

# The Call

THURSDAY.....FEBRUARY 17, 1898

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Address All Communications to W. S. LEAKE, Manager.  
Telephone Main 1888.  
PUBLICATION OFFICE.....Market and Third Sts., S. F.  
Telephone Main 1888.  
EDITORIAL ROOMS.....217 to 221 Stevenson street  
Telephone Main 1274.

THE SAN FRANCISCO CALL DAILY AND SUNDAY is served by carriers in this city and surrounding towns for 15 cents a week. By mail \$6 per year, per month 65 cents.

THE WEEKLY CALL.....One year, by mail, \$1.50

OAKLAND OFFICE.....908 Broadway  
Eastern Representative, DAVID ALLEN.  
NEW YORK OFFICE.....Room 188, World Building

WASHINGTON D. C. OFFICE.....Riggs House  
C. C. CARLTON, Correspondent.

BRANCH OFFICES—527 Montgomery street, corner Clay open until 9:30 o'clock. 359 Hayes street, open until 9:30 o'clock. 621 McAllister street, open until 9:30 o'clock. 615 Larkin street, open until 9:30 o'clock. 506 corner Sixteenth and Mission streets, open until 9 o'clock. 2518 Mission street, open until 9 o'clock. 106 Eleventh st., open until 9 o'clock. 1605 Polk street, open until 9:30 o'clock. NW, corner Twenty-second and Kentucky streets, open until 9 o'clock.

AMUSEMENTS.  
Baldwin—The Bostonians.  
California—Black Patti Troubadours.  
Columbia—“What Happened to Jones.”  
Alcazar—“Charley’s Aunt.”  
Morosco—“Sheena doots.”  
Follies—“Said Paul.”  
Orpheum—Vaudeville.  
Olympia, corner Mason and Eddy streets—Specialties.  
The Chinese—Clitanga and Vaudeville.  
Mechanics Pavilion—Musical and Klondike Exposition.  
California Jockey Club, Oakland Race-track—Races to-day.

AUCTION SALES.  
By Frank W. Butterfield—This day, February 17, Turkish Bugs, at 115 Sutter street, at 2 P. M.  
By Emil Cohn—This day, February 17, Stationery Store, at 718 Larkin street, at 11 o'clock.  
By Killip & Co.—Saturday, February 19, Horses, at Oakland Race-track, at 12 o'clock.  
By Von Rhein & Co.—Thursday, February 24, Real Estate, at 628 Market street, at 12 o'clock.

PUT UP OR SHUT UP.

AS independent as the proverbial hog on ice is the yellow faker of Mission street; when it cannot stand up it can fall down on itself and slide in its own grease. It has taken the latter course in the face of the demand of The Call that it should either prove the truth of its denial that John R. Griffiths was at Agnews at the time Peter Camarinos died or acknowledge the error. Finding itself in a slippery place it has fallen down, and loudly claims to be sliding on its own slipperiness and not on that of the location.  
Since the Examiner has fallen down we have no desire to pursue the subject further. When we brought the issue before the public and offered to deposit with Mayor Phelan \$1000 to be divided among the charitable institutions of the city if the Examiner could show that the denial it made of the story published in The Call was well founded, we had no other object than that of impressing upon the public mind the accuracy of the reports in The Call and the falsehood to which the yellow journal resorts to discredit news which it is too slow to get. That object has been accomplished. The Examiner yesterday refused to stand by its former words, but announced in screaming type that if some other issue of its own selection be taken up it would meet The Call half way.  
We challenged the Examiner to maintain the truth of a statement made in its columns and stated the challenge in the straight Saxon words, “Put up or shut up.” The Examiner has done neither. The hog on ice, whether he stands or falls, can always squeal, and this particular stuck pig squeals wildly. We have no desire to inflict the squealing upon the public any further, and therefore resist the temptation to kick the sprawling nuisance and provoke it to further noise. We simply profit by the opportunity to brand the thing once more as a public liar, and so pass on to other things until a new offense from the jealous faker calls for new redress and new exposure.  
In the meantime our original challenge stands.

## OVERWORKING THE CHILDREN.

MANY parents are approaching the conclusion that their children are forced to do an unreasonable amount of work in the public schools. A few years ago a child of 12 or 13 advanced to about the stage of the seventh grade of today would be under no necessity of studying at home in the evening, or at least but rarely. Now, to keep up with the prescribed course the child must study often as much as two hours in the evening. There is something wrong with the system which exacts this. A child has a right to leisure for recreation or for the pursuit of some branch, French, German or music, not in the curriculum. Many children complain of trouble with their eyes, and naturally enough. If they pore over books during a large part of the time they are at school, and must devote their evenings to the active pursuit of the same industry, not only their eyes, but their bodies are being subjected to undue strain. A little girl of 11 recently remarked that she had twenty-seven examples to work out one evening. She had complained to her teacher, who had cheered her with the information that if she would give two hours' faithful application to them she ought to be able to work them all. Possibly this was true. But there is no justice in the demand that any girl of 11 after a day in school shall give two hours of faithful application to any form of knowledge concealed between the covers of a text-book.

