

The Call

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AMUSEMENTS. Columbia—'Rob Roy.' Orpheum—Vaudeville. Grand Opera House—'The Black Hussar.' Alcazar—'Nerves.' The Grand—'The Bohemian Girl.' Alhambra—'Saved From the Flames.' Chutes, Zoo and Free Theater—Vaudeville every afternoon and evening.

AUCTION SALES. By F. W. Butterfield—This day, at 11 o'clock Furniture, at 1230 Bush street.

LOGIC OF RAILROAD ABSOLUTISM.

WHEN Mr. Huntington reaches this State, if he regards his railroad combination as the local government, he should devise some plan and promulgate some new edict for the fulfillment of those ordinary obligations which even the Czar of Russia usually acknowledges. If the unfortunate farmers in Monterey County, whose families were temporarily reduced to destitution by a drought, for which they were not responsible, had been allowed to retain or had been returned even a small portion of the freight money they had paid the railroad, their necessities would have been adequately relieved.

In modern times imperialism has improved and obeys some humanitarian duties. If the railroad is the state and entitled to appropriate such proportion of the profits of industry as it pleases, then at least it should make formal arrangements to perform its correlative obligations, and should not cast them upon other citizens who are chronic rebels against its despotism and its exactions.

BALLOT REFORM WISDOM.

IN the course of an interview a few days ago Senator Stratton, author of the Stratton primary law, under whose supervision much of the reform legislation enacted by the late Legislature was passed, made some remarks with reference to the new Rickard law which are worthy of reproduction. "The provision in the Rickard law," said Senator Stratton, "against placing on the ballot the tickets of independent conventions will not work in favor of the bosses if the good citizens go to the primaries and secure control of the regular conventions. Whenever the bosses fail to get control of a convention they organize a rival independent convention. This has been done more than once in San Francisco. They cannot run an independent ticket on the ballot now. The Rickard law may bring citizens out for the primaries who would otherwise be negligent. Heretofore they have relied on independent movements, but they cannot do so any longer."

This is pure and unadulterated wisdom, and it is respectfully recommended to the hysterical editor of an esteemed morning Democratic contemporary. Senator Stratton's primary law, if it has any purpose whatever, is designed to give the people a chance to unhorse the bosses. It provides for lawful primaries, at which every good citizen may vote for delegates to his party convention. For any one to allege that the political bosses can capture conventions and foist upon the people unrepresentative candidates when everybody goes to the primary ballot-boxes and votes is to make a statement calculated only to engage the attention of men who have to be confined in padded cells.

The Rickard ballot law is the legitimate offspring of the Stratton primary law. Senator Stratton says he could not see this and he opposed its enactment. But with all due respect to him, we adhere to the conclusion formerly expressed, that an alphabetical system under the legal convention plan set up by the new primary law would be a downright absurdity. If the people are to have legal conventions and legal tickets, the latter should be protected upon the ballot, for the party designation of a legal convention will possess significance which should not be obscured by "piece clubs" and so-called "independent" movements.

It is our opinion that if the Stratton primary law is a success the Rickard ballot law will be a desideratum, the value of which can scarcely be overestimated. Otherwise, it may be otherwise.

When a Filipino will not fight Aguinaldo has him killed, and when he will fight as likely as not he runs against an American soldier with a loaded gun. The only safe course of the Filipino would seem to be to take to the woods.

THE CORRUPTION OF YOUTH.

WITH the invention which has made possible the "mutoscope," the "artoscope" and all the other forms of exhibition in which photography is given a semblance of the movements of life, a new instrument has been placed in the hands of the vicious for the corruption of youth. They have been prompt to take advantage of it. They have copied pictures in which nude art has been carried to the extreme of indecency, they have induced vice women to pose in half nudity, and of these they have made scenes to tempt the depravity of manhood and the curiosity of youth.

These vicious exhibitions are displayed in San Francisco with an effrontery that is as audacious as it is shameless. In an investigation of the extent to which the evil is carried on along our principal streets The Call yesterday exposed the fact that a considerable number of the patrons of such places are schoolboys, some of them so small they have to be lifted in the arms of their larger companions to bring their eyes on a level with the aperture in the machine through which the pictures are seen.

