

The San Francisco Call

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1900

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AMUSEMENTS.

Alhambra—"Kelly's Kids"

Orpheum—Vaudeville.

Grand Opera House—"Quo Vadis"

Alcazar—"The Widow's Husband"

Tivoli—"Trovators"

Columbia—"The Bell" and "Napoleon's Guard"

California—Grand Opera, Wednesday night, September 20.

Comedia, Grand Opera, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 10:30 o'clock.

Chutes, Zoo and Theater—Vaudeville every afternoon and evening.

Flower—Vaudeville.

Sherman-Clay Hall—Song Recital, Saturday evening, September 23.

Santa Mateo—Coursing Park—Coursing.

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THE SOUTH AND EXPANSION.

COLONEL BRYAN considers 120 votes from the South so safe for him that he pays little attention to Dixie and penetrates it no farther than the cold edges of Maryland and West Virginia. The South, the cotton States, that South which rules that section, is for expansion, for holding the Philippines and looking around for something else to grab.

We repeat, the South is the only section of this country that is nearly unanimous for holding the Philippines. It goes further. It wants Cuba and is not patient with the steps taken by the President to let that island go.

The South and the Democracy always wanted Cuba. During Pierce's administration an effort was made to buy the island of Spain, without consulting the people or the consent of the governed.

Spain was influenced against the sale by some of the Cabinets of Continental Europe, whereupon James Buchanan, Minister to England, John Y. Mason, Minister to France, and Sillidell, Minister to Spain, met at Ostend and did a most extraordinary thing. They issued what is known as the Ostend manifesto, in which they assumed to declare the foreign policy of this Government. They declared that whenever any territory, anywhere, was necessary to the protection or profit of the United States, we had the right to take such territory, regardless of the protest of the sovereignty to which it belonged or the wish of the people who inhabited it!

That is the sentiment of the South to-day, and it is not diluted by any fine spun theories about consent of the governed, lifting up the lowly or civilizing the savage. They have an eye to the profit of it to themselves. They want to sell cotton and other things which they produce in excess of their own needs.

Already every influential Democratic paper in that section has poolpoohed Colonel Bryan's "paramount issue" out of the campaign. Seven out of ten of the Southern dailies are openly for holding the Philippines, and, with frankness for which they deserve credit, say that if Colonel Bryan is elected they will see that he does not make a fool of himself on that subject.

It is said that "in vain is the snare spread in the sight of the bird." Does it apply to man and to politics? Colonel Bryan is setting the snare in the sight of the Northern anti-expansionist to catch his vote for the benefit of the Southern expansionist. Will it work? Will William Lloyd Garrison pull Senator Morgan's chestnuts out of the fire? Morgan said in San Francisco in 1898, "Our flag is in the Philippines to stay. God planted it there."

Does Mr. Schurz think that Mr. Hearst will spend as much big type and fetid breath hauling down the banner as he has in screeching "Nail the flag to the Philippines?"

The South will permit Bryan to give up the Philippines when the extinct dodo is refreshed and feathered and lays eggs no bigger than a bean in a hummingbird's nest, and when the ornithorhynchus, hard up for amusement, separates into his component parts of fish, fowl and beast and fights both his ends against the middle for a share of the gate money.

All this is perfectly understood in the South. Henry Watterson is for holding the Philippines, and, omitting to discuss the paramount issue in the Courier-Journal, is sweating over the problem whether President Cleveland was in favor of tariff reform!

He would rather fill his paper with an inquiry whether an ostrich can better digest a sodawater bottle empty or filled with Bourbon whisky and corked tight than reproduce Colonel Bryan's tiresome tatters of quotations from Lincoln, and his tremors over imperialism. The Southerners know what they want. Fitzhugh Lee visited the reunion of Mosby's men in Virginia the other day and in his speech opposed yielding an inch in the Philippines or anywhere else. In the South an acorn off Robert E. Lee's old military hat goes further than all Colonel Bryan's rhetoric and contortions.

In view of all this the anti-expansionists of the North who support Bryan are gold brick buyers. They are the victims of a political bunko game.

HOT TIMES IN CANADA.

CANADA is making ready for a general election, and it promises to be a hot one. There is no complaint of apathy on either side. Sir Wilfrid Laurier is to ask of the voters an approval of his administration and a new lease of power; but if the Conservatives are to be trusted the request will be treated as a bit of impudence deserving of a rebuke at the polls that will be memorable forever.

