice of existing opportunities for extending their markets. He is taking a long rest in San Francisco.

Meanwhile Russia is steadily pushing her trans-Siberian railway eastward to the Pacific, and China is wondering what is to be the final fate of Seoul. Russian possession of a Pacific port which is blocked with ice the greater part of the year is not sufficient to explain the enormous expenditures required for the transcontinental railroad. Of late Russia has been showing a finely gloved, but none the less powerful, hand in various quarters. She checked the aggressive English sentiment that was stirred up by the Armenian atrocities, and that episode quickly flattened out, leaving Russia as Turkey's friend. Just now the Russian Minister to France has successfully demanded that the French Minister of Foreign Affairs be required to resign because of his conduct in Northern African affairs, and we are informed that the same Russian Minister is to be quartered at Nice with Lord Salisbury to watch the progress of events on the Red Sea.

Such an alliance between Russia and Japan, as Marquis Yamagata's expedition seems to indicate, would be an essential part of Russia's general policy to become the dictator of Europe. That the Czar's great nation, hardly yet emerged from a century of anarchy, is so weak in Turkey and the strength of Japan in warding her ambition presents as curious a study as does the independent struggle of Japan to make western civilization pay dearly for the benefits she aims to secure.

SAN FRANCISCO'S TRADE.

The volume on the commerce and navigation of the United States for the fiscal year 1895, issued by the Bureau of Statistics, shows some very interesting things, summarized in the following comparative statement of percentages:

Table with 4 columns: City, Per cent. of Exp. & Imp., Per cent. of Imports, Per cent. of Exports.

Baltimore's large exports over imports are explained by its heavy shipment of corn, while cotton created a similar condition of things at New Orleans and Galveston. San Francisco sent abroad mostly the products of California, while Baltimore, New Orleans and Galveston drew their exports from a very large section of the country, containing a population twenty times as large as that of California. San Francisco accomplished this under the most unfavorable conditions, among them a monopoly of steam transportation and a virtual absence of sailing vessels except those carrying wheat. A large proportion of our imports was for transcontinental rail forwarding, and hence this feature of the case presents no greater interest than the fact that with the exception of tea, coffee and silk California has little use for the products of countries foreign to the United States.

That is to say, while California produces a wide range of articles for export suitable to the needs of all countries, it contains within itself resources which make it practically independent of all other countries. The articles which it produces include most of the staples, such as all food supplies, and such luxuries as fruit, wine and the like. A full development of the resources at our command will follow a larger settlement and more favorable conditions of transportation and make us independent of all countries except those which produce coffee, tea and spices.

It is difficult to imagine the magnitude of these facts. Considerations affecting our welfare are profound in themselves, but from a national point of view they should have an overwhelming significance. The trouble is that our country, as a whole has not yet discovered California, nor formed the vaguest idea either of its value as a producing section or as the country's gateway to the Orient. In this blessed year 1896 the private interests of a single railroad company are more tenderly regarded by Congress than the vast national interests which center in California.

COAST EXCHANGES.

No sooner had the petroleum wells of Los Angeles been developed than there sprang up a heavy demand for this valuable fuel. Contracts were quickly made for large quantities of oil and steps were taken in various places to change furnaces from coal-burners to oil-burners. This eager demand led to the formation of the Los Angeles Oil Exchange, which began systematically to adjust the supply to the demand by making prices a factor. The Los Angeles Journal thus tells the story: "When the present management of that organization took hold of the oil export business the market was thoroughly demoralized and sales in some instances were being made at the ruinous price of 25 cents per barrel at the well tanks. In one instance as large a quantity as 10,000 barrels was sold at 28 cents per barrel. From this state of utter demoralization the exchange gradually advanced prices until now it is making sales at 80 cents per barrel abroad. This price is a little better than 70 cents per barrel at the well tanks."

