

The Call

MONDAY, MAY 2, 1898

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OAKLAND OFFICE, 908 Broadway

NEW YORK OFFICE, Room 188, World Building

WASHINGTON (D. C.) OFFICE, Riggs House

CHICAGO OFFICE, Marquette Building

BRANCH OFFICES—527 Montgomery street, corner Clay, open until 9:30 o'clock.

AMUSEMENTS

Baldwin—"The Purser" Columbia—"A Secret Warrant" California—"A Texas Steer" Alcazar—"The Gay Parisians" Morosoff—"Hearts of New York" Tivoli—"Wang" Orpheum—"Vandeville" The Chutes—Zoo, Vaudeville, and "Africa Lion Hunt" Olympia—Corner Market and Eddy streets, Specialties. Central Park—Box and Pony Show. Suro Baths—Swimming. Pacific Coast Jockey Club, Ingleste—Races to-day.

AUCTION SALES By Frank W. Butterfield—This day, May 2, Furniture at 10 Oak street, 11 o'clock. By C. H. Underhill—Co.—Monday, May 9, Real Estate, at 14 Montgomery street, at 12 o'clock.

COMMERCIAL CONDITIONS SETTLING.

THE feature of the week in Wall street was the marked recovery in the tone of the markets toward the close of the week. This buoyancy was due to the inauguration of a bull campaign based on the thus far successful prosecution of the war against Spain. There was no important opposition to the rise, and prices moved up easily, without, however, any special activity. The public were not in it, and it was a matter almost purely between the regular operators of the street. As the Call's financial report put it: "The main consideration was the satisfaction felt over the excellent gunnery of the United States ships at Matanzas and in pursuit of prizes and the ineffective efforts of the Spanish gunners. The skill thus demonstrated imparts a strong conviction as to the superiority of the United States forces. Early intelligence is also confident of a naval victory over the Spaniards off the Philippines." All standard bonds, both Government and railroad, were strong and in good demand. The American financiers evidently have no doubt as to the eventual victory of the national arms. For that matter nobody else in the country has, either.

General trade, while exhibiting considerable of the uncertainty remarked a week ago, is beginning to assume more definite lines, as was then predicted. The woolen manufacturers are reporting a larger business, chiefly on account of the heavy Government orders. The same may be said of hides and leather, both of which are advancing again in the East. The consumption of iron is still the largest ever known, and many orders are remaining unfilled. The phenomenal advance in wheat has carried with it a corresponding rise in other cereals and flour, while pork products have also gone up. In fact, the war is stimulating trade in those lines which are called upon to supply the land and naval forces of the country. How far the rise will extend, and what other articles will be indirectly affected, it is impossible to say at the moment. But that the general trade of the country is on an active basis is shown by the continued gain in bank clearings, those last week being 28 per cent over the corresponding week in 1897, only two of the larger cities—Portland, Me., and Providence—showing a decrease. Exports of wheat and corn from the Atlantic ports are very heavy and considerably in excess of last year. The country is likely to reap a fine golden harvest from its grain production this year, as stocks are deficient all over the world. Business failures in the United States last week number 245, a gain of 21 over the preceding week's total, and compared with 244 in the corresponding week of 1897, 254 in 1896 and 206 in 1895.

The local markets, which for some little time have been quiet, are again showing signs of improvement. The slight recovery in dried fruits has already been mentioned. As for the sensational advance in wheat and its dependent cereals, flour and feedstuffs, including hay, that has been too prominently treated during the past few days to need repetition here. The next articles to advance will probably be hides and leather, as things seem to be shaping in that direction. The staple groceries are reported in good movement, with higher prices for sugar and rice. The general merchandise market is distinguished by advanced quotations for several descriptions of oil, cement, cordage and several minor articles. It is noteworthy that no article of importance has declined of late.

The weather has ceased to be a factor in the markets, except in a few scattering lines. The season is over as far as the rain and the grain crops are concerned, and whether it rains or not is immaterial now. The mischief has been done. Good rains would help the fruit-growers, though they can get along without them.

Diplomatic rumors in Europe seem to be emanations from the same source as the war rumors of the yellow journals in this country, but are somewhat more amusing. The latest announcement is that the United States, Great Britain and Japan have formed a dreadnought with the intention of reorganizing the world, and it would be hard for even a circus poster to beat that as an announcement of a stupendous aggregation of mammoth wonders.

