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AMUSEMENTS. Alhambra—Jeffries-Sharkey Contest Pictures. Tivoli—"The Idol's Eye." Grand Opera-house—Aladdin Jr. Grand Opera House—Symphony Concert Thursday afternoon, Orpheum—Vaudeville. California—"An Unconventional Honey Moon." Columbia—"The Viceroy." Alcazar—"Oh, Susannah." Chutes, Zoo and Theater—Vaudeville every afternoon and evening. Olympia, corner Mason and Ellis streets—Specialties. Western Turf Association—Races to-day.

TREATY HYSTERICIS.

THE New York Journal has concluded to defeat the Nicaragua canal by hysterics. The new treaty, modifying the Clayton-Bulwer convention and enabling the immediate construction of the canal by this Government, proposes to neutralize the canal and that this country shall abstain from fortifying it. The militant spirit of the Journal wants not only the large expenditure needed for construction, but also the large outlay required to fortify it. To do this we must first acquire sovereignty from Nicaragua and Costa Rica, for one country cannot build fortifications under the jurisdiction of another. When we acquire sovereignty and proceed to fortify we practically transfer to the two ends of the canal, and perhaps to its entire mileage, including the lake shore involved, our national vitals and must therefore plant there a system of defense as great as required by our entire continental coasts. The artist in hysterics has discovered that unless we fortify any nation or combination of nations stronger than ourselves will take the canal. As there is no special virtue in canal fortifications, making them more impregnable than any other similar works, it may occur to our non-hysterical people that anybody stronger than we will take the canal any way, fortifications or all.

When James Buchanan was Secretary of State he had some ideas about an isthmian canal and left them on record to the effect that the canal should not only be neutralized, but a wide zone at each terminus should, by international agreement, be neutral also, so that no nation or combination of nations could possibly lie in wait to prey upon commerce destined for that waterway.

Discouraging as present conditions may be, a civilized nation like this should still respect the principles of civilization and should practice that self-respect and good faith which go with a proper expression of confidence in the self-respect and good faith of other nations. The hysterical policy of the Journal finally leads to the dispatch of a man-of-war with every merchant ship to convoy her from the port of departure to her destination lest some one, stronger than we, shall return to barbarism by violating neutral obligations and making her a prize on the high seas. That is to say, the Journal is fearful that the whole world is about to adopt piracy, to disregard treaty obligations and arm and equip for everlasting conflict.

The canal when built will be of little use to us unless it is a neutral highway for the commerce of all nations and it is a pitiful exposure of ourselves to declare that no cargo shall traverse it except under the threat of our guns.

Professor James Hyslop of Columbia University has recently announced that it is possible to communicate with the spirit inhabitants of the other world. As proof of his assertion he says he has heard from his lately departed father that he is now in a place where an overcoat is a superfluity.

The dive-keepers of the city, it is said, are groaning under the oppression of the Police Commission. The sharks should not unnecessarily disturb themselves, as the commission shows sign of going further and the groan may be superseded in the luxury of a bowl.

The national Democracy is looking for a new issue and a new candidate for the Presidency. Can it be possible that the astute managers of the machine have forgotten to look for a new hole in which to disappear after November?

Huntington has decided to buy a cotton mill. If the old gentleman had determined to purchase a woolen mill it might have been suspected that he had dropped unexpectedly into Sacramento.

The police officers accused of blackmailing Chinese have evidently been studying international politics. They probably think that the partition of China means a division of the spoils in Chinatown.

THE GRAZING LEASES.

THERE seems to be an extraordinary condition of indifference in the West to the effort now being made by the Interior and Agricultural departments to protect the grazing property of the Government by a leasehold control.

The grazing lands west of the ninety-ninth meridian have been occupied without law and exhausted without foresight until their forage is greatly impaired and the resource of the country for a beef food supply and for our great export of that meat is rapidly disappearing.

The statistics of Wyoming will serve as an example and results found there are general throughout the grazing region.

In 1885 Wyoming had on the ranges 1,280,916 head of cattle with a value of \$32,022,000 and 518,466 sheep of a value of \$1,072,188. The exhaustion of the cattle food was rapid. As their forage disappeared sheep increased to destroy what was left, so that in 1898 the cattle had declined to 688,092 head, with a value of \$16,390,696, and sheep had increased to 1,940,021, with a value of \$5,714,332. There was left therefore a total property value on these exhausted ranges of \$22,102,028 to replace the total of \$33,095,088 that was there twelve years before.

It will be seen that the substitution of a sheep value for a cattle value is that of a less for a greater. The loss of cattle value in that twelve years was \$15,632,204 and the substituted gain in sheep value was only \$4,652,144!

