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JOHN D. SPRECKELS, Proprietor.

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BUSINESS OFFICE: 710 Market Street, San Francisco, California.

EDITORIAL ROOMS: 517 Clay Street, Telephone Main-1874

BRANCH OFFICES: 527 Montgomery Street, corner Clay; open until 9:30 o'clock

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THE CALL SPEAKS FOR ALL.

THE SUMMER MONTHS.

Are you going to the country on a vacation? If not, it is no trouble for you to forward THE CALL to your address.

Unfortunately not all of Joaquin Miller's manuscript is undecipherable.

Certain of the Greeks want war with Turkey resumed. Evidently they have recovered breath since their last run.

Nobody need fear starvation because Russia intends to keep her wheat. This country of ours is in the grain business a little.

"Weyer has not resigned," announces the telegraph. Of course not. The best that can be hoped for is that he may be incontinently freed.

Merely as a vacation proposition there does not seem to be any particular reason why the Governor of California should leave his own State.

Perhaps the Omaha lawyer who was at the head of a band of bicycle thieves has acquired enough wheels to enable him to make a plea of insanity.

The people who spurred by the pang of jealousy act upon a suicidal impulse are far from admirable, and yet it is kinder to kill one's self than somebody else.

San Francisco wants the Grand Army men. As to what sort of a convention town this is the veterans are confidently referred to any Christian Endeavorer who was here in July.

It is fortunate that the school children of San Francisco are bright as it will enable them soon to unlearn quickly the absurd system of vertical writing in which they are now being drilled.

If the successor of Canovas shall, as he declares his intention, follow the policy of that statesman, some feather-headed anarchist will be likely to follow the policy of the late garrotted Goliath.

Without a doubt some of the kid-gloved who are speculating in wheat have fallen into the common and perhaps enjoyable error of counting chickens that have to undergo the formality of hatching.

Announcement that a crisis in the East is expected has lost its power to alarm. Some day news will arrive that no crisis is apprehended, and then a startled world will hold its breath awaiting a crash.

According to the Santa Cruz Sentinel there is nothing in either Klondike or Trinity but delusion and snare. Possibly Bard McPherson thinks Californians can do no better than to remain at home and read his poetry.

There may be mortals more unhappy situated than the Klondiker who first expends all his cash in paying duty on his outfit, and then loses the outfit. However, none such has been heard from and imagination strives vainly to picture him.

The public would be glad to see Professor Davidson back in his old place as head of the Coast and Geodetic Survey. If his removal was satisfactory to anybody but the gentleman who succeeded him the fact has been strangely unreported.

Mrs. Charlotte Smith's scheme of compelling bachelors to marry lacks some elements of practicability. For instance, it would involve the necessity for somebody to marry Charlotte, unless possibly there is an unheard of Mr. Charlotte Smith.

According to the Federal court the nickel-in-the-slot machine is a gambling device, a definition that, at the risk of incurring contempt, must be pronounced flattery. The gambling device is supposed to give a player some chance, however meager.

Joaquin Miller tells touchingly about plucking a strawberry away up north somewhere, yet it is palpable that people are not going to the Klondike for strawberries and can pluck a whole bush at any San Francisco market for much less than the cost of a ticket to Dawson.

Now that Edward Decou, the slayer of Abeille, is violently insane the club that expelled him for fishing from the drinking water tanks of ice wherewith to assuage the throbbing of his brow ought at least to expunge accounts of the affair from official records.

As a poet John J. Ingalls is better than some people, yet not faultless. In a recent effort he declared that at midnight he wandered in a graveyard. Now, there is an air of probability about this. People, even people who are guided by a muse of song, wander elsewhere at such an hour, unless perhaps they dream and wake in a cold, prosaic sweat. However, if Mr. Ingalls has a poet's license, this fiction may be forgiven. It is when he speaks of hearing a heart throb in the audible silence that a practical word must decline to soar with him. Mr. Ingalls is simply mistaken. Silence that can be heard is something else, possibly indignation. The bard who rhymed of unbidden kisses reached the absolute limit. Even the admirers of Ingalls must decline to listen with him to a noisy silence, a clamorous absence of sound.

THE ASSESSMENT OF SAN FRANCISCO.

The editorial in THE CALL urging the taxpayers of San Francisco to oppose any proposed raise of the assessment of the City and County by arguments based upon reason and justice instead of sitting down and abusing the State Board of Equalization has met with a most gratifying and cordial response.

