

The Call

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AMUSEMENTS.
California—"A Bachelor's Romance."
Tivoli—"The Three Gardeners."
Grand Opera-house—"142."
Alcazar—"A Superfluous Husband."
Orpheum—"Van Devanter."
Columbia—"When We Were Twenty-one."
Olympia, corner Mason and Eddy streets—Specialties.
Chutes, Zoo and Theater—Vaudeville every afternoon and evening.
Fischer's—"Lacta" and "Huguenots."
Sutro Baths—Open nights.

HIDING FROM THE PUBLIC.

FROM some perverse thought the commissions appointed by Mayor Phelan to administer the various departments of the city government have adopted a policy of holding executive sessions for the discussion of such municipal affairs as are under their control. There is in this policy an evident desire to hide from the public the proceedings of the meeting, and if the practice be permitted to continue the people of San Francisco will soon be unable to obtain any information concerning the work of municipal administration except that which the commissions are willing to make known.

There is no authority for the secrecy which has been high universally adopted. The new charter for good reasons gives the Police Commission a right to keep its proceedings secret, where it believes secrecy to be of advantage to the service and the public welfare, but no other commission has such a right. It was the intention of the charter makers that publicity in the transaction of public business, which is essential to popular government, should be maintained, and accordingly they were careful to specify that the Police Commission only should have the privilege of secrecy.

It can be easily understood that there are many matters under police supervision which should be kept secret, but why should the Civil Service Commission, the Election Commission and the Board of Education, for example, hold secret meetings? All the business which such commissions have to perform is a matter of public concern, and should be conducted so openly that all citizens may know what is being done and why it is done.

It is a self-evident proposition that unless the voters know what the Commissioners are doing and by what methods they are carrying on the affairs of the city entrusted to them it will be impossible for the voters to determine whether good or bad service is given, whether honesty or jobbery prevails in the commission. Nor is it to be forgotten that a resort to secret sessions raises a suspicion that there is something the commission desires to hide from the public. If all be square and honest, why should not all be open and above board?

The issue is one of importance. Possibly and even probably up to this time no corrupt scheme has been concocted in secret session by any of the commissions, but it is nevertheless true that secrecy gives an opportunity for corruption and affords a temptation to it. The people have a right to know what the commissions are doing, and it is the duty of the press to guard that right. The sooner, therefore, the practice of meeting in executive session and concealing from the public what is done and said about public business is abandoned the better it will be for the commissions themselves, for if once popular suspicion of wrongdoing be aroused it will not be easily allayed.

The Examiner has again indulged its habit of stealing the news. With that effrontery which characterizes a hardened thief the yellow sheet has stolen one of the reports of the famous surgeon, Dr. George F. Shradly, who is in this city at the instance of the New York Herald and The Call to investigate the plague situation. While The Call does not sanction theft it congratulates the yellow kid on his ability to distinguish that which is worth stealing.

A Detroit convention of ministers is convinced that our solemn duty placed upon us by the glorious principle of expansion is to work toward that goal where we will assimilate with our new oriental citizens. The reverend gentlemen ought to start the game with themselves in Chinatown. They will find that there is still some enchantment in distance.

Some of the distinguished members of the United States Senate incline to the belief that ex-Senator Clark of Montana constituted little more than a diversion for the public. The gentlemen probably forget that the public does not take kindly to an indecent exhibition.

The industrious correspondents are planning another war between Russia and Japan. The story has been told so often that it does not now possess even the interest of a clever fiction.

The "boxers" of California must feel a certain kindly interest in the "boxers" of China. Both are very well aware that they are obnoxious to the public and both are under the ban of official displeasure.

CLEAN OUT CHINATOWN.

DR. SHRADY'S signed statement, which we publish in full this morning, gives to the people of San Francisco the information that while no living case of bubonic plague is known to be in Chinatown, yet a corpse has been discovered in which evidences of the disease are manifest. It further makes known the fact that there is nothing in the situation to justify a panic, but that the conditions are such as to impose upon San Francisco as an imperative duty the thorough cleansing of the plague spot, even if it have to be done by fire.

