

GAS COMPANIES ARE FORCE TO DISGORGE Consumers Will No Longer Submit to the Extortion in the Way of "Deposits."

An Insight Into the Cost of Manufacture of Gas Which the Companies Have Kept a Profound Secret.

The thousands of householders who have been held up by the gas company and forced to pay tribute to its unlawful "deposit fund" are either preparing to make the company disgorge or have already done so. The suit begun by Henry James last week to recover the \$5 "deposit" he had been obliged to put up before the company would supply him with gas, and the alacrity with which the company offered to refund the money as soon as the matter became public through the medium of The Call, has set the other victims to thinking, and already there have been numerous demands for the return of the deposits, which have readily been complied with.

The cost of manufacture has always been a carefully guarded secret of the gas companies, not only in this but in the Eastern cities as well. Colonel C. Taylor, the gas and water inspector, has unsuccessfully sought to obtain information on this point from almost every city in the United States, and, when during the course of a conversation Joseph B. Crockett, president of the San Francisco Gas Light Company, promised to give Colonel Taylor the information in his power, and the latter asked the cost of manufacture, Crockett smiled and said: "Oh, of course you can't expect me to say anything about that in his official report for the year ending June 30, 1897, Colonel Taylor gives some interesting figures as the result of his investigation into the cost of gas in Eastern cities. In New York the cost of gas to public and private consumers is fixed by law at \$1.25 per thousand of twenty-candle power. In the ten largest cities of Massachusetts the cost of gas for street lamps averages \$1.10 per thousand. The price in other cities is as follows: Cincinnati, \$1; Cleveland, 80 cents; Buffalo, \$1; Milwaukee, \$1; Indianapolis, \$1.25; St. Paul, \$1.10; Allegheny, \$1; Albany, \$1.70; Syracuse, \$1.30. Regarding the quality of gas supplied by the San Francisco companies, Colonel Taylor has no complaint to make. The gas is as good as that of any other city, although the law requires that it be tested but once a week, and he has never yet found it to fall below eighteen-candle power. The thing that he regrets is that the companies do not obtain information from the heads of the companies as to the cost of manufacture.

But their hopes seem likely to be vain, for the people are fully aroused over the imposition that has been practiced upon them for years, and it is probable that within a few weeks this enormous fund, which has helped to swell the dividends on gas stock by thousands of dollars, and which rather than have a court of law pass upon it will demand it, hoping that some would not take the trouble to draw down their deposit and that after a time, when the present agitation had subsided, in the absence of a definite ruling on the subject, they could resume their old "bluff" game on the public.

Thomas Price, the well-known chemist and assayer, has probably given the subject the most thorough and complete study in San Francisco. He uses gas not only for lighting, but for heating and power purposes as well, and is a recognized authority on the subject. Mr. Price explained the process of the manufacture of illuminating gas to a Call reporter at considerable length. He said that the cheapest gas is what is termed water gas, which, although giving intense heat, is of little value as an illuminant. But when mixed with certain kinds of coal gas, or with gas derived from petroleum, the necessary illuminating power could easily be obtained. That he said, the way gas was manufactured by the local companies. The water gas did not cost to exceed 25 cents per thousand feet, and to give the required illuminating power they used shale, which was obtained from Australia. Crude petroleum was also used, and for that purpose a considerable quantity of the product of the Los Angeles wells found a ready market. Either shale or petroleum gas, Mr. Price said, gave an illuminating power of above forty candles, while only eighteen-candle-power was required by law, so that a comparatively small proportion mixed with the water gas sufficed for the ordinary gas of commerce.

Mr. Burling was for several years secretary of the old Central Gas Company, and is thoroughly familiar with all the details of the business. Not long ago Mr. Burling, together with other local capitalists, considered the possibility of starting an opposition plant in this city, but decided to let the matter rest in abeyance for the present. Mr. Burling, however, made a thorough investigation into the cost of the manufacture of gas, and reported to his associates that it could be delivered at a cost not exceeding forty cents per thousand feet. He was convinced that with the methods of manufacturing gas now in use by the established companies it did not cost over fifty cents per thousand.

Mr. Price could not give the cost of manufacture of either shale or petroleum gas, but was of the opinion that the estimate of the committee of the ordinary gas was not far out of the way. If it is possible for the people to get at the exact cost of gas, they are in a position to demand that the companies not only refund the compulsory deposits, but to reduce their rates to a fair price.

GAIETY AMONG PRETTY BOOBS

Bazaar of the Ladies' Council of Bush-Street Temple a Success.