San Francisco will have a strong case to present to the State Board. The property of her taxpayers is assessed as high if not higher than that of the residents of other portions of the State.

Having so strong a case it would be foolish to weaken it by vague attacks upon the honesty and impartiality of the judges who are to pass upon it.

Preparations for guarding the interests of the taxpayers have been well made. A special committee of the Board of Supervisors has been appointed to go before the Board of Equalization and show cause why the present assessment should stand.

The committee of officials should have the support of a delegation of citizens. The taxpayers who appeared before the local Board of Equalization made the representation upon which the assessment of property was fixed should go before the State Board and make there the same presentation of facts.

This appeal to reason will not be made in vain. There has been in California too great a readiness to resort to abuse of officials, too much proneness to denounce and attack those whose actions do not accord with our desires.

WHEAT IN EUROPE.

The big surplus wheat crop of the United States will be a bonanza for our farmers and a godsend to Europe, which must look to America alone for her supply.

There is very little reserve wheat in Europe which is actually reduced to a consideration of means of subsistence for its millions of population.

It is recognized in France that America is the only country with any wheat to sell at present; but leading Gallic statesmen are averse to the abolition of the import duty.

The advance in bread, however, has stirred up an immense opposition to the French Government on this particular point, and if the price goes higher the agitation may obtain such strength as to compel President Faure to take advantage of an emergency law and suspend the wheat duty for a period.

The European nations, whether they love us or not, must this year pour their gold into the American sack to get bread enough to last them till next season.

MR. BRYAN'S DEFENDERS.

The swift alignment of the Examiner and Post in strident defense of Mr. Bryan for riding upon a Southern Pacific pass during his recent tour of California is a spectacle for gods and men.

The excuse which the Examiner offers for Mr. Bryan that the pass "was such a little one" has not even the merit of being new. Every petty offender employs it when brought to bar, and while concealing the number of times he has similarly sinned, asks for clemency upon the ground of the smallness of the single charge.

There are other queries which arise in this connection which it might be well for the new aggregation of Mr. Bryan's defenders to consider.

It is the truth were known it would probably appear that the advertising account of the World-Herald with the Southern Pacific and other railroad corporations of the country was a rather overworked industry.

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It is the truth were known it would probably appear that the advertising account of the World-Herald, and that, in consequence, his "account" is by virtue of Mr. Bryan's pass an altogether one-sided affair.

It does seem as though Mr. Bryan should have explained to our people in some of his many flights of eloquence that he had come to California through the courtesy of the Southern Pacific Company, and was enjoying himself immensely riding up and down therein upon a railroad pass.

A Los Angeles correspondent, in describing an unidentified man who tried to kill himself over trouble with his wife, adds with unconscious and almost pathetic humor: "His description corresponds with that of three different Los Angeles men who have had trouble with their wives and were missing from home to-day."

RESOLVED UPON ANARCHY.

Troubling times are ahead for the Turk. Not only is England frowning ominously upon him, but in his own empire at any moment may burst forth flames of revolution and even worse.

PERSONAL.

Dr. C. E. Reed of Petaluma is at the Grand. Dr. L. White, a Fresno banker, is at the Lick.

Dr. W. E. Smith of Mountain House, Idaho, is at the Palace. James Simpson, a contractor of Eureka, is a guest of the Lick.

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THE CAUSE OF PROSPERITY.

During the Cleveland administration, and especially after the Wilson free-trade law went into effect, the press and the orators of the Democratic party taxed their thinking capacity to frame excuses for the hard times which came upon the country instead of the good times which they had predicted.

And yet the people had been told that the most flourishing periods known to our country's history would be small affairs in comparison with the glorious days of happiness and abundance that were destined to follow the passage of the Wilson bill.

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UNCLE SAM—Never punctured my tire.

