

The Call THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1898 JOHN D. SPRECKELS, Proprietor. Address All Communications to W. S. LEAKE, Manager. PUBLICATION OFFICE.....Market and Third Sts., S. F. Telephone Main 3888. 217 to 221 Stevenson Street Telephone Main 1874. 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 NEW YORK OFFICE.....Room 188, World Building DAVID ALLEN, Advertising Representative. WASHINGTON (D. C.) OFFICE.....Riggs House C. C. CARLTON, Correspondent. CHICAGO OFFICE.....Marquette Building G. GEORGE KROGESS, Advertising Representative. BRANCH OFFICES—527 Montgomery street, corner Clay, open until 9:30 o'clock. 287 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. 1941 Mission street, open until 10 o'clock. 2291 Market street, corner Sixteenth, open until 9 o'clock. 2818 Mission street, open until 9 o'clock. 106 Eleventh street, open until 9 o'clock. 1505 Polk street, open until 9:30 o'clock. NW. corner Twenty-second and Kentucky streets, open until 9 o'clock.

AMUSEMENTS. Baldwin—"The Pursuer." Columbia—"A Secret Warrant." California—"A Texas Steer." Alcazar—"The Gay Parisians." Morocco—"Hearts of New York." Tivoli—"Wang." Tivoli—Concert this afternoon. Orpheum—Vaudeville. Sherman, Clay Hall—Paloma Schramm, Friday night. Metropolitan Temple—"Spain As It Is." The Chutes—Zoo, Vaudeville, and "African Loto Hunt." Olympia—Corner Mason and Eddy streets, Licia. Central Park—Dog and Pony Show. Suro Baths—Swimming. El Campo—Music, dancing, fishing, every Sunday. California Jockey Club, Oakland—Races.

AUCTION SALES. By Frank W. Butterfield—This day, May 6, Groceries, at 1012 Hayes street, at 10 o'clock. By G. H. Umbeu & Co.—Monday, May 9, Real Estate, at 14 Montgomery street, at 12 o'clock.

COURTESIES ACKNOWLEDGED.

It is with more than ordinary gratification The Call acknowledges the courtesies shown by the Chronicle and Examiner in holding back their editions of yesterday morning so that The Call, despite the burning of the building in which its press-rooms are located, was able to appear as early as any of them. As was stated yesterday, all of our contemporaries offered the use of their presses, and that of the Chronicle was accepted. Such acts are among the amenities that dignify the calling of journalism and set an example of mutual helpfulness which business rivals in other professions and trades might do well to emulate. The Call presses are now in working order and no further trouble in the issue of the paper is expected. In a time comparatively short the press-rooms will be located in the fire-proof apartments provided in the Claus Spreckels building, and with the new press now on the way from New York the printing equipment of the paper will be unsurpassed and almost beyond the reach of accident.

CALIFORNIA'S RESPONSE.

WHILE in many of the larger States of the East the call for the National Guard to enlist in the Volunteer Army for the war with Spain has been met by more or less wrangling, the response of California was prompt, direct and patriotic. Arrangements for enlistment were made at once, and yesterday a considerable portion of our guard passed formally into the service of the nation. By this action California has won a new distinction in the sisterhood of States. Her star in this crisis shines among the brightest in the brilliant galaxy that illumines the flag of the republic. She has given the most striking proof of the ardent patriotism of her people and has shown that when the call to arms is heard her volunteers wait not to decide little questions of minor moment, but rally at once to the standard and hasten among the foremost to the front, no matter in what part of the globe the sound of battle is heard. In times gone by there has been much jesting at the expense of the National Guard. The men who compose it have been called "holiday soldiers," and habitual satirists have made them the target of whatever shafts their flagging wit or unflagging mockery could fashion for use. This raillery is now a thing of the past. The conduct of the members of the guard revealed in the fierce light of war has proven them to be men of the true heroic breed—worthy descendants of the generations who won the freedom of the land from Great Britain and maintained it through the perilous years of Civil War. It is time now for Californians who are to remain at home to manifest their honor for the boys of the guard who are going to the front. It is no holiday task for which they have volunteered. They have upheld the credit of the State by the alacrity with which they have responded to the call of war, and they will gallantly uphold the nation's honor and cause in the field. The voices of the old-time satirists will now be changed to voices of praise or silenced amid the general acclamations of the people. A grateful nation and a proud State will speed the volunteers of the guard on their march to battle and victory.

THE CAPTURED COLONIES.