It is estimated that a sheep equivalent for cattle is ten sheep to one steer, so that to replace the full value of 1886 would require the presence of 13,000,000 sheep. As an officer of the Agricultural Department truly says: "Thirteen million sheep would transform Wyoming into a cloud of dust." The same officer adds: "Here and throughout the West are large areas of once fine grazing lands which to-day will not support one steer; for not merely have the grasses been eaten to the ground year after year, but they have been actually killed out and supplanted by other vegetation that stock will not eat. The writer has traversed mile after mile of such country along the Lower Des Chutes in Oregon. From every part of the arid West rumors of such denudation are heard and from many sections the reports are reliable and precise. For obvious reasons the local newspapers say little or nothing about the matter, but the fact that such and such a range is 'played out' is a matter of common knowledge in Western communities. I do not wish, for the mere purpose of supporting an argument, to draw too black a picture of the decadence of Western grazing lands, but I do wish to assert as strongly as possible my belief that if the laws governing our arid lands remain unchanged lawlessness will continue, the destruction of private property and human life will go on, the prosperity of communities will be lessened and one of the rich resources of the nation will be wasted. It must, however, in fairness be stated that, bad as conditions now are, the remedy is easy and that, if soon applied, recovery will be quick. If an area of overgrazed land be fenced in and stock be kept off, the grass, if not actually killed, will after a time regain its original vigor—in some cases in a year or two, in others in five years. Hundreds of instances may be found where a small area of private land, fenced and not overstocked, maintains its full forage crop, while outside the fence there is practically no grazing whatever. In many cases stockmen or companies have acquired titles, by purchase of homesteads, of tracts of watered land covering large territories and by fencing them in they have been able to control the grazing lands of those regions. No others can bring their cattle, because they can get no water for them. The resident cattleowner, therefore, while without legal control of the land outside his fences has de facto the exclusive use of it. He accordingly manages it as if it were his own property, that is, he does not overstock it. As a result the grass crop is maintained at its highest limit of continued productivity."

From its knowledge of these facts the Agricultural Department concludes that these ranges should not be sold to private ownership, that they should remain a part of the public domain, but that their wasteful reduction to desert conditions should be prevented by giving stockmen a leasehold control, properly safeguarded and under Federal supervision, to the end that their forage may be renewed, even by reseeding if necessary, and that the grazing business, now going swiftly and lawlessly to its final end, be furnished the protection of law and permanence.

We cannot conceive why this should not be desirable for the stockmen. They should seek law, order and permanence for their occupation and therefore they should at once second the highly intelligent and necessary purposes sought by the Agricultural and Interior departments. It is not often that the influence of two of the great Cabinet departments is combined in securing an economic result that depends on legislation. Whether they see it or not the result is in the proper interest of the stockmen. But the consumers of beef food, the tanners and leather trades have also a vital interest and if the stockmen continue indifferent these classes should see to it that the supply of raw material is not cut off by the continuation of an unwise and lawless policy.

THE BAGDAD RAILWAY.

FROM Berlin comes the report of the publication in that city of a work entitled "From Mediterranean to Persian Gulf," which discusses the various problems involved in the construction of the so-called "Bagdad railway," a concession for which was recently granted by the Sultan of Turkey to a German syndicate. As the book is the production of Baron von Oppenheim, an official of the German Government at Cairo, it is regarded as a work of no little importance. It is, in fact, something of an official outline of what the Germans purpose to accomplish in the enterprise.

It has been deemed well nigh certain that the railway would be constructed from a point on the Bosphorus through the valley of the Euphrates to Bagdad, and from that point to the Persian Gulf. Baron Oppenheim, however, after discussing the various routes which have been under consideration, comes to the conclusion the road should start from a port on the Mediterranean and proceed along the valley of the Tigris instead of the Euphrates. The Tigris route will be longer than the other, but it is richer, more thickly populated, has more centers of important trade, and is, moreover, the route taken by most of the caravans to and from the Persian Gulf.

From this it appears the new railway will be run from Konieh to Biredjik and Mardin, and thence along the Tigris to Nisibin and Mosul, finally passing among the low hills of Kurdistan to Bagdad. The notion of planting German colonists along this line has evidently been abandoned. The Sultan, it seems,

will settle a number of Mohammedan agriculturists on this territory, with the object of raising cotton and grain. Baron von Oppenheim has no doubt that when once irrigation canals from the Euphrates and the Tigris have been built, modern Mesopotamia will rival ancient Babylon in fertility and riches. He predicts for the railway a brilliant future. In a short time the passenger and goods traffic must enormously increase, and, besides, mails to the East will certainly be dispatched by this line.