The words of Dr. Shradly should be impressed deeply into the mind of every citizen. He speaks with the authority of a well-won eminence in science, and with no other purpose than that of guarding the interests of the city and of humanity. He says:

"What seems to be necessary for San Francisco to do at the present juncture is to empower the health authorities to draw the fire lines, so to speak, round the infected buildings. Empty every infected house of its inhabitants. Keep the tenants in quarantine in some safe place, some house of detention, until all danger from the disease with them is passed. Then as to the house, let it be thoroughly disinfected that there shall be no chance of any infection remaining. If that be impossible, then resort to the radical measure of burning. I believe the safest thing to do with any infected house is to take no chance short of the firebrand. It may cost money, but what is money against human life?"

Such is the counsel science gives. What response shall San Francisco make to the demand upon her? We believe there will be but one answer: Clean out Chinatown, clean it out thoroughly, remove the plague spot from the city, leave not one of its foul buildings standing, nor one of its dark, dirty, underground passages unclosed. Purify the spot by destroying every Chinese habitation upon it.

The work which San Francisco is thus called upon to do is one that should have been done long ago. Other cities in the United States and in Europe have cleared out their slums by removing the disease infected structures that stood upon them. What we have to do is, then, nothing extraordinary in the history of sanitary improvement. We have only to follow the teaching of science.

In no city in the civilized world is there a slum more foul or more menacing than that which now threatens us with the Asiatic plague. Chinatown occupies the very heart of San Francisco. It is a bit of the most degraded Asiatic filth set in the center of a city of Western civilization. At best it has been a disgrace to the municipality and a source of wonderment to travelers that it should be tolerated. So long as it stands so long will there be a menace of the appearance in San Francisco of every form of disease, plague and pestilence which Asiatic filth and vice generate. The only way to get rid of that menace is to eradicate Chinatown from the city, and see to it that in whatever quarters the Chinese take up hereafter they live above ground, in clean houses, and with some respect for sanitary laws.

To destroy Chinatown will of course cost money, but to permit it to remain will cost more. The scare which now prevails over the discovery of a few sporadic cases of plague has already cost the city a considerable sum in the loss of trade and business, and before the alarm dies away it will cost the city and the State together a loss more than sufficient to pay for Chinatown twice over.

It will be economy to destroy Chinatown, but of far more value than economy is the supreme consideration of human life. It is in the name of humanity itself that science demands the destruction of the pestilential quarter. The issue is not one for discussion, but for action. There cannot be two sides to such a question. Clear the foul spot from San Francisco and give the debris to the flames.

GAS COMPANY EXTORTION. THE MARQUIS DE GALLIFET.

SOME time ago The Call in the performance of its duty to the public found it necessary to point out the illegality of the action of the gas company in compelling persons desiring the use of gas to make a deposit with the company before it would furnish the supply. Such deposits have been literally extorted from the public, and in the aggregate constitute a large sum of which the company has the use and from which it derives a considerable profit. Following the exposure of the fraud a test case was brought into the courts and judgment obtained against the company. An appeal was taken to the Supreme Court, for the gas company, like other corporations that practice extortions upon the public, will not surrender its illegal gains so long as it can possibly retain them.

It is now evident that the fight made by The Call for the rights of the people has had a good effect. "Men who know their rights and knowing dare maintain" are refusing to submit to the extortion. Judge Hebbard has just decided in the case of F. J. Bayer vs. the San Francisco Gas and Electric Company that the plaintiff is entitled to receive a supply of gas without making a deposit, and that the company in cutting off the gas supply of the plaintiff rendered itself liable for damages, which in the case before the court were assessed at \$30.

Some features of the case are especially interesting. It is stated that in opening his account with the gas company Bayer yielded to the customary extortion of a deposit and placed with the company the sum of \$8. Last year the company presented Bayer with a bill for \$9 10, and Bayer offered in payment the certificate of the deposit and \$1 10 in coin. The company refused the tender and shut off the gas. Bayer then stood upon his legal right and gave the company a written demand for gas. The company yielded. The first bill presented to him was for \$10 20, and once more Bayer tendered the certificate of deposit of \$8 as a part of the payment. The company, perceiving it was dealing with a man who knows his rights and is not afraid to defend them, surrendered and accepted the payment. Bayer, however, having been subjected to annoyance and damage by reason of the company's illegal actions, sued for damages provided by the State law, obtained a judgment in his favor from the Justice Court, and the judgment, as we have said, has now been confirmed by Judge Hebbard.