Entertainment of the Highest Order Yet to Be Produced.

Ever since the opening night, last Saturday, the concert by the amateur band of the friends of the congregation, and notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather there was a large attendance at the bazaar last night, sufficient to cause the manager to express himself satisfied of its success, financially and socially.

TORN BY A WILD BEAST

A Trainer at the Chutes Has a Narrow Escape From Death.

He Was Exercising a Leopard When It Suddenly Turned on Him.

A ranch trainer who is connected with the Zoo now at the Chutes had a narrow escape from a horrible death yesterday morning.

Dr. Berryman Bryant Succumbs After a Long Life of Usefulness.

Dr. Berryman Bryant, a native of Spartanburg, S. C., aged 81 years 5 months, died at the residence of his son, Calhoun Bryant, at 2915 Clay street, last evening.

The entertainment will open with a sleight-of-hand performance by S. R. Jacobs. This will be followed by Miss L. Preslarer, representing "Chiquita"; Miss Lattie Nathan, dramatic reader; specialities; Miss M. Schlessinger, vocal solo; Julius Kahn, recitation; Lennie Waterman, cellist; Dr. W. H. Peart, organ solo.

Freetholders on the Homestretch. It was the intention of the Freetholders to wind up the charter at last night's session and then turn it over to the revision committee, but like all good intentions this resolution was broken and instead the convention went into a general overhauling of all the important features of the charter.

Will Honor St. Patrick's Day. The committees in charge of the celebration to be held in honor of the Feast of St. Patrick in St. Paul's Parish church, their final arrangements at a meeting held in St. Paul's Hall last evening. Rev. Father McQuaid kindly consented to deliver the oration on the occasion. A splendid musical program has been arranged, and the celebration, from present indications, bids fair to be well worthy of the occasion.

TOOK HER PURSE AND VALUABLES

Arrest of Frank Hall for Robbing a Cattle King's Wife.

She Met Him in a Resort and Became Infatuated With Him.

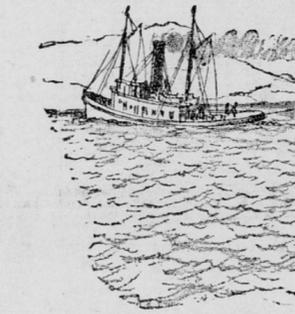
Induced to Visit His Room She Is Promptly Relieved of Her Property.

EVIDENCE OF HIS GUILT. Sad Experience of Mrs. Alverson, Who Lately Arrived From Montana.

Frank Hall, alias Hartman, who claims to be a remittance man, was arrested yesterday morning by Officer Brophy and locked up in the tanks pending an investigation. He is accused of stealing \$295 in gold, a check for \$500, a gold watch and chain and a diamond brooch from a woman named Mrs. Alverson, who claims to be the wife of a Montana cattle king.

According to her story, she met Hall in a resort at Eddy and Mason streets, and, at his invitation, she accompanied him to a room on Post street. During the night, she claims, he took her money and jewelry and disappeared. She at once notified the police with the result that her alleged despoiler was taken in custody. When searched at the City Prison all the stolen property was found in the possession of Hall. After learning of Hall's arrest Mrs. Alverson refused to prosecute him.

"I would jump into the bay first," she remarked; "my husband would kill me if he heard of my disgrace."



BOUND FOR DUTCH HARBOR. After many delays the ship Sintram finally got away for the north in tow of the tug Fearless yesterday. She has four stern wheel steamers and six barges aboard that are to be put together when the vessel reaches Dutch Harbor. They are for the Alaska Exploration Company and are for use on the Yukon River.

THE SINTRAM SAILS AT LAST

After Many Delays She Finally Gets Away for Dutch Harbor.

Harbor Commissioner Rudolph Herold Takes His Seat on the Board.

Colonel Chedbourne Retires Into Private Life After Four Years of Service.

The tug Fearless, with the ship Sintram in tow, finally got away for Dutch Harbor yesterday afternoon. All the Sintram's passengers congregated on the deckhouses and waved a frantic goodbye to their friends on the various wharves. They greeted the passengers on the ferry steamer Newark with cheers and the captain of the ferryboat answered them with three toots of the whistle. Every steamer along the front blew a farewell whistle to the Fearless as



BOUND FOR DUTCH HARBOR. After many delays the ship Sintram finally got away for the north in tow of the tug Fearless yesterday. She has four stern wheel steamers and six barges aboard that are to be put together when the vessel reaches Dutch Harbor. They are for the Alaska Exploration Company and are for use on the Yukon River.