Since the Baron obtained the data on which his book is based the situation has been changed materially by the concessions which the Persian Government has granted to Russia in consideration of an important loan. Those concessions virtually give Russia a paramount influence in Persia, and consequently a control of the railways and the ports of that country. What the Germans will do to avoid the difficulty remains to be seen. It is hardly likely they will undertake to construct a railway whose eastern terminus will be under Russian control, and yet it is certain they cannot very well end their Bagdad road anywhere except upon some part of the Persian Gulf.

Diplomacy, of course, may find a way of arranging the matter to the satisfaction of all concerned, but it is clear that when once the Bagdad road is constructed Germany will have to be counted as an Asiatic power, and Russia and Great Britain will not have the game altogether to themselves.

San Diego rainmakers should not be discouraged even if they fail in their present attempt to compel moisture from above. In his speech during the Union League reception to Senator-elect Bard General W. H. L. Barnes gave promise of needed relief. He said that at the conclusion of this year's campaign he would be at San Diego weeping with Grant.

BRITISH DISCONTENTS.

IF the old saying: "The shallows murmur, but the deeps are dumb," be a maxim of universal application, then at this time very nearly all the people of the British islands must be shallow, for almost all of them are murmuring. In the sound of their murmurs two complaints are heard above all others—first, that the military censorship of the news from South Africa is unworthy of the British nation, and second that the army has been proven to be a social rather than a military organization and that the troops suffer disasters in battle because their officers are ignorant of the art of war.

Against the censorship some of the strongest papers in London have begun a veritable crusade, the Times leading the way. The Westminster Gazette, in commenting upon it, says: "It is one of our traditions that we seek neither to belittle our reverses nor to magnify our victories; surely it is a tradition worth guarding and worth adhering to. It is right that no news of the movements or disposition of troops nor any details which might assist the enemy should be permitted to reach this country, yet we see daily that certain details which might very easily be of assistance to the Boers are permitted to come home, while other information is withheld which would relieve thousands of anxious hearts at home while adding nothing to the information of our enemy. We also see shameful insinuations against the honor of individuals allowed to come home over the wires and we see letters published giving particulars which do no good to any one here, but might conceivably be of great assistance to our foe. We see also long cables describing in the greatest detail trifling successes, thus lending them a fictitious importance, while the result of important operations is concealed from us at home long after it must have been perfectly well known to the Boers."

The truth of these statements is familiar to every one who has followed the reports from South Africa with sufficient attention to form an intelligent opinion concerning them and it is not strange the British people, in their eagerness for news and their anxiety about friends, should feel a deep and well-founded indignation against the censors who, without any valid reason, deprive them of the information they desire.

The clamor against the censorship, however, is not greater nor severer than that against the system of army administration which has placed British regiments under the command of men who sought the rank solely for the social standing it gave them. The officers have proven themselves to be brave, for they have not shirked the duty of leading their men into action, but they have also shown themselves wholly lacking in military skill and resources. They have been outgeneraled on the field in every fight and have fallen into trap after trap set for them by their enemies. Thus, without gaining any success whatever, they have lost more men than it was believed would be lost in the whole course of the war.

The censorship will doubtless hold on its way until the end of the war unless Roberts prove a wiser man than Buller and give orders to relax it, but the present system of providing officers for the army is doomed. The popular sentiment now aroused against it will not lightly pass away. Great Britain may lose the Transvaal, but she will undoubtedly gain army reform by way of consolation.

If half the clever words attributed to General Joubert are true the old Boer soldier is as distinguished a strategist in wit as he is in war. He is said to be greatly chagrined that he failed to receive information of some movement made by the besieged English in Ladysmith.

National Republican managers, it is said, are preparing to select McKinley's running mate in the Presidential race. An impression seems to have gained currency that the Philadelphia convention would have something to do with this interesting selection.

Professor Thomas Jefferson House of the New York Post Graduate Hospital has anatomized seakins coats, long skirts and silk underwear. In other words he talks like a man facing endless dry goods and dressmakers' bills with nothing to meet them.

The next International Peace Conference ought to provide some means by which extravagant nations might be able to take the benefit of an international insolvency act. Even Norway is now after poor Nicaragua to collect a bad debt.

The old adage that easy writing makes very hard reading is being demonstrated in connection with the new charter. No two men have been able yet to agree upon the meaning of a single critical passage in the interesting document.

The British War Office must be expecting another of those "I regret to report" dispatches from South Africa. It is authoritatively announced that General Buller is acting upon his own responsibility.