All kinds of charges are made against the Ministry. It is said that by his preferential tariff in favor of British goods Laurier has sacrificed the interests of Canada; that he promised to reduce taxes, but instead has added to the taxes, and the expenditures and to the public debt; that his Government has been marked by many corrupt deals and jobs; and, finally, that his supporters are trying to arouse race prejudices in Quebec by asserting that the Conservative opposition to him is due solely to the fact that he is of French descent.

The charges are not made in a vague way. Thus the Montreal Gazette recently said: "Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in 1896, promised Canada a business Government. He gave a Government that paid \$4,000,000 more for the construction of the Crow's Nest railway than the company had offered to do the work for; a Government that conceived the Yukon railway deal, that brought about the imposition of discriminating duties on Canadian grain in Germany, that buried the fast Atlantic mail service arrangement and gave the country the present ten-day voyage service, that drew out the 'business is business' letter as a code of political morals, and inflicted on the country 'the shame of the emergency rations scandal. It is time to turn the humbugs down.'"

The fight is not one-sided by any means. The Liberals mock at the opposition to the preferential tariff and quote Conservative statements in favor of that policy in times past. They also charge Sir Charles Tupper, the Conservative leader, with putting up more jobs than Laurier has ever been accused of. It is said that there are thirty-three of the Tupper family drawing salaries from the public treasury, while Laurier has not a single relative in office. One earnest Liberal goes so far in the way of campaign argument as to say: "In 1896 there were eleven convicts in Kingston penitentiary, ten of whom were Conservatives. The eleventh, the Liberal, escaped. He said he didn't mind being in jail so much, but he objected to the company."

From the reports that come to us it appears there is to be no paramount issue in the campaign. Laurier's administration is to be assailed all along the line. The Conservative leaders are already on the stump and are greeted with a good deal of enthusiasm

at their meetings. Summing up the demands of the Conservatives the Toronto Mail and Empire says: "Our western territories must be wrested from the grip of the Siitonian speculator, and a population that will assimilate must be thrown in. Markets must be found for our produce which under proper conditions will increase vastly in quantity. The preference which the British people will give must be secured. From the money-making coteries which infest Ottawa the country must be relieved. The deals must be stopped. Common honesty in administration, with absolute freedom from 'rake-off,' must be introduced. Equal justice must be administered. There must no longer be one law excusing Lemieux, the offender, and another law punishing Woods, the loyal man. The taxes must come down by several millions, and money that passes to Ottawa must be left in the channels of trade and industry. The racistist who divides the people must go, and the machine which steals our votes must pass out also."

That is a formidable list, and it will be seen the ground to be fought over is a broad one. It is too early to undertake to forecast the result. The doubtful element in the contest is the vote in Quebec. Ordinarily the French of that province would support their fellow citizen and the representative of their race, Laurier, but his action in sending Canadian troops to help the British in South Africa is said to have alienated many voters of French descent, and it is believed his party will suffer in consequence.

THE COMMERCIAL MUSEUM.

BY the election of a board of governors at the meeting on Friday the Pacific Commercial Museum becomes a fully organized association and is now prepared to begin its work. It starts under good auspices. It has already an assured membership sufficient to establish it, and the revenues will be ample to maintain it on a scale large enough to demonstrate its usefulness to the community. That is all required at this time, for as soon as its utility value has been proven by actual service it will have no need to advertise for members nor beg for money.

The history of the Commercial Museum in Philadelphia is full of encouragement for the promoters of the enterprise here. When that institution was begun not even its most sanguine supporters had any conception of the rapidity with which its field of labor would expand and its usefulness to the commercial world increase. It was originally designed as something of a local enterprise. It has become even more than a national enterprise. It is of use to merchants of all lands, and its influence is felt to a greater or less extent in every commercial center of the globe.

The museum in this city has before it a field of work peculiar to itself, and yet one of so broad a nature that it comprehends the whole commercial activity of the Pacific Ocean, including in that activity all the exchanges that are to go on between this continent and the new civilizations of Australasia and the old civilizations of the Orient. What the museum will be able to do for particular lines of trade is as yet merely a matter of speculation, but as soon as the work begins the results to each class of business men will make themselves known. Every person engaged in the trade of the Pacific will then see what the museum can do for him and will give it support accordingly.

The board of governors selected is a most excellent one. None can doubt the success of an enterprise in the hands of such men as have accepted charge of the museum. The first point of importance is to find a man to take executive management of the enterprise who will be equal to the task and the responsibilities of the office. If the right man be found, the Pacific Commercial Museum will soon have a reputation not inferior to that of the great institution at Philadelphia.

CHINA BASIN LEASE.

EVERY interest of the city and the State will be advanced by an early settlement of all points in dispute concerning the proposed lease of China Basin to the Santa Fe Railroad. For years past the commercial and industrial advancement of California has been retarded by the lack of better transportation facilities across the continent, and more dock room in San Francisco. The lease of China Basin to a transcontinental railway company for the establishment of a terminal in this city, under the terms proposed, will supply both those needs. It will furnish a competitive transportation route and bring about an extension of the seaway, which will materially increase the advantages of the port.

Under the terms of the new lease, which has been approved by the city officials, the State is to take the outside portion of the company's seawall for a distance of 100 feet after it has completed its own seawall from Mission street to China Basin, a distance of 6000 feet. The net result will be that the Valley road, by getting one-half of the seawall, gets five acres more than by the old lease. As an offset the State will not have to build 2300 feet south of the basin, at a cost of \$250,000.

It can hardly be doubted that the public will approve the action of the city officials in the matter. The interests of the city and the State appear to be carefully guarded at every point. It is of course recognized that an early settlement of the issue will be of great advantage to all concerned. China Basin is now unprofitable property. The improvement of it in the manner proposed by the Santa Fe road would in itself be no small compensation for the privileges the road asks for. With the revival of trade sure to follow the settlement of the disturbances in China and the extension of commercial privileges in that empire there will be urgent need in California and in San Francisco of a terminal in this city for the competing transcontinental road, and accordingly whatever will hasten the completion of the China Basin improvements on fair terms should be supported by the State as well as the city officials.

It is unfortunate that the Philippine Commission did not delay its glowing report of conditions on the islands for a few days at least. In the light of the recent battle, in which 33 per cent of the Americans were lost, the report is not unlike the promise of a juggler of what might have been if things had been different.

The Fresno boy parricide has been acquitted on the ground that he did not understand the enormity of his crime. It is sincerely to be hoped that he will not be allowed to acquire increased knowledge by new experience in his life-taking desires.

The vision of patronage plums upon which the Democrats are gazing longingly will be turned in November by the magic of American votes into a picture of sour grapes.

The gallant officers who transformed the transport Solace into a smuggler ought to be amply qualified to make some original observations on the utility of the revenue laws.

THEATRICAL: L. Du Pont Syle

MORE than one of the September magazines have articles on the Ober-Ammergau passion play; by far the best is that of H. D. Rawnsley in the Atlantic. Three things limit his special interest in this year's performance: first, the arrangement of the tableaux, wherein sometimes as many as six hundred persons (one-third of them children) were on the stage, yet the effect was that of absolute rest; second, the art displayed in the management of stage crowds; third, the naturalness and dignity characterizing the action of the principal performers—explainable by their entire absorption in their work, and by their actually living, for the time, the personages they represent.

Yet the passion play is doomed; it is very doubtful if there will ever be another satisfactory performance. The reason for this is evident and cannot be given better than in Mr. Rawnsley's words: "The almost insistent ill-effects that one saw taken by thoughtless foreigners with the village folk, the flatteries and adulations lavished upon the actors by excited and admiring crowds, are likely to destroy the self-respect and simplicity of the people and to poison the atmosphere in which alone can grow the life and character which render the passion play possible."

Already we are threatened with a New York reproduction of the passion play, wherein professional actors are to be employed for the principals and unwashed superns for the chorus. Anything more horrible than this it would be difficult to imagine.

Augustus Thomas' "Arizona" has been at last produced in New York and has scored a success. That is good news for the American playwright; it may not be long before even the syndicate discovers that there is a growing taste for American plays and that it will pay to cater to this taste.

Sir Arthur Sullivan's latest opera, "The Rose of Persia," was a failure in New York—not because of lack of merit in the work, but because it was presented by a second-rate English company at first-rate prices. The two dollars a seat extortion has never succeeded in establishing itself in the West and it is to be hoped it never will.