THE SINTRAM SAILS AT LAST

After Many Delays She Finally Gets Away for Dutch Harbor.

Harbor Commissioner Rudolph Herold Takes His Seat on the Board.

Colonel Chedbourne Retires Into Private Life After Four Years of Service.

The tug Fearless, with the ship Sintram in tow, finally got away for Dutch Harbor yesterday afternoon. All the Sintram's passengers congregated on the deckhouses and waved a frantic goodbye to their friends on the various wharves. They greeted the passengers on the ferry steamer Newark with cheers and the captain of the ferryboat answered them with three toots of the whistle. Every steamer along the front blew a farewell whistle to the Fearless as



BOUND FOR DUTCH HARBOR. After many delays the ship Sintram finally got away for the north in tow of the tug Fearless yesterday. She has four stern wheel steamers and six barges aboard that are to be put together when the vessel reaches Dutch Harbor. They are for the Alaska Exploration Company and are for use on the Yukon River.

INTERPRETATION WAS AT FAULT

Judge Low's Idea of Law and Order Receives Criticism.

Attorneys Agree That Children Should Receive the Protection of the Courts.

Judge Low's interpretation of the law regarding the admission of minor children into saloons and the imposition upon a saloon-keeper who had been convicted of allowing children to visit his saloon has aroused considerable comment, and without an exception the legal fraternity who have been questioned on the matter agree that the Judge is very much in error in the matter.

Peter Bokoriska had been convicted of allowing minor children to visit his resort on Mission street and has fined the small sum of \$5. The reading of the proprietor of the rather questionable resort has been in court on many previous occasions and that the Police Commissioners agreed to cancel his license when he again appeared for its renewal did not seem to bother the interpreter of the law, and the prisoner at the bar was allowed to escape with a fine of \$5.

HARD PUNCHING AMATEUR BOXERS

Three Entertainments This Week to Decide Championships.

The Excelsior, Jefferson and Western Clubs Will Introduce Their Best Talent.

Amateur athletic clubs are springing up like April mushrooms in various parts of the city. What is now known as the Western Addition Athletic Club was organized a few evenings ago at 1427 Eddy street. It has a membership of 150 sportsmen, who purpose having entertainments each month, consisting of boxing, wrestling, etc. The club has consolidated with the California Amateur Club, and national contests will be held during the summer months.

The club's instructors are: R. B. Cornell, champion middle-weight wrestler, and J. Dennis, professor of boxing. The inaugural tournament will be held next Saturday evening, and the programme reads: Wrestling between Cornell and Hildebrandt; boxing between Sullivan and Secker; Burnett and Schultz, Meyer and Smith; and boxing between the California Swimming Club quartet. The club's officers are: President, S. G. Pulver; vice-president, H. L. Hill; recording secretary, J. C. Giles; financial secretary, F. Burnett; treasurer, J. Dennis. Directors—R. B. Cornell, W. Blackhorn, G. O. Enrich, E. Chase, C. Johnson and G. Christene.

The popular Excelsior Athletic Club will give its first club athletic entertainment this evening on Polson street, near Eighth. The programme of events has already been published in The Call. Sufficient to say that the members can count upon a good evening's sport.

The Jefferson Athletic Club will give a boxing entertainment on Friday evening in Mowry's Hall, Grove and Laguna streets. The event of the evening will consist of an eight-round bout for a trophy between Harry Conway of the Buffaloes and James Reilly of the Excelsior Athletic Club.

The officers of the Jefferson Club are: President, J. L. Slivey; vice-president, W. F. Burke; financial secretary, J. H. Kelly; treasurer, F. G. Falls; captain, A. Alexander; secretary, J. C. Mack; directors—T. R. Jordan, H. B. Hill, A. Elmer, J. P. Brennan, P. C. Wagon and H. J. Mulerey. Apart from the boxing events, the club will also afford the members an opportunity of witnessing some clever wrestling bouts.

M. Haley of Washington, D. C., writes The Call that he will deposit \$1000 at any time and place as a forfeit to back P. Reilly of Washington against any white pugilist in America weighing 155 pounds at the ringside, for a limited number of fights. The contest will be held in San Francisco before any of the popular clubs. J. Haley is sincere in his proposition to back his choice to the tune of \$1000 he must mean business. Possibly the Olympic Club will give Reilly a match with McCreedy.

Griffio, the erratic Australian pugilist, left this city last Sunday for Red Bluff, where he will meet Young Pete Jackson on the 26th inst. in a twelve-round contest. Douglas, one of Red Bluff, it is said, will wager \$1000 on Jackson whipping the clever Australian.

