The Call

MONDAY.....AUGUST 22, 1898

JOHN D. SPRECKELS, Proprietor.

Address All Communications to W. S. LEAKE, Manager.

PUBLICATION OFFICE.....Market and Third Sts., S. F. Telephone Main 1868.

EDITORIAL ROOMS.....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.....Ridge House C. C. CARLTON, Correspondent.

CHICAGO OFFICE.....Marquette Building C. GEORGE KROGNESS, Advertising Representative.

BRANCH OFFICES—527 Montgomery street, corner Clay, open until 9:30 o'clock. 387 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. 2518 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.

Columbia—"On Probation."
Alcazar—"The Merchant of Venice."
Morosco's—"Ordeal of Two Sisters."
Tivoli—"La Gioconda."
Orpheum—Vaudeville.
The Chutes—Zoo, Vaudeville and Cannon, the 613-pound Man.
Olympia—Corner Mason and Eddy streets, Specialties.
Mechanics' Pavilion—The Irish Fair.
Sutro's Baths—Swimming.
Central Park—"The Battle of Manila."
Alhambra, Eddy and Jones streets—Vaudeville. Opening Saturday, September 3.
Suspended Animation—Corner Market and Larkin streets.
El Campo—Music, dancing, boating, fishing, every Sunday.
State Fair—Sacramento, September 5.

ANOTHER CYCLE OF COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY.

WHILE the war with Spain did not decrease business in any way, its close has caused a decided increase in many directions. This increase cannot be traced to any sudden development of trade with our new possessions, for it is too soon to look for any such expansion, though it will come later on. It seems to be purely local, if such a circumscribed term can be applied to a country as vast as the United States. Indeed, the conclusion of the war may have nothing to do with it after all, for it may be simply the awakening of the usual fall trade, which is expected to be lively this year. But whatever it proceeds from there is certainly a marked increase in the volume of business throughout the country.

The improvement is remarkably general and characterizes a large variety of products. The West and South continue to lead the other sections of the country, as for some time past, the East showing only a moderate gain. The Northwest is a little slow with collections, but this condition is expected to disappear when the movement of the spring wheat crop begins. The distributive trade of the country west of the Alleghanies is widening everywhere, and the leading staples are going out of first hands with gratifying fluency.

The individual items of improvement are a steady increase in the country's bank clearings, those for the past week being 11.6 per cent over those for the same week last year. The failures were 195, against 221. Railroad earnings continue to increase, and as the movement of crops to market is not especially heavy at the moment, the gain is ascribed to free shipments of manufactured products to the agricultural districts. An immense business is reported in iron and steel, with advanced prices for many descriptions. Indeed, business in this line is so active that the general run of works cannot fill all their orders. The electrical concerns are also far behind in their engagements. All the western centers report a large influx of buyers, with a brisk demand for hats and caps, boots and shoes and dry goods. The inquiry for wool and woolen goods is only moderately active, but these lines have been lagging for some time. The improvement in cotton mentioned several weeks ago continues, but trade is not especially lively. The wheat shipments from the Atlantic Coast show a falling off, being 3,796,000 bushels, against 5,317,000 for the corresponding week in 1897. Hides and leather are also quiet, and prices have ruled rather weak than otherwise.

The most pronounced awakening, however, is in Wall street. Here it comes pretty close to a boom. The public have re-entered the market, and the buying last week was almost reckless. In fact, we are told that it was so sharp that the professionals almost lost control of the market. Railroad shares led in point of preference, though the demand for sterling bonds continued good. The general sentiment in Wall street is that the demand for investment has come to stay, and that there will be an active market for some time to come. The only condition now visible which would be apt to check the buying desire is the possible suspension of peace negotiations through the haggling and quibbling of Spain, a condition which is even at this day menaced by that stubborn and disappointed Government. At present, however, everything is lovely in Wall street.

In the weekly commercial reports California is specified as the one particularly quiet State in the Union. This, of course, is due to the decreased yield of fruit and cereals on account of the deficient rainfall last winter; but considering that we have enough of both to eat ourselves and considerable to sell besides, we are not in such a bad way after all. The fact is, California has been such an enormous producer in the past that when a year of decreased production comes along the contrast is sharp. We shall probably have 100,000 tons of wheat for export this year, and are already sending canned and dried fruits to Europe, though we cannot satisfy her calls upon us this season. There is not a single line of produce short enough this year to work a hardship on anybody, and what we have produced is bringing unusually fine prices, except cereals, though even they are selling at quotations away above the cost of production. It would be a strange year indeed which caught California without anything to sell, and it is hardly probable that such a year will ever be witnessed. It is generally the other way.

As for the rest, business is not at all bad here, even though the State is specified as "quiet." We have abundance of money at the normal rates of interest, the merchants report themselves satisfied with the condition of trade, and the farmers are doing better on the whole than for a number of years back. Collections are average, failures are few and small and no complaints are heard from any quarter.

Judged by the arrogance of the Spanish at Manila they put up the white flag before they had been whipped half enough.

There's many a slip between the signing of a peace protocol and the perfecting of a peace.

THE REPUBLICAN NOMINEE.

THE convention which is to meet in a few hours has upon it the responsibility of naming not only the next Governor of California, but the leader who will take his party into a victorious action that will give to it public power and authority for the next four years. Past experiments have somewhat shown to this coming convention the way in which it should walk. Attempts to put leadership in the hands of men who have in the past failed in their party fealty have usually brought disaster. Just now all the people are looking for stability, strength and consistency in a State administration, and there is in men an instinct which teaches them that these are not to be found in any one subject to political hysterics, or one erratic and uncertain in his party allegiance.

The Republican party is rich in men qualified for this great office, and with a record that entitles them to the confidence of the party and the people. It is not necessary to go outside of this list and select any one whose sole experience in public life has been gained by bolting the party and elevating himself by its defeat, or who has been silent in its great crises.

Within the eligible are many who will not seek the nomination and who would regard its acceptance as a personal sacrifice too great to be justified by any but the gravest emergency.

At this moment the candidate who easily leads as the preference of delegates from all parts of the State is Mr. Henry T. Gage. It is significant, too, that he is the choice of most of those who might be his competitors if they chose, but who abstain in the presence of his merits of address, culture, genius and record.

All free societies are directed by their best elements. When these in a party indicate their choice it is safe to accept it as reasonably sure to command the popular approbation. The best elements in the Republican party are those who seek the best conditions for all men, that life may be crowned with the happiest results for every citizen. These elements stand, first of all, for the rights and dignity of labor, from whose ranks the strong and wholesome brains and bodies, the richest possession of the State, are derived. These best elements in the Republican party, mindful of their own origin, know that the first political duty is to keep affluent the fountain whence they came. Therefore the men in the ranks of the party who so highly guide its destiny seek a candidate and leader who can lead a successful fight for power that is to be used in the interest of the great masses whose prosperity and happiness are the impulse of the State's progress and greatness.

That these elements in the party, men too strong to be governed by any but themselves, in whose presence no boss issues a command, have after mature reflection cast their influence for Mr. Gage, goes far, not only to indicate his nomination, but to give assurance that his campaign will be a march to victory if he be the choice of the convention.

The Call has no candidate. It questioned the candidacy of Mr. Gage in order that its strong points and weak points might be found. The resulting examination has cleared many questions, the mere raising of which brought to him the vindication of political friend and foe.

His candidacy has been put by this examination upon a plane to which that of any other must be raised to put its merits in competition. This is understood by the wise men who are in the interest of other candidates, and they elevate their favorites to his level, since it has proved impossible to pull him down.

If he be the nominee the party will be united upon the candidacy of a man who never tried to divide it, against whom no one holds a grudge generated by defeat caused by bolting and kicking at a local ticket, and in that union goes an invitation to the large contingent of independent voters to seek the best good of the State by supporting a man who is the choice of the best men in his own party.

OFFICIAL DIGNITY AT WASHINGTON.

THE retirement of Mr. Day from the office of Secretary of State on the express ground that he is not rich enough to maintain the social prestige of the position, affords a striking illustration of the extent to which Washington society has drifted away from the Republican simplicity of its early days. It is likely it will also give rise to a movement toward increasing the salaries of members of the Cabinet.

It was clearly the intention of the founders of our Government that the highest offices should be not only within the reach of the poorest citizen, but that they should carry with them salaries large enough to admit of their acceptance by men who had no private fortunes. The fathers of the Republic, however, expected Washington society to continue on a plane of Republican simplicity of manners and living. It was not foreseen by them that social leaders at the capital would ape the customs of London and Paris and that State officials would be required to live like princes.

A member of the Cabinet receives $8000 a year. The law does not require him to maintain anything in the way of social state. He may live at a hotel or in a modest flat if he chooses. Neither does the sentiment of the country at large require him to keep a mansion, a carriage and a retinue of servants. It asks of him no elaborate dinners and no grand receptions. In fact it does not require of a Cabinet Minister as much in the way of hospitality as of the Governor of a State. Clearly, therefore, there is nothing in the conditions of the office that necessarily entail a lavish way of living, and if there is a demand for that sort of thing the demand is a factitious one created solely by Washington society itself.

It is to be regretted that any American should feel himself debarred from the service of the nation by the lack of a private fortune. It will be a bad day for this country when, by reason of our social customs, none but the rich can afford to hold high offices at Washington. That fact is recognized at the capital itself, and it is for this reason some papers there are now busily engaged in creating a sentiment favorable to an increase of salaries. Their idea is that since our society has advanced to the style of living at imperial capitals the salaries paid by the Government should also be imperial.

The members of the British Cabinet receive $25,000 a year. They maintain stately homes in London and entertain on a grand scale. Washington people would like that style adopted by us. It would enliven Washington winters and help Washington trade. Incidentally it would boom Washington real estate by making the city a desirable place of residence for the rich as the social center of the nation.

There are, however, serious objections to the plan proposed. A raise in salaries under prevailing conditions would simply mean a raise in the general style of Washington living, and ere long there would be a demand for another raise. Even with a salary of $25,000 a year no man without a private fortune can maintain the position of a Cabinet Minister in London. Social prestige is like an open poker game—there is no limit to the amount of the raise.

Any man who has the moral courage to defy the demands of a luxurious society dominated by idlers can live at Washington, perform all the duties of a Cabinet officer and save money on $8000 a year; and a man who lacks that quality ought not to be Secretary of State. This is a rich country, but it would be better to vote more money for river improvements than for dinner-giving and grand receptions at Washington.

ONE HOLE IN THE PLATFORM.

WHILE the Democratic platform is marked by several singular gaps, due to omissions for which apologies will have to be made during the campaign, there is none more singular than the neglect to offer sympathy to the soldier and sailor, and to express condolence for those whose sons or brothers have given up their lives for the country.

At this time the impulses of patriotism are particularly acute. Our troops are returning victorious from distant shores. The flag of the Union floats over territory where its presence had hardly been known. But where it waves it casts its shadow across the graves of our patriot dead; it falls upon those who suffer on beds of pain and turn longing eyes back to a land they are never more to see. Yet the Democracy of California in convention assembled forgot these brave boys, living and dead, forgot the stricken at home.

Never was there a convention marked by so vindictive a spirit of greed. The speeches were bitter, the character of the proceedings sullen and the addresses all shaped upon some personal ambition. There was not a broad and statesmanlike utterance. Yet in the compilation of a platform there should have been attention paid to the sentiment of the country. It seems that for an hour asperities might have been laid aside and an open and manly meed of praise awarded to the young blood of the land.

But no. The convention could not rise above the petty bickering for preferment. Selfish aspirations could not for an instant be allayed. The platform was made in heedlessness of humane issues, and by that assemblage which had failed to recognize the "Star-Spangled Banner" adopted with no thought beyond the fact that to adopt something was a necessary form.

The hole in the platform is a large one. Somebody will fall through it.

CLEARING SKIES.

RETURNING peace has brought with it clearing skies in every direction. We no longer receive from Europe dispatches announcing the hostility of Governments and peoples against us. On the contrary, all reports from the great capitals are to the effect that public sentiment has changed and that our victory is accepted as an event tending to the welfare of all.

During the early days of the war reports from abroad teemed with statements of German antagonism to the United States. So repeatedly were such statements put forward that a suspicion arose that some power was at work striving to create hostility between ourselves and the Germans. Whether the suspicion was well founded or not it is gratifying to note that the irritating reports have ceased and that we are now receiving from Germany as well as from other European countries evidences of satisfaction in the results of the war.

In the foreign news of yesterday considerable space was given to friendly expressions on the part of leading newspapers in Germany. The Cologne Gazette highly praised our naval forces at Manila, declared that under our control the business and industries of the Philippines would rapidly revive, and added: "Now that the star-spangled banner waves all danger to German commercial interests is past." The Berliner Tageblatt was equally complimentary in its comments and commended Admiral Dewey on the tact with which he had preserved friendly and correct relations with the German squadron at Manila during the continuance of the strife.

These statements undoubtedly express the abiding sentiments of the German people. They are of more value than the sensational reports of hostile expression so frequently sent out during the last three months. The skies in fact have cleared and we are beginning to see more accurately the attitudes of the various nations toward us. Moreover, the foreign Governments and peoples are beginning to see us more clearly and to have a better understanding of our purposes and our power to enforce them. Peace has brought with it a restoration of our friendly relations with the great nations of the world, and it is evident if we have made any enemies outside of Spain by this war, they are not very influential or else are keeping discreetly silent.

THE FALL ELECTIONS.

PUBLIC interest in the national side of the political contests this fall will be mainly directed toward the efforts of the Republicans to win a sufficient number of Senatorial seats to give them a safe working majority in the Senate when the next Congress assembles. The fight for the control of the House can hardly be called interesting since it seems a foregone conclusion that the Republicans will easily retain a majority in that body. Nothing but gross blundering on the part of Republicans in making Congressional nominations can give the Democrats any chance of success, and such blundering is not likely to be committed.

As the Senate stands to-day it consists of 44 straight Republicans, 3 Silver Republicans, 2 who are classed in the political nomenclature of the day as "straight silverites," one Independent, 5 Populists and 34 Democrats, making a total of 89; there being one vacancy in the representation from Oregon. The terms of thirty Senators expire next March. Maryland has already selected a Republican to succeed Gorman, and it is accounted as reasonably sure they will win seats now held by Democrats in Wisconsin, New Jersey, West Virginia, California and New York.

Success in the fight for Senatorships would give the Republican party complete control of Congress and enable the enactment of legislation in the direction of currency reform and the adoption of other great measures of Republican policy. The administration has been largely hampered in its work thus far by the fact that the balance of power in the Senate is held by a small clique of Populists and so-called Silver Republicans, who stand in the way of the accomplishment of any systematic monetary legislation on a sound basis.

The importance of this phase of the contest is everywhere recognized, and the contest for members of the legislative ticket in States where Senators are to be chosen will be keen. In California this issue of the elections will not be overlooked. Whatever may be the result elsewhere California must send a stanch Republican to succeed White in the United States Senate.

If all the stories of the mismanagement on board the transports are true, there is nothing surprising in the number of desertions except that it is so small.

Apparently the people of Porto Rico are so glad to get from under Spanish rule that they may necessitate the calling out of the police.

General Shafter is to be congratulated that yellow journalism still attacks him. He can be certain of ultimate popularity.

NEWS OF THE MINES.

The discovery that the one restraining dam at the narrows on the Yuba River will consume approximately all of the $500,000 so long available for dams and may possibly even require an additional appropriation will necessarily stir the California Miners' Association and the California delegation to Congress to still greater efforts to secure new appropriations. The depth to bedrock at the narrows will make this dam cost nearly double what it would cost if bedrock were near the surface, it appearing from the incompleted investigations of the Federal engineers that in places the foundation for the 150 foot dam must be built up from a depth of 80 or 90 feet. As this dam is the most important of those in view as possibilities, and as it will have a great secondary value for its water power, it is likely that all money and effort will be concentrated on it until it was completed. Dams on other streams must, apparently, await further legislation. It is a relief, however, to hear the promise from Major Heuer that the commission will probably be able to report definitely by the time Congress convenes.

Gold dredgers are a new thing to the mining industry of California, but they are now multiplying rapidly and will in the future cut a large feature in the gold production of the State. They are and will become in a greater degree an economical method of working gravel deposits in low lying ground, as well as in rivers, and it is well to keep track of their progress. Regarding one among a number of fields of present operation the Oroville Register says:

"For years it has been known that the gravel deposits south of Oroville and near the banks of the Feather were rich in gold, yet owing to the enormous quantity of earth to be handled the mines have not been worked on an extensive scale. Within the past year, however, a number of companies have been prospecting these gravel beds and some months ago it was realized that the only feasible method was to work them by dredgers. One boat was constructed, and that it has paid is evident from the length of time that it has been operated. Since this boat showed that dredgers would pay other companies have become interested, and as a result fifteen shafts have been sunk on one section and more than that on another on the east side of the river, while on the west side about 110 shafts have been sunk. Not more than fifteen or twenty were able to reach bedrock on account of the flow of water. The cost has averaged from $125 to $250 for each shaft."

The English Syndicate or Banner Mine Company are putting a large force of men to work on the ditch which is to convey the water from the Jones reservoir near town to the Banner mine. The reservoir is tapped by a tunnel 2200 feet in length. From there it empties into the Cannon reservoir, thence to the mine for the purpose of having water power with which to run the mill and hoisting works by electricity instead of steam as heretofore. It is Mr. Evans' intention to have everything complete and in running order by the 1st day of January, 1899.—Oroville Register.

California has temporarily lost a few prospectors and a little mining capital by the Alaska craze, but that it will eventually benefit largely through the drawing of the world's attention and mining capital to the Pacific Coast region cannot be doubted. A straw flying in this direction is the following from the Grass Valley Telegraph: "Charles Stepp, accompanied by Antone Stander and wife and A. Goetz, are in town looking at some quartz properties. The whole party recently returned from the Klondike. Messrs. Stepp and Goetz were on business for a European syndicate. Mr. Stander is one of the discoverers of the rich claims in the frozen north and still has interests there."

The Mountain mine at Sierra City has been sold to New York parties. The purchasers are now on the way out to start up the mine. Expert Tibbetts' story of the salting of the samples a few weeks ago seems to have had the opposite effect intended.—Sierra County Enterprise.

An Enterprise correspondent of the Oroville Register gives the following notes from that part of Butte County: "H. P. Stow, it is stated, has purchased the Shakespeare ledge, and will extend the big tunnel, which is now in 2000 feet, to a total of 4000 feet. Work, it is stated, will begin about October 1. As the tunnel cost nearly $12 a foot, it thus means an expenditure of about $25,000 for the extension of this tunnel alone. Forbestown is fortunate in having a gentleman who has means to develop valuable properties in this manner. When the tunnel is extended under the Shakespeare the face will be about 2400 feet under the croppings. The Denver mine has leased the chlorination works of the Shakespeare mine, and will work 150 tons of sulphurets, which are valued at $125 a ton. James Pullen has resumed work in the Mount Ida mine, and four men are employed in the Red Point mine. The Bank of England Consolidated, C. C. Antrim superintendent, has sixteen men employed, and is making an upraise on the ledge. A number of new buildings have lately been erected on this mine. A contract has been let for a 500-foot tunnel on the Big Betsy ledge itself, and four men have begun work on the same."

Chestnut & Co., who lately purchased the old Commodore quartz mine on Barkhouse Creek, Klamath River, are making preparations for opening this mine on an extensive scale. The company has started a tunnel to tap the ledge, in order to run out the quartz by cars, and also a tunnel to secure water for the batteries and machinery.—Yreka Journal.

Early heavy rains will brighten up business in Redding by sending into the hills hundreds of prospectors with pick and pan and rocker. For several seasons work in the dry diggings and gulch places has been almost suspended. Where thousands of dollars usually pass into circulation during a rainy season, the past few years have seen the pan and rocker dust output sink into comparative insignificance. West and southwest of Redding is a territory that in ordinary seasons never fails to respond liberally to the surface scratchings of men accustomed to locating the most likely hiding places of the yellow metal. Across the river, in the Old Diggings district, is another productive section. Since Chinese have never been allowed to rake the district with a fine tooth comb there is plenty of ground from which the old-timers can dig up enough dust, when water is abundant, to come into town and lay in a winter's supply of provisions.—Redding Free Press.

It comes to us that a forty-foot vein has been tapped in the mine near Bells Hill. The shaft is down twenty-five feet and it will be sunk fifty more, then drifting will be done to reach the walls. The ore carries gold and sulphurets. Indications are that the property will be the largest milling proposition in the State.—Sonora Banner.

Work on the electric plant for the Griffith mine is being pushed with considerable energy. The dynamo is to be set up at Ladies Valley, where about a thousand feet of fall can be obtained from the Park canal on the north side of the river. Part of the present consignment is pipe for the proposed water power.—El Dorado Republican.

The mine on James Burns' ranch has met the expectations of the company and they are taking out rich ore. The vein is eleven feet wide.—Sonora Banner.

At the Potazuba mine, near Sutter, they have encountered a four foot ledge at the 100 foot level of $100 a ton rock, which they intend to have milled right away. The Dispatch is informed that 100 tons will be put through the mill as a first test. The deal entered into last fall by which the Amador Queen No. 2 mine was to become the property of Chicago capitalists has been consummated, and the American Improvement Company is in charge. A good deal of money will soon be expended in the practical development of this mine.—Amador Dispatch.

The Keystone Company has shut down twenty stamps on account of the shortage of water. This has involved the discharge of thirty-five men. The Keystone uses water from the Blue Lakes Company. The Kennedy mill has shut down, and a number of men have been discharged, on account of shortage of water. Steam power will be put in immediately.—Amador Ledger.

The Bonanza mine, famous throughout the world as the greatest pocket property ever discovered, is again showing itself a mineralized phenomenon, but this time in an entirely different manner. The main incline shaft is now down 1800 feet and the vein, from eighteen inches to three feet wide, has developed into a true free-milling proposition.—Sonora Union-Democrat.

It is probable that the Sell will be unable to resume operations until the rainy season sets in. It depends on electric power for all purposes, and, owing to the shortage of water with which to operate the dynamos, the electric company was forced to curtail its service, the Sell being among the unfortunate ones.—Sonora Union-Democrat.

Thirty-seven men are now employed at the Reddik mine, just north of town. The property gives every indication of proving one of the best drift propositions that Nevada City has had.—Nevada City Transcript.

Lewellyn & Porter are putting up a large cyanide process at Garlock to work tailings. It is estimated there are 10,000 tons of tailings there at the different mills, and probably $100,000 will be taken out of them. The capacity of the works will be equal to sixty tons per day. The Eureka mill people have their cyanide building completed and all the wood work in place, and now only wait the arrival of the iron tank, which is expected to-night. On its arrival they can be ready to operate in three or four days. The capacity of the plant is ten tons per day.—Randsburg Miner.

C. H. Claubes has returned from White River, where he has been during the past month engaged in working his mining claim. Mr. Claubes reports considerable activity in mining in the White River district, and says that a two-stamp mill is now being in, and in a short time another one of ten-stamp capacity will be erected by a San Francisco syndicate. Several new claims will also be opened up and worked in the near future.—Porterville Enterprise.

On one day this week in San Diego twenty-two mining locations were recorded. Among them were four by Stephen W. Dorsey.—Los Angeles Mining Review.

It is worthy of remark that the activity and advance of the market for copper has produced its natural effect upon the work of developing existing copper producing properties and in opening up new mines and districts where copper deposits of a paying character are found. The uses for copper in the arts, and particularly in connection with electrical progress, are growing at too great a rate to admit of any doubt as to consumption keeping pace with whatever gain in production the near future has in store—Bradstreet's.

The Kootenay country mines, British Columbia, from the Rocky Mountains to the Yale district, produced ten years ago $26,000; five years later the product increased to $100,000; last year the output reached $7,000,000.

The sale of the famous old Virtue mine in Oregon is announced. It has been at intervals a wonderful producer. The Virtue was once the property of George W. Grayson, the San Francisco millionaire, partner of J. B. Haggin of Anaconda copper fame. He owned it for twenty-eight years, and during that time it yielded him $3,000,000. The property is eight miles east of Baker City.

The growth of Butte is something marvelous. Buildings are being erected on every hand. Our mines are producing wonderfully. The pay roll of nearly a million dollars per month is being maintained, and the money is percolating through the channels of business, making a happy and prosperous community.—Western Mining World.

A new mining camp called Colton has been started in Southern Nevada, near Death Valley. It was discovered only a few weeks ago but already over 100 men are on the ground. One ledge has been traced for a distance of over 3000 feet that gives assays of $40 per ton in gold and is eight feet thick. An old working has been found not far from this camp with a shaft on the ledge from which the ore averages $60 per ton in free gold besides rich concentrates. Many of the prospectors think this is the long lost Pegleg mine. Some promising turquoise prospects have been found near the camp.—Mineral Wealth.

The talk of increased production of gold from Cripple Creek and other mining camps in the State is fully supported by the statistics of the United States branch mint at Denver. During the month of July the receipts at this institution amounted to over $2,000,000, which is the best on record, and about 40 per cent better than the receipts during the same period in the previous year.—Mining Investor.

NEWS OF FOREIGN NAVIES.

The new 9.2-inch improved breechloading gun, of which the British Admiralty has ordered a lot from Vickers & Co., cost $30,000 each.

Japan is fitting its new warships with highly improved torpedoes, vastly superior to those in the British or any other navy. The new torpedoes, of which fifty are being made, are twenty-four inches in diameter and are calculated to go at a speed of thirty-five knots for a distance of 2000 yards.

Ninety-five vessels of all descriptions are in course of construction for the Japanese navy, and include six battleships, one armored cruiser, nine second-class protected cruisers, five third-class cruisers, ten third-class coast-defense vessels, seventeen gunboats, four dispatch vessels, eight torpedo-boat destroyers and thirty-two torpedo-boats.

Three battle-ships of 13,000 tons are to be built for the navy of Italy. They will be 410 feet in length and 74 feet 6 inches beam, to have a speed of twenty knots and to be completed within five years. They are all to be built at Government dockyards—one named Principeosa Ellena at Castellamara; another, Benedito Brin, at Spezia and the third, Ammiraglio Rachia, at Venice. Two first-class armored cruisers of 7000 tons and twenty-three knots speed are also contemplated.

The Italian Government has permitted Orlando Bros., Leghorn, to sell the Voresa, armored cruiser of 6840 tons, to the Argentine Republic. Two similar cruisers built for Italy were disposed of in a like manner, and the sale of the third one is allowed with the proviso that the builders shall replace the ship with another within eighteen months, the new ship to be fitted with water-tube boilers and to develop 500 additional horsepower over that now built.

Another instance illustrating the utter want of efficiency in the management of Spanish warships is told of the battle-ship Pelayo while that ship was off Port Said taking in coal. Only one winch was at work, with the result that coal was taken aboard at the rate of 3½ tons per hour. In contradistinction to this is the record of the battle-ship Victorious and the Grafton, both of the British navy, which coaled at sea on the China station. The first named took coal at the rate of 111 tons an hour, and the latter 76 tons in the same time.

The British navy programme is thus summarized:

CLASSES.	Launched	Building.	To build.
Battleships	4	5	7
First-class cruisers	4	5	8
Second-class cruisers	5	1	...
Third-class cruisers	7	0	...
Gunboats	0	4	4

No torpedo-boat destroyers, torpedo-boats or any other vessels are included in this summary. The four battle-ships launched and rapidly fitting for sea are of the Canopus class, 12,950 tons. Of the five under construction two are of the Canopus class and three of 15,000 each of the Formidable type. The seven battleships to be built will be of the Formidable class, to the number of three, and four somewhat smaller but with greater speed than any battle-ship yet built in the British navy.

The policy of the British Admiralty in introducing and extending the placing of water-tube boilers in the navy is meeting with a fierce opposition by the Scotch or old tank-boiler builders. Mr. Allan, who voices the disgruntled boiler-builders in Parliament, calls attention to the fact that the Admiralty does not dare to fire the entire battery of water-tube boilers on the Sharpshooter, Powerful, Terrible, Diadem and Europe, the objection, as given out, being excessive vibration in the three first named vessels and too great a heat in the stokeholds of the Diadem and Europe. He points out that there is no similar trouble experienced in the large armor-clads, and lays the blame on the new boilers. The facts, as they will undoubtedly be officially given out, after the inquiry regarding the Terrible's inability to steam at eighteen knots, appear to be that the trouble lies in the engines and the hulls. The former develop too great power for the hulls, as constructed, to stand, and this is an old complaint in the British navy. As for the excessive heat in the stokeholds of the Diadem and Europa, that is a matter of ventilation, which can be improved, and is not the fault of the boilers, for it has been practically demonstrated that the firerooms with the new boilers are not as hot as with the old-style boilers.

AROUND THE CORRIDORS.

W. A. Mackinder of St. Helena is at the California.

F. M. Helm and wife of Los Angeles are guests at the Grand.

A. B. Keith and T. A. Grigg, M. D., of Butte are at the California.

Dr. W. H. Flanagan of Grants Pass is at the Baldwin for a short stay.

E. S. de Golyer, an expert mining man of Los Angeles, will be at the Palace for a few days.

William Nicholls Jr., a banker of Dutch Flat, is registered at the Grand, accompanied by his son.

Mrs. L. H. Shearman of Lima, Peru, has taken apartments at the Occidental with her two children.

Roy Beckwith and Andrew Sierra, two mining men of Sonora, Tuolumne County, are making the Lick their headquarters.

Z. T. George, a merchant of Los Angeles, and J. K. O'Brien, a Marysville business man, are staying at the Baldwin.

Mr. and Mrs. Whitehouse, who, with their daughter, are making a tour of the United States, are registered at the Grand from England.

A. T. Hastings, a Merced attorney; G. S. Bloss, an Atwater real estate man, and M. M. Parsons, a Fresno rancher, are located at the Lick.

Wilbur A. Hendryx, M. D., an eminent physician of Los Angeles, and A. G. Hubbard and family of Redlands are among the guests at the Palace.

George S. Edwards and family of Santa Barbara, Herbert Richardson and wife of Baltimore, Md., and James R. Tapscott and wife of Yreka are some of the arrivals at the Occidental.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

BRET HARTE—B. R. P., City. A letter intended for Bret Harte should be addressed in care of A. P. Watt, No. 2 Paternoster Square, London, England.

THE LETTERS—E. F., City. If you will read the advertisement of the firm named you will see that the illuminated letters stand for the business name of the house.

THE NAVIES—T. N. F., City. An answer to the question, "Which are the largest navies, in their order?" was published in The Call's "Answers to Correspondents" August 18, 1898.

A YORK SHILLING—A. S., Sunol Glenn, Cal. Without a description of the inscription on the York shilling you have, and the date, it is impossible to give the information asked for.

SIGSBEE—B. M. City. Captain Sigsbee was on board of the Maine and in command of her at the time of the explosion. His testimony on that point before the court of inquiry was: "At the time of the explosion I was writing at my port cabin table, after side. I was dressed."

REMOVING A RING—E. F., City. To remove a ring from a finger on which it has been worn for a long time is considered by many people as sure to be followed by disaster to the person so removing it, particularly if the ring was put on with a wish.

OCHLOCRACY—S., City. Ochlocracy is government or power in the hands of the multitude. The term was first used by Polybius, the Greek historian, about B. C. 210-128. In 1282 there was such a government in Florence, and Athens had a like government. The Paris commune of 1871 is an example of what ochlocracy is.

TWIN SHAFT DISASTER—J. B. M., City. After a protracted search of the published accounts of the disaster in the Twin Shafts, at Pittston, Pa., June 28, 1896, this department is unable to find that any of the bodies of those who were buried in that shaft were brought to the surface. You would have to write to the authorities of that place for the information desired.

A SCREW PROPELLER—J. J., Haywards, Cal. The information that you desire is such that only a practical shipbuilder can give you. In relation to speed, diameter and pitch of a screw, you will find that, which is given in full, in "The Mechanics' and Engineers' Pocket Book" by Haswell. You will also have to consult some work on steam engines and steam navigation.

RAILROAD TIME—M. J., City. This corespondent asks, "What is the greatest speed attained by a railroad?" but as he does not name the distance it is presumed that a mile is meant. The fastest mile was made in 32 seconds by engine 999, drawing four heavy cars, of the Empire State express, train weighing 460,000 pounds, between Crittenden and Wende, N. Y., over the New York Central, May 10, 1893. That was equal to 112½ miles an hour. C. Hogan was the engineer.

MILITARY SCHOOL—C. C. V., Oroville, Cal. There is no military school in the United States the graduates of which receive commissions in the United States army except the one at West Point. There are universities and military academies in various parts of the Union in which the students receive a military instruction from a United States officer, detailed in time of peace, for that purpose, but such students upon graduating are not commissioned in the army.

SCREW STEAMER—G. W. L., San Jose, Cal. The first mention of a vessel being propelled by a screw is that in 1804 Colonel John Stevens met with discouraging success in experimenting with a high pressure engine, a sectional boiler and a single screw. He tried twin screws on a steamboat on the Hudson in 1814. The first naval screw steamer was the Archimides, built in 1840 for the British navy. In 1847 Captain R. B. Forbes took out the first transatlantic screw steamer, the Massachusetts.

A UNITED STATES BILLION—An Old Subscriber, City. This correspondent writes: "I notice this morning that you say that one million of millions make a billion. I would like to know if that is correct. I have always been under the impression that ten hundred millions made a billion, and I think that you are in error, and that it is written thusly, 1,000,000,000."

Had An Old Subscriber carefully studied the answer given he would have noted that the answer was as to what an English billion and a Spanish billion are. The answer is strictly correct, and had his knowledge of billions been more extended he would have known that in England and the greater part of Continental Europe a billion is a million of millions (1,000,000,000,000), and not ten hundred millions, as he suggests. In the United States and in France it is one thousand millions (1,000,000,000). This is another instance where the writer should remember, before making a complaint, "Be sure that you are right, then go ahead."

Cal. glace fruit 50c per lb at Townsend's.*

Special information supplied daily to business houses and public men by the Press Clipping Bureau (Allen's), 510 Montgomery street. Telephone Main 1042. *

"Isn't Slims a little slow as a business man?"

"'A little slow?' He still has a big display of skates in his show window."—Detroit Free Press.

First and Second

Class rates again reduced via the Santa Fe route. Call at the new ticket office, 628 Market.

"Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup"

Has been used over fifty years by millions of mothers for their children while Teething with perfect success. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays Pain, cures Wind Colic, regulates the Bowels and is the best remedy for Diarrhoea, whether arising from teething or other causes. For sale by Druggists in every part of the world. Be sure and ask for Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. 25c a bottle.

HOTEL DEL CORONADO—Take advantage of the round-trip tickets. Now only $60 by steamship, including fifteen days' board at hotel; longer stay $2 50 per day. Apply at 4 New Montgomery street, San Francisco.