

The Call SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1897 JOHN D. SPRECKELS, Proprietor. Address All Communications to W. S. LEAKE, Manager. PUBLICATION OFFICE: 710 Market Street, San Francisco. Telephone Main 1868.

A DIZZY REFORMER.

POLICE COMMISSIONER GUNST has made some observations upon "Reform," as it presents itself periodically in this and other large cities. The infirmity of reform seems to be that it is conveniently made the vehicle of personal ambition.

REAPING THE WHIRLWIND.

DEMOCRACY sowed the wind during the Bryanite campaign last year and is now reaping the whirlwind. A storm not felt by the country at large strikes every camp where the Democrats assemble and scatters their forces before they can get into ranks for the warpath.

OUR CLAIM ON HAWAII.

SENATOR MORGAN has exploited at Honolulu his vocabulary for the benefit of the natives who carefully abstained from the intoxicating pleasure of listening to him. He took the high ground that America discovered Hawaii morally and having extended Christian civilization to the islands acquired the right to annex them.

SEA-POWER OF THE UNITED STATES.

The Nicaragua canal ought to be built; it is sure to be built, and when built it will be under English control. Whether England even as the Nicaraguan is under English control, whether England thinks it to her military advantage, she closes the canal, as she did once, despite the objection of France.

NEVER TOUCH STEEL TO CIGARS.

Never touch steel to a cigar. It is worse than cutting an apple or pear to pieces preparatory to eating it. The only way to eat fruit, if you have any regard for the fitness of things, is to bite into the whole piece as it comes from the tree or the bush or the vine. It is something the same thing with cigars. If you cut the end off you leave a sharp-edged surface for the sensitive tip of your tongue to play against.

A PARK FOR THE CITY HALL.

A PARK is demanded between the City Hall and Market street, and the movement started by the Grand Jury to procure one will find cordial support from the people. That much was made evident by the interviews with many citizens published in THE CALL. The benefits to be derived from such an improvement of our principal thoroughfare and our chief municipal building are everywhere recognized, and the land required for the park can be obtained on reasonable terms there can be no question but what the taxpayers will readily agree to its purchase.

The proposed improvement is no new thing to our citizens. It has long been desired. In fact, the great mass of the people have never cordially assented to the sale of this tract, which was originally designed for a plaza, and there would be general gratification in seeing it returned to the possession of the city and devoted to the use of the people as a park and recreation ground.

Police Commissioner Alvord advocated the recovery of the tract by the city and the establishment of the park when he held the office of Mayor twenty-five years ago. His opinion on the subject has not changed, and he favors the movement today as strongly as he did then. He does not stand alone in this steadfast adherence to opinions formed years ago, for as our interviews show, many others who have long been residents of San Francisco have continuously maintained the same view of the subject.

Auditor Broderick, who expressed the views of the opponents of the improvement, stated in an interview: "In my opinion the establishment of a park in front of the City Hall would serve no good purpose, and would interfere with the continuity of business. All the trade would be diverted down Sixth and Seventh streets." This objection is not well founded. The business of New York has never been diverted from Broadway by City Hall square, Union square and Madison square, that break the continuity of the shops on that thoroughfare; nor is the trade on Tremont street, in Boston, checked by the fact that for nearly its whole length one side is faced by the Common.

As a matter of fact, almost every great and stately thoroughfare in the world is broken along its length by parks that adorn it and add to its attractiveness. The embellishment of Market street would in no way detract from its importance as the main artery of retail trade, but on the contrary would improve and augment its value in that respect, and, while beneficial to the people as a whole, would be particularly so to those doing business in the neighborhood of the new park.

Whatever may be the result of the controversy on the subject, it is gratifying to have it brought up for discussion as an issue of practical municipal improvement. The Grand Jury has made a good move in bringing it to the front, and if some satisfactory plan can be devised for the purchase of the tract at a reasonable price we may expect to see the new park opened in a time much shorter than is now expected.

SMALL FOIBLES OF HUMANS.

An interesting writer, noting the petty meanness of the rich and great, says there is a great lady who lives not far from Park lane who is renowned for the perfection of her dinners. Yet she sends her footman round in the dark to drop invitations into her friends' letter boxes because she won't spend the money needed for postage stamps.

OPINIONS OF A PESSIMIST.

The woman who bleaches her hair will probably grieve because she can't change the color of her wing feathers, if she ever gets to be a woman. When a man gets to be 35 he wonders how it was ever possible for him to regard people of that age as being well along in years. Some men still dye their hair and whiskers. Generally, this practice is the only thing about them worth mentioning.

HUMOR IN SMALL DOSES.

A correspondent sends us some more reporters' errors. Some are very amusing. Mr. Asquith once referred to the Government's impique or temper, "the reporter wrote 'peacock temper.'" A speaker at Exeter Hall, replying to an attack, said: "I was double in the shape of half a truth," which, by the ingenuity of the Lord, appeared as "a double eye in the shape of half a tooth."

THE BENEFITS OF EXPOSITIONS.

FACTS and statistics gathered by the State Board of Trade with reference to the effect produced by the State exhibit at the Hamburg Exposition attest the value of that means of advertising our products abroad. The results as reported have been surprisingly good and leave no room for doubt that we have been more than repaid for all the time, money and energy the display cost.

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PICTURE OF A MISSION TO HAWAII.

From the Honolulu Independent. The visit of the Senators from Alabama and the Congressmen from different States has not been satisfactory to the annexation howlers. The Congressmen have left us, and it was obvious that they were not very enthusiastic over their visit to Hawaii.