Dick Williams' Trial. United States District Judge De Haven yesterday set April 12 as the date of the trial of Richard S. Williams, a customer inspector, who was convicted on September 3, 1896, of blackmailing Chinese in his official capacity. Williams was sentenced to six years' imprisonment in the penitentiary at San Quentin, but he was granted a new trial by the Supreme Court of the United States.

Margins Are Illegal. Charles P. Harris, the broker under indictment for embezzling 100 shares of Potostock, the property of George O.

United States Circuit Judge Morrow granted a preliminary injunction yesterday against the Trustees of the town of Vallejo, restraining them from preventing the erection of telephone and telegraph wires and poles in that city by the Sunset Telegraph and Telephone Company.

The contention of the Sunset Company is that it is doing the work, not under any franchise granted by the town of Vallejo, but under a contract with the Postmaster-General, and authorized by Congress for the erection of postal telegraph lines for postal and military purposes. The town of Vallejo is to have open post roads of the United States.

The point raised is a novel one, and its decision will materially affect the rights and privileges of telegraph and telephone companies all over the United States.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Dr. Sanden's Electric Belt Will Give It to You. It is the Beginning of All Happiness—Dr. Sanden's Electric Belt Will Give It to You.

It health robs us of all that is enjoyable in life. To the nervous man and the debilitated man there is no real happiness. All pleasures are flat, dull pastime. The mind is gloomy, and what makes the strong man joyous causes the weak man to feel disgusted with himself. It is so with women. The loss of nerve strength is the loss of the best in life.

Dr. Sanden's Belt Brings Joy. This great invigorator has cured 10,000 weak men and women during the last three years. It saturated the weak nerves with electrical energy. "Energy" is life, spirit, happiness, ambition. You can have it.

If you are not strong and well, be you man or woman, Dr. Sanden will send you a book, for either sex, free, that will show you the way to happiness, confidence and health. Get it to-day.

SANDEN ELECTRIC CO., 632 Market St., Opposite Palace Hotel, San Francisco. Office hours, 9 a. m. to 5 p. m.; Sundays, 10 to 1. Branches at Los Angeles, Cal., 204 1/2 Broadway; Portland, Ore., 23 Washington street; Denver, Colo., 821 Sixteenth street; Dallas, Tex., 255 Main street.

Left the Board of Unemployed Men and Women of San Francisco, March 11, 1898.

Kindly take notice that the undersigned, members of the executive board of the Unemployed Men and Women of San Francisco, now engaged in securing subscriptions for a free labor bureau, have decided to discontinue our connection with the work of the board, and have therefore resigned from said membership. The money so far contributed have been, we believe, judiciously expended. Very respectfully, GEORGE A. LAFAYETTE, J. K. PHILLIPS.

The Spanish Armada consisted of 132 ships, 3155 cannon, 8768 sailors, 2983 galley slaves, 21,850 soldiers and 1255 volunteers.

Hall or Hartman tells an entirely different story. He says that he and a friend were enjoying the performance at the Olympic Theater when Mrs. Alverson, who was seated at a table, sent him a card which bore the name of May Wright.

"I want to see you," she wrote; pardon my familiarity. And they had several rounds of drinks at her expense. After leaving the theater Mrs. Alverson, he claims, gave him her purse, diamond brooch and gold watch.

"I know they are safe with you, dear," he says she remarked as she handed him her valuables; "take care of them until I get sober."

On reaching the room, the prisoner says, Mrs. Alverson sent him out for a bottle of brandy. Going to a saloon

examination will be resumed at half-past 10 o'clock this morning.

she passed along, and Captain Clem Randall was kept busy answering their signals. It will be a long tow to Dutch Harbor and no one will be better pleased than the crew of the Fearless when it is over.

The steamer Humboldt got away for Dyea and Skagway yesterday with every passenger she is allowed by law to carry aboard and a full cargo. During the excitement of leaving taking one of the passengers lost his balance and fell overboard. His sweetheart, who was on the wharf, promptly fainted, and when she came to her senses her lover had been fished out of the bay and the Humboldt was backing away from the wharf.

The schooner Sadie has made a record run from Umpqua to San Diego. She covered the distance in 3 days 14 hours, and made the round trip in 11 days.

The Harbor Commissioners met yesterday afternoon and Rudolph Herold took the seat vacated by Colonel F. E. Chedbourne, the retiring Commissioner. Colonel Chedbourne retires with the esteem and goodwill of everybody connected with the shipping interests of San Francisco. To him is due the credit of being the first to model the harbor of the city, and to him are due many of the improvements that have been made of the harbor.