The rapidity with which the various States are filling their quotas for the volunteer army is a new proof that while we have commercial habits we are at heart and in spirit a military people. It does not take much to get the average American to leave his plow, his yardstick or hammer to get his gun and follow the flag.

The vehemence of the French press in denouncing the United States for making war against Spain has inclined the German press to take a second thought on the subject and come over to our side. A strong national prejudice is sometimes a very good substitute for reason.

MANILA IS OURS.

A GLORIOUS victory marks the opening of hostilities between the United States and Spain in the Orient. Commodore Dewey and the gallant crew of his fleet have crushed the naval forces of Spain in that portion of the globe with one blow. The star-spangled banner floats triumphant in the harbor of Manila and the city is ours.

The feat thus accomplished was one of the most signal achievements of skill and daring in the history of naval warfare. It was a stroke worthy of Farragut or Nelson. The story even as told by the Spaniards themselves is enough to thrill American hearts with pride, and we need not wait for the full official records of the battle to recognize that in Commodore Dewey the nation has a new hero to add to the illustrious galaxy that adorns the pages of its military and naval annals.

Dewey with his fleet arrived off Manila at night. He was far from his base of supplies and had no place to turn for refuge if he should meet with defeat. These considerations did not for a moment cause him to hesitate. He wasted no time in reconnoitering or taking counsel of his fears. In the darkness of night he boldly entered the harbor, which to him was unknown, and which in all likelihood was strewn with mines or torpedoes. Straight through every danger, whether known or unknown, that menaced him he held his way, and at daybreak the startled Spaniards at their posts along the harbor saw the fleet with Old Glory streaming to the winds advancing to the attack.

Then from the forts and batteries along the shore and from the Spanish warships in the harbor the guns of Spain sent shot and shell to sink or drive back the fleet that had so daringly assailed them in their stronghold. Had the American fleet been commanded by an officer of daring only, that terrific fire might have destroyed it, but Dewey proved himself a master of naval tactics as well as a man of valor. The Spanish concede that his maneuvering during the engagement was a notable feature of the fierce fight. Once the American fleet seemingly retired from the fray, but soon returned; and then the end came swiftly, bringing defeat to the Spaniards on land and sea, and victory for the Union and its gallant seamen.

The Spanish authorities, while conceding the heavy losses suffered by their arms, claim that their forces fought with courage and patriotism. The claim is not without justice. Certainly the captain of the Spanish flagship who died at his post fell as a brave man would wish to fall when overtaken by defeat. The very courage of the Spaniards, however, adds to the glory achieved by the Americans in meeting such foes under the very walls of their forts and batteries, and in a harbor familiar to them, but strange to the Americans.

The victory is in every way a notable one, and moreover is as useful as it is glorious. It renders us virtual masters of Manila and thus gives us a coaling station and port of refuge in that part of the globe. Hereafter we shall not have to take such hazardous chances as in this combat. Commodore Dewey and his men have attested the virtue of the fighting strength of the republic, demonstrated anew the invincible daring of our seamen and added another splendid chapter to the history of our triumphs.

THE SCHOOL BOARD AT BAY.

ACTION taken by the Board of Education at a special meeting on Saturday shows that the members of the board have been aroused at last to the necessity of doing something to assist in the task of exposing the manipulators of the lumber jobs that have been brought to light, and thereby aid in relieving the innocent members of the board from suspicion by making the guilty parties known and bringing them to punishment.

To carry out the investigation the president of the board has been authorized to employ experts in the lumber and building trades. These experts are not to exceed three in number, and none of them are to be connected with the Retail Lumbermen's Exchange. This has a fair sound. It promises a committee that will work intelligently in the examination of the charges and will be impartial in judging between the city and the contractors who are alleged to have been implicated in the jobs.

A proposition, however, is not necessarily fair simply because it sounds fair. It is possible, under the terms stated, for the president of the board to appoint a set of experts who will be merely a whitewashing committee. That fact is well understood by the people, and the personnel of the committee will be watchfully scrutinized. The president of the board must be careful in selecting the committee. He cannot afford to make a mistake.

The scandals to be investigated are among the gravest that have ever affected any part of our municipal administration. The evidence which has been made public in regard to them shows that the school funds have been seemingly plundered of large amounts under circumstances which compel the conclusion that at least some of the members of the Board of Education must have been aware of the plundering. The charges have been specific and the correctness of the statements supporting them can hardly be doubted. If, therefore, the charges are to be disproved and the statements refuted the investigation for that purpose must be made by men of the highest character and must be conducted openly, so that every particle of the testimony and evidence may be made known to the public.