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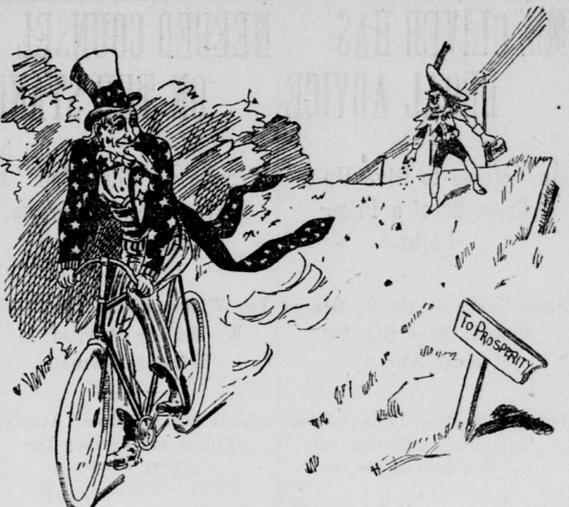
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PUBLIC BATHS.

San Francisco, Cal., Aug. 22, 1897. Dear Sir: With reference to the subject of municipal ownership of public utilities, so much discussed nowadays, there is an article on the subject of public baths and wash-houses in the Bulletin of Labor (issued by Carroll D. Wright) for July that is well worthy of attention.

It is an old saying that cleanliness is next to godliness, and it is quite certain that unclean conditions and surroundings have decided effects upon character and morals.

The thousands of men who sleep in the 5 and 10 cent lodging-houses that are now becoming numerous have but little facilities for even washing their hands and faces and absolutely none for washing their bodies.

Edward McGettigan of Vallejo, Supervisor of Solano County, has written an article on the subject of public baths and wash-houses in the Bulletin of Labor (issued by Carroll D. Wright) for July that is well worthy of attention.

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FRATERNAL DEPARTMENT.

Golden Gate Parlor Wants Flags Displayed in This City on September 9.

Golden Gate Parlor No. 89 of the Native Sons of the Golden West is anxious that on Admission day every person who has a flag-staff over the front of his house and owns an American flag should display that flag on the 9th of September.

The parade, which is to be held on the 9th of September, is the State's national day, and that on each anniversary the American flag should be floated everywhere, not only in this city, but in every part of the State, to show that Californians are glad that they are in the Union, and to show further that patriotism is not dormant.

This parlor, of which Martin C. Eichel is president and A. Eberhardt is recording secretary, is actively engaged in making arrangements for a fine appearance in the Admission day parade in Santa Rosa. The members have signed their intention to be on hand at the celebration, and efforts are being made to have a good numerical strength in line.

Piedmont Parlor, N. D. G. W.

Piedmont Parlor of Oakland, at its meeting held last week in Loring Hall, had quite a large attendance, and initiated one candidate.

This parlor, which has been making considerable progress, will visit Santa Rosa on the 9th of September and will take part in the parade. Quite a number of the members have signed their intention to be on hand at the celebration, and efforts are being made to have a good numerical strength in line.

Couri El Dorado, F. O. A.

The fifth social event last Saturday night by Court El Dorado No. 31 of the Foresters of America, in Union-square Hall, was a great social success.

There were present a large number of young people who enjoyed the fine programme of dances that had been prepared for them. The affair was under the management of the following-named: Committee of arrangements—Miss Rose, Miss Foster, Miss F. Foster, Miss C. A. Beach, Charles Burgess; reception committee—Charles Mackintosh, A. F. Wade, H. J. Man of the Parlor, J. H. Kroeger, H. Cauvet; floor manager, Charles Burgess; door committee—Emil Henry, Louis Benward, J. Webber, H. J. Miller, E. H. Maas, E. J. Stanley.

La Estrella Parlor, N. D. G. W.

The following-named were the participants in the entertainment recently given by La Estrella Parlor of the Native Daughters of the Golden West: Miss Dora Bahr, zither solo; song and dance, Miss Fossie O'Connell; specialties, Frank and George Bush; reception, Miss Conn. This parlor is making arrangements to go to Santa Rosa to take part in the procession on Admission day.

Knights of Pythias.

Alfred Perrier and J. E. Slaney have organized a new lodge of Knights of Pythias in San Francisco, and at a meeting to be held this evening in Bellvue's Hall in that place steps will be taken to prepare for the institution of the new body.

The Orphans' Home, I. O. O. F.

The board of trustees of the Orphans' Home of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, being held at Gilroy, have the assurance of the contractors that the building will be completed in time to enable the board to furnish the rooms and open the home on the first of October, and the building will be ready to take place in the latter part of October.

CALLING THE COWS.