All this had an effect, in stimulating researches for oil. At the present time great activity is going forward in the extension of the output at Los Angeles, but the work is by no means confined to that section. The Pasadena Star gives the history of the Central Oil Company, organized with a capital of \$150,000 to bore for oil near Whittier and San Gabriel, and being its first well at Whittier, and although it has struck oil it is going deeper for a larger flow, with every prospect of finding it. Meanwhile, according to the Visalia Delta, the work of boring for oil on the West Side, near Huron, is progressing energetically and oil is flowing in generous quantities.

As might have been expected, the oil industry is giving rise to others. The Los Angeles Herald tells about the Inventors' Manufacturing Company at North Pasadena, organized to manufacture a new oil-burner for using petroleum. Says our exchange: "The patent oil-burner is used in the factory for all heating purposes. The fuel to run the four-horsepower engine by this process only costs 20 cents a day, and a temperature of 900 degrees required to melt the brass which is used in manufacturing the burner can easily be obtained."

The San Bernardino Sun details an interesting discovery which indicates the surprises that are constantly being encountered by those who seek to find the treasures which California holds. Persons drilling a seven-inch well on the Balfour-Guthrie land met a strong pressure of water at a depth of 600 feet. The contemporary says: "The result is the perfect creek of almost boiling water is forming a pool for itself across the lowland. The water rises in a solid stream five inches in diameter to a height of several inches above the mouth of the pipe. It is so strongly impregnated with sulphur and other chemical properties that the surrounding air is filled with the unpleasant odor which is usually attendant upon springs and wells of this character. The water retains an average temperature of 108 degrees, which is almost up to the limit of heat attained by the Arrowhead Springs; it will readily cook an egg, and its properties are sufficient to cure many forms of diseases which find a remedy in mineral waters."

The Visalia Delta is happy over the decision of the Valley road directors to run the first arm of the road through Visalia on its way from Fresno to Bakersfield, and suggests that a grand celebration of the event be made. That Visalia's prosperity is assured is evidenced by this additional information furnished by the Times: "There was never such a prospect for a fruit crop in Tulare County as there is today. It is not at all unlikely that twenty times as much fruit will be shipped out of Visalia this season as was ever shipped in one season before. This will mean the employment of an immense number of people during the fruit season, and the circulation of a large amount of money. A good rain to help the grain-growers would make the outlook exceedingly encouraging for every industry in this county."

THE SAN FRANCISCO CALL, MONDAY, MARCH 30, 1896.

Andrew Young, a business man of Virginia City and chairman of the Board of Supervisors of that place, is at the Ross.

George H. Warfield, son of General Warfield and cashier of the Healdsburg Bank, is down for a visit, and is at the California.

Thomas Browning and wife and James Filmore and wife of Boston, rubber goods manufacturers, are guests at the Cosmopolitan.

G. F. Dowds, the proprietor of the electrical power plant at Sutter Creek, came down yesterday and took a room at the Occidental.

Thomas M. Minton, Ward Minton and G. R. Minton Jr. of Minton, Sacramento Valley, are in town and have rooms at the Occidental.

Captain William E. Dougherty, U. S. A., stationed at the reservation near Round Valley, is here for a few days and is registered at the Occidental.

James O'Neill, the actor, who begins a two weeks' engagement at the Baldwin to-night, arrived at the Palace yesterday and registered with his wife from New York.

C. A. Silberstein, a wine-grower of Esparto, Cal., who is on a visit to his uncle, Major William Fahey, proprietor of the Cosmopolitan, and will go from here to Portland next week.

Lawrence Fahey, Deputy Attorney-General of New Jersey, is on a visit to his uncle, Major William Fahey, proprietor of the Cosmopolitan, and will go from here to Portland next week.

A. L. Wylie, County Clerk, and John J. Snyder, Attorney-at-Law, of the Contra Costa county, are in the City for a short visit. They have rooms at the Grand and are registered from San Andreas.

Among the citizens of Fresno that arrived in town yesterday are T. C. White, A. V. Lesceby and O. J. Woodward, registered at the Lick, and W. C. Turley and W. A. Washer, registered at the Occidental.