In the September Critic Mr. Rostand has a long poem on "The Day of a Precieuse." He describes her awakening, her toilet, her receiving of friends (La Reine) and their inane rendezvous, her visiting, driving, dining and going to sleep—all in the present tense of the present perfect. Strange that this stilted of literary fads should interest anybody to-day in the land of that Moliere who made precisely forever ridiculous! This poem is another specimen of the kind of thing that interests M. Rostand's mind; nothing modern interests him and therefore as a modern he cannot live. He is now at work on a new play for Sarah Bernhardt; subject most novel and striking—"Persecution of the Christians by Nero." Apropos of this the Critic's Lounge pertinently asks, Are M. Rostand and Mme. Bernhardt the only persons who have never heard of Quo Vadis?

Richard Mansfield is going to spend \$30,000 in producing "Henry V." another tribute paid to medievalism that one would think hardly possible on the eve of the twentieth century. "Henry V" is a play which Shakespeare, as Mr. Shaw has said, ought to have been ashamed to himself for writing—a glorification of the bragadoce spirit of one of the worst Kings that ever sat on the English throne, an appeal to the worst passions of the ignorant and vindictive mob. The fact is that Henry V declared and pitilessly waged against France was absolutely unjustifiable and was in itself a direct violation of those principles of self-government which Englishmen had prided themselves on ever since the days of the great charter. For the "hero" of this war the poet strains every nerve to enlist the sympathy of his audience; with rude Elizabethans, to whom cock fighting and bear baiting still afforded exquisite pleasure, he may have succeeded, but cannot imagine a modern audience—can you?—feeling anything but disgust for the "hero" who thus summoned to surrender the citizen of Harfleur.

If not, why in a moment look to see The blind and bloody soldier with foul hand Defile the locks of your shrill shrieking daughters? Your fathers, taken by the silver beard, And their most revered heads dashed to the walls; Your naked infants spilt upon pikes; Whiles the mad mothers with their howls confused Break the clouds, as did the wives of Jewry At Herod's bloody banquet? (Henry V, Act III, Scene 3)

Will Mr. Mansfield feel proud of himself as he spouts or causes to be spouted these and yards of similar lines that Shakespeare has put into "Henry V"? Does he think that \$30,000 spent on tinsel, armor and paint can reconcile us to this kind of Coleridge nonsense? Or has the success of "Ben Hur" convinced him that if only you make the theater exactly like a circus you are bound to coin money and that the end, object and aim of the drama is to coin money?

Such detestable passages as that quoted above—and they occur too often in the Elizabethan drama—make one almost sympathize with Voltaire when he called Shakespeare an intoxicated barbarian and make one smile when the English wags eloquent over the alleged "immorality" of the French stage: "There is nothing in Corneille and Moliere combined—the only way of saying Shakespeare in French—as bad in subject and in treatment as is 'Henry V.'" If Mr. Mansfield wants to do something at once unusual, classic and educative—and he is credited with having high ideals—why not, in translation, a masterpiece—say "Cinna" or "Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme"—by one of these great writers? It would not cost one-tenth of \$30,000, it could get along with little more, less paint and no tinsel; it would, moreover, have the charm of absolute novelty for his audiences.

In "Cinna" the theme—the clemency of Augustus—is as noble as the theme in "Henry V"—the shambles—ambition of the King—is ignoble, while in the strong scenes of "Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme," as you see Fielding's phrase, the comic characters are shown (not as in "Henry V") by low jests, but by actions of their own.

The more one contemplates the mass of world-drama that Mr. Mansfield has drawn from the more is one amazed at his investing a fortune in such a play as "Henry V." Mr. Porte must really have had vision apocalyptic of this product, when he wrote these (slightly amended) lines: The play stands still; hang action and discourse! Back by the scenes and enter foot and horse; Pageants on pageants in long order drawn Peers, Herals, Bishops, Ermine, Gold and Law;

The Champion, too! and, to complete the jest, Our Henry's armor gleams on Richard's breast. With laughter, sure, Democritus had died Had he beheld an audience go so wide. Load as the wolves on Orcus' stormy steep How to the roaring of the Northern deep. Such is the shout, the long applauding note, At Dick's high plume and Gloster's tinsel coat, Or, when from pawn, a padded suit bestowed, Sinks the last actor in the tawdry lead—The Dick enters—hark! the universal peal! "But has he spoken?"—Not a syllable. What shook the stage and made the people stare? His plebeian charger and his red, plush chair.

PERSONAL MENTION. Dr. Frizzell and wife of Bakersfield are at the Palace. George W. Gray, a Chicago merchant, is at the Palace. J. P. Montaneau and M. O. Samon, Boston merchants, are stopping at the Palace. F. Golden, mining man and jeweler at Nevada, is registered at the Lick. T. J. Field, banker at Monterey, is in the city for a few days and is staying at the Palace. Hodson of Sydney, N. S. W., purser on the Moana, is registered at the Occidental. Horace F. Brown, a New York merchant, accompanied by his wife, is a guest at the Palace. V. S. Kellogg, a professor at Stanford University, arrived in the city last evening and spent Sunday with friends at the California.

CALIFORNIANS IN NEW YORK. NEW YORK, Sept. 22.—Abe Marshall of San Francisco is at the Savoy; L. D. Truesdale of San Francisco is at the Netherlands.

AN ANTI-POOLROOM PAPER FOR SAUSALITO That "the pen is mightier than the sword" or the police has led the Municipal Improvement Club of the pretty town of Sausalito across the bay to establish a bi-weekly newspaper, the first issue of which appeared September 22. E. D. Sparrow is the editor of this latest venture in journalism. The Advocate is a neatly printed paper published weekly. The purpose of its publication is set forth in the following salutatory: "The Sausalito Advocate is published as the official organ of the Municipal Improvement Club, to put plainly before the people the conditions of the town, to point out our town, to endeavor to quicken the public conscience and to secure the sympathy and support of the county and the State for the efforts to rid Sausalito of the poolroom gamblers."

A CHANCE TO SMILE.

METEOROLOGICAL. Salle de Witte—That's Mrs. Alle Monaghan. She has been married and divorced five times. Noel Little—How remarkable for one so young in appearance. Her matrimonial history must have been very short. Salle de Witte—Mere showers.—Brooklyn Life.

FAME.

Minister Conger—Well, general, now that it's all over and we're safe I'm rather glad it happened. Hereafter I will be one of the most famous Americans.

General Chaffee—Yes, I wouldn't be at all surprised if on going back home you found the Edwin H. Conger 5-cent cigar advertised quite extensively.—Chicago Times-Herald.

BON MOT.

"Why is it," demanded the Sultan, fretfully, "that you always blame my poor Kurds for everything?" "The Embassadors of the powers retired and prepared a joint note. "Your Majesty's wheys are past finding out" they protested, in this, humorously albeit something apocryphally. An occasional bon mot like the foregoing serves greatly to relieve the tedium of diplomatic negotiations.—Detroit Journal.

Townsend's California grape fruits 50c a pound in fire-etched boxes or Jap. baskets, 69 Market, Palace Hotel.

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UP-TO-DATE EDITORIAL UTTERANCE

Views of the Press on Topics of the Times.

OMAHA BEE—The First Nebraska boys who Democrats to file in the Pistons will vote to maintain its authority next November.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH—Already Galveston look forward, not backward, on the ruins of the old, the people of the sea island contemplate a new Galveston greater, fairer and more prosperous.

NEW YORK TRIBUNE—Here we are all agog over this miserable silver business, a thing that ought to be as dead here as royal prerogative in England, much deader than Bourbonism in France, and as far beyond resurrection as the Holy Roman empire. And by the same occasion a large part of our people clamor for the party of Bryan should be that of the Greek sage: "Teach me not to remember, but to forget."

PITTSBURGH DISPATCH—In the half-developed civilization of three centuries ago it was considered civilized warfare to sack a town that had offered resistance. But even that thought man cannot aver such terrible calamities, yet the pluck and moral fiber that are his will help him to rise superior even to these afflictions.

NEW YORK TRIBUNE—It is easy for the Democratic to file in the Pistons and coal barons, but until they can point out specifically what the Republican party could do, what they would do, if in power, to give the miners higher wages, cheaper powder, and remove their other particular grievances, it is the basest demand for the party to induce a class of people with prejudice and delude them with false notions of how to cure their troubles.

CHICAGO RECORD—