I shall never hear her more
By the road I pass her
"Cush! Cush!" she'll call
Ere the sun has set
I shall never hear her
Where the sunny fields doth
Glow her
From the water wind and down
Onward floweth to the town
I shall never see her
Where the reeds and rushes quiver
And the silver, quivering
Sobbing, throbbing, in its falling
Sound, I shall never see her
I shall never hear her
"Leave your meadow grasses mellow,
Quit you cowpats, cowpats yellow;
Come up, whitefoot, come up, lightfoot;
Come up, whitefoot, come up, lightfoot;
Hollow, hollow;
Come up, lightfoot, rise and follow;
From your coveys lift the head,
Come up, whitefoot, follow;
Levy, to the making shed." JEAN INGERSOLL.

NICKEL IN THE SLOT.

Gambling Machines Not Protected by the Patent Laws of the United States.

Important Decision Rendered by Circuit Judge Morrow Which Abolishes Royalties.

United States Judge Morrow yesterday rendered an opinion in favor of the defendants in the case of Gustav F. W. Schultz against Theodore Holz and others in an action in equity to restrain the defendants from infringing on the complainant's patents on certain nickel-in-the-slot machines. The meat of the opinion is as follows:

In this case the verified answer not only denies that the invention is new and useful, but alleges a specific fact, which, if true, disposes of the claim of novelty. This result is due to the fact that the apparatus is used for gambling purposes and that it cannot be used for any other purpose. Clearly this is an allegation which, under the rule, should be treated as testimony in favor of the defendant, and in view of the fact that the complainant has introduced no testimony to support the patent, it is, in my judgment, sufficient to entitle the defendant to a decree in his favor.

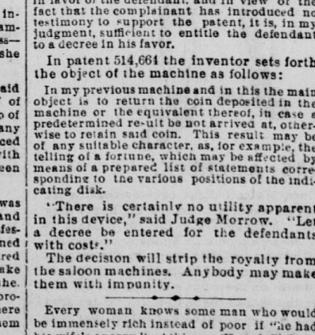
In patent 314,591 the inventor sets forth the object of the machine as follows: "The main object is to return the coin deposited in the machine or the equivalent thereof, in case a predetermined result be not arrived at, otherwise the coin is lost." This result may be of any suitable character, as, for example, the telling of a fortune, which may be affected by means of a prepared list of statements corresponding to the various positions of the indicating disk.

"There is certainly no utility apparent in this device," said Judge Morrow. "Let a decree be entered for the defendants with cost."

The decision will strip the royalty from the saloon machines. Anybody may make them with impunity.

Every woman knows some man who would be immensely rich instead of poor if "he had his wife's energy."—Atkinson (Kans.) Globe.

ROYAL MAKES THE FOOD PURE, WHOLESOME AND DELICIOUS.



ONE BOND MUST BEAR IT ALL

Postmasters Responsible for the Peculations of Clerks.

Only Exceptions to the Rule Are Acts of God or of Public Enemies.

William J. Bryan's Sureties Must Make Good Ten Thousand Dollars That Were Stolen.

United States Circuit Judge Morrow rendered an interesting opinion yesterday morning to the effect that a Postmaster is liable upon his official bonds for the money embezzled by one of his clerks, even though the clerk may have been appointed under the civil service act.

The suit was brought against William J. Bryan as principal and Jesse D. Carr, William Matthews, William W. Stow and Henry Miller as sureties on his official bonds of \$300,000, executed by them on July 14, 1886. Bryan was Postmaster of San Francisco from June, 1886, to June 30, 1890.

The particular breach of the conditions of the bond alleged is that Bryan neglected to render his account to the Postoffice Department as required by law, amounting to \$3099 88, no part of which had been paid.

Bryan's answer set up as a defense was that the \$3099 88 was embezzled by James S. Kennedy, clerk in the Postoffice at San Francisco, who held his office under the civil service rules. Kennedy was subsequently convicted of the crime.

Counsel for the United States demurred to that part of the answer which set up that Bryan was not responsible because the clerk was not his appointee, but had been appointed and held his office under the civil service laws of the United States.

In the decision sustaining the demurrer Judge Morrow says:

The liability of a public officer upon his official bond is governed to a large extent by the terms of the bond itself and the duties imposed upon him by the law. The terms of the bonds sued on in this case are absolute. No exceptions are provided for. The condition of the obligation was that he should faithfully discharge all the duties and trusts imposed on him either by law or the rules and regulations of the Postoffice Department, etc. The law, rules and regulations required him to account for all the moneys received by him as Postmaster.

It is admitted by the answer that