It is to be regretted that under the resolution by which the committee is to be appointed the work of the experts will be confined to the task of examining "into the quality and the quantity of lumber furnished to the School Department" by a specified firm of lumber dealers. The committee should have been given power to make a full and comprehensive investigation, so that it would be authorized to report on all the facts of the case. In that way the people would have been given more confidence in the work of the committee.

Fortunately the determination of the case will not be dependent upon the report of the School Board experts, whatever report they may make. The Grand Jury has brought to light a mass of evidence which clearly shows frauds, and the courts will be called upon to discover the guilty parties and provide for their punishment.

AGITATOR OR SOLDIER.

REPORTS of last week to the effect that Bryan is seriously contemplating enlistment in the volunteer army are not inherently improbable. The work of an agitator is a hard one, and the agitation in which Bryan is engaged promises nothing in the way of repayment. Enlistment would be for him a rest from wearisome talking and a step toward reform, both of which would be beneficial to him.

An illustration of the hard work required of Bryan in trying to keep at least a show of life in the silver issue is afforded by an account given in the Philadelphia Ledger of a single day of his recent tour of

Pennsylvania. The Ledger says: "On Wednesday he reached Hazelton, fought his way through a mob to a carriage, met a lot of people, dined, delivered an address, journeyed on to Pottsville, held two receptions there, made a speech three hours long, and would up the day at a banquet."

Bryan is a strong man in the jaws of him, and his lungs are leather, but even he must feel the need of a rest from such incessant talking, traveling and banqueting as that. Six months in Cuba at hard fighting ought to seem a relief to him. If it offered no other inducement than that of a rest from mobs and a cessation from the iteration of the old worn arguments of the silver campaign, enlistment must still have an attraction hard to resist.

The hopelessness of the task in which he is engaged is another thing that must incline Mr. Bryan to seek a rest. The course of events ever since the campaign of '96 has shown the fallacy of the free silver arguments. There has been a steady rise in prices of nearly all kinds of American products and a continuous importation of gold. It is noted that over 70 per cent of the cash holdings of the New York banks is gold coin. Eastern banks are shipping gold coin instead of bills to their correspondents in the interior; 20 per cent of custom payments are made in gold, and the treasury gold reserve exceeds \$180,000,000. According to the estimates of the Treasury Department there is more than \$800,000,000 of gold in the country.

In the face of such golden conditions as these it is certainly folly to go on howling calamity. Moreover, Mr. Bryan can hardly have overlooked the growing popularity of Fitzhugh Lee in the Democratic ranks. He has sense enough to perceive that the country honors at this time the man of action and not the mere talker. This fact also serves as an impelling force toward enlistment, and it is therefore not to be wondered that Bryan is in a mood to talk of it and possibly even to think about it.

ENGINEERS IN THE NAVY.

SEABOARD, a journal which is recognized as the organ of the shipping interests of the Eastern States, and may therefore be considered a representative of American seamen, directs attention to an incident in connection with the officering of the vessels newly purchased from the mercantile marine for the navy, which in a striking way illustrates the need of a revision of the present method of rating engineers in the naval service.

In fitting the ships for immediate service it was desired, says Seaboard, "to retain as far as practicable the officers and crews of these vessels, but it was soon found that while the engineers are machinists, they are also engineers, and would not enlist as 'machinists' to do engineer's work and surrender all claim to being an officer."

While patriotism may have demanded that the engineers should enlist for the war even if they were to be rated simply as machinists and not as officers, there are many good reasons why they should have acted exactly as they did. Their course has served to force the issue of a just recognition of the important part the engineer plays in the management of modern ships, and therefore will be helpful in bringing about a concession of the claims of engineers to be rated as officers.

This view is taken by Seaboard, which says: "It is possible the navy may get engineers to enlist as machinists, but we do not believe the better class of them would do it." As a means of solving the difficulty until Congress can pass a navy personnel bill which will give engineers in the navy the rank they merit it suggests that volunteer engineers be given acting appointments, as was done during the Civil War. That much of justice can be easily done, and should not be delayed.

There is no question but what the navy will get all the engineers it needs, for the men of that profession are as patriotic as those of any other, but in these days when marine engineering requires men of scientific training and accomplishments to master its duties, it is absurd to go on treating the members of the profession as if they were unfitted to hold official rank.

A STRONG LAW NEEDED.