Beneath the depth of this open depravity there is, moreover, a lower depth which the proprietors of the places disclose to those who are known to them. For the gratification of such patrons even the slightest pretenses of decency are thrown aside and a degradation as low as that of the slums of Chinatown is presented in foul pictures displayed in the vitascope and ribald songs clicked out from the phonograph.

These vicious exhibitions are the more dangerous to society because they are given under the guise of scientific novelties of invention and new achievements in mechanical and electrical art. In that form they attract large numbers of persons who are not depraved and have no desire for the indecent. By the patronage of such visitors an air of respectability is given to the places of exhibition, and parents have no objection to make when their children go there to spend their nickels.

For a time the proprietors of the exhibitions conducted their places with much outward show of decency, but now they have become bold. The machines in which the pictures are placed are plainly marked with signs intimating the depravity of the scenes within, and these occupy prominent positions in their showrooms. It is therefore no longer possible for the public to overlook the affront given to its morals and its laws. It is difficult, indeed, to understand how even the police can have been blind to it for so long a time.

It is not a pleasant subject to deal with, and The Call would have gladly turned aside from it had it been aware of any way to suppress the evil other than by exposing it. It now directs to all of these so-called phonograph and mutoscope parlors the attention of the police, the Society for the Prevention of Vice and the public generally. A good step was taken for reform and the welfare of society when the notorious gamblers of Ingleside were compelled to give up the nefarious trade which was tempting large numbers of people to evil courses leading to dishonor and suicide, and now another step in the same direction can be taken by the suppression of the indecent pictures and songs that are corrupting the youth of the city.

It is not necessary to enact a new ordinance to cover the subject. The present law suffices. All that is needed is an aroused public sentiment and energetic action on the part of the police. The exposure made by The Call has been sufficient to show the nature of the offense and point out some of the more conspicuous places where it is carried on. It is now the turn of the police to act.

ILLEGAL ADVERTISING AGENTS.

A QUESTION involving the right of corporations to act as advertising agents, when no such business has been included in the articles of incorporation, has been raised in the city of New York and can be studied with interest and advantage throughout the country. It is an issue which affects all legitimate advertisers and deserves their attentive consideration. In a recent issue of Leslie's Weekly the case is thus presented:

It has been stated that the Manhattan Elevated Railroad of New York declined to grant the request of Richard Croker for the use of the elevated structure to carry the pipes of a compressed air company because, among other reasons, the elevated railroad, under its charter, had no right to make such an agreement. The charter of the elevated railroad was granted for the purpose of carrying passengers in this city and for nothing else. Alderman Okie, one of the best men in the board, understands the situation, and he is in favor of strictly limiting the operations of the Manhattan Elevated to the rights granted by its franchise. The Editorial Association of the State of New York has appointed a committee to request the Governor and Attorney General of this State to insist that the elevated and the surface railroads discontinue the advertising business, which is now done in violation of their charters. Publishers of newspapers, magazines and other periodicals feel, therefore, that they have a right to enter a protest against illegitimate competition by corporations chartered exclusively for transportation purposes. It is estimated that more than \$2,000,000 annually is diverted from the regular channels of advertising by the various street railways in the cities of the United States. It is remarkable that this abuse has been tolerated so long and so patiently.

It is not in New York only that corporations have thus transcended the powers granted by their charters. Street car and ferry companies are in this way offenders on a large scale. They carry on an advertising trade to an extent which makes their cars and their boats veritable moving billboards plastered with advertisements of every sort and kind. From the trade they derive a large revenue, every dollar of which is illegally obtained by acts done in violation of their chartered privileges.

A flagrant illustration of the boldness with which some corporations engage in the advertising trade without a chartered right to do so is to be found in the fact that the Market Street Railway Company of this city, not content with using all of its cars for advertising purposes, sets apart some of them exclusively to advertising. It parades up and down the street a car in which the people are not permitted to ride, the whole service of the car being to carry a brass band and attract public attention to the thing advertised.

It is clear that if the Manhattan Elevated Railroad Company of New York could not legally carry the pipes of a compressed air company neither can it legally carry the advertisements of that or any other company or person. The same rule applies to corporations throughout the Union. They are granted the privilege of carrying on certain specified kinds of work, and when they go beyond that they are violating the law.

