

QUESTIONS FOR THE COMMISSIONERS.

The Call MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 1900

JOHN D. SPRECKELS, Proprietor. Address All Communications to W. S. LEAKE, Manager.

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AMUSEMENTS. Orpheum-Vaudeville. Columbia-Emma Nevada. Columbia-The School for Scandal.

AUCTION SALES. By Turkish Rug Co.-This day, at 11 a. m. and 3 p. m. Two-hug, at 130 Stockton street.

THE STATUS OF TRADE. LAST week was another good week in trade, as shown by the increase of 13.7 per cent in the country's bank clearings and by the 255 commercial failures, against 262 during the corresponding week in 1899.

AN AMENDMENT NEEDED. OUT of the disturbance at the masquerade ball at Mechanics' Pavilion on Saturday night comes an illustration of one of the defects of the charter.

REFORM IN SACRAMENTO. MAYOR CLARKE of Sacramento has rendered an important service to that community by suppressing the exhibition of indecent pictures in kineoscopes.

THE COMMERCIAL MUSEUM. FROM the conference called by President Wheeler to meet at the Hopkins Institute of Art to-morrow evening to consider the proposed establishment of a commercial museum in this city, some definite plan providing for immediate action may be confidently expected.

AROUND THE CORRIDORS. J. P. O'Brien of Sonora is registered at the California. John McCall is registered at the Grand Hotel in Madrid.

NEWS OF FOREIGN NAVIES. The latest proposed French battleship of 12,415 tons is estimated to cost \$5,535,000 complete.

THE FASTEST TRAIN ACROSS THE CONTINENT. The California Limited, Santa Fe Route, connecting train leaves 5 p. m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

ADVERTISEMENTS. GENUA is thin blood. It causes pale faces, white lips, weak nerves and lack of vitality.

Scott's Emulsion goes to the root of the trouble, strengthens and enriches the blood, and builds up the entire system.

For Anemic girls, thin boys, and enfeebled mothers, it is the Standard remedy.

GENTLEMEN of the Police Commission, you have heard the testimony given in the hearing concerning the fitness of Esola to be Chief of Police of San Francisco, and incidentally you have learned the truth of the charge made by The Call that Mayor Phelan bargained that office away before the election in return for votes and for newspaper support.

It is not for you to pronounce judgment concerning the conduct of the Mayor, neither need you concern yourselves much about the bargains that were made and which you were expected to carry out. The one issue before you is the selection of a Chief of Police, and in meeting that issue you have to determine whether Esola is or is not a fit man for the place.

You heard his testimony on the witness stand. You are aware that less than two weeks ago this man Esola was presented to you in Mayor Phelan's office by A. M. Lawrence as his candidate for Chief of Police. You remember the meeting, the Mayor remembers it, Lawrence remembers it. On the witness stand, under oath, this candidate for office at your hands swore he did not recollect anything about the meeting; swore he had no memory of it; swore he could not recall meeting gentlemen of your official position within two weeks.

Mr. Newhall, do you believe that Esola told the truth when he swore he did not remember meeting you? If you think he told the truth, do you believe a man with so short a memory for faces and for facts is fit to be Chief of Police?

Mr. Thomas, do you think a man who cannot rely upon his memory sufficiently to testify truly concerning a meeting with you less than two weeks ago is a witness whose word would be worth taking on any point where his interests were at stake? Is he a fit man in your estimation to put into a position where accuracy of memory is so essential to the performance of duty as in that of Chief of Police?

Mr. Biggy, you remember meeting this candidate for office; can you believe him when he swears he does not remember meeting you? You heard his testimony on the stand; did you at that time feel convinced that he was telling the truth? Did you think him then, or do you deem him now, fit to be at the head of the police force in this city?

Dr. McNutt, do you have any confidence in Esola's oath that he had no recollection of the occasion when he was presented to you and your colleagues in the Mayor's office as Lawrence's candidate for Chief of Police? When you have heard him give evidence of that kind about a matter harmless in itself, can you deem him trustworthy in anything? Would you ever be able to accept with full trustfulness any report which he could make as Chief of Police?