COMMENTING upon the frequently made statement that the failure to enforce pure food laws is due to the lack of popular sentiment behind them, City and State of Philadelphia very justly says: "To put down profitable wrong—wrong which finds a golden reward in preying upon the public—needs a masterful law, a law which says 'Thou shalt not' with wholesome clearness to the manifest evil, just as surely as it needs the application of masterful will in every other phase of the same, or all the resources that can be commanded and marshaled in order to achieve the end coveted."

This statement is unquestionably true. The task of enforcing pure food laws ought not to be thrown upon popular sentiment, nor even upon popular activities and initiative. Many people are not aware to what extent their food is adulterated. Others, who in a general way are aware that large quantities of "sophisticated" foods are for sale under deceptive names, have not the time nor the means to assist in a crusade against the evil. The Government does not wait for popular sentiment to aid it in suppressing the manufacture of illicit whisky. Neither should it wait for such aid in suppressing the manufacture of fraudulent foods.

In an address before the Food and Drug Congress at Washington last winter the Hon. Marriot Brossius said: "Perhaps no cause in the whole range of service lays higher command upon Americans than to provide a remedy, if we can, for this adulteration; the more I contemplate it the more enormous I find it. Of the 576 articles of food used on the tables of the people 253 are adulterated. These may be approximately, but are sufficiently accurate to convey to our minds the murder that is done in the name of commerce in food commodities, to say nothing of the consequences to the morals of our people. What is said of food is true of drugs. How many of the poisons advised by physicians and administered by loving hands, in the hope of calling back to life and health, are vitiated by deleterious substances or rendered useless by adulterations?"

The evil is indeed one of portentous magnitude and should be dealt with as vigorously as the illicit distillation of liquors. The Chronicle has suggested the enactment of a system of taxing such articles as would bring them under the control of the internal revenue, and there is much to commend the plan. Either that or some other should be adopted which will bring the matter under national supervision. Popular sentiment on the subject is all right, but the nation must make the law and enforce it in a masterful way.

The resolve of the Board of Education to appoint a committee to go over the lumber deals recently exposed by the Grand Jury will not be commended by the public until it is made certain that the committee is not appointed to whitewash either the lumber or the board.

COLLECTED IN THE CORRIDORS

J. Bayha is registered at the Palace Hotel. W. C. Gibson, U. S. N., is registered at the Occidental. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Parish of Grand Rapids, Mich., are staying at the Palace. N. K. Harris, a fruit raiser of Fresno, is a guest at the Lick. H. C. Warner, a journalist of San Bernardino, is one of the late arrivals at the California. L. F. Shepherd, a well-known citizen of Los Angeles, is at the California on a short visit to the city.

R. A. Douglass of San Diego has come up to the city and is staying at the California for a few days. M. C. Osborne and wife of San Diego are at the Grand. Mr. Osborne is superintendent of the San Diego Gas Works. Maurice Frieman, a wealthy merchant of New York, is one of yesterday's arrivals at the Occidental. He is accompanied by his wife. J. M. Iwaine, a wealthy planter of Salvador, is a guest at the Occidental. C. E. Schaefer, a wealthy banker of O'Neill, and S. Marks, a prominent merchant of the same place, are both registered at the Grand.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Thorne and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Boyd and family, and several young ladies constitute a party of people from Auburn, N. Y., who arrived at the Palace yesterday on a visit of pleasure to the coast. The excitement in the theater was ENOUGH TO MAKE THE BOLDEST TREMBLE. Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Thorne and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Boyd and family, and several young ladies constitute a party of people from Auburn, N. Y., who arrived at the Palace yesterday on a visit of pleasure to the coast.

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SPANISH IN THIS COUNTRY

Spain and this country afforded the paper referred to a chance to elaborately demonstrate to its own evident satisfaction that the United States is inferior to Spain as a naval power. It groups nine of our vessels of war in three classes, namely the Indiana, Massachusetts and Iowa in the first class; Brooklyn and New York in the second, and the Minneapolis, San Francisco, Columbia and New Orleans in the third class. In juxtaposition it places five Spanish armored ships, two cruisers, five torpedo-boat destroyers and three torpedo-boats, making a total of sixteen effective vessels in Spain. Upon the basis of these grossly incomplete data, so far as they relate to the United States navy, the Engineer works out a comparative efficiency, elucidated by diagrams, of which the following are the results:

Comparative Data— U. S. Spain. Number of ships... 9 16. Tons displacement... 72,000 108,000. Guns... 274 403. Metal throwing, pounds... 3,900 4,813. Indicated horse-power... 128,211 144,603. Speed in knots... 15.63 23.47.