The local woman who has tried in vain with a pistol, a knife and deadly acid to inflict self-murder ought to make a good testing apparatus for some of our new car fenders.



GENERAL BULLER: "Have courage, Lady Smith, I am still near you."—St. Louis Republic.

AROUND THE CORRIDORS.

Thomas Flint Jr. is at the Palace from his home in San Juan.

L. R. Payne, a well-known attorney of Fresno, is a guest at the Occidental.

E. L. Barkis, one of the leading business men of Oakland, is staying at the Lick.

A. Van T. Jones, a wealthy fruit grower of Aptos, is registered at the Occidental.

J. R. Garrett, the Marysville capitalist, is among the recent arrivals at the Lick.

B. F. McCullough, the millionaire rancher of Crows Landing, is a guest at the Lick.

S. N. Griffith, the Fresno attorney, is one of the arrivals of yesterday at the Occidental.

N. G. Kaufman, a merchant of Juneau, Alaska, is registered for a short stay at the Grand.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Stevenson have come down from Centerville and are registered at the Palace for a few days.

Jr. and Mrs. H. E. Macdonell, prominent society people of Vancouver, are in the city on a short pleasure trip. They are at the Occidental.

Mrs. E. P. Buckingham, owner of one of the most extensive and valuable fruit ranches in the State, is at the Palace on a short visit to the city.

CALIFORNIANS IN WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—C. R. Winslow of San Francisco is at the Raleigh; James A. Lerner and wife of San Francisco are at the Metropolitan.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A GREAT DRAMA—M. R. City. If you have the plot for a great drama you would better submit it to a theatrical manager, and if it possesses merit he will so inform you. Then the plot may be dramatized and prepared for the stage.

SHARKEY—GREGGAINS—CHOYNSKI—Tom Sharkey and Alex Greggains fought in the Bush-street Theatre, San Francisco, March 12, 1896. Tom Sharkey and Joe Choynski fought in the People's

UNCLEAN BIRD, MARPLOT, SCANDAL-MONGER.

A Few of the Choice Terms Applied to the Examiner by the Interior Press for Its Baseless Senatorial Election Slander.

SAN DIEGO UNION. Even decent Democrats must be disgusted with the attempt of the San Francisco Examiner to smirch the fair fame of California by insinuating that the election of Thomas R. Bard to the United States Senate was obtained through corruption, influence and money. At a time when the people of the entire State are rejoicing over the splendid triumph of clean politics the journalistic polecat of San Francisco places itself most offensively in evidence in its customary manner. The paper's efforts to elect a notorious corruptionist having failed, it would cover its retreat by slandering an honest man and denying to decency the victory it has won.

HUMBOLDT STANDARD. Such baseless charges from a sheet so thoroughly discredited even by the better element of the Democratic party will not deceive the people. The Examiner is an unclean bird. It did its best to compass the defeat of Senator White, when he was seeking the honor of a seat in the United States Senate, but its opposition helped rather than hurt Stephen M. White. Its charges of bribery and corruption, of collusion between Herrin and the Sugar Trust, will be taken for what they really are: the fabrications of a disappointed mischief-maker and marplot.

SACRAMENTO SUNDAY NEWS. The insinuation of the Examiner that the Sugar Trust had a hand in the selection of Bard for Senator is unsupported by incident or circumstance, yet is repeated day by day, each time with a little nearer approach to plain accusation but artfully avoiding it. Such newspaper work is contemptible and is a disgrace to journalism. It has not even the meager advantage of being good politics, for the people despise the slanderer who seeks to destroy with the weapons of baseless innuendo.

NAP. REGISTER. Even the Examiner seems to want to disown the lie after giving it circulation, by expressing doubts on the subject. Poor Examiner, prematurely old-in-sin—its descent from a position of influence to one of irresponsible chatter has been rapid, and the person who believes what it says on subjects political would draw as a curiosity in a dime museum.

LOS ANGELES TIMES. The San Francisco Examiner continues to assert that the sole reason why Senator Bard secured his election was because of the fact that he is a wealthy man. To a mercenary and unprincipled sheet like the Examiner nothing takes but money, consequently we should not be surprised to see it weighing everything in its own scales that are loaded with defraud.

LOS ANGELES EXPRESS. The despicable and shameless attempt of the San Francisco Examiner to tarnish Senator Bard's stainless reputation by insinuating that money was used in his election is an odious exhibition. Luckily the absolute freedom of the State, as from such influences is so clear that the foul lies of the Examiner will only make the many qualities of our Senator shine the brighter.