The legitimate advertisers of New York have done well in protesting against the continuance of this illegitimate competition. The evil is a growing one, and it is high time strong efforts were made to check it.

There is not much to say about the individual who sends over a telephone wire a false message that another individual is dead. He is simply a fool, and perhaps not to be held strictly accountable.

WARFARE IN THE TROPICS.

AN American publicist has collected the sanitary statistics of England and France relating to their military service in their tropical armies of occupation and conquest. Wherever possible the British military stations in India are located in a dry climate, as heat and humidity together are recognized as a partnership of deathly influence. The British army in India consists of 70,000 men and officers. Their average annual hospital admissions are 97,738, or 1386 hospital cases for each 1000 men. The average number of days each soldier is sick is 34.35, and the number in each thousand constantly sick is 93.85. As these include the dry stations in the hills, the showing is better than that made by the hot and moist camps. Taking Ahmedabad as an average of the latter, the hospital admissions are 3417 to each 1000 men, or more than three to each man. One-half the cases are the tropical malarial fevers which sap the constitution. Of 2493 men stationed at Allahabad the annual average suffering from cholera, smallpox, enteric, yellow and other fevers, is 631; from malarial fevers, 381; from the dreadful constitutional disease of vice, 1228, and from other diseases 1375, making the total annual hospital admissions yearly 3615. The Royal Fusiliers, numbering 931 men, have 118 constantly sick; the First Royal Welsh, numbering 877, have 140 constantly sick. For the dreadful and incurable constitutional disease referred to 112 in each 1000 are treated in Scotland, 123 in Ireland and 153 in England, of the home troops, while in the tropical fevers the number is 314 in the West Indies per 1000, 333 in Ceylon, 359 in China, 479 in the Straits Settlements, and 522 in India. In the Rohilkhand district the number of such cases is 711 per 1000 men.

It must be remembered that in the Philippines our army of conquest and occupation has to face both heat and moisture, and all the physical and moral dangers which long experience has failed to guard against in the British army. In a campaign of ten months in Madagascar the French army of 12,850 men, without any hard battle, lost 4189 men, or 325 of every 1000. One battalion made a forced march upon Tsarasoetra, and all died of disease on the way, not one living to reach the objective.

In the first year of our war in the tropics eleven men died of disease to one of battle causes. Yet the main body of our army sojourned but briefly under a vertical sun, and most of them were near our base of supplies.

Until we get the uncensored statistics of our operations in the Philippines the sanitary facts of our campaign there will be unknown, but there is no reason to believe that we are escaping the consequences of tropical occupation which have fallen so severely upon the armies of every country that has set its feet in that hot and poison path to glory.

Kipling, who was born in Bombay and was sent to England to be reared and educated, returning to India for his career, has set forth vividly the results of camp life there. The "White Man's Burden" is not imposed solely by the intractable tropical races, but is the curse of a climate to which the natives are immune, but which can never be innocuous to the temperate zone races.

It is a grave question in economics whether the profits of trade secured by any northern people from the tropics has paid for the sacrifice of money, life and health required in securing it by conquest, military occupation and forced labor.

In their normal state, and controlled by indigenous races, the tropics would yield a certain volume of trade for the temperate zone nations. It was this natural trade that fattened Venice and Genoa. When it is abstracted from the volume secured by conquest, ownership and military occupation, a basis is furnished on which to estimate the actual returns of such ownership and offset it to the cost.

It is certain that the nations which have such ownership do not make it pay in public revenues. The tropical colonies of Spain showed a deficit in revenues to cost of government for thirty years before she lost them. Holland has had a deficit of colonial revenues since 1877.

It may be said that while the public revenues have not paid the cost of government, private individuals have been enriched. No doubt this is true, but out of it arises the grave question of the right of a nation to hold a subject people in bondage at public cost while they are exploited for private profit.

SOME SALT LAKE ELOQUENCE.

AS we journey through life, dizzied and half-stunned by the uproar of a thousand discordant noises, it is worth while to pause and listen whenever the rhapsody of fluent eloquence rings out above the general din and offers to the wearied mind something in the way of intellectual inspiration.

A voice of that kind comes to us from Salt Lake through the pages of our very much esteemed contemporary, the Tribune. Answering the supposed question of a foreigner as to how many States there are in the Union, the Tribune says:

"Forty-five States and some Territories; they fill all the space between the two great oceans, and at one bugle-call last summer in every one soldiers fell into line; the tread of the thousands was like the tolling of the bells of destiny, and the flashings of their standards reflected back the sunlight through one-eighth of the sun's daily round. And they all speak one language, all sing the same songs; all turn for inspiration to the same flag; and though each is a separate wave, when blended they make but one ocean, and when in full roar all the shores of the nation are shaken, for in majesty, in latent power, in unapproachable splendor, there is no counterpart for them in all the records of the nations that have existed, since nations were first organized on earth."

Considered as an answer to a simple question in political geography, that passage deserves to take rank among the highest ever penned, and, moreover, it is all true, as is ever the case with a genuine eloquence. When we have conquered Aguinaldo and set about the work of educating the Filipinos they should be compelled to commit that to memory as the first lesson. It might be advisable to send a copy of it to Kaiser William also. There are several kinds of instruction in it for several sorts of people, so it ought to go the rounds and find a place in every well regulated scrapbook.

Perhaps the fact that a man recently hanged in Missouri fell through the same gallows that had been fatal to his father years before will give students of heredity something to think about.

Those Cubans do not seem to appreciate the fact that half a loaf is better than no bread, and if they still not soon acquire appreciation they won't have even the half-loaf.

Ex-President Jewett of the California Pioneers has an almost unexampled faculty for the heaping up of gold bricks.

While the army of Aguinaldo is doubtless disintegrating, there will be trouble in apprehending the fragments.

GAGE LAW SUIT POCKET VETO.

One of the bills pocketed by Governor Gage carried an appropriation of \$25,000 for the reimbursement of Claus Spreckels for money advanced the State several months ago to aid destitute people in Monterey and San Luis Obispo counties. This bill passed the Legislature without a dissent. Its purpose was to provide for the payment of a debt of honor. The Governor should have had no hesitation. If any legal reasons may be urged against the validity of the claim he should have given the courts an opportunity to pass upon them. To pursue any other course was to lay himself open to the suspicion that his anger at John D. Spreckels influenced him to treat Claus Spreckels unjustly.

No worthy charity ever appeared to Mr. Spreckels that he is a rich man. Nobody has ever accused him of making his money dishonestly. He has the reputation of paying his employees good wages and with dealing fairly with all with whom he has business relations. He is a shrewd, sagacious, level-headed, far-seeing business man, and he is entitled to full credit for having achieved so many notable financial successes.

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AROUND THE CORRIDORS.

Thomas R. Minturn of Minturn Station is at the Palace. Benjamin P. Barker, a Livermore stock raiser, is at the Grand. Senator John J. Boyce of Santa Barbara is at the Occidental. G. C. Coffey, a mine-owner of Tacoma, is one of the late arrivals at the Lick. F. S. Merchant, a business man of Fendburg, is a guest at the California. Dr. E. W. Fleming, a prominent physician of Los Angeles, is staying at the Palace.

D. C. Mitchell, a mining man of Moscow, Idaho, is making Grand his headquarters during a brief stay in this city. J. V. Hollnhead of Dawson is at the Russ, and will soon leave for the Klondike, where he has valuable mining claims. F. H. Parker of St. Paul, auditor of passenger receipts for the Great Northern, is visiting the city in the interest of his road.

Zoji Amari, secretary of the imperial Japanese legation at Mexico, will arrive in this city to-morrow and will leave for Japan Tuesday. J. L. McIntosh, an Arizona mine-owner, and A. J. Chapman, connected with the mail service in Portland, Or., are registered at the Russ. H. R. Stanford of Boston, who has come here to join the new Engineer Corps to be stationed at Mare Island, is registered at the Occidental with his wife and child.

A. M. Duncan, a merchant of Fish Rock and a Supervisor of Mendocino County; Dr. W. P. English of Vacaville and L. Hyman, a Nevada City merchant, are among the arrivals at the Lick. George H. Heaford, general passenger agent of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad, with headquarters at Chicago, has returned from Southern California and will leave for his home in a few days.

W. W. Brown has been appointed traveling freight agent of the Denver Rio Grande. Mr. Brown was formerly freight and passenger agent of the Great Northern, and was returned from Southern California by D. P. Spaulding. J. Renato Valle, a silk importer of Buenos Ayres, is at the Palace on his way to the Orient. He is accompanied by C. Walter Clifton, a representative of a New York tea house, who is going to Formosa on business for his firm.

CALIFORNIANS IN NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, March 31.—Mrs. Henry S. Scott and Miss Scott, of San Francisco, are at the Holland.

FROM DISTANT MAINE.

Colonel John P. Irish and Mayor Gleason Mixed Up. The Hornet, a bright little paper published at Houlton, Me., tells the following story about Colonel John P. Irish: "Mr. John P. Irish, who made such a stirring speech at the Indianapolis convention, has for several years been recognized as one of the most eloquent orators on the Pacific Coast. He is a resident of West through his connection with the Southern Pacific Railroad. The day after he made his speech Mr. Irish was a good deal of a hero and was wished to congratulate him. At the same hotel where he was staying the Hon. Patrick J. Gleason, the renowned Celtic Mayor of Long Island City, was a guest. As the big-listed Mayor was sitting in the lobby a bellboy approached him and asked: 'Are you Irish?'"

"I am that," replied Gleason; "but what makes you ask, sonny?" "That man over there told me to," responded the boy, pointing out a stranger. Gleason was half inclined to be wrathful. He was puzzled also, but he waited. Soon after the stranger came up to him, slapped him on the shoulder and remarked, "That was a fine speech you made yesterday." "Look here," said Gleason, turning fiercely on the stranger. "I'm Irish and I ain't ashamed of it; but I'll be glad to have any whiskeered Jay call me so to me face."

"Why—er—ah," gasped the stranger. "I thought you were Irish of San Francisco—er—was told so." "Oh," said Gleason. Then there were drinks. Colonel Irish was born about fifty-five years ago in Iowa City, Iowa, where he lived until 1880. In that year he removed to San Francisco and edited the Alta California, which was for a long time the leading newspaper on the Pacific Coast. He has had a varied political career, but never met with much success, having been successively defeated as candidate for the State Legislature, Congress and Governor. He was appointed Nevada Governor.

Officers of Verein Eintracht.

The following officers were elected by the Verein Eintracht Wednesday evening to serve for the ensuing year: A. Becker, president; A. Wirtner, vice president; F. Hoefling, secretary; Casper Muller, financial secretary; J. Hermann, treasurer; G. Audibert, sergeant at arms; J. Hartmann, librarian; Louis Schmidt, trustee for three years; J. Dubner, H. Hupper and Leonhardt, sick committee.

Solid cream Easter eggs. Townsend's Artists' materials, house and floor paints and fine bat enamel cheap at Sanborn & Vail's.

The best Easter gift for your Eastern friends. Townsend's California Glace Fruits, 50c lb. in fire-checked boxes or Jap baskets, 67c market. Palace Hotel bldg.

Special information supplied daily to business houses and public men by the Press Clipping Bureau, 310 Montgomery street. Telephone Main 1042.

How does it happen, Jane, I snapped the angry hostess, "that I saw you feeding that policeman pumpkin pie in the kitchen last night?"

"I have a nut to crack, the keyhole, mum."—Detroit Free Press.

Nothing contributes more to digestion than the use of Dr. Siegert's Angostura Bitters. Don't accept an imitation.

Foreign Visitor (proudly)—In my country we have one law for Prince and Pauper.

American Host—Same way here. It doesn't matter whether a man is a beggar or a millionaire, he gets a pull, unless he's got a pull.—New York Weekly.

ITALIAN CHURCH OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL—Solemn high mass at 10:30 a. m. A Durand's solemn mass, under the direction of A. Spadina, organist of the church, will be rendered by the following vocalists: Soprano, Misses Lydia Spadina, Justo Lenormand, the Rosa Guinasso, L. Coling, alto, Mrs. M. Spadina, Misses Agostino Spadina, Lily Rosa, Stella Spadina, soprano solo; Tenor, Mr. Lenormand, H. Niemann; basso, Messrs. C. Zappelli, Danieli, The Regina Coeli will be sung by Miss Spadina.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., NEW YORK. Baking Powder. Made from pure cream of tartar. Safeguards the food against alum. Alum baking powders are the greatest menaces to health of the present day.