IN an address delivered on the presentation of a battle flag to a company of Indiana volunteers on Tuesday ex-President Harrison said: "We may justly, I think, in the West Indies and in the Far Eastern seas, where our gallant navy has won so splendid a victory, hold some little unpeopled harbors where our cruising warships may coal and find a refuge when in stress." Mr. Harrison, while not in office, holds so high a position in the politics of the country that this statement may be regarded as a tentative expression designed to feel the pulse of the people on the important and far-reaching question as to what is to be done by the United States with the Spanish colonies in the West Indies and in the Orient. Cuba will of course pass into the hands of the Cubans themselves as soon as they can organize a government capable of maintaining itself and establishing law, but what shall be done with Porto Rico and the Philippines? The latter group involves the more serious question of the two. In the Philippine archipelago there are upward of 1200 islands, of which about 400 are large enough to sustain permanent populations. The total number of inhabitants of the group is in round numbers 7,000,000. Of these the greater number are Malays. There are a few Spanish, hardly more industrious or enterprising than the natives, and the industry and commerce of the group is mainly in the hands of Chinese. In 1834 the total imports of the group amounted in value to \$28,530,000, and the exports to \$33,250,000, both measured in Mexican coin, which is the prevailing standard of the country. The real wealth of the islands has, however, never been developed. It is known that gold and coal exist in the mountains of some of the larger islands, but they have not been mined or extensively exploited by reason of a lack of transportation. In the hands of an energetic race the group could be made one of the richest colonial possessions on the globe. The occupation of a port of refuge and coaling station in the archipelago by our Government would inevitably imply an American protectorate over the whole. Our responsibilities would increase from year to year, and our exercise of power would have to increase with them. In colonial affairs as well as in all other matters in this world the law of evolution

THE POWERFUL MAYOR.

THE history of the world proves that whenever political power is lodged in the hands of an individual without check or restraint it is generally abused. For ages the people have been struggling to wrest from individual potentates power that has been used to oppress and plunder them. The Bill of Rights, Magna Charta, the writ of habeas corpus, trial by jury, an independent judiciary and the separation of the legislative, judicial and executive functions of government, all signalize triumphs of the common people over individual tyranny and what is known in these times as "personal responsibility." The work of centuries in behalf of human liberty is condensed in the American constitution. The fathers of the great republic justly feared the power of an unrestrained executive, for they had felt it and known what it was. The American President is the British King stripped of some of his prerogatives and hedged in by a popular Legislature. In these days we are accustomed to point to the long line of great men who have ruled over the people for justification of our belief that it is now safe to trust to the executive arm of the government powers which were wrested from it only after years of bloody struggle. The "thinkers" who in their ignorance do this never stop to ask themselves why the Presidents and Governors of these days are mostly honorable men anxious to faithfully serve their fellows. Were they to do so perhaps they might change their opinions. Are not the executives of the nineteenth century the product of restraint? Are not their moderation and unselfishness due to the circumstance that they have been unable to abuse the powers conferred upon them? Is the record they have made attributable to a change in human nature? We propound these inquiries, not for the purpose of making a point against the charter, which is to be submitted to the people of this city on the 26th of this month, but for the purpose of precipitating a thoughtful controversy. Victor Hugo remarked that the chief safety of communities consisted in their disposition to pause, scratch their heads and think. The proposed charter creates a powerful official called Mayor. He is invested with authority to appoint a Police and Fire Commission, a Board of Health, a Board of Education, a Board of Public Works, a Civil Service Commission and an Election Commission, and remove them at pleasure. These boards and commissions will expend two-thirds of all the money that will be appropriated for conducting the government of this city. No check has been provided either upon the abuse of this appointing power or upon the wasteful expenditure of this money, except the conscience of the man who may be elected Mayor. Not only may the Mayor remove his own appointees, but he may suspend elected officials at his pleasure. In fact, in his hands have been placed without possible restraint practically all the functions of government. The question we desire to see discussed is this: Are we prepared at this juncture to cast aside the experience of centuries and create this uncrowned king to rule over us? Is it possible that the people of San Francisco have reached a state of political decrepitude which justifies them in abdicating self-government? If they have it ought to be somebody's duty to lay the facts before them for consideration. The proposed charter marks a complete swing of the pendulum of political power. It is a return to the age of despots and tyrants. It is a confession of republican weakness, and if the people adopt it they will declare their trust in conscience as a substitute for restraints and checks, without which every government on earth has proved a failure.

We say all this because there is a disposition in the charter discussion so far to ignore the theory upon which the instrument is framed. Undoubtedly the charter contains many good things. It would be difficult to frame a municipal organic law which did not contemplate many necessary reforms. But what about the theory of individual responsibility which runs through it from end to end? Is that to be ignored while a spirited debate is conducted upon immaterial issues? We are occasionally pointed to the example of New York. But the charter of that city may be repealed by the Legislature any day, and the Legislature meets annually to consider its abuses. Moreover, Tammany captured New York's Mayor at the first election, and the vast revenues of that city are now being expended under the personal direction of Boss Croker. With them he is rapidly building up a political oligarchy more powerful than any that has ever been seen in this country. It seems to us that it would be well to discuss the "Lord Mayor" of the charter from the standpoint of experience.

