

The Call

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AUCTION SALES: By A. W. Loderbach-Monday, December 4, at 3 and 5 P. M., Turkish Bazaar, at 111 Turk street.

CHANGING COMMERCIAL CONDITIONS: THE business of the United States showed a striking change last week. Of the eighty-four cities and towns reporting bank clearings over two-thirds exhibited a falling off in trade compared with the same week in 1898.

There are other signs, however, that the enormous buying of the past year is slackening off. While raw iron has again advanced, finished products are generally lower.

THE END OF THE KHALIFA. SOMETHING of the sublime is to be found in the story that descends to us of the death of the Khalifa in the deserts of the Soudan.

But while trade fell off last week, November made a good showing as to failures, which amounted to \$6,828,000, against \$8,110,000 during the same week last year.

The money situation remains about the same. The Bank of England has again been obliged to raise its rate of discount to keep gold from leaving the country, and it is now 6 per cent.

In this city conditions remain about the same. Business is apparently as active as usual at this time of the year, but from now on until the middle of January it will probably fall off, as it does everywhere.

The Call's home study circle in French ought to suggest itself to our worthy commissioners to the Paris Exposition as an opportunity to learn something.

READY FOR WORK.

FROM the promptness with which the members of both parties in Congress succeeded in performing the caucus work preliminary to the organization of the House, good omens can be drawn of the outlook for business during the session.

In selecting Richardson of Tennessee for their leader the Democrats have acted more wisely than was expected and have done about the best they could under the circumstances.

He is not a strong debater, nor is in any way an aggressive fighter, he is thoroughly familiar with the rules of the House and with the members of it.

In the Republican caucus it was a foregone conclusion that Henderson would be named for the Speakership and accordingly there is no surprise over the fact that his nomination was given by acclamation.

The feature of the caucus was the collapse of the agitation to bring about a change in the rules by which the House is to be governed.

One of the causes which impelled the caucus to sustain the rules is the slender majority by which the Republicans will have control of the House.

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THE PARK PANHANDLE.

BEFORE the growing popular sentiment in favor of progress and improvement every vestige of objection to the proposed extension of the park system ought to die down into the deadness of a mere silurianism and have no more part in the active life of the city than the old objections made years ago to the purpose of establishing Golden Gate Park itself.

The Panhandle is in truth a natural development of the park, a necessary adjunct to it, connecting it with the great avenues of the city, and one of the improvements most requisite to the work of municipal progress.

The cost of the extension will be so small when compared with the benefits derived from it that it ought not to weigh with any citizen who understands the difference between economy and parsimony.

That a large majority of the property-owners, taxpayers and workmen of the city are in favor of the improvements is beyond question. The only danger lies in the fact that to carry the measure it will have to receive a two-thirds vote, and many progressive citizens being sanguine of the outcome of the election may stay away, while the objectors will be sure to go to the polls to enjoy another opportunity of indulging their pet delight—that of kicking at every project of municipal improvement.

To obtain the money for the improvements bonds are to be issued bearing 3-1-2 per cent interest. Every dollar of the amount will be expended in the city, and, of course, will set to work earning profits or interest for those into whose hands it passes.

As for the benefits sure to result from providing such grand approaches to the Park from the center of the city at the intersection of Market street and Van Ness avenue, from the Mission and from the Presidio, they are so apparent that argument concerning them is hardly necessary.

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MINING BUREAU MIIRED.

GAGE AS A GEOLOGIST. PARALYZED BY POLITICS. A LAW BY BLACKSMITHS.

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CALIFORNIANS IN WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—Senator Perkins and his two young daughters arrived to-night and are at the Portland.

NEWS OF FOREIGN NAVIES. The navy budget of Holland for 1899-1900 footed up to \$62,610, of which \$2,338,505 is for ship construction and \$2,594,040 for pay and pensions.

The French torpedo gunboat La Helre, recently built at Cherbourg dockyard, has passed through a twenty-four hours' continuous trial, during which she averaged twenty knots, the engines developing 2600 horsepower. The four-hour forced draught trial had to be abandoned owing to hot bearings. The vessel is calculated to make twenty-three knots with 7000 horsepower.

Hallebarde, French torpedo gunboat of 300 tons, built by Normand, Havre, failed a mean speed of 22 knots during five hours' trial at Cherbourg, and 21.2 knots under forced draught during one hour's run. As the boat is thirty feet shorter and thirty-five tons greater displacement than boats of similar type in England, the performance appears highly satisfactory.

The British third-class cruiser Barham of 1320 tons, built in 1888, has had her old boilers replaced with Thornycroft water tube boilers. At the three hours' trial she developed 1250 horsepower and a speed of 18.24 knots. This vessel when first built was intended for the Admiralty. She was calculated to steam 18 1/2 knots under forced draught; after four trials and considerable alterations she passed through the eight hours' trial at a mean speed of 17.5 knots, with 17.38 knots under forced draught. Brassey's Annual credits the ship with 4500 horsepower and 18.6 knots speed.

The Turkish Navy Department has recovered a considerable amount of the treasure sunk at Smyrna in the battle of 1870. The Russian admiral's ship Tshesny and other ships were sunk in waters 99 to 125 fathoms deep, and the Greek divers hired to recover moneys and other valuables lost have had a hard task, for which, however, they have received the handsome sum of \$4,000 thus far. The divers located 17,150, with a mean speed of 17.38 knots under forced draught. Brassey's Annual credits the ship with 4500 horsepower and 18.6 knots speed.

Holland is preparing to build a coast defense vessel of 4500 tons at Rotterdam. Its dimensions will be: length, 220 feet; breadth, 54 feet; draught, 17 feet 8 inches. The engines of 5200 horsepower are to give a speed of 16 knots, and with 680 tons of coal a radius of action of 6000 knots at ten-knot speed is calculated. The ship will have a six-inch all-around armor belt, two turrets ten inches and a protective deck of two and a half inches. The battery is composed of two 9.4-inch, carried singly in turrets; four 5.5 inch quick-firing; four 1.5 inch anti-aircraft guns. The torpedo arrangement includes two submerged broadside and one above water torpedo tubes.

The system in sheathing ships in the Russian navy is that introduced by Grantham and differs greatly from that of White, which is used in the British and American navies. Grantham's is more expensive and complicated in that it embraces two thicknesses of wood laid on vertically for the inner layer and covered horizontally by the outer layer, and it also provides for longitudinal steel stringers. The White system, in the thickness of planking with a heavy coating of paint or marine glue on the metal skin, the planking being securely fastened and tightly caulked. The advantage of this latter system is its simplicity and insignificant cost, besides the ability to effect local repairs without stripping off large surfaces of sheathing. Still the Russian Admiralty sticks to Grantham's system, giving as reasons: First, its inferiority in cost; second, its simplicity; third, its weight of 5 per cent diminishes the speed only 1 per cent; third, that if properly done it entirely secures the steel or iron skin against damp or rust, and fourth, that the longitudinal stringers add to the general solidity of the hull.

Cal. general fruit 50c per lb at Townsend's. Note—51 Fourth st., 5c barber, grocer; beat eye-glases, specs, 10c to 40c.

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

A London bathhouse last summer paid \$125 a week for a million gallons of filtered Thames water.

"Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" Has been used for fifty years by millions of mothers for their children while teething with perfect success. For the child, soothes the gums, allays pain, cures Wind Colic, regulates the Bowels and is the best remedy for Diarrhoea, whether arising from teething or other causes. For the adult, it is a most valuable remedy for all ailments of the bowels. Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. See a bottle.

Tourist Excursions. Personally conducted excursions, via Santa Fe Route, with latest vestibule, as in upholstered sleeping cars, through California to Boston every Wednesday, St. Paul every Sunday and Friday, to St. Louis every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Points every Sunday, Wednesday and Friday. Call at ticket office, 63 Market street for full particulars.

HOTEL DEL CORONADO—Take advantage of the round-trip tickets. Now only \$60 by steamship, including fifteen days' board at hotel. Leave San Francisco, California, at 4 New Montgomery street, San Francisco.

The California Limited. On the Santa Fe Route, connecting train leaves San Francisco, California, every Friday and Saturday. One day to Los Angeles and beautiful Pasadena if desired. All meals served in Harvey's dining cars. Finest service. Call at ticket office, 63 Market street.

Commissioner William A. Jones, after careful study, announces that a full-blood Indian has never developed insanity.

Advertisements. Can't Stand Cold. Many children can't stand cold weather. The sharp winds pierce them, and the keen air hurts them. They have cold after cold, lose flesh, and spring-time finds them thin and delicate. Scott's Emulsion will make such boys and girls hearty and strong. The body is better nourished, and they are better protected. The blood becomes richer, and that makes them warmer.