Then came the pawa hula. The missionaries stayed away from that escape, and left the virtuous exhibition of our national heathen dance in the hands of the Minister of Education (the hula was evidently not "foreign affairs"), the general of the army, the professor of public morals, the marshal, and a number of ardent annexationists, even to sacrifice their natural modesty to further the "fun" of their Congressional visitors.

The despotism of the Government has gradually become very obnoxious to a large number of the people, and the people are being vanquished in several battles soon after the outbreak of a war the danger of a revolution would become very imminent, just as was the case in France after the defeat at Sedan.

NAVY POLICY OF AMERICA.

George Washington, annual address, December 7, 1796: To secure respect to a neutral flag requires a naval force organized and ready to vindicate it from insult or aggression. This may even prevent the necessity of going to war by discouraging belligerent powers from committing such violations of the rights of the neutral party as may, first or last, leave no other option. These considerations invite the United States to look to the means, and to set about the gradual creation of a navy.

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RUSSIA'S MILITARY STRENGTH.

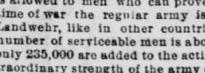
IT IS almost impossible to form a correct idea of the gigantic army at the disposal of the Czar of all the Russias. A traveler cannot fail to be favorably impressed by the good appearance of the troops he sees at St. Petersburg, Moscow and Warsaw. A military man, however, who has studied the principal European armies in all their branches and has seen the Russian soldiers in war and peace and taken pains to obtain minute information in regard to the latter's organization, equipment, armament, discipline and arrangements for mobilization, will arrive at a somewhat different conclusion.

PERSONAL.

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Finland Rifleman

is allowed to men who can prove a certain degree of education. In time of war the regular army is augmented by the reserve, but a Landwehr, like in other countries, does not exist in Russia. The number of serviceable men is about 850,000 each year, but of these only 225,000 are added to the active army. This accounts for the extraordinary strength of the army of the empire. The army is divided in twenty-one army corps (not twenty-six as has erroneously been stated by some writers), and this division is a mere matter of form, not tactically, the Russian army is formed by battalions. The army consists of: 1. Infantry—152 regiments (12 guard, 16 grenadier and 124 line) of 4 battalions and 1 battalion of non-combatants each, in all about 337,400 men; 20,000 riflemen, 21,000 men of the line, 30,000 men of the line, 218 reserve battalions, which in time of war 31 regiments are formed, and 3 battalions of Cossack Rifle-Drushchins.

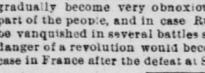
The total strength of the regular army amounts to 660,000 men, which, in consequence of Russia's abundance of recruits, with in case of mobilization be swelled to about 1,690,000 combatants, including 36,600 officers, 204,000 horses and 3776 guns. With this tremendous number of men the military resources of Russia are by no means exhausted, as the entire irregular Cossack force included in the above. It is very probable that in case of war Russia will be able to place from 6,000,000 to 7,000,000 men under arms.

The possession of large numbers of soldiers is one thing and the bringing of a considerable part of these soldiers to a point where and when they are needed is quite another. The drawing together of troops at the time of the Crimean War was connected with such difficulties that the apparently inexhaustible supplies of men and provisions were of no use whatever. As late as the sixth war of Russia against Turkey (1877-8) the former country required fully six months to throw 300,000 men across the Danube, and was severely defeated by the Turks in Asia and Europe, and finally succeeded in gaining the victory only by opposing five men to one of their adversaries. This war cost Russia 172,000 men and 500,000,000 roubles.



Line of Infantry of Turkey

Since then Russia has expended considerable energy in improving the transportation facilities of the vast empire, particularly in Poland and the northeastern provinces. In order to be somewhat prepared for an unexpected war with Germany or Austria, or both, the largest part of Russia's available forces have been stationed in the immediate neighborhood of the Prussian and Austrian frontiers since 1886. But it means that the transportation of troops to reinforce the armies on the frontier is still connected with great difficulties, as the German general staff as yet has not found it necessary to guard the Prussian frontier with any troops beyond the Danube and the Elbe. In the front provinces, it has been conclusively proved by the Austrian and French war that the Prussian general staff knew the strength, resources and general ability of the Austrian and French armies much better than the war offices at Vienna and Paris, and that the Prussian general staff was just as well informed in respect to the Russian army. With the exception of two or three army corps, including the guards, the med. and officers possess a much lower grade of intelligence than those of other countries, and their discipline has much to be desired. In armament and equipment they are far behind the other countries, and the vice of intemperance is very common among officers and privates.



Cossack of the Imperial Guard

ANIMALS IN GROUP.

- New York Herald. The ingenuity of the sportsman is, perhaps, no better illustrated than by the use he puts the English language to in designating particular groups of animals. The following is a list of the terms which have been applied to the various classes: A covey of partridges. A flock of geese. A ride of pheasants. A bevy of quails. A brood of grouse. A school of walrus. A flight of doves or a trip of dotterel swallows. A school of herring. A siege of herons. A shoal of herrings. A building of rooks. A herd of swine. A brood of quails. A school of foxes. A plump of wild fowl. A pack of wolves. A sand of plovers. A drove of oxen. A watch of nightingales. A troop of monkeys. A clattering of a pride of lions. A herd of elephants. A sleuth of bears. A herd or bunch of a gang of elk. H. BLACK, painter, 120 Eddy street.

CALIFORNIANS IN WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 9.—F. G. Madden of San Francisco is at the St. James; D. A. McCoolgan of California is at the Metropolitan.

"EI NIST, O WUNDER!"

Here in the sun the thrushes sing; Here in the sun the tulips shine; While clouds wander and wet leaves swing— Where is the shadow of Winter's wing? And where this sorrow of yours and mine?

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