SACRAMENTO RECORD-JOURNAL. The San Diego Union, referring to the San Francisco Examiner's objection to Senator Bard, that he is a man of some considerable wealth, says that the Examiner "forgets" Oh, no! It simply is devoid of conscience. Such intelligence never forget, though remembrance seldom troubles them.

FRESNO REPUBLICAN. It is an unfortunate state of affairs, and it is unfortunate that there are such newspapers as the Examiner to produce it. The rumor the Examiner refers to was not afloat until the Examiner floated it, and it will become that scandal-monger to deplore that for which it is itself responsible.

VENTURA FREE PRESS. The vain attempt of the Examiner to have the public believe that Huntington has any kind of a hold upon Senator Bard is having no other result than making that sheet most unpopular in this part of California.

A PALACE FOR LABOR.

The Call does not hold itself responsible for the opinions published in this column, but presents them for whatever value they may have as communications of general interest.

Editor of The Call: Sir—Your interesting article on "A People's Palace in Paris" reminds us that in this city of palaces for private individuals grown rich on the toil of the workers, palaces for their clubs, palaces for Christian associations, palaces for stores and for God, there is no palace for the builder of all palaces in San Francisco. One solitary rented flat is for the builders of palaces—a reading room, a billiard room, a smoking room, a card and chess room and a room for other needful purposes. Another flat serves for two meeting halls, the rent of which helps to pay the expenses of this poor labor temple, "Cribbed, cabled and confined as it is," the "Labor Bureau Association," as this institution is called, is very popular with San Francisco workmen, and it should be studied as a germ or model for a labor temple or peoples' palace whenever it may enter the collective mind of our community to recognize that it has a duty toward the creators of its wealth and beauty.

Too long has it been the fashion to grind out of the workman all that he could render and to dole out to him a pittance that left him and his family helpless in sickness and prostrate in his old age. He has a right to a share in the fruits of his labor, and every citizen will point to it as the most creditable monument that can grace the city. The laborer is to it and will have it. JOHN ROBERTSON, 9 City Hall Square.

WILL DANCE AFTER DINNER.

One Hundred Young People to Be the Guests of Harry Scott at a Dinner Dance.

Harry Scott will be host at one of the most magnificent affairs of the season—a dinner dance for one hundred young people—to be given on the evening of the 20th, at the residence of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Irving M. Scott, 507 Harrison street.

The Scott home is admirably adapted for entertaining and the numerous drawing-rooms, all hung with wonderful pictures and opening into one another, make an unusually attractive and commodious ballroom.

The dinner, which will be an elaborate affair, will be served at small round tables. Immediately after dinner dancing is to be inaugurated and will continue uninterruptedly till midnight, when a dainty supper will be served.

The reception to be given this evening at St. Luke's is to be a very fashionable affair. The musical end of the entertainment promises to be especially attractive and will insure the early attendance of the guests.

The Hawaiian Glee and Quintet Club will sing and play and, as they have another engagement later in the evening, the musical programme will be started early.

Cal. glace fruit 50c per lb at Townsend's. Gault's Ice Cream and Cakes, 265 Larkin st.

Special information supplied daily to business houses and public men by the Press Clipping Bureau (Allen's), 510 Montgomery street. Telephone Main 1842.

A New York woman has designed a fastener for veils, comprising a double-ended wire loop with prongs at the center to attach it to the hat or hair, safety-pins being provided with hooks to engage the loops after the pins are inserted in the veil.

Personally Conducted Excursions. In improved wide-vestibled Pullman tourist sleeping cars via Santa Fe Route. Experienced excursion conductors accompany these excursions to look after the welfare of passengers. To Chicago and Kansas City every Sunday, Wednesday and Friday. To Boston, Montreal and Toronto every Wednesday. To St. Louis every Sunday. To St. Paul every Sunday and Friday. Ticket office, 623 Market street.

All danger of drinketh impure water is avoided by adding 20 drops of Dr. Siegler's Angostura Bitters.

The Fastest Train Across the Continent. The California Limited, Santa Fe Route. Connecting trains leave at 5 p. m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Finest equipped train and best track of any line in the East. Ticket office, 623 Market street.

Dr. Sanford's Liver Invigorator. The best liver medicine. A vegetable cure for liver ills, biliousness, indigestion, constipation.

A DAILY HINT FROM PARIS.

PLUM-COLORED CLOTH DRESS. This dress is of plum-colored cloth. The bolero is almost closed at the chest, but much cut away at the waist. The waistcoat is of ivory plicated mousseline de soie, the skirt gathered at the hips and behind, and the tunic creased round the bottom, which is trimmed with a flounce of black mousseline de soie. The underskirt is of cloth.



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