The British second-class cruiser Hermes of 10,000 tons was launched at the Fairlie yard, Glasgow, April 7. Two more of that type are building. They are improved in the armament class, and with the larger displacement of 2800 tons will carry their batteries higher out of water and in the case of the Hermes will be sheathed with wood and coppered and is 350 feet long, 54 feet beam and 21 feet draught. The speed is to be 20 knots. The main armament of eleven 4.7-inch quick-firers is disposed so that three will fire directly ahead and three directly astern. The quantity of ammunition carried may be inferred from the fact that the forward magazine is 58 feet in length and the after magazine 42 feet, making a total of 100 feet of ready-made projectiles and other ammunition. The axis of the forecabin gun will be 23 1/2 feet above water and that on the poop 19 1/2 feet. All the guns are protected by 4 1/2-inch shields.

SONGS OF THE HOUR.

"I SALUTE THEE." O, my country, I salute thee. As thy banners are unfurled, As thy rising in thy field might supreme; As a holy peace comes to thee, As thy statesman face beamed.

With thy message beacon signaled, Thy sword and shield beamed. O, my country, dare we chide thee, Who had hoped thy queenly brow Would receive Time's rarest crown, The wreath of peace?

It were thine—but, lo! thou turnest From such coronation now; To uncouth, cruel death-clutch! Ah! for that, whose praise would cease?

I have watched thy bosom heaving; Large with pity, wrenched by pain; Thy eyes have seen sorrow's light shine; But thy trunk rocks by shameless—Maid! Shall I carp thy clean sword's gleaming? Shall I carp when thou dost rise?

No, my country! Thou art grieved By the guardian arm of God; He hath laid help on the might—thus He saves. O, thy beauteous strength ne'er charmed me; Above the stars and planets, thou art; Feels thy shadow make a shelter For her people—and her graves!

William Keith in Boston Journal.

CHICKAMAUGA—1898. They are camped on Chickamauga! Once again the white tents gleam Under the light of the moon and stars; Sleep the sleep that knows no dream. They are shadows all about them; They are shadows all about them; But they light the common campfire—Those who wore the blue and gray.

Where the pines of Georgia tower, Where the mountains rise to the sky, On their arms the Nation's warriors Wait to hear the battle-cry. Wait to hear the battle-cry, Wait to hear the battle-cry, And the heroes' hearts their feet; And the heroes' hearts their feet; And they'll charge to victory 'Neath the folds of one brave banner—The banner of the Union!

Field of fame, a patriot army, Treads thy sacred soil to-day; And they'll face the coming foe, Those who wore the blue and gray, And they'll charge to victory 'Neath the folds of one brave banner—The banner of the Union!

They are camped on Chickamauga, Where the green tents of the dead Turn the soil into a glory; And they'll charge to victory 'Neath the folds of one brave banner—The banner of the Union!

On to the fight! Let the stars of Freedom light The banner of the Union; Till every tyrant flag Is a torn and trampled rag; And above the sun and stars 'Old Glory' shines!

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ACRES OF LAND—Mrs M. E. City. The city and county of San Francisco contains 2,721 square acres of land.

PHIL SHERIDAN—R. R. City. Phil Sheridan was born in Albany, N. Y., March 6, 1831, and died in Nonquitt, Mass., August 5, 1885.

GODDARD AND CHOYNISKI—S. F. City. Goddard and Choyniski were killed in Australia. At Sydney, February 10, 1881, and July 20, the same year. In each instance Goddard defeated his opponent in a foot race.

KILLED IN A DUEL—L. F. H. City. W. B. Davis, the iconoclast, and Captain T. E. Davis fought a street duel in Waco, Tex., on the evening of April 1, 1888, and both died from the effect of their wounds on the following day.

WEBSTER-STREET BRIDGE—J. G. City. The accident at the Webster-street bridge, caused by a train running into Oakland Creek through an open draw on the bridge, occurred on Memorial Day, May 30, 1897.

COLUMBIAN STAMPS—Columbia, San Jose, Cal. The Postoffice Department at San Francisco is entirely out of Columbian stamps. There is a possibility that some can be obtained from the department at Washington.

FURNACE—L. G. City. It is impossible to give an answer to the question: "What is the average heat of a furnace?" because the particular kind of furnace is not named. Correspondents should plainly state what it is they want information about.

POETRY—L. Q. P., Hanford, Cal. One of the best aids to writing poetry is a rhyming dictionary, which can be procured from any first-class book-seller. If you have written any poetry,