Richard A. McCurdy, president of the New York Life Insurance Company, accompanied by his wife and by Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. McCurdy and three servants, is back at the Palace, after a visit to the Del Monte at Monterey.

A. Mott Smith of Boston, Mass., son of the former Hawaiian Minister to the United States during the reign of Queen Liliuokalani, arrived from the East last night and will remain at the Occidental until the next steamer leaves here for Honolulu.

F. S. Phelps and wife, Willard Wilson and wife, of the age of a Boston County on an extensive trip through the United States in the special car Boston, returned to this City yesterday, after a run through the Santa Clara Valley. They are at the Grand.

H. S. Marcy of Belmont, Mass., father of William Marcy, the local agent of the Pennsylvania Railroad, arrived yesterday on a visit to his son. He is accompanied by his wife and his daughter, Miss K. Marcy of Bridgeport, Conn. They are staying at the California.

J. P. Craig and wife, a young couple married yesterday afternoon in Woodland, arrived last night at the Grand. The groom is the son of Lee D. Craig, the Montgomery-street notary. Miss Craig, a sister of the groom, and Dr. Stevens, a relative of the proprietor of the Highland Springs, accompanied the party.

CALIFORNIANS SAIL FOR EUROPE.

NEW YORK, N. Y., March 29.—Among the passengers who sailed on the steamship Empress of Genoa was J. S. Bunnell. The Compañia had among its passengers for Liverpool Mr. and Mrs. Julien Liebes.

WEATHER PROBABILITIES STAMP.

The Washington Postoffice is soon to inaugurate a new feature in the way of stamping letters, says the correspondent of the Brooklyn Eagle in that city. All mail matter received at the postoffice for distribution will, in addition to having the date and name of the receipt placed on the back of it, contain a forecast of the weather conditions for the following day.

This novel scheme originated in the brain of the old office superintendent, who has been in the office for many years. He has been in the office for many years. He has been in the office for many years. He has been in the office for many years.

The Saturday Visitor is a bright weekly that has been started at Woodland by Robert Lee.

The importance of the gold-mining industry in the northern part of the State is shown by the starting of the Smelter at Keswick by Kenneth W. Milligan and H. G. Harvey-Wray.

The Healdsburg Tribune is now eight years old and full of vim.

C. H. Woods has demonstrated the growing importance of Templeton by establishing an educational paper there called the Public School Reporter.

The Moreno Indicator is justly proud because it is wholly of home manufacture.

The famous old mining district of Julian has a bright paper called the Banner, published by B. A. Stephens and H. H. Savage.

The Valley Mirror of North Ontario gives evidence of prosperity by enlarging to eight pages.

T. D. Fennessy, J. M. Scott and W. N. Jackson have bought the Haywards Evening Mail and are making a high-grade daily.

All the people of Inyo County are glad the Register, upon beginning its twelfth volume, gives continued evidence of success and usefulness.

PERSONAL. J. F. Murray, a mining man of Volcano, is at the Ross.

John A. O'Grady of New Brunswick, N. Y., is at the Palace.

H. E. Piedert, a mining man of Placerville, is at the Palace.

Thomas McNulty, an attorney of Santa Barbara, is in town.

Compressed air perhaps is the coming power that will even relegate our ponderous locomotives to the scrap-heap.

The use, introduction and development of electricity has interested and absorbed the attention of most of our inventors to the exclusion of every other kind. Electricity is wonderful, but there are lots of it can be made by using the wind for the purpose. Perhaps these few lines may induce some one to think over the subject. It is said an idea is never lost to the world, but it may slumber a long time before it is acted upon.

A MYSTERIOUS MOUNTAIN.

For the last half century the American residents of Tucson, Ariz., have been trying to solve a mystery in the shape of what appears to be a hole through a mountain peak in plain sight from the town. In the clear rarified air it looks to be only a short distance away, when in reality it is at least forty miles. The earliest residents noticed the phenomenon, and the only difficulty that lay in the way of its discovery was that it was inaccessible, and when they came anywhere near the spot the hole disappeared from sight. In fact, it can only be seen from within a few miles of Tucson, and this has led many people to believe that it is not a hole at all.

If any plan can be devised that will cheapen the cost of our necessities, light, heat and water, besides cheap power for manufacturing, the conditions are more favorable for Tucson than ever before for the whole community, as the money saved the laboring man leaves him more to spend in trade.

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husband's correspondence, and carefully guards him against would-be intruders. He is said to be the most unapproachable literary man in the world.

Aubrey Beardsley, the impressionist artist, has no technical education whatever, a fact at the announcement of which nobody is likely to be surprised. Three or four years ago he was employed as a clerk in a bank.

The once distinguished prima donna, Mme. Gerster, who, after a short but brilliant career at her Majesty's theater, and also in the United States, partially lost her singing voice, is about to start a vocal academy in Berlin.

The Prince of Wales is to be installed as Chancellor of the University of Wales in the coming summer. The ceremony will take place at Aberystwyth, the seat of the oldest of the constituent colleges of the university.

All the Earl of Chichester's farms are carried on under his wife's name, which appears on all wages and agricultural implements. On the home farm at Stanner a large number of oxen are employed in lieu of horses.

Miss Jane Douglas Roley recently died at Swansea, Wales, at the age of 96. Her father served with Lord Nelson on board the Victory, and among the deceased lady's possessions were the trousers worn by Nelson at the battle of Trafalgar.

FOREIGNERS IN THE WAR.—A. S. City. During the War of the Rebellion the number of natives of Germany enlisted in the Union army was 176,800; natives of Ireland, 144,200.

A PHILADELPHIA FIRM.—ARKIOUS, CITY. Answers to correspondents has no knowledge of the firm named in your communication. You trusted your picture to some concern of which you did not know anything, probably because it offered to do the work at an enlarged charge. Unless you have some friend or acquaintance in the place where this concern did business, who would look after the matter, your chances of recovering your picture are very small.

AT THE TRACKS.—P. G. Crescent City, Cal. The California record for a half mile is 47.4 seconds. No charge is made at either of the racetracks for stalls, but to send a horse here and have him trained would cost the owner about \$60 a month. Horses recently won over half miles in 48.5 and 49 seconds. A 49-hour, half mile, would be of no use as either track in this city unless he could run a mile or a half-mile dashes are no longer given for aged horses.

SOUTHERN PACIFIC EARNINGS.—W. S. P., Auburn, Placer County, Cal. In 1887 the gross earnings of the Southern Pacific were \$38,732,121.05; the operating expenses, \$28,305,108.50; earnings over operating expenses, \$10,427,012.55. In 1888 the figures show: \$46,690,615.17; \$30,708,676.03; earnings over expenses, \$15,981,939.14. In 1889, \$46,343,307.89; \$30,304,365.77; earnings over expenses, \$16,038,942.12. In 1890, \$45,201,694.77; \$31,007,729.67; earnings over expenses, \$14,193,965.10. In 1891, \$50,449,415.88; \$31,163,611.94; earnings over operating expenses, \$19,285,803.94. In 1892, \$48,972,195.20; \$31,288,197.27; earnings over expenses, \$17,683,997.93. In 1893, \$50,449,415.88; \$31,163,611.94; earnings over operating expenses, \$19,285,803.94. In 1894, \$48,972,195.20; \$31,288,197.27; earnings over expenses, \$17,683,997.93. In 1895, \$50,449,415.88; \$31,163,611.94; earnings over operating expenses, \$19,285,803.94. In 1896, \$48,972,195.20; \$31,288,197.27; earnings over expenses, \$17,683,997.93.

THE TOWN TALK.—CITY. THE MORNING CALL was not built upon the ashes of the Town Talk, as you suggest in your communication. THE CALL was established by five journeymen printers—James J. Ayers, Llewellyn Zublin, Charles F. Johnson, David W. Higgins and William W. Gammell. The first number of the paper appeared December 1, 1856. The Town Talk appeared for the first time November 9, 1854, with the following announcement: