

The Call SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1898 JOHN D. SPRECKELS, Proprietor. Address All Communications to W. S. LEAKE, Manager.

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.

AMUSEMENTS Columbia—'The Rajah' Alcazar—'The Butterflies' Morosco's—'Fallen Among Thieves'

By Frank W. Butterfield—This day, September 3, Furniture, at 221 Jessie street, at 11 o'clock.

COLONEL HENRY'S CRIME.

STUDENTS of human nature will find in the career, the crime, the confession and the suicide of Colonel Henry of the Intelligence Department of the French army one of the most interesting problems ever submitted to the analysis of psychologists.

Every circumstance of the case, as well as every salient characteristic of Colonel Henry himself, is well known. The whole tragedy has been played out in the blaze of a publicity that attracted the attention of the entire world, and back of all that is known looms a vast mystery affecting not only august individuals, but mighty nations.

The career of Colonel Henry up to the time when he was involved in the terrible meshes of the Dreyfus affair was a most creditable one. The son of a French peasant, he showed when drafted into the army such soldierly characteristics that despite the lack of influential friends his promotion was rapid.

His services immediately after the war were also distinguished. In fact he seemed to be of the best soldierly type that the world knows—faithful, laborious, blunt of speech, prompt to obey and fitted to command. During his service with the colors in the colonies he became afflicted with an incurable malarial fever, and was thereupon transferred from the army itself to the staff at Paris.

Two incidents of the tragic last day of his life illumine the inner depths of his character. He had denied the authorship of the forged letter with which he was confronted and persisted in the denial until his commanding general told him to reply "on the honor of a soldier." Then he spoke out, "Since you put me on my honor as a soldier I confess." A few hours afterward as he took leave of his wife he said, "I have done nothing wrong; I feel no sting of conscience." Before the sun went down he had cut his throat and lay weltering in blood a suicide upon the floor of his prison.

It will be in vain that the French officials ask the world to believe that a man with such a record as that of Colonel Henry committed this forgery on his own initiative. The man's sense of honor and of duty was clearly that produced in some natures by excessive militarism. The type is common, but in Colonel Henry's case the devotion to the army, its officers and its cause had reached an abnormal development. Perhaps the malarial fever may have had some effect in weakening his brain and thus made him an easy victim to the intrigues of his commanders, but the dominant impulse to his crime must have come to him from the outside, and from a source which he had learned to respect and to serve with a blind devotion.

Out of the confession and the suicide will of course come a reopening of the Dreyfus case, and along with that there will be a fuller understanding of all the circumstances and all the actions of the extraordinary case. When that understanding is reached then Colonel Henry will probably be seen to be a martyr to the superstitions of military discipline, and not upon himself alone will fall the blame for the crime that brought a shameful close to a career so long carried on with honor in war and in peace.

There is nothing cheerful in the circumstance that a leper has been found in a local laundry. People are prejudiced against having their linen handled by persons having this disease. And now that the leper has been discovered there is no place to put her except a den to which a humane man would not condemn a pig.

General Bermudez has been executed by order of Gomez. He was a Cuban officer who between skirmishes hanged his subordinates for the fun of seeing them kick. Bermudez got only that which he deserved, and not enough of that. He should have been executed several times.

It takes no prophet to say that Jacob Neff will be the next Lieutenant Governor, and by a majority so mighty that his Populist opponent will wonder whether there was ever more than one in the race.

Republicans are confident of winning, but not so confident that they are going to sleep expecting to awaken with certificates of election in their hands.

PLAYING THE SNEAK.

WELLS, FARGO & CO. have abandoned the tactics of audacity in their efforts to make The Call and the public generally pay the tax imposed by the war revenue act upon their business, and are now trying to accomplish the same unlawful end by indirection. In other words, they have dropped the boldness of a bandit and are now playing the sneakthief.

On Thursday the officers of the corporation, whose disloyalty leads it to fight against the war revenue bill and whose greed induces it to snatch stolen money when it can, sent notice that unless The Call paid for the revenue stamps for packages of newspapers shipped by the company it would refuse to carry such packages. That notice at once raised an issue. The Call was only too eager to meet. It declined to be held up and bled by the disloyal corporation, and in an editorial gave notice yesterday that it would carry the case into the courts and make the fight for principle on behalf of the public.

This morning we have to announce that the president of the company has weakened. The prayers of that pious official have probably been answered by a warning of conscience that when one intends to violate the statutes of his country and rob his fellowman it is best to do it on the sly and by some cunning means that cannot be punished in court.