Mr. Herold's friends made the board room gay with flowers in honor of his appointment. A beautiful anchor made of red carnations around which was woven the motto "Anchor and Hope" on a desk, and in other parts of the room there were wreaths and bouquets galore. Dr. Herold promises to be a very popular Commissioner.

Arrested for Contempt of Court.

As Frank Lee Gift left Judge Campbell's court, where he had been on trial for battery yesterday morning, he was served with a warrant charging him with contempt of court, and was taken to the County Jail. Two years ago Gift was

divorced from his wife, and Judge Slack awarded the woman \$80 per month alimony. This was paid until last May when on account of illness Gift was compelled to give up his position with the railroad company. He left town soon afterwards and returned only a few weeks ago. The charge of battery was placed against him by his wife and her attorney, F. A. Smithson. Gift says he is guilty of battery against Smithson, but not against his wife. He will probably contest the contempt case and attempt to prove that his wife has been guilty of misconduct, though he says he is averse to fighting the mother of his son.

Desperate Effort to Prevent Extradition of the Little Brown Man Accused of Forgery.

Attorney Thomas D. Rioridan is making a desperate attempt to prevent the extradition of Oyama Kenichi, the Japanese who was arrested on his arrival here on a charge of having secured 15,000 yen, or \$7500, in Japan by means of a forged paper. About half that sum was found on the person of the Jap when he was taken into custody by the United States Marshal, and this sum was seized by the authorities as evidence and as the suspected proceeds of the alleged crime.

L. H. Webb appeared for the Japanese government and was backed up by the presence of Mr. Segawa, secretary to the Japanese Consulate in this city, before United States Commissioner Hancock yesterday morning. The papers put in evidence on behalf of the Japanese government were objected to by Mr. Rioridan on every possible ground of informality, irrelevancy and immateriality. The translation of the papers, some being in Japanese and others in French, was contended to be inaccurate, and Mr. Segawa was required on the cross-examination to give an offhand translation of one of them, in which he did very poorly, owing to his meager knowledge of English. The

near by he met a friend, who asked him to accompany him to the Cafe Royal.

As early as the time afterward Policeman Brophy appeared and placed him under arrest. As the woman positively refuses to prosecute Hall the police intend to release him to-day.

Some time ago Hall was suspected of stealing \$10 from a guest at the Baldwin. As the latter would not swear to a complaint against him he was given his liberty.

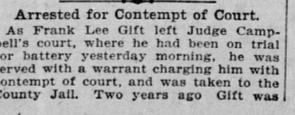
Cook's Case Continued. The Police Commissioners met last night and dismissed the charge of unofficerlike conduct preferred against Officer Aitken. He was accused of assaulting J. Moreland while the latter was attending the late Mining Fair. The evidence showed that the policeman merely "shoved" Moreland in order to make a space for some chairs. Owing to the absence of Attorney Eugene Bert the case of Patrolman James Cook, charged with ill treating James Bond, a clerk in a south of Market lodging house, was continued for one week.

Arrested for Contempt of Court. As Frank Lee Gift left Judge Campbell's court, where he had been on trial for battery yesterday morning, he was served with a warrant charging him with contempt of court, and was taken to the County Jail. Two years ago Gift was

divorced from his wife, and Judge Slack awarded the woman \$80 per month alimony. This was paid until last May when on account of illness Gift was compelled to give up his position with the railroad company. He left town soon afterwards and returned only a few weeks ago. The charge of battery was placed against him by his wife and her attorney, F. A. Smithson. Gift says he is guilty of battery against Smithson, but not against his wife. He will probably contest the contempt case and attempt to prove that his wife has been guilty of misconduct, though he says he is averse to fighting the mother of his son.

Desperate Effort to Prevent Extradition of the Little Brown Man Accused of Forgery. Attorney Thomas D. Rioridan is making a desperate attempt to prevent the extradition of Oyama Kenichi, the Japanese who was arrested on his arrival here on a charge of having secured 15,000 yen, or \$7500, in Japan by means of a forged paper. About half that sum was found on the person of the Jap when he was taken into custody by the United States Marshal, and this sum was seized by the authorities as evidence and as the suspected proceeds of the alleged crime.

Advertisement for Dr. Sanden's Electric Belt, featuring illustrations of a man and a woman, and text describing the benefits of the device for nervousness and debility.



FRANK HALL ALIAS HARTMAN