## PUSHING THE INVESTIGATION.

REPRESENTATIVE HILBORN has introduced into the House a resolution directing the Committee on Military Affairs to make an investigation of the recent discovery that defective shrapnel has been furnished to the army by private contractors. The issue is thus brought fairly before Congress and it is to be hoped no favor for the guilty parties nor the pressure of the business of the session will cause the committee to hesitate in taking up the matter while all the circumstances are still fresh in the public mind and popular interest in the subject is keen and strong.  
In the first reports of the affair it was stated that the defective shrapnel discovered by the tests at the Presidio was furnished by the American Ordnance Company. To our special correspondent at Washington, however, it was stated by an officer of that company that the ammunition did not come from his company, but from the Hotchkiss Company before the consolidation.  
It appears the American Ordnance Company is something in the nature of a trust and represents a consolidation of several of the largest corporations engaged in that business in the country. It would of course be unjust to hold the entire combination responsible for defective ammunition furnished by one of its members before the consolidation took place, but nevertheless it will not be overlooked that the combination was probably formed to make better profits out of the Government, and doubtless received a share of the gains made out of the defective ammunition in question.  
Mr. Hilborn is quoted by our correspondent as saying the Government should as far as practicable manufacture its war material, as there would then be no temptation to furnish unserviceable ammunition. The cost to the Government would perhaps be more, but it would be better to stand that than to run the risk of having to face a war with our troops and navy so poorly supplied that they would be sent to slaughter rather than to battle.  
Against this reasoning there is nothing to be urged. If we cannot obtain good ammunition from private contractors the Government should buy all means set up a manufacturing plant of its own. It is by no means certain, however, that we cannot find contractors who will furnish good ammunition. Our manufacturers are quite capable of producing as good war material as any in the world, and if the proper inducements are held out by the Government they will furnish us with military and naval supplies of unquestioned quality.  
One of these inducements should be fair prices for the goods, and another should be prompt punishment for supplying the army or navy with defective goods. We have for a long time held out the first of these,

## THE THREE SILVER MANIFESTOS.

THE Bryan Democracy, Populists and free silver Republicans have sat upon and incubated a triune manifesto to their followers, summoning them to fusion on free coinage of silver at 16 to 1. This document, so abundantly fathered, impeaches the administration for maintaining the gold standard and making the lives of the people “bitter with a hard bondage.” This is also an impeachment of Andrew Jackson, who said in 1836 that “gold is the universal and only honest standard of value.” But Jackson is dead and cannot defend himself, even against the attempt to identify him with fatism.  
The address, continuing, says: “The continued rise in value of gold—or, which is the same thing, the continued fall in prices—must inevitably transfer the property of all those engaged in active business, the actual creators of wealth, whether by hand, brain or capital, to those who, avoiding the risk and effort of active business, only draw interest.”  
The address fails to state what these wicked men will do then, when they have destroyed their capacity to draw interest by destroying the power to pay it.  
The farmers of Mr. Bryan's State paid off \$26,000,000 of mortgages in 1897, and Kansas proposes to exhibit at the Omaha fair a full carload of mortgages paid off last year.  
When Mr. Bryan was in Congress, in his speech on the Wilson bill, in reply to the claim that protection wisely distributed lowered instead of raising prices to the consumer, he said that the general fall in prices was due entirely to increase in production by labor-saving inventions. Now he sees a new light and lays low prices to the gold standard.  
It needs no argument to prove that if the so-called demonizing of silver in 1873 made prices fall, independent of supply and demand, of production and consumption, the fall would have been immediate, sudden and final. It would have affected not a few but all values.  
The fact is that silver has been more coined and more used in effecting the world's commercial exchanges since 1873 than before. Of the specie used in moving the foreign trade of the United States, Great Britain, France and British India for the four years ending in 1864 the proportion of silver was 40 per cent; for the four years ending 1890 it was 45 per cent.