The case shows that if the people submit any longer to the extortion of the gas company they will have none but themselves to blame. The law is on the side of the public and the courts are ready to uphold it. The fact that the company surrendered to Bayer as soon as he asserted his rights is a proof that it has learned a lesson from the campaign which The Call started in the interests of the people. It will not fight any one who has the manhood to fight back. Now let all who have been subjected to the extortions of the company follow the example which has been set them, and the vast sum of money which the company has exacted illegally from the public will be returned to its rightful owners, where it can be used in the trade and industries of the city instead of serving the extortionate company as a source of dishonest profit.

Since Mayor Phelan's scheme to divert the lodge at Golden Gate Park from its legitimate purposes has been defeated his Honor might favor the city by contributing to some other public institution the little library in which, as The Call has already indicated, he is personally concerned.

The old adage that there is luck in numbers must appeal to Lord Roberts with peculiar meaning. He has entered the Transvaal with a force ten times as great as the gallant foe he must meet.

WITH the retirement of General the Marquis de Gallifet from the office of Minister of War the Waldeck-Rousseau Ministry loses the one man who gave it prestige in countries outside of France. Whatever view may have been taken of him by his own countrymen and by the majority of the Chamber of Deputies, the old General appeared to those who study French politics from a distance to be the one clear-headed, pure-hearted, strong man of the Ministry. It was expected that he would carry his weaker colleagues safely through all troubles that might arise, and prevent any change in the Ministry until the exposition closed, and now, as another illustration that it is always the unexpected that happens, he is the first to break down before the attack of the opposition and resign.

The retirement is the more curious because from all we can learn in the dispatches from Paris it was caused by an attack led by Count Boni de Castellane. Here is a case where a soldier of undoubted courage, a gentleman of the highest lineage, a man of stainless reputation and a statesman enjoying the esteem of the world is beaten in a contest led by a young man whose vanities have made him the laughing stock of two continents. It is as if a lion had been driven from his post by a lapdog. Of course there is some motive for Gallifet's action which has not been made public. The explanation of ill health is not regarded as sufficient even in Paris. Something is going on of which the world can only conjecture the nature, for it is certain Boni de Castellane must have had potent forces back of him to enable him to start an attack which would drive Gallifet from the Ministry.

Whatever may be the cause of his retirement, the old General goes out of office with a record of which he may well be proud. When he entered the Ministry of War the French army was involved in the Dreyfus scandal, and it seemed as if the taint of dishonor were upon the whole War Department and general staff. He was unknown to politics, but from his social position and his character it was supposed he would uphold the clique that was seeking the destruction of Dreyfus. It was announced at the time that the Royalists and all the reactionary elements in France were jubilant over his appointment. In a short time, however, he proved himself to be one of the soldiers who maintain the best traditions of French honor. He stood impartial at the trial, and when the end came he set about removing from the staff all who were in any disgraceful way involved in the scandal. He promoted and honored such officers as on the witness-stand proved that their conception of military discipline did not require them to be false to truth and justice. His task was to clear the army and France of the whole miserable Dreyfus affair, and for a time it appeared that he had succeeded, but now on a mean side issue growing out of that scandal he falls before the assault of a mere dude.

What will be the effect of the retirement of a man so much esteemed cannot be conjectured at this time. The Ministry on the whole is conservative and has been wisely directed. Public sentiment in France will be opposed to any change of administration until the exposition is over. It is probable the feeling of conservatism will be strong enough to support the Ministers against any attack that may be made upon them. Nevertheless it will be felt that a serious loss has been inflicted upon the Government, and the opposition will be encouraged to be more violent than ever in their assaults.

Since Mayor Phelan has honored us by thrusting his victorious pen into the arena of literature it might not be unwise for his Honor to consider what he is eminently qualified to discuss—the scientific problem of how it feels to suffer from a total eclipse.

EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA.

By THE REV. PETER C. YORKE.

Being the first of three articles written for The Call by the pastor of St. Peter's parish in restatement of his argument before St. Mary's College graduates to the effect that a deliberate attempt is being made to create a monopoly in education in this State.

I understand Dr. Jordan might be taken it for granted that Berkeley and Stanford are institutions of the higher learning and that the smaller colleges are smaller not only in the number of the people in the character of the education they give. While he differs from President Harper in matters of detail, he appears to accept the idea underlying the Chicago plan, namely, that in some way the smaller colleges gave an inferior education to the better schools. He hints that they do not perform what they profess to perform and that the cause of this lack of performance is want of means. In discussing this subject, it may be well for the present to leave Berkeley out of the question. It is the State University, and perhaps as the State University it may have advantages not enjoyed by private corporations. Let us consider the case of Stanford. Stanford University is a private institution or college. It stands below the people in the social scale, at the level as St. Mary's College or the University of the Pacific. This truth is obscured by the size of Stanford and by the ability and agility of Dr. Jordan. Nevertheless the fact remains: Stanford is in the eyes of the State entitled to no more rights or privileges than, for instance, St. Peter's parochial schools. Hence if Stanford possesses any superiority over the smaller colleges that superiority must arise either because it is a maximum of efficiency, is a prize-fighter trained by being always in the ring facing his opponent? Are there not a hundred things which he can do which we cannot do which seem to have no bearing on boxing—a hundred things from which they must refrain, at hundred things which they must suffer? Is not rest, is not sleep as important to them as action? They have certain physical powers, and these physical powers are developed by a wide and varied course of training in order that at the proper occasion they will be able to concentrate them all on the one object.

Action is the worst possible criterion of education. Why are children sent to school? Why do plants which are forced to unnatural activity lose their vitality? Why does the field that never has fallow degenerate into a worn-out waste, breeding but thorns? There must be power before there is action. All that is forced action blights it and unresting action destroys it. Which of us does not consist in getting students to do things. Above all true education does not consist in driving students before their time into specialties. The present system of education is the base of our under-graduate universities. All specialties, narrow and wide, are going to divide up and sub-dividing groups of studies at our present rate of progress a new post may arise, to which we have no title, and which will not be the man with the hoe, but the man of one book. We take a boy from the grammar school and send him to the "Great Universities." He goes in for mining. He learns the Greek names of a lot of things, but he does not break them up and finding out what is in them. It is true that Greek names look more learned than the plain names, but the plain names designate the different kinds of soil on his ranch, and chemical formula are more imposing than the rule of thumb of the farmer. Between the two kinds of instruction there is no real difference. All education is for the purpose of giving information to the mind, and this information is for the purpose of giving the mind the power to use it. There is a difference, of course, in the man. The farmer may be ignorant of the science of agriculture, but he has done his best to make himself educated. The college boy may not be educated, but unfortunately he may not be able to do his best to make himself educated. We have no right to restrict the minds of our youth as Chinese women do. We have no right to restrict the minds of our youth as the Finians do. We have no right to restrict the minds of our youth as the Finians do. We have no right to restrict the minds of our youth as the Finians do.

As to the third element, it can be proved by facts that the smaller colleges give more efficient teaching as Stanford, for example. We can stand on the record. The biggest men in California are in the smaller colleges. It is not necessary to name names. Everybody knows the facts. A professor exists for his students, not for himself. A fair test of a professor, therefore, is the result of his teaching as compared with the results of his pupils. I do not deny that ill results sometimes follow the best of methods, but I believe that the normal result of a teacher is to give to his pupils the best of methods. The record of the graduates, say of St. Mary's College, is the best testimony of the efficiency of St. Mary's College teaching.

As to the fourth element, the appreciation of its value depends entirely on the conception of the functions of a teaching body. Dr. Jordan believes that a university is a place where a man can get instruction in anything. Therefore it follows that the more kinds of instruction the better, and the more the university. His criterion of education is the amount of instruction a man can swallow, and that is the instruction which is good as any other kind. He says "botany is as noble a study as Greek" and that a man who studies to study Greek ten years than to study ten languages one year each. "A thorough electrician is better educated than a man who studies Greek ten years." Hence it naturally follows that Stanford is superior to St. Mary's because it is a university, and Stanford and the Stanford student can be stuffed earlier with information and with more varied habits of thought than they are in his sophomore year the student ought to diverge toward his professional work, and the student who carries on his studies in the sciences should be a specialist. The American university, in his mind, is superior to German thoroughness and thoroughness is superior to the American university leads on to work. It is interesting as an index of the habits of thought that there are no European systems of education worth mentioning save the English and the German. The ideal of education seems to be to be raw, crude, shallow and inefficient. You get a man who is a steam engine blowing his whistle is a better engine than another at rest. There is a difference between a man who is a steam engine and a man who is a steam engine at rest. The end of education is not action, but power.