These are the questions which the people will put to you, gentlemen of the Police Commission, and they will not be satisfied with evasive replies. You are not called upon to vindicate the Mayor, or Lawrence, or anybody else. You are to choose a Chief of Police for San Francisco, and if after such testimony as Esola gave you select him for that position the people will conclude your memories are shorter than his own, and that you have forgotten what he swore to and what it meant and means.

REFORM IN SACRAMENTO.

MAYOR CLARKE of Sacramento has rendered an important service to that community by suppressing the exhibition of indecent pictures in kineoscopes. The evil is one which threatens every considerable city in the country, for there is always a temptation to the exhibitors of such shows to include among their pictures many which will attract the lewd and vicious.

It will be remembered that not long ago The Call found it necessary to expose the extent to which that form of vice was carried on in San Francisco and at the time of the investigation it was found that many school children were in the habit of resorting to such places. Something of the same kind, it appears, has been going on at Sacramento, and the Mayor's action is therefore one of the most important which can be rendered to any community—that of preserving youth from the enticements of the corrupt.

The vicious, like the poor, are always with us. They are forever aggressive in a sneaking way and continuous watchfulness is necessary on the part of public officials to prevent them from spreading their traps for the unwary at every possible place of vantage. The indecent kineoscope is a novelty, but it has taken its place along with the gambling rooms, the brothels and the dives as a means of affording the predatory classes a means of breeding vice and profiting by it.

That Sacramento has a Mayor vigilant and resolute in his efforts to rid the community of such plagues is a matter upon which the people of that city may well be congratulated. Mayor Clarke is doing a good work and it is to be hoped he will find among all classes of citizens an earnest support in the work of reform and improvement he has undertaken.

AN AMENDMENT NEEDED.

OUT of the disturbance at the masquerade ball at Mechanics' Pavilion on Saturday night comes an illustration of one of the defects of the charter. In the article relating to the Police Department it is provided in chapter X, section 12: "When a request is made for regular policemen to be detailed at any place of amusement or entertainment, ball, party or picnic, the party or person making such request shall first deposit \$20 for each man so detailed with the property clerk of the department, who shall give him a receipt for the same and such sum shall be at once paid into the treasury to the credit of the police relief and pension fund."

The defect of the regulation is that it leaves it optional with those who hold such entertainments whether police protection be asked or not. The law should be mandatory and require the managers of public or semi-public entertainments to have a police detail go preserve order and keep the peace.

At the masquerade ball it appears the managers at first undertook to conduct the affair without police protection. Before the evening had fairly begun they found themselves compelled to apply for six policemen. It is easy to perceive that the disturbance might have grown to serious proportions and one or more persons might have been dangerously injured before the police came. In cases of prefigments the danger of disturbance would be very great and there is hardly less danger at public picnics.

The issue is not one that requires argument. That clause in the charter should be supplemented by an ordinance compelling managers of certain classes of entertainments to provide police protection for their patrons. It will be well to learn that lesson from the experience of Saturday night and not wait for a tragedy to teach it.

Nickel-in-the-slot machines are no longer to be despised. Although he does not say as much, it is fair to presume that Secretary of the Treasury Gage was influenced by their ravages to point out in his recent report the absolute necessity of providing additional fractional coin.

The people of the Mission are renewing their agitation for the removal of the tracks of the Southern Pacific Railroad from the district. The records of the Morgue ought to make a good campaign document.

The advantage of warning criminals through the agency of a newspaper appears to be becoming popular. The little town of Irvington has followed quickly in the wake of San Francisco.

THE COMMERCIAL MUSEUM.

FROM the conference called by President Wheeler to meet at the Hopkins Institute of Art to-morrow evening to consider the proposed establishment of a commercial museum in this city, some definite plan providing for immediate action may be confidently expected. The issue is not a new one. It has been discussed by the press of the city and by the Merchants' Association, the Mechanics' Institute and other organizations of a like nature and is well understood by all who take an interest in it. There will be no occasion therefore for any elaborate campaign of education. Action may begin as soon as a plan for undertaking the enterprise can be formulated.

The leadership in the conference which President Wheeler has undertaken at the request of the trustees of the Mechanics' Institute is a good assurance of success. In his inaugural address at Berkeley the newly installed president showed his keen interest in the commercial and industrial affairs of the State and the city in what was said upon the subject of the commercial college and the work it would have to undertake in the development of the Pacific Coast. Dr. Wheeler's relation to the movement therefore will be that of a strong and earnest advocate and his leadership will raise it from the degree of a mere mercantile venture to an enterprise of interest to the whole nation.

The success attained by the museum in Philadelphia is an evidence of its value. Merchants and manufacturers resort to it from all parts of the East and letters of inquiry are received from every important port or trade center on the globe. If such an institution has been found beneficial in the East, where the trade is mainly with European countries, with whose people and commerce we are fairly familiar, how much more beneficial will be a museum specially devoted to the trade of the Orient, which is as yet hardly understood?

The conference to-morrow evening ought to provide the beginning of the work of establishing the museum. The meeting was designed to be thoroughly representative and if those who have been invited attend there will be present a body strong enough to start the movement at once and bring about its success.

If people are judged by the company they keep the ambitious young police lieutenant, who is not wise enough to let well enough alone and wants to be Chief of Police, ought to feel uncomfortable in the revelation that he owes his position to Dan Burns. The Mexican invariably exacts a stiff price for his favors.

Because he believed the teachings of Christianity forbade him wearing his hat on the back of his head and shouting "Hello, Bill," to every friend he met on the street, the Rev. James MacInnes of Oakland has resigned from the ministry. Many people fear he is on the high road to perdition, although he says he is only headed for Chicago.

Count von Bulow, the German Minister of Foreign Affairs, says he intends to give the Reichstag some inside information on politics in general. Somebody must have given him a tip on how we do things in San Francisco.

With a big row in progress in the Nevada University and the professors of the Cincinnati University lined up in battle array it would seem timely to revive a plea for the establishment of chairs of pugilism in our seats of learning.

At Chicago there is an end of harmony between piano manufacturers and their employes. It was hoped that the soft pedal of arbitration would have been effectual, but it wasn't. Now the men are out on a strike.

The Oakland minister who pined for the company of "lushing friends" has probably discovered that his freedom of selection was not in any way impeded by a fearful flock.

If the water companies continue to combine in Oakland water will be soon included in the list of luxuries in the city across the bay.

The friends of Esola seem to think that the only requirement necessary to make a good Chief of Police is to have kept out of jail.

SAVING MINERAL LANDS. ASSOCIATION PROGRESS. SLICING AWAY TOWNS. NEWS OF THE DIGGINGS.

THE meeting of the executive committee of the California Miners' Association called by President W. C. Ralston for the evening of the 20th inst., at the Palace Hotel especially to consider miners' interests in pending Congressional bills and the conservation of forests and waters will undoubtedly result in important action on both lines.

The association has had much experience and has achieved much success in past years in securing Congressional legislation in behalf of the miners, and if an energetic committee, provided with the resources of the court and having the great prestige and influence of the association behind it, gets the power it represents to bear on Washington it will stir up interest in pending measures and be a strong force in pushing them forward.

The most important measures pending at this date are the bill which provides a Cabinet department or department bureau to care for the mining industry, and the bill which has been introduced and fought for for years and which is still stuck in the mud. The latter measure is the one most desired by the miners of this State, and the one in which most active interest is taken.

The mineral lands bill, as all California miners know, purports to save from patent to railroad companies some millions of acres of the remaining public lands in California, which are chiefly mineral in character though profitable mines are not yet developed in them, and which are not valuable for agriculture. To the railroad, which is getting patents to such lands by the thousands, it is a matter of course that valuable holdings for their timber and mineral resources to be developed in the future. The bill is the policy of the Interior Department to regard such lands as agricultural unless valuable minerals are discovered and proved to exist, and to put the burden of proof on the miner if he proposes to mine the land.

It is proposed that these mineral lands be segregated by a commission and withdrawn from patent to the railroad companies as has been done in Montana and Idaho. For years railroad influences have been able to block all the many vigorous attempts of the miners' Association to secure justice for the miners, and now the association will cross swords with the railroad companies. President Ralston practically began the fight himself many years ago, and he has vigorously stood by to the end of all the battles that have occurred since the association took up the issue soon after its organization in 1872. It was back in the '80s, when Ralston was not the general manager of a great mining property, but when he had energy and ambition, he naturally decided to start a successful mining weekly. He started the paper, and observing the constant land-grabbing of the railroad companies, he turned loose his heaviest guns and stirred up an issue that lived. The railroad papers did not like the fight, but the railroad company, and on one occasion, when C. P. Huntington and Ralston met the former said: "You're a very fine young man, Mr. Ralston. Neither Ralston nor the association has tired of the fight, and another campaign worthy of the honor of the great California miner and mining interest, will soon be under way."

President Ralston wishes the advice of the executive committee in the creation and direction of the committee on conservation of the public lands. For the first time at the last State convention, and the creation of such a committee, which will represent the association in this field that has recently assumed so great importance and life. This movement for the storage of surplus mountain waters and the preservation of the forests is of especially vital interest to the miners, and the California Miners' Association will furnish a powerful reinforcement of the new State organization which is now seeking strength, money and plans. Senator John Davis of Amador County, who is one of the leading forces in the California Miners' Association, has a very interesting report on the movement for better roads begun by the California Miners' Association. In a recent issue of the Call he has written some very vigorous suggestions that apply equally to all the county miners' associations. "I would say," he observes, "that the two main problems that confront us in the quartz-mining country of the Mother Lode are: 1. That of maintaining a continuous motive power; and 2. That of good roads. Referring to the county association he says: 'This association can be the nucleus of all public effort concerning anything even remotely connected with the improvement of the roads. It can, by its existence, take up the problem of continuous motive power, can affiliate itself with the county water and power Association, or the California Association for the Storage of Flood Waters, or the California Valley Improvement Association, and accredit delegates to those organizations, and thus thoroughly inform the central organization of the local conditions in Calaveras County. The road question is equally germane to the work of this organization. What we require is a continuously active, live local body; not an annual resurrection of a dead one. Membership should be increased, and should be frequent in different localities, and constant correspondence should keep the members informed of what is going on in the world. The impulse should come from the members to the officers and in that way the work of the association will be improved and spread abroad.'

Up in Northern California whole towns are being swept away by the new flood of mining enterprise and development that has struck that region. Through Siskiyou and Trinity counties are here and there little communities which have long been taken to the sun or favored by the local benches where they naturally grew along the water courses in a country that is nearly all on the slant. After the pioneers got their feet under the gold, they gradually early placers the country quieted down and struggled along in an absentee manner, with occasional digging over of low-grade gravel left, with a very little spasmodic quartz mining, with some hydraulic mining in favored places and some gold mining on the surface, but the veins under the pines practically unknown and unsought.

Now, besides the booming development of quartz mines from the Sacramento to the sea, there is great activity in the mining of water. The water is being pumped out of the ground by means of auriferous gravel with hydraulic monitors and dredgers. Many river benches are being worked, and the cost of the deposit of ground that will pay to work by modern economical methods and with sufficient capital. A good deal of money is going into hydraulic propositions, but that big region and where a town is built on golden sands the town must know. They wash out pans of dirt from the street and astonish the tenderfoot with the colors, and they wait eagerly for the next big haul to come in and wipe their towns off the face of the earth—for so much a lot of our little towns were built on the gold. Old Trinity County is now being sluiced into the river. 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