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The most serious feature of the present situation is the fact that within a short time the Deputies are to meet their constituents. The Government is thus compelled to some extent to comply with the will of the leaders of the excitement for fear of their influence over the rabble on election day. The loss of a comparatively few seats in the Chamber of Deputies would mean the overthrow of the present Ministry, and the Government dares not take the risk of too strongly opposing the sentiment of a class which, however small it may be in comparison with the whole voting population, is nevertheless active, vigorous and aggressive enough to be a dangerous foe.  
The men who are making the most violent demonstrations against Zola and Dreyfus are known to be opposed to the present constitution of France. They are divided into two parties which on all other issues are in violent antagonism to one another, one faction being socialists and the other monarchists, but for this fight they have combined, each being willing to help the other tear down the Government and take chances as to which will be able to seize the spoils after the common victory.  
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The present movement has no leader. The passionate regard for the army shown in the excitement that attends the trial of Zola is ample proof that if a military leader of commanding eminence were forthcoming the republic would be in extreme danger, but there is no young Napoleon in sight. The opportunity is present, but the man is absent. The chances, therefore, are that the present excitement will never spread beyond the boulevards of Paris, and that when the elections take place a sure and safe majority of conservative republicans will be elected to maintain the present constitution for another long term of years.

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It is stated that Peary stands in the foremost rank of Arctic explorers. He does more than this; he is the foremost rank. No other brave pioneer has the distinction of being the father of an all-white baby born quite so far north, and no other has monkeyed around the exclusive Arctic circle so extensively without having discovered something.  
While the police announce with pleasing faith that there are no confidence men left in the city, no citizen in whom the bump of credulity is not abnormally developed will take his hand off his pocketbook while in a crowd.  
Supervisors will not be much concerned over anything the Grand Jury may say about them. They are not noted for delicacy of feeling. Nothing short of a verdict will ever cause them uneasiness.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

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It must not be supposed, however, that the stormy mobs of Paris represent the public opinion of France. Excitement in one form or another is the normal condition of life among a large portion of the population of Paris, and France is too much accustomed to their extravagances to be seriously disturbed by them. Almost every political crisis causes a violent uproar along the boulevards, but it is self-deluded that anything more than noise and a few delusions emanate from the confusion that seems about to hurry the republic into chaos and old night.  
The most serious feature of the present situation is the fact that within a short time the Deputies are to meet their constituents. The Government is thus compelled to some extent to comply with the will of the leaders of the excitement for fear of their influence over the rabble on election day. The loss of a comparatively few seats in the Chamber of Deputies would mean the overthrow of the present Ministry, and the Government dares not take the risk of too strongly opposing the sentiment of a class which, however small it may be in comparison with the whole voting population, is nevertheless active, vigorous and aggressive enough to be a dangerous foe.  
The men who are making the most violent demonstrations against Zola and Dreyfus are known to be opposed to the present constitution of France. They are divided into two parties which on all other issues are in violent antagonism to one another, one faction being socialists and the other monarchists, but for this fight they have combined, each being willing to help the other tear down the Government and take chances as to which will be able to seize the spoils after the common victory.  
The campaign cry by which the combined factions have succeeded in exciting the Parisian populace is “The honor of the army.” The people are told that Zola has insulted the arms of France for the purpose of defending a traitor. It is for this he is howled at on the streets and threatened with violence as he goes and returns to and from the court. The same cry will be sounded during the campaign throughout France when the elections take place, and it will go hard with the Ministry if the opposition can fasten upon it the suspicion that it is lacking in loyalty to the army of the nation.  
The outlook is grave beyond a doubt, but the republic has met and weathered many a fiercer storm than this. The Boulanger movement was more dangerous because it had a leader who was a popular favorite, and in whom large numbers of people believed they saw a new Napoleon who would redeem Alsace and Lorraine from the Germans and restore the prestige and glory of the arms of France.  
The present movement has no leader. The passionate regard for the army shown in the excitement that attends the trial of Zola is ample proof that if a military leader of commanding eminence were forthcoming the republic would be in extreme danger, but there is no young Napoleon in sight. The opportunity is present, but the man is absent. The chances, therefore, are that the present excitement will never spread beyond the boulevards of Paris, and that when the elections take place a sure and safe majority of conservative republicans will be elected to maintain the present constitution for another long term of years.

## MUSIC AND MUSICIANS.

One of the stars of the Damrosch-Ellis opera company at the Metropolitan Opera-house this season is Mile. Toronto, a youthful graduate of Mme. Marchesi's school. It is almost needless to say that Mile. Toronto is a Canadian and hails from Toronto. When Lamperti suggested to a gifted young American soprano that she should name herself Albani, after her native town of Albany, he set a fashion which is growing more and more popular. Melba has given an added glory to Melbourne, Fanny Francesca is carrying the fame of San Francisco abroad, and Mile. Toronto, in winning laurels for herself, is incidentally earning fame for Toronto. There is no knowing where the mania may end. The twentieth century may see every town and hamlet with its name prima donna. To avoid injustice the aspiring singer ought first to warble to the community, and be publicly endorsed before being allowed to wear a city's name; otherwise we might see Mile. Oaklanda or Mile. Los Angeles making a complete

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