THE OPPOSITION IN CONGRESS.

SEVERAL silver Senators have requested the President to appoint Mr. William J. Bryan to a major-generalcy. The President had already decided to appoint Lee, a Cleveland Democrat and gold standard man, and General Wheeler, a Bryan and silver man, to two of the four major-generalcies, because they are both men of thorough military training and experience. Only trained soldiers should be put in such commands, for they have the issue of battles and the fate of thousands in their hands, and no man inexperienced in tactics should be put in such a place. It is probable that the application was made in Bryan's behalf to create a grievance for use as water on his political wheel. If such is its purpose, it will fail. The President's perfect impartiality and non-partisanship in these four appointments will gratify the country, and Mr. Bryan's effort to pose as the Neglected One will fail. If he burn with ardor to serve his country the ranks are open to him. President McKinley enlisted in the Civil War as a private and fought his way to the post of major. He supplemented this military service beginning in the ranks with thirty years of public service to his country in civil life before he achieved the Presidency. The American people are very conservative. They try a man thoroughly before they make him President. That has been Mr. Bryan's mistake. He thought that one speech repeated many times gave him title to the Presidency. Neither that nor a major-general's commission will translate him to that high seat. If he burn with military zeal let him start as a private as McKinley did, and if in thirty years from his enlistment he show qualities deserving such reward, his countrymen may consider his claims. While Mr. Bryan is trying to keep up with the band-wagon and make himself an object of interest, it is evident that his party in Congress is getting ready to abandon him. It proposes to seek issues arising in the preparations for war and the means for carrying it on. Mr. J. Hamilton Lewis, who parts his name in the middle to make up for not parting his hair at all, and who divides with Bailey, McMillin, Champ Clark and Bland the preposterous leadership of the House minority, has made his share of the issue. He proposes to read out of the party the six Democrats who voted for the war revenue bill, because that bill permits the issue of bonds as a popular loan if the necessities of the war require it. The six men who preferred to stand by their country rather than by Mr. Lewis have calmly requested that gentleman to go to it. It is evident that these five leaders of the House minority will each submit an issue. Of course McMillin will be free trade, except in such staples as Tennessee products. Bland will offer free coinage of silver at 16 to 1, and Champ Clark will simply propose that denunciation of Mr. Cleveland is the way to bring the Democratic party into power, while Mr. Bailey will antagonize dress suits. The new platform will read: "Resolved, That we support the war, but oppose all means for carrying it on. Resolved, That under the present administration the country is going to the devil in a dress suit. Resolved, That free trade in everything that is not produced by our deestrick is the true American policy. Resolved, That free coinage of silver at 16 to 1 will bring peace by leaving us nothing to fight with. "D—n Cleveland." On this the five-headed party can go into battle, but— "The boy, oh, where was he?"

ENCOURAGING HUNTINGTON'S EVASION.

FOR three days C. P. Huntington, president of the Southern Pacific, has been testifying before the Board of Railroad Commissioners. The three days have been wasted. The witness has not revealed a fact. The questions asked him have been for the most part wholly irrelevant or concerning matters already of record and ascertainable by the opening of a book. If some query bordered on practical investigation Huntington has professed the greatest willingness to answer it, has used it as a text to illustrate the generosity which he frankly acknowledges to have been his lifelong inspiration, has taken excursions into the realm of his own boyhood, and ended by ignoring the question altogether. He has simply told the Commissioners nothing, has played with them and made their session a spectacle suggesting comedy. The officials have listened patiently to Huntington's assertion, oft-repeated, that he never made money out of California roads, that he built the transcontinental line at a loss never yet made good, that he and his associates are poor men, continually growing poorer. With all reasonable pity for Mr. Huntington's poverty, the subject has been exhausted. The public wants to know how much money the Southern Pacific has expended in the corruption of legislatures, courts, individuals, newspapers; particularly newspapers. There is a burning desire to find out why for a period of months the Examiner was on the payroll of the corporation for \$1000 monthly. It is no idle feeling of curiosity which makes the public yearn for details as to a running account with that paper amounting to \$36,000 and never closed. Was the sum charged up to loss? Who bore the loss? The public suspects itself of being the victim. Mr. Huntington should be asked if the Examiner was paid by his philanthropic band a trifle of \$7000 for the printing of a speech delivered by Creed Haymond, and if when the Pattison committee was here the discreet silence of Hearst's journal was not purchased for \$5000? Such are a few of the things Huntington can tell about fully, and he has expressed a wish to tell all he knows. Surely the commission does not intend to deny him the opportunity he craves. Surely it must be tired of asking him questions which he declines to answer and to which the answer would be of no value. So far he has handled them with the ease he handles his walking-stick. It is their duty, as it should be their joy, to put to him interrogatories which cannot be evaded, to bar quibbling, anecdote, reminiscence, prophecy, and get down to business.

