

JOHN D. SPRECKELS, Proprietor. Address All Communications to W. S. LEASE, Manager. MANAGER'S OFFICE, Telephone Press 204. PUBLICATION OFFICE, Market and Third, S. F. Telephone Press 201. EDITORIAL ROOMS, 217 to 221 Stevenson St. Telephone Press 202.

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AMUSEMENTS. Columbia—"The Belle of New York." Tivoli—"Cinderella." Central Theatre—"The Heart of Maryland." California—Edward Strauss. Orpheum—Vaudeville. Grand Opera House—"Nell Gwynn." Alhambra—"Shamamah." Alcazar—"Nell Gwynn." Olympia, corner Mason and Eddy streets—Specialties. "Chutes, Zoo and Theater—Vaudeville every afternoon and evening. 21. Fletcher—Vaudeville. Mechanics' Pavilion—Masquerade Ball, Monday evening, December 31. Metropolitan Temple—Yale Glee and Banjo Clubs, Thursday evening, January 2.

COMMERCIAL OUTLOOK. THE closing week of the year and of the century was distinguished by noteworthy activity in Wall street and an increase of 11.9 per cent in the country's bank clearings. New York showed a gain of 16.2 per cent and Pittsburgh one of 11.5 per cent, and all the leading cities of the country except Philadelphia, Baltimore and Minneapolis showed an increase, something that has not happened for months. The failures were 213, against 220 for the corresponding week in 1899.

These figures are gratifying as showing a healthy condition of spot business, but the record of failures for 1900 is not as satisfactory. In round numbers the commercial collapses last year amounted to total liabilities of \$170,000,000, represented by 10,500 failures. In 1899 there were 9,393 failures, with liabilities of \$123,132,000. This exhibit shows more failures in 1900 than in 1899, with \$47,000,000 more liabilities. As the foreign export trade this year has been very large and domestic commerce more than good, this marked increase in failures is peculiar. Some effort is being made to explain the inconsistency on the ground that there was a boom in 1899 with rising prices, and a reaction with falling prices in 1900, and perhaps this view is correct. Business last week was featureless, as was to have been expected. There is never much life to trade during the closing week or two of the year. There was nothing new in the staples worthy of remark, but the feeling is that all ought to do better after the turn of the year. Wall street, however, as before mentioned, was lively last week. There was a sharp demand for bonds and stocks, chiefly for investment, and from this it was believed that the public had again entered the market as buyers. Continued good bank statements encouraged the belief that there would be no stringency in money, and this stimulated speculation. London bought largely of American securities. The demand for gilt-edged stocks and bonds for dividends has been so keen ever since the election that they have become scarce and buyers are now limited to new stocks and second-class bonds. The demand is still for dividend payers, however. In San Francisco the century goes out brilliantly. All kinds of trade report a good movement at profitable prices, if we except those farm staples which are always dull at this time of the year. The export trade of the port was never better, and the demand for the northern mining regions and the Orient keeps the ships and shippers busy. The domestic distributive trade, too, is active, and the noteworthy development of the oil fields in different parts of the State is exercising an indisputable influence on general business. Money continues plentiful at easy rates of interest and collections have been exceptionally good ever since the Spanish war, now two years and more in our wake. No complaints are heard from any quarter of merchandise trade, and our local failures are few and generally unimportant. We thus begin the new year and century in exceptionally good shape, and the weather thus far this season has been such that there is a general feeling of confidence in the results of the year 1900.

It is doubtful if any General had better luck in war than Lord Roberts. He was not sent to the Transvaal until Buller had done all the preliminary work and found out how the war should be carried on, and now he is permitted to go home and leave to Kitchener the disagreeable duty of cleaning up. San Francisco is famous for the manner in which she has passed nights chosen by her as incidents of signal interest in her history, but it is safe to say that she will mark the death of one century and honor the birth of another in a way which in its extravagant enthusiasm will surprise herself.

San Francisco is about the only city of importance in the country that has made no preparations for a grand celebration of the beginning of a new century, but after all we may have as good a time and as big an uproar as any of them. The discussion as to when a century begins will now go over as unfinished business, to be taken up again in 1901. Until that time we can rest.

THE CLOSING CENTURY.

AS great men are never fully understood by those who see them nearest, so the great human movements of any particular century can not be rightly appraised by the people of that century. In this as in all things else it is necessary to stand at a distance from an object of much magnitude to be able to perceive it in perspective and so obtain an accurate view of the relations of its parts to one another and their comparative proportions. That which is immediately in front of the eye and is ever present to the mind naturally appears larger and greater than that which is distant and seldom thought of. Consequently the nineteenth century seems to us much larger and grander than it will to those who look back upon it from the distance of a hundred years.

To us it appears as an era of revolution bringing about such marvelous changes in government, industry, commerce, science, art and war as to have virtually created a new social organism; a civilization the like of which was never before seen or heard of. To one it will appear as distinctively an age of science with Darwin as its foremost man; by another it will be deemed the century of humanity with Lincoln as its type; a third will look upon it as the age of material improvement through the combined forces of commerce and industry, having its greatest men among those who have compelled steam and electricity to serve human needs and make better the conditions of all human homes from cottage to palace; a fourth may regard it as a century of liberalism in religion, politics and society, the age in which the human mind has well nigh thrown off all the old shackles and bandages of ignorance, superstition and caste, and stands forth with something of that intellectual freedom necessary to its dignity and its happiness.

Each of these views of the century is in a measure accurate. Compared with the past, the nineteenth has been indeed a century of science, of invention, of industrial and commercial expansion, of material improvement in the conditions of all classes, of a deeper and broader sympathy of man for man, and of an increasing liberality of thought and sentiment. These noble things, however, are not likely to make any deep impression upon the minds of people of the close of the twentieth century. Measured by their attainments our inventions, science, industry, commerce, social conditions and liberalism will hardly appear much better than those of the eighteenth appear to us. The developments of another hundred years of endeavor are going to make our marvels show as very little things. It is great, indeed, for man within a single century to have passed from the days of comparatively small sailing vessels beating their way slowly against the winds to these days of mighty ocean steamers that have converted the Atlantic into a ferry; but what will the noisy steam-driven, machine-racked, laboriously-going, wave-tossed steamship appear like to a man in the next century, who looks down upon it from his swift, quiet, aerial flight, far above the storms, in an airship?

We cannot expect men of future ages to have any greater respect for our science and art than that which we have for the beginnings of those things in former centuries; it is therefore probable that when seen from a distance our chief characteristic as an epoch in history will be our Napoleonic ideals of individual success. For the whole century we have been living under the stimