

The Call

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JOHN D. SPRECKELS, Proprietor.

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AMUSEMENTS. Columbia—"The Adventure of Lady Ursula." California—"A Midnight Bell." Orpheum—Vaudeville. Grand Opera House—"The Beggar Student." Chutes, Zoo and Free Theater—Vaudeville every afternoon and evening. Olympia—Pomeroy Mason and Ellis streets—Specialties. Intimate Panorama Co., Market street, near Eighth—Battle of Manila Bay. Sutro Baths—Swimming Races, etc.

A BRILLIANT HALF YEAR. THE half year just closed makes a fine exhibit. The commercial situation shows no loss in strength, and confidence in the future is as sanguine as ever. The amount of business done during the first half of 1899 was larger than ever before known, while the general level of prices during the six months was the highest since the spring of 1893. The transportation companies report larger earnings, in spite of steadily lowering rates of transportation. The failures were 4852, with liabilities of \$48,811,000, against 6766, with liabilities of \$71,240,000, during the first half of 1898. Here in San Francisco the increased business for the first half of the year is shown by bank clearings of \$443,200,000, against 377,122,000 last year.

There are at present no indications that the last half of 1899 will make any poorer showing than the first half. True, during the past few weeks the gap between the national exports and imports has been steadily closing, and the former no longer exceed the latter so enormously as at the beginning of the year. They are still in large excess, however, and as long as we sell more than we buy we are all right.

The great staples continue firm, and are more active than usual at this time of the year, when the mid-summer heat throughout the East cuts down business materially. Many of the iron and steel works are so crowded with orders that they have passed the usual shutdown at this season and will work right along. Prices for iron and steel are easily maintained at their present high level, though orders for distant future delivery have fallen off of late. The market presents an Augean task for the furnaces, for they no sooner get one line of European contracts out of the way than fresh orders come pouring in. Some furnaces, indeed, have started in with orders for their whole year's product. The activity in wool continues unabated, and the cotton mills are doing well, as the demand is so good that it keeps them busy in spite of the recent fall in the raw product. The boot and shoe industry has broken all records, shipments being enormous and the distributive demand heavy in all directions, while the factories have orders for several months ahead.

The local situation compares favorably with that in the East. No better crops could be wished, and with the single exception of hay are likely to bring good prices. There is a scarcity in oats and barley at the moment, which has advanced prices for both descriptions, something unusual in the month of July, when the new crops are coming in. Wheat remains steady at prices which, though not high, are still profitable to the farmer. The demand for fruit on canning account is as active as ever, and the unusually high prices are placing the fruit-growers on velvet. The dried fruit market being cleaned up, good prices will probably rule for the incoming crop, and, indeed, opening figures already established are considerably above those predicted several months ago by local dealers. There is a fine domestic and foreign demand for the general run of merchandise, and the lumber market is more active than for some years at strong prices. Hops and wool are quoted at a much higher range than expected last spring, and there is an active inquiry for both. As has already been remarked this is essentially the farmer's year, and the city is reaping the benefit of it. The mines, too, are in much better condition than last year at this time, when lack of water forced many to suspend operations. In brief, on whatever side we look, we find the State in a condition of agricultural and commercial activity that fills everybody with confidence. A significant sign in this direction is the scarcity of labor, which has resulted in a general advance in harvest wages, the beneficial effect of which throughout the State at large can hardly be overestimated.

It is said that Dreyfus has lost the power of speech and with it the ability to defend himself before his judges. The testimony of his terrible sufferings that his tortured face will bear witness will be more eloquent in pleading than any words he could use or command.

An Oakland pastor who has had a disagreement with his flock says he will take a vacation and go to Fresno or some other warm place. His friends might have induced him to be more explicit in reference to his destination, as his enemies will certainly not lose the opportunity.

About this time look out for fires and accidents; they are liable to happen with the best regulated use of firecrackers and bombs.

ANOTHER MONOPOLY DEFEAT.

ON Monday last, with the general concurrence of the public, the Market-street Railway Company was virtually accorded all the rights and privileges necessary for the extension of street railway facilities to the northeastern part of San Francisco. In accordance with views The Call had repeatedly expressed, complete provision for the corkscrew line, through the Post-street system with its connections and extensions, was legally made by the Board of Supervisors. An effort to include the new franchise on Grant avenue and Bush street was defeated.

It was noticed, however, that Mayor Phelan expressed his entire willingness that this new franchise, intended to prevent the control of the north end of the city by the Market-street monopoly, should be awarded. "I see many advantages in it," was his reported language. Upon this change of front, in the face of his ostentatious resistance to the original Market-street scheme, The Call has already commented. But it has not yet exposed the full extent and the treacherous nature of the fraud which it was fully intended to consummate to-day. It has now become apparent that in order to lull the community into security, the Grant avenue and the Bush street robbery was kept in the background, with the deliberate intention of forcing it through the Board of Supervisors after the legitimate corkscrew line had been secured.

This is practically a holiday on which good citizens are preparing for the due celebration of the great event that for the first time gave man a controlling influence in his own government. But action upon the four franchises, not yet reported, of which the Grant avenue and the Bush street loop is the principal, will not be deferred through the action of the Market-street Railway Company, but by causes beyond its control. No man ever knew the Huntington monopoly in any of its numerous disguises to delay the completion of a fraud from patriotic motives or from any manly impulse.

There was nothing surprising in the treachery of the railway in reserving these four franchises for what it expected to be a separate and independent exhibition of municipal corruption. But its confidence that it could actually secure the indorsement of a majority of the Board of Supervisors was simply astounding and was fortunately misplaced. The Call has carefully investigated the situation, and has given every Supervisor who can be reached an opportunity for explanation. It is happy to announce that at least six of them, namely, Supervisors Perrault, Byington, Deasy, Lackmann, Kalben and Collins, have distinctly announced that they will not vote for the four new franchises or any of them. But for the position taken by Supervisor Collins yesterday, as no hostile action by Mayor Phelan could be relied upon, the defeat or the victory of the Market-street Railway monopoly might have rested exclusively with Supervisor Heyer.

Although for the reasons stated the public interests are safe and it is even doubtful whether the four franchises will be reported by the committee, the attitude of Supervisor Heyer deserves serious treatment. The advocates of the Market-street robbery have repeatedly bragged that they had a Supervisor in reserve who at the right time would range himself against the community. Tested by his voluntary declarations, that Supervisor Heyer above all others should have been the reliance of Superintendent Lynch would be inconceivable. In The Call of May 31 he said: "I will oppose the granting of the proposed franchises to the Market-street Railway Company as long as I have a vote in the board." \* \* \* On Monday I voted against the attempt to grant the proposed franchises, and I shall continue so to vote until the end of the chapter."

When interviewed on Saturday last he professed ignorance of the facts in relation to the four franchises, with which he is perfectly familiar when his positive intentions were expressed as we have quoted them, declared that his entire information on the subject was derived from the newspapers and declined to intimate on which side his vote would be cast. On its face this attitude is hard to explain. It spreads a deep scarlet color over the insinuations that have been so frequent against the ultimate integrity of Supervisor Heyer. Fortunately, through the announcement of Supervisor Collins, his importance in the controversy has ceased. But if possible he should assuredly make some explanation to the people. Such treason to common honesty, such revolting indifference to appearances as would be involved in his defection from his incorruptible associates, is hardly credible. Even Judas Iscariot did not precede his immortal infamy by a proclamation of his own integrity. There is not a pen in the United States sufficiently virilic to do justice to the kind and the degree of apostasy that was attributed to Supervisor Heyer, although it has really become inconsequential.

VALENTINE AND HIS RECORD.

PRESIDENT VALENTINE of the Wells-Fargo Company, not content with shirking taxes, discriminating in favor of large shippers against smaller ones and levying upon the public all the tribute it will consent to pay, has of late felt a new yearning for victims and has found them in the agents of the company. A circular has gone forth announcing that their commissions are to be reduced as much as 50 per cent.

Valentine sometimes accompanies his circulars to his subordinates with quotations from the Bible exhorting them to a pious life, and inferentially presenting before them as a holy exemplar and teacher. Whether in the order reducing commissions he changed the text of Scripture to suit his notion and made it read, "The workman is not worthy of his hire," we know not. Certain it is, however, that if put to it he could find a text of some kind, could preach a sermon on it, and then extort from the public money enough to have it printed in letters of gold on plates of silver.

The tax-shirking Pharisee is at his best, however, when posing as an exemplar rather than as a preacher. Some years ago, when business was dull with the company, Valentine issued an order reducing all salaries from 10 to 15 per cent, and for the comfort of his victims set himself to be an example unto them of how to bear a reduction of salary with Christian resignation. He announced that he would have his own salary reduced by \$2000 a year. Moreover, he did not tell a lie. His salary as president of the Wells-Fargo Company was actually reduced by the amount named, and still Valentine wore his unctuous smile and was as conspicuously pious as ever.

The secret of his posing so beautifully as a self-denying martyr to the cause of economy was a little trick he had prepared for the occasion. At that time Wells-Fargo Company had control of the Commercial National Bank at Portland, and Valentine had himself elected president of the institution at a salary of \$5000 a year. Thus, instead of a decrease of \$2000 a year from his official income, the astute poser obtained an increase of \$3000 a year.

In 1897 the affairs of the bank in Portland were wound up, and Valentine then lost his salary as president. By that time, however, he had set his example to the subordinates whose salaries he had cut down

and there was no longer any need for posing. Accordingly he obtained from the directors of Wells-Fargo Company an increase of \$5000 in his salary as president of the company, so that he remains \$3000 a year ahead of the game.

With many of the offenses committed by the tax-shirking corporation and its canting president the public has no direct concern. They may reduce salaries and commissions to starvation wages if they so choose, for there is no law to prevent. The nefarious practice of tax-shirking is, however, one which the law can prevent, and it is the duty of the officers of the State to do so. Neither Valentine nor his company should be permitted to evade the taxes they owe to California. It is the duty of the Assessor to see to it that no cunning or insolence avails the shirkers in an effort to escape their obligations to the State. To that extent at least their rapacity and their frauds should be baffled and defeated.

THE FINANCES OF THE UNIVERSITY.

MORE than ordinary gratification will be felt throughout the State over the action of the regents in rescinding a resolution imposing a registration fee upon students of the State University. It is the desire of the people of the State of California that education for the youth of the commonwealth shall be free from its beginning to its highest forms, and they have shown themselves to be ever willing to bear whatever burden of taxation may be required to accomplish it.

The Call was earnest in its opposition to the policy of the regents in imposing the tax, and will now be equally earnest in supporting any well-devised measure they may adopt to meet the temporary deficiency in the funds of the institution and carry on its work without curtailing the efficiency or limiting the usefulness of any department. In a commonwealth so rich as this an institution so strongly supported by public sentiment and by private munificence can hardly suffer seriously from the present embarrassment. It would have suffered, however, had the registration tax been imposed and the advantages of the institution been to some extent put beyond the reach of the poor.

No reason exists for believing that the finances of the university have been in any way wasted or mismanaged; the tirade of Governor Gage to the contrary notwithstanding. The university is, in fact, one of the few institutions of the State whose management has been kept free from politics and has the confidence of the public. Gage would doubtless like to conduct it as he conducted his sheep business and take possession of its offices as part of the spoils for himself and Burns. Lacking ability to accomplish that, he berates the regents as if their management of the university were as bad as his own sheep record.

As a matter of fact it would now be the easiest thing in the world for the regents to obtain a temporary loan to tide over the deficit in the funds had not Gage himself, by defrauding a creditor of the State, shown that so long as he is in office no one can trust it.

Whatever may be the outcome, the regents have acted rightly and wisely in rescinding the resolution imposing the tax on students. The university is a part of the public education of the State, and like all other departments of that education it must be free.

THE DEWEY MONUMENT.

WITH the patriotic impulses aroused by the celebration of Independence day, there will come a new ardor of public sentiment in favor of the movement for the erection of a monument to Admiral Dewey. The sum already raised is sufficient to attest the earnestness of the people in promoting the enterprise and virtually assures its success, so that it is with confidence in the outcome each citizen may in proportion to his means make his contribution to the monument fund.

Since the establishment of the American Union each successive generation has accomplished some great work of national development and produced a hero of immortal memory. After Washington and the Revolution came the War of 1812 and Andrew Jackson. The controversy over the slave question precipitated the Civil War and brought to the front the heroic military figure of General Grant. Our generation has fought the war that has broken down the last vestige of Spanish domination in this hemisphere, raised the republic to the prestige of a world power and furnished another hero to our annals in the person of Admiral Dewey. The fame and the deeds of Washington, Jackson and Grant have been fitly commemorated in monumental art, and it is now for us to give an equal expression to the gratitude of the people to the hero of Manila Bay.

Almost every large city in the United States now boasts some conspicuous accomplishment in the way of monumental construction. We are rapidly approaching the time when our cities will be as rich in artistic achievements and historic memorials as those of the Old World. California should keep pace with the progress of her sister States in this respect. It is right and fitting that the chief monument to Dewey should stand in this city, and it is appropriate that it should be erected while the glory of his victory is still fresh in the minds of men.

One of the best ways to give your patriotism expression in permanent form is to make a liberal contribution to the Dewey monument fund. A subscription may not make as much noise as a firecracker, but the glory of it will last longer.

No display of fireworks arranged by the Fourth of July committee will blaze more conspicuously in the public eye than the display it has made of the imperative need of men of genuine patriotism and true honesty to compose such a committee.

It will not matter much if the Peace Conference reject the proposal for the establishment of an international tribunal of arbitration, as it appears there is not a single nation on the face of the globe that has a dispute it is willing to arbitrate.

Roosevelt is doubtless sincere in asserting that he is not working up a boom for the Presidential nomination, but it is certain that he is working his Rough Rider reputation for all it is worth and a large amount of fun to boot.

Frank Somers, the murderer of Christopher Gairbraith at Nevada City, appears at any rate to have had some regard for decency. He took the trouble to go out into the woods to kill himself.

The Market-street Railway Company has inaugurated a new industry in the city. It is taking reputations as well as lives in its efforts to monopolize the streets of San Francisco.

Even the elements seem to know that Captain Dreyfus is a disturbing individual to the French people. The exiled officer was returned to his native land in the midst of a terrific storm.

In its wideawake search for news the Associated Press can find in the reports of our special correspondent from Samoa a good deal that will be interesting to itself.

NEWS OF THE MOUNTAIN FIELD.

The prospects of the California mining exhibit at the Paris Exposition have not brightened during the week or become less hazy and uncertain. It seems fairly likely that the exhibit will be prepared and abandoned to the usual discretion of the three State Commissioners, as there are strong symptoms that the California Miners' Association will regard the size of the mining allowance and the amount of room for the display as too small to warrant special efforts to get up a fine display. Colorado is exerting itself to do something handsome in the interest of its mining industry, and a life-sized statue of solid gold is to be one of its advertising features. Montana has five mineral commissioners, who propose to make a fine exhibit. California should top them all, but it would require vigorous and liberal effort on somebody's part.

The mining regions are crying for help as well as the fruit and grain regions of the valleys. No miner need seek employment long these days, and skilled and unskilled labor is in steady demand in a great number of booming mining districts all over the State. The situation in Shasta County, which reflects its mining prosperity, is thus described by the Redding Free Press: "Experienced miners and an employment agent are in daily search of men in Shasta County. In fact, there are none idle. Laborers are scarce. Capital is now seeking labor here. Oscar G. Rogers, superintendent of the Mount Shasta Shasta mine, is endeavoring to secure five good miners to be added to the Mount Shasta crew, but was completely unsuccessful in the endeavor. Ten miners were secured a few days ago for the Mount Shasta. The California Miners' Association has a force in the development of the 300-foot level which has just been opened.

"L. Stone, who has charge of the outside superintendent of the Gulch property of the Midas Gold Mining Company, arrived in town Wednesday evening in search of miners. He was having hard work to secure that number Thursday. Applications are heard on all sides for men. A man had been out of employment for a minute in this county."

Siskiyou County fully shares in the general activity which is being developed in the mining regions of Northern California, and has a great mining future before it. The condition of the industry is concisely and correctly stated by the Yreka Journal as follows:

"Siskiyou County has now in active operation a number of paying quartz mines, and it will not be long before new and important discoveries will be made, as there are quite a number of prospectors in the county looking after quartz. There are hundreds of fine prospects in this county at the present time awaiting the hands of men and machinery and little capital to turn them into fine paying mines. The mines of this county have gradually been booming since the county was first surveyed and are coming to the front as one of the best quartz mining sections in the State."

All told, 225 stamps and two Huntington mills in Siskiyou County. Of this number 150 stamps are in continuous operation, or at least in paying operations, and the remainder are in waiting for water. The condition of the respective properties will permit. About forty stamps are idle from various causes. The remaining stamps are in working order, occasionally doing custom work and making an occasional run. Of the total 225 stamps nearly 100 are kept in the hands of the owners also the two Huntington mills. Not one of the stamps in that district can be classed as idle, and several are in operation. The 225 stamps are divided among thirty-two different mines, or an average of nearly seven stamps to a mine. The largest number of stamps in any one mine is 25. A number of law mills are also in contemplation by parties who have recently purchased mines here."

Still another "gold-dredging" plant for working the tempting submerged gravels of the numerous streams is to be tried. The Stanislaus Dredging Company has three miles of such placer ground on the Stanislaus River, near Robinson Ferry, and W. M. Stover, the president, has adopted the caisson mode of operation after inspecting the operation of a small Redwood placer in Colusa County, by Mr. Donahoe, the inventor who has patented it. In this booming dredger the caisson is built on a platform and plan opposed to all past experience will be watched with interest. This new submarine gold-mining business is thus described by the Sonoma Democrat:

"The one for the new company will be mounted on a dredger, the hull built on the grass roots down. It will be 40 feet long, 40 feet wide and draw but 18 inches of water, thus permitting operation in the shallow water during the period of extremely low water. The dredger is to be reached by a caisson floated on the water, the caisson being allowed to sink of its own weight, when the water will be forced out by compressed air, and the caisson will be allowed to rise and so on. The dirt is to be hoisted to the boat by means of a vertical shaft, and the caisson is to be hoisted into a double line of sluces, each making the circuit of one end and length of 40 feet. The caisson is to be installed which, besides affording light, will permit having steel riffles, which by being connected with the caisson, will give the caisson a double line of riffles, which will magnetize them so that even the finest of flour gold will be saved. The machinery order is to be made in a few new features are to be added. Three shifts of six men each will be employed. The plant is to be built in 1899, and as it is no experiment but a demonstrated fact that it will do all its manufacturers claim, it should be profitable. It will pay for itself along with some of the rich bars."

John T. Davis, whose original hydraulic dredging scheme was recently described in these columns, is having a dredger built at Stockton for operation in the Sacramento on the Mokelumne River. With the two new contrivances going there will be dredgers built on six different principles operating in California, with some other types in prospect.

Easy lessons in mining can be found in plenty among the stories of failure or partial failure of California mining ventures conducted by men without enough mining knowledge and experience to do good even from the Amador Republican:

"The Bay State mine, near Plymouth, was recently promoted about five years ago and a company of local business men was organized to develop the property. Work was carried on about two years under this company and a shaft sunk to a depth of about 700 feet. This shaft was not on the ledge from which the ore was to be taken, and the shaft was under the ledge from it. The work was very expensive and the local capitalists and business men found it a pretty burdensome affair and finally allowed the management to contract debts and then failed to provide funds to pay them. The consequence was of course insolvency and a forced sale of the prospect mine and improvements before anything could be done. The value of the prospect mine was more than was known before they contracted. It was sold to Stockton capitalists who are now continuing the exploration. They will prospect to the vein and run drifts on it in order to determine its value at the depth already reached and also sink a shaft more to the shaft. When this is done they can form some estimate of what the mine is worth. It is a very good prospect, and the shaft is a very good prospect warrant thorough exploration and the situation of the claim in the mineral belt allows no unfavorable presumption."

Here is another from the same issue of the same paper:

"The Ivanhoe Company has until recently been attempting to carry on exploration and exploitations simultaneously from the grass roots down. There are few situations where this can be done advantageously and the Ivanhoe seems not to be one of the exceptions. The mill has been stopped and some of the men discharged while those retained will be kept at the work of sinking the shaft deeper, etc. The body of ore that has been discovered is so small and there is room to handle it without inconvenience."

There is a vigorous discussion going on among Northern California papers as to the cause of so many dead fish constantly drifting down the upper Sacramento river. It has been the general assumption that it

was a result of the operation of the big smelter of the Mountain Copper Company at Keswick, and the peculiar theory is that the smelter slag which is dumped into Spring Creek and partly borne down the river is responsible for the sharp parting of the fish.

The Redding Free Press defends the theory that it is neither the copper mines, dynamite nor sea lions that does the mischief, but that the fish get caught in the big log and wood jams in the Pitt River and below.

One of the largest sales of mining property in the history of Siskiyou County has just been effected in the sale of the Schroeder quartz mine of the Deadwood District, seven miles from Yreka, to a Canadian company for \$100,000. It is a paying property, with a ledge tapped by a tunnel at the depth of 150 feet. The property was developed under the superintendency of Mr. Schroeder, the former owner, who has been retained by the new company. The mining District of San Bernardino County has developed a condition of permanent prosperity since several years ago. The mine has been opened to a depth of 230 feet, where the forty-one-inch vein yields ore of increased value. The output of the mill produced \$230 in gold and eleven ounces of silver from 101 tons of ore. The tallings of the mill are now successfully exploited, effecting a saving of 90 per cent of the values. The summer temperature out there is about 70 degrees, and has had a six weeks' closing of the mill. Work is pursued, however, in the shafts and tunnels, in which there is a strong and constant natural draught. The Ivanhoe, Brooklyn and White Star are among the other operating mines in the region.

The formation of an asphalt trust in the East has been the subject of much talk. The capital is \$20,000,000, and the Asphalt Company is to be formed to control all the important asphalt mines of the world and the use of the products in paving. The trust is to be formed in the big Alcatraz asphalt plant. The Alcatraz Asphalt Paving Company of Los Angeles will join the trust. It controls the output of the big Alcatraz mine of Santa Barbara County, which, however, are owned by another company controlled by the trusts.

Large hydraulic operations are to be started at Orleans Bar on the Klamath River in Humboldt County. Madera expects to have a smelter. A committee is at work raising funds to build a smelter.

The Bell mine of Tuolumne County, which has been opened to a depth of 200 feet, is being worked by the American Quartz Mining Company of San Francisco has bought the American Quartz mine at Fresno, Fresno County, and will reopen and extensively develop the property. The mine has a top-stamp mill and in the past has yielded \$5000.

Tuolumne County is the great copper mining region of the State as well as one of the best vein mining districts in the mother lode. Many good strikes are reported every week. During the week several strikes were reported in the vicinity of the Hudson and Birney mine near Columbia Hill, aggregating \$100, a pretty good showing for the week. The mine at Yankee Hill and vicinity were reported. The Zindars pocket mine has been leased to San Francisco men, who will go to work on it.

The Alta copper mine in the Low Divide district of Del Norte county, owned by Oakland people, is reported as soon to be sold. In the early sixties this mine was quite extensively worked. A number of friends have been spending ten days at Del Norte County, and there, as elsewhere, much prospecting for copper is being done.

The steady increase in mining activity along the mother lode is constantly sending all kinds of skilled mechanics into the region.

The district about Angels Camp, Calaveras County, is one of the most active in the State. It is reported that the Atlas mine, an extension of the Brown in Tuolumne County, is being worked. The Atlas mine, the Scotch stockholders having supplied \$25,000 for important development operations. The shaft is reported to be 4500 feet to reach the Atlas at depth. J. O. DENNY.

AROUND THE CORRIDORS.

E. W. Risley, a fruit grower of Fresno, is at the Grand.

Senator H. V. Morehouse of San Jose is staying at the Lick.

J. F. Ladd, a railroad man of Grass Valley is at the Palace Hotel.

G. Wilson, a wealthy lumber man of Sanger, is registered at the Grand.

Dr. J. B. Bell, U. S. A., is one of yesterday's army arrivals at the Occidental.

F. T. Simpson and E. V. Study are two travelers from London who are registered at the Palace.

W. A. Feutsch, one of the leading business men of Portland, Or., is at the Grand on a short visit to the city.

L. Hartman, a large tobacco manufacturer of Washington, D. C., is among the arrivals of yesterday at the California.

James Campbell, the Honolulu millionaire, who with his wife and a party of friends has been spending ten days at Lake Tahoe, has returned to the city. He is at the Occidental.

CALIFORNIANS IN NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, July 2.—Seymour R. Church of San Francisco is at the Netherlands. George W. King of Los Angeles is at the Park Avenue.

NEWS OF FOREIGN NAVIES.

It is the boast of the Russian navy that the turret ship Peresviet, of 12,674 tons, built at St. Petersburg in 1885-88, is constructed of domestic material alone.

The Chinese cruiser Hai-Chi left Sheerness on June 9 for China. The vessel was built at Elswick and made 24 knots on her trial trip. She will fly the British flag on her initial voyage until delivered to and paid for by the Chinese Government.

The French torpedo boat Lansquenet, built at Nantes in 1888, has, after repeated trials, turned out a decided failure. Her contract speed of 26 knots was not reached and she was rejected. The builders put in a new set of boilers in order to increase the horsepower, but at a recent trial the boat did not even make 20 knots and she is apparently a dismal failure.

The Russian armored gunboat Khiraby was built at St. Petersburg in 1885, but still lies in an unfinished condition at Kronstadt. The vessel is only 1800 tons and with 2842 horsepower made 14.5 knots. It has a belt 3 inches thick, tapering to 2 inches at the ends, and a protective deck 1 1/2 inches thick on the slope. The battery consists of two 8-inch and one 6-inch guns, and the Khiraby is evidently an experimental vessel, but no radical modifications before she is duplicated.

The new drydock at Tscholdo, near Yokohama, was opened on May 1. It is available for naval vessels, being 48 feet 8 inches long on the blocks, allowing ships of over 500 feet to dock. The width of entrance is 38 feet 8 inches, and at bottom 75 feet 5 inches, and the water over the dock is 12 feet 6 inches deep, tapering to 27 feet. A smaller dock adjoining is 27 feet one and one half by 100 feet, and is owned by the Yokohama Dock Company was built some years ago and will accommodate ships of 364 feet length.

Every navy has its "black sheep" vessels, that is, ships which, notwithstanding constant tinkering do not come up to the requirements, or in other ways fail to inspire confidence. In the British navy the Pelopole, Ajax, Rupert, Neptune, and even the Nile and Trafalgar, are in that category. France has the Brennus, Hoche and the 48, which is not even made, and several more of doubtful utility.

In the Russian navy there is the Peter Veliky, Catherine II and the Russia, and in the Austrian navy is the Kronprinzessin Stephanie. In the United States navy the Texas is not so much of a success as the

builders would like the public to believe, for at the battle off Santiago the decks were ripped up by the concussion of the ship's guns, and in this respect the Texas shares the defects of the cruiser.

The French armored cruiser and commando destroyer Jeanne d'Arc, launched at Toulon on June 5, is attracting considerable attention in naval circles on account of its peculiarities and innovations on established practice. She has a complete water line belt, is 11,275 tons, with 23 knots and 19 knots under natural draught. She is fitted with 48 Du Temple water tube boilers, arranged to burn petroleum, of which the ship can stow 2300 tons. The London Engineer pronounced the Jeanne d'Arc more wonderful than useful.

The paymaster's chest on board the British cruiser Niobe was robbed last January of about \$500, and the police and naval authorities have been unable to fasten the crime upon any one. In conformity to naval usage an example had to be made of some body, and Fleet Paymaster J. A. Wood was court-martialed June 15, charged with embezzling the missing money and also with having negligently performed his duty by want of care. A plea of money entrusted to his charge was pleaded, and declined to plead to the second. The court acquitted him on the charge of embezzlement, but found him guilty of negligence and adjudged the officer to forfeit all authority as fleet paymaster and be dismissed his ship.

The fire at the Armstrong, Whitworth & Co. ordnance works, Elswick, which night on June 12, destroyed three large shops and a great quantity of machinery and guns, gun carriages, projectiles, engines, cranes, tools and stores to the value of about \$1,000,000, and laying idle the men of the 20,000 employed by the firm. Two of the shops were 900 feet in length and 100 feet wide, and contained guns in various stages of completion and turntables for heavy ships. The third and smaller building contained projectiles. It is estimated that the damage to the guns, and Sir Andrew Noble estimates that the erection of new shops and introduction of new machine tools would take from three to six months. The delivery of armaments will be delayed, however, take considerable more time, and in the case of the Albany, completing for the United States navy, likely cause a delay of over six months.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NEXT OF KIN—A. S. City. Books on next of kin may be procured through any first class dealer in books.

AUTOMOBILES—A. R. Chiles, Cal. Automobiles are built turn corners and make turns the same as other vehicles.

ARTILLERY AT THE PHILIPPINES—A. W. K. Guinda, Cal. All the artillery at the Philippines is under the command of General Otis.

ON A PEACE FOOTING—C. B. City. The army of the United States while on a peace footing prior to the war with Spain was 25,000 men.

WANDERING REFUGEE—Miss E. B. City. A first-class music teacher will procure for you the piece of music you inquire about.

WILMERDING SCHOOL—The directing officer of the Wilmerding School is Everett Schwartz, residence, San Francisco, but at present in the East.

A DIRECTORY—A. S. City. This department cannot tell you "if a directory of 1899" is of any value, as the letter of inquiry does not state what kind of a directory it is.

THE PLANETS—A. O. S. City. The planets in the order of their distance from the sun are Mercury, Venus, the Earth, Mars, the Planetoids, Jupiter, Saturn