Dr. Jordan's use of the word education is a mistake. Education is the application of the term to that deeply interesting animal of our younger days, the puppets. Our children are puppets, monkeys, horses, parrots—and I suppose even the Belgian hare—and teach them tricks and make them do things. The tricks are complicated, they are carried out with such accuracy, they are performed with such apparent skill, that we are ashamed to deny the clever performers the use of reason. Yet they are as much puppets as the monkey, the horse, the parrot, or the Belgian hare. The only difference is that the trainer uses the living wires, the nerves that lead to the stomach and the nerves that carry sense to the brain. Man is a beast, but he is more. He may be taught as many tricks as a monkey, but education does not consist in teaching him tricks. Education is not education. Information is not learning. Botany is not as noble a study as Greek. It may not be intellectually more profitable to study Greek ten years than to study ten languages one year each. A thorough electrician may be just as good as a thorough Greek scholar, but a thorough electrician may be just as good as a thorough Greek scholar. Man has certain mental faculties or powers born in him, and the purpose of education is not to put these powers into action.



THE REV. PETER C. YORKE.

tion, but so develop them that when they do go into action they may go in as a prize-fighter trained by being always in the ring facing his opponent? Are there not a hundred things which he can do which we cannot do which seem to have no bearing on boxing—a hundred things from which they must refrain, at hundred things which they must suffer? Is not rest, is not sleep as important to them as action? They have certain physical powers, and these physical powers are developed by a wide and varied course of training in order that at the proper occasion they will be able to concentrate them all on the one object.

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Father Yorke Will Precede. Henry Austin Adams, the distinguished orator, will deliver his last lecture in this city to-night at Metropolitan Temple. Rev. Peter C. Yorke will precede and will address the audience. As both addresses will be lengthy, the programme will commence punctually at 8 o'clock.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

SINGING VOICES—A. B. C. City. Actors and actresses do not, as a rule, have singing voices.

PAN-AMERICAN—Several Readers, City. "Pan" is derived from the Greek, and means "all." Hence pan-American is all American.

FOR A TENT ROOF—E. D. R. City. For such paint as you wish as you desire, press Clipping Bureau (Allen), 510 Montgomery street, San Francisco.

CEMENT—J. F. H. Bakersfield, Cal. If you have mineral which you believe to be cement send a sample to the State Mineralogist at the State Mining Bureau, Ferry Building, San Francisco.

VETERINARY—A. H. C. San Mateo, Cal. This department cannot advise colleges that give instruction in the veterinary line. Any veterinary surgeon will direct you to such a place.

PATENT RIGHTS—C. B. A. City. If you have obtained a patent for a machine and parties have been manufacturing the machine, ignoring you, your remedy is by commencing civil action against the parties.

FIRST PLAY—H. G. T. Ukiah, Cal. An author is paid for his first play provided it is a success. What the play would be a matter of opinion. The author and the manager of the theater at which it was produced.

AT THE MINT—W. F. J. City. The mints of the United States will receive gold and convert the same into coin. There is placed in the coins a small amount of alloy to harden the pure metal. It is a mistake to believe that the United States coin that belongs to himself he may do so, as it is his own property, but if he does so it or debases it with intent to pass it as current coin he commits a crime.

Cal. place fruit 50c per lb at Townsend's. Special information supplied daily to business houses and public men by the press Clipping Bureau (Allen), 510 Montgomery street, Telephone Main 1042.

Like Iron. "There's a suit, my friend," said the dealer, "that will wear like iron." "I guess that fellow was no liar," said the victim two weeks after. "The suit is rusty already."—Indianapolis Press.

Republican Delegates Choose Their Route. The California delegates to the Republican National Convention at Philadelphia have announced as the official route the Central Pacific, Union Pacific and Chicago and Northwestern railroads, and will leave San Francisco June 12 at 8 a. m. on the "Overland Limited," the 65-hour flyer to Chicago. The round-trip rate of \$38 10 is open to all. D. W. Hitchcock, General Agent, Union Pacific, 1 Montgomery street, San Francisco.

No well regulated household should be without a bottle of Dr. Steeger's Angostura Bitters, the celebrated aperient.