Accordingly, from John J. Valentine, president of the company, there was received yesterday a back-down couched in these words: "Referring to my communication of yesterday and the report of our Manager Rowell to the effect that you insist upon not furnishing revenue stamps for your shipments of newspapers, I have to say that it is of course immaterial to Wells, Fargo & Co. whether you furnish the stamp or whether the price for service be made to include the stamp, which is also within our province; therefore we will perform the service as usual and amend our rates for same so as to cause you no inconvenience."

This letter, it will be seen, evades raising a test case for the courts. Wells, Fargo & Co. will not carry out the threat of Thursday to refuse to carry packages for The Call. Fear of the law will prevent them doing that, but they make a sneaking claim that they will get the price of the stamps by a means which the conscience of the president permits him to practice when he wishes to evade his taxes and violate the laws.

The Call has no hesitation in declaring this morning that the sneak of yesterday will prove as impotent as the bluff of Thursday. The tax-shirking, disloyal company will no more stand to the new position than to the old one. Express charges upon packages of The Call are not paid by The Call, but by its agents, to whom the packages are sent. We give notice to all these agents that if they fight this claim of the company The Call will sustain them. If Wells, Fargo & Co. charge them, or any one of them, as much as one cent more than the rate they have been paying according to agreement, let them refuse to submit to the extortion, go to the courts, and The Call will make the fight for them.

Wells, Fargo & Co. are wrong, and the president knows it. It requires no great legal skill to understand the meaning of the war revenue act in the clause imposing a tax upon the business of express companies; it requires no very great piety to have a conscience clear enough to perceive that to rob a neighbor by a violation of law is an offense against the Almighty as much as a violation of the Ten Commandments. The president of the corporation knows these things. He knows his company has no standing in the courts or in morals, and in the face of a fight against it will not attempt to maintain the position.

It is very well known that with the exception of the president, the local officials of Wells, Fargo & Co. were in favor of paying the tax as the law required, and would have instructed the subordinates to do so had not a combination of express companies in the East decided to shirk the tax and make the public pay it. That combination was made in violation of law. It was itself an illicit coalition, and a conspiracy to defraud the Government or the people or both was its object. The officials of Wells, Fargo & Co. surrendered understanding and conscience to the dictation of this combination, and as a result the corporation has become involved in a disgraceful situation which it can neither maintain nor escape from without sneaking.

Dispatches from the East announce that the combination of express companies there has already gone to pieces. The public has only to stand firmly with The Call and the claims now abandoned there will be abandoned here also. If, however, Wells, Fargo & Co. persist in raising the rate of charges so as to take from the people the amount required of the corporation by the war revenue, the people will not be without a remedy.

Express companies operating in other States are compelled by the laws of those States to pay a license tax, which in every case is far higher than the stamp tax levied by the nation for the purpose of defraying the cost of the war. California hitherto has neglected this source of raising a revenue. There is no reason why Wells, Fargo & Co. should not be compelled to pay a State license, and if the company insists upon shirking its war tax and throwing the burden upon the people, there will be a very potent reason apparent to the next Legislature why that license tax should be imposed this winter.

OUT GOES THE SEVENTH.

AGREEABLE to the clamor within its ranks and without, the Seventh California will be dropped from the muster rolls. Its going will cause regret, for the Seventh is a gallant body of men, an honor to the State, and should there yet be a demand for active service it is the sort of regiment California would be glad to have representing it at the front.

It is worth remark that the managing editor of the Examiner sent to the Secretary of War a demand that the Seventh be permitted to lay down its arms. So it is permitted. To be sure the determination had been reached before the managing editor was thoughtful enough to issue his ukase, and the fact was published in The Call, but we direct attention to the circumstance, making the prediction that the modest sheet of the Hearstlings will claim all the credit. "Let them be mustered out," and they were mustered out.

The fact that this course had been decided upon before Hearst's man got upon his hind legs and spoke for the people of California must not rob him of his share of the credit. Mind has an influence over matter. The very circumstance that a mind, and such a mind as Hearst's hopping understudy, had been made up as to the fate of the Seventh simply settled it. There was no necessity for heating the wire with a fresh, warm thought. The work was done with the mere thinking. It's what you call telepathy, and under the guidance of a master it's a great thing.

THE SINGLE TAX AMENDMENT.

AMENDMENT No. 2 to the State constitution, to be voted on at the coming election, is the single tax proposition, agreed upon by the propaganda of that idea, and by the opponents of private ownership of land urged upon the Legislature. It proposes to authorize counties to appoint a Board of Freeholders to frame a system of county government in the nature of a special charter. In its operation this special charter may relieve all forms of personal property of taxation and confiscate land in private ownership by putting upon it a tax equal to its rental value. Of necessity private ownership of land will cease under such a regulation. Land will belong to the commune. It will cease to be used as security for loans, and its confiscation will mean the confiscation also of all mortgage equities existing at the time private ownership ceases. This amendment is Judge Maguire's indirect and sinister method of accomplishing the confiscation of land. A very large number of people are vitally interested in this question.

The report of the Bank Commissioners for 1896 shows that there are in this State fifty-seven savings banks, with 159,856 depositors. These depositors are mainly the thrifty, economical and prudent class among our mechanics, laborers and small tradespeople. They had in the fifty-seven savings banks, in 1896 \$131,653,635 55, on which they draw 4 to 4 1/2 per cent interest. The average deposit per person was \$823 57. This money of these prudent people is mostly invested in mortgages on land. A recapitulation will exhibit plainly the interest of every savings bank depositor in the private ownership of land:

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Number of savings banks 57, Number of depositors 159,856, Amount on deposit \$131,653,635 55, Loaned on real estate 102,281,200 07, Real estate owned by banks 4,459,789 70, Invested in stocks, bonds and warrants 23,359,650 40, Loaned on stocks, bonds and warrants 6,856,781 79, Loaned on other securities 143,155 50, Loaned on personal security 1,824,859 58.

It will be seen, then, that of the money belonging to these 159,856 depositors in savings banks \$106,740,989 77 is loaned on real estate mortgages or invested in real estate for the benefit of those who earned and saved it. Under amendment No. 2 the counties of the State may adopt local option taxation, put all tax on the land, and put an end to private ownership. These 159,856 savings bank depositors to the extent of their mortgage interest are the private owners of land. Their equity in land will be confiscated the same as the interest of the owner of the record title. The savings banks are merely the trustees of their depositors. When the public has confiscated the landed security they have taken in behalf of their trustees, the depositors, the banks will not have any means by which to recover the money loaned on land, and of necessity must default to their depositors.

Of the savings bank depositors 128,484 have their money in the savings banks of San Francisco and are probably residents of this city. It is possible that a large proportion of them are not land-owners in fee and may be unaware that they have any interest in the private ownership of land. To all such we send this information that to the extent of their savings deposit they are interested in the private ownership of land. Its confiscation is also the confiscation and loss of their savings. That landed security is the safest and most profitable to them is proved by the fact that the banks seek that form of security and resort to others only when compelled to do so by the accumulation of deposits beyond the demand for loans on mortgage.

There are other reasons grounded on the economies of public administration why the people should defeat Maguire's single tax and land confiscation amendment No. 2, to which reference will be duly made. The first reason, however, is that it is a sinister attempt to confiscate land titles and rob also the thrifty laborer of his accumulated savings invested for him by the bank in which he deposits.

THE MINISTERING ANGEL.

MOST people who have taken more than a passing interest in the war with Spain will remember that shortly after the call for volunteers it was announced from Washington with something like a flourish of trumpets that no women would be employed as army nurses. High authorities had decided that the presence of women among the wounded was more pernicious than helpful. Woman's ministrations, it was said, were excellent for poets, but they were not calculated to promote the strength of armies. It was even said that the illustrious Florence Nightingale was an overrated creature of sentiment, and that among the battling hosts at the Crimea she was more of a nuisance than a blessing.

All that was the prevailing philosophy in lofty circles about a hundred days ago, when the war was in its first flush, when the soldiers were all healthy, hearty and happy; when there were no wounded or sick or dying; no pestilence raging in the camps, no dread diseases threatening officers and privates alike. It is different now. The glory of the war is over, the triumphs of victorious battles are things of the past. We have now to deal with the sick and with the wounded, and where now is the resolve to exclude women from the hospitals and the camps where the sick are lying?

All reports from the stricken camps tell us of the work the women are doing there to nurse the invalids back to life. Miss Helen Gould and her colleagues, and the goodly host of the ladies of the Red Cross, are much more conspicuous than the officials who so short a time ago decided that as nurses they would be nuisances.

It is the old story—the woman rejected by the warrior in his pride buckling on his armor is now welcomed with grateful tears by helpless invalid and hailed as the angel of the camp.

In relating the statement of a major general of the army, whose achievements on the field have been honorable, the Post calls him "Pecos Bill." This is more than an insult to Shafter. It is an insult to the whole army, and is a coarse and inexcusable piece of backguardism.

While there is occasionally fault to be found with the police, they are assuredly right in the effort to send the forgers Becker and Creegan across the bay, and it could almost be hoped the Supreme Court would take this view of the case.

Agualdo is said not to be taken seriously by the European powers, but he may be taken seriously by a lot of canvas-backed soldiers from the United States and put where he will do the least harm.

Let the Czar try the experiment of disarming his own soldiers, taking care to leave the guns around where they can be readily grabbed.

Governor Budd probably shed his whiskers so nobody would mistake him for a member of the Populist side of the fusion scheme.

Retrial of the Dreyfus case may not mean the clearing of the prisoner, but it will mean a crop of suicides.

READ NEXT SUNDAY'S CALL. Sept 4, - will contain MOST AMAZING ADVENTURES OF A NEW ROBINSON CRUSOE. GREATEST KANGAROO DRIVE AUSTRALIA EVER HAD. THE COMING CHEAP FOOD FROM COAL TAR. Insects that give us Malarial Fever. MAN WITH THE MICROSCOPIC EYE. TWO GIRLS WHO RUN ONE OF THE BIGGEST SHEEP RANCHES IN CALIFORNIA. IF EVERYBODY TOLD THE TRUTH FOR ONE DAY DISCUSSED BY PROMINENT PEOPLE. UNCLE SAM'S NEW ATLAS. PAGES OF OTHER SPECIAL FEATURES.

A BABY'S SHOE A SACRED MASCOT

The Queer God of Fortune That Is Worshipped at the Alcazar.

In connection with the subject of mascots and "hoodoos," which are supposed to brighten or cloud the lives of theatrical managers, the revival of "The First Born" at the Alcazar on next Monday night recalls the history of a mascot, the golden power of which inspires the awe and admiration of every one connected with that fortunate home of amusement.

When Francis Powers, a commonplace actor, wrote "The First Born" after a protracted study of the customs and style of diction of the Mongolians, as illustrated in Chinatown in this city, the efforts of the management to recall the old-time popularity of the pretty Moorish theater and the institution having a death struggle for existence with the prospect of surrendering to adverse circumstances very near.

The quaint child of Powers' mind was introduced to the public a year ago last May. The public overlooked it as the box office, however, was under a check on the floor of a gambling palace. For a whole week that work of art was played to empty benches. Even the critics, however, its promoters had in it the faith of the shipwrecked sailor and the baby who came into the world with a genuine novel that everybody wanted to see many times, but a gold mine in a little play, "The First Born," with its amusing and touching scenes of oriental life, its quaint music and characteristic odor of burning punk ran for 100 nights to crowded houses, making a barrel of money for the managers.

All this time the mascot hung on the wall of the office with silken cord to bring good luck. When the mother came to get her baby's footwear, she was told that the box office was excited, and given the money to buy a new pair of shoes and went away contented. Here it was happened.

With the beginning of the second week the public awoke to the fact that the Alcazar had not alone something in the way of a genuine novel that everybody wanted to see many times, but a gold mine in a little play, "The First Born," with its amusing and touching scenes of oriental life, its quaint music and characteristic odor of burning punk ran for 100 nights to crowded houses, making a barrel of money for the managers.

It is there yet, covered with dust and cobwebs, a thing to wonder at and worship, that even the decorators dared not disturb when the office was renovated. Its potency has remained steadfast, for the Alcazar has prospered ever since that day a genuine novel that everybody wanted to see many times, but a gold mine in a little play, "The First Born," with its amusing and touching scenes of oriental life, its quaint music and characteristic odor of burning punk ran for 100 nights to crowded houses, making a barrel of money for the managers.

The discovery has been made that metal filings of any kind can be compressed into bars which can stand as severe tests as the original bars which supplied the

AROUND THE CORRIDORS.

Judge Bicknell of Los Angeles is at the Palace. W. W. Felton of Vichy Springs is at the Occidental.

J. Frankl, a merchant of Lakeview, is at the Lick. D. G. Overall, a hotel man of Visalia, is at the Grand.

J. J. Donovan, a jeweler of Los Angeles, is at the Lick. A. B. Wood, a mining man of Detroit, is at the Palace.

W. J. Dickey, an attorney of Fresno, is at the Occidental. Mr. and Mrs. L. Melbrus of Bolinas are at the Occidental.

H. J. Llewelling, an attorney of St. Helena, is at the Lick. Frank D. Ryan, an attorney of Sacramento, is at the Grand.

J. M. Emmert, a cattle man of Arroyo Grande, is at the Russ. John A. McIntyre, a mining man of Sacramento, is at the Grand.

J. B. Hastings, a mining man of Rossland, B. C., is at the Palace. J. B. Chinn of Portville, well known as a fruit grower, is at the Grand.

A. Abrams, a merchant of Chico, is in this city on his wedding tour. David S. Jordan and George E. Howard of Stanford are at the Occidental.

S. T. Black, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, is at the Lick. S. H. Friedlander left for Chicago and the East on Friday night, and will remain about three weeks. Mr. Friedlander takes with him his mother, who will make Chicago her future home.

Edward A. Kimball of Chicago, one of the lecturers recently appointed by the founder of Christian Science, Mary B. G. Eddy, to meet the increasing demand for correct information on this great subject, is now on his way to this coast. The lecturer has been greeted by students in many of the principal Eastern cities. He will lecture in many places on this coast, and will be in San Francisco about the 20th of September. A more definite announcement of the date will be given later.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NEAL DOW—E. City. Neal Dow, commonly called the "Father of Prohibition," died in Portland, Me., October 2, 1897. He was candidate for President of the United States in 1880.

EXCESSIVE SWEATING—T. F. S. City. Excessive sweating is generally connected by cold or warm baths, friction, tonics and proper clothing, under the advice of a competent physician.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY—C. S. City. According to the old style calendar which prevailed in the colonies at the time George Washington was born, his birthday was on the 11th of February, 1732, but by the new calendar which England recognized in 1752, the date of his birth fell on the 22d of February, and the latter date has always been observed.

POSITIONS IN THE MINT—J. P. Colfax, Cal. A position in the mints of the United States is to be obtained by undergoing a civil service examination in the particular branch of the service the applicant would like to enter, and if he passes a successful examination he may wait until there is a vacancy. He must be possessed of the qualifications required by examination.

A WILD STATEMENT—F. R. S. City. The statement that you heard made by a public speaker to the effect that "England sent \$20,000,000 to America recently to bribe the American press so as to mislead the American people into an alliance with England in 1911, the date of his birth fell on the 22d of February, and the latter date has always been observed.

NAVAL MILITIA—Mrs. D. T. City. In the United States of California there is no such organization as the Naval Reserve, but there is the Naval Militia, which is part of the National Guard system of the State. In the service of the State Naval Militia men are paid \$2 per day; that is, as the cashier of the commander-in-chief. Officers are paid in accordance

with grade. The uniforms and equipments are furnished by the State. The men enlist for three years, and on re-enlistment the term, at option, may be one, two or three years. The naval militia men are part of the armed force of the State, and their duties, outside of drilling, is to answer any call for service within the State lines. In case of war they may be taken in the United States navy, but in order to join that branch of the service they must enroll as volunteers, and in that case they receive the same pay that is accorded to regular enlisted men of the navy.

PATENT RIGHT AND COPYRIGHT—H. D., San Jose, Cal. The difference between patent right and copyright is that the first is an exclusive right to an invention for a stated period, and the latter is the exclusive right of an author in his own original production, especially the patent. The best mode of procedure to obtain a patent is to employ a competent attorney of good repute to attend to the matter.

Soft Baby Cream, 15c D. Townsend's. Treat your friends to Townsend's California Patent Right and Copyright is that the first is an exclusive right to an invention for a stated period, and the latter is the exclusive right of an author in his own original production, especially the patent. The best mode of procedure to obtain a patent is to employ a competent attorney of good repute to attend to the matter.

Special information supplied daily to business houses and public men by the Press Clipping Bureau (Allen's), 519 Montgomery street. Telephone Main 1942.

Pictures and Frames. Old Flemish, Old Dutch and Gray Oaks, Mahogany, Cherry, Bone, Ebony, Mat Gilt and Fine Bronzes are the finishes in moldings that are mostly in use now. These moldings are good for colored and plain photographs, etchings, platotypes and photographs, which, by the way, are the pictures that are selling best at this time. We have also hundreds of framed pictures and photo panes, the newest things out, at very reasonable prices. Sanborn, Vail & Co., 741 Market street.

The first system of wireless telegraphy in Ireland has been made at Clara, Kings County. The transmitter was placed in the office of the Clara Courthouse and the receiver at Goodbody's jute works, a mile distant.

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

Loss of hair, which often means the prelude to a bald head, is prevented by PARKER'S HAIR BALM. PARKER'S GINGER TONIC alleviates suffering.

It is a fact that the English soldiers use Dr. Steiger's Anestura Bitters as a preventative of all troubles of the digestive organs.

The latest development of the British empire is a colossal oyster industry. New Zealand is sending 500 dozen frozen oysters of native production as an experiment. The first cargo will be put on the market at eight shillings a hundred.

ADVERTISEMENTS. ROYAL Baking Powder. Most healthful leavener in the world. Goes farther. ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., NEW YORK.