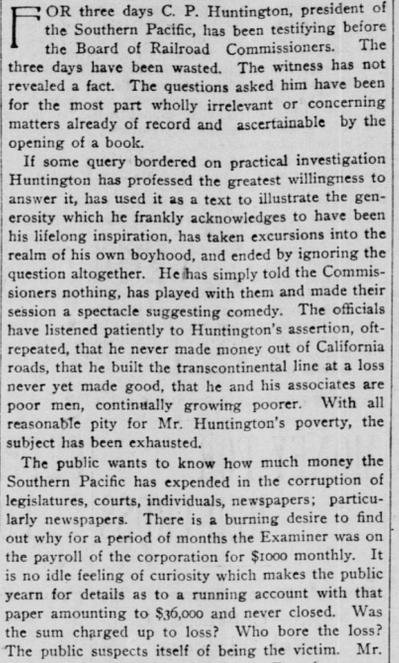
THE QUEEN REGENT OF SPAIN.

THE people of Madrid are a theater-going race, and when money was wanted recently to buy a new warship, with all the modern appliances, for war against the United States, it was unanimously resolved to raise the sum by a big musical and dramatic performance at the Theater Royal. The continental papers have since announced that the receipts of this performance surpassed the record even of Patti or Melba's big receipts. People vied with one another in giving high prices for the seats. The Queen Regent set the pace by giving \$10,000 for her box and each of her Ministers gave \$1000 for his seat, while the banker Larois paid \$20,000 for one chair in the orchestra, and the City Council gave \$20,000 for her seat, the Marquis Laguna \$5000 and the Bank of Spain bought a box for above her ear, in the fashion of yonder. Suddenly I take her seriously. What profound artist, then, is this young girl, who is not yet 20, to have composed for herself this indescribable exotic atmosphere, this veil of mystery and languor? * * * And the orchestra continues her faraway incantation, which, little by little and more by more, transforms these painted canvases into the visions of a dream." Saint-Saens, the Wandering Jew of musicians, is coming to America. It is not the United States, however, that he is coming to visit, but the Argentine Republic, Professor's Goni and Marchal and Professor Williams, director of the Buenos Ayres Conservatory, have invited the composer to visit their city, and Saint-

MUSIC AND MUSICIANS.

SAENS has accepted the invitation. He will remain for some months at Buenos Ayres, where he will occupy himself with reorganizing the Conservatory of Music. He will also conduct the coming season of Italian opera, which includes his "Samson." Tamagno will be the Samson. Saint-Saens has just sought safety from the war's alarms by hurrying home from the Canary Isles, where he has wintered for several years. He was met at Marseilles by a large crowd of admiring friends. Without any delay he hurried on to Beziers, in the arena of which town the first performance of his new opera "Dejanire" is to be given. If the war does not intervene, the composer expressed himself as delighted with the vast and grandiose amphitheater in which the opera is to receive its initial performance.

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\$100,000. A number of army officers clubbed together for a box and so did a similar number of navy officers, and the Madrid Cycling Club and the Bourse each paid the price of \$1000 a stall. The Casino of Madrid took two seats at \$2000 each. The Marquis of Villamejor and Don Esteban each gave \$50,000 for their seats and other spectators paid in the same manner. The total receipts were for more than a million and a half francs. The annihilation of Spain's fleet in the Philippines, however, has shown the Madrid public that musical performances, however enthusiastically conducted, are not sufficient to provide a country with a navy. General Lord Wolsley, the hero of Tel-el-Kehir, follows the gentle art of music in his leisure moments. It appears that this illustrious warrior, whom some of his compatriots regard as a tin-de-steele Wellington, has an extremely sensitive ear, and flinches before inharmonious sounds as he has never flinched before the enemies' bullets. It is a well-known fact that the English soldiers have a habit of singing when on the march, and it now appears that the general has not only suffered unknown tortures from the fact that these amateur vocalists are in the habit of singing out of tune in the most lamentable fashion. Often on the burning sands of the Soudan have the soldiers' voices, as they sang, been compared to the clanging of tin snare drums and flinches before inharmonious sounds as he has never flinched before the enemies' bullets. It is a well-known fact that the English soldiers have a habit of singing when on the march, and it now appears that the general has not only suffered unknown tortures from the fact that these amateur vocalists are in the habit of singing out of tune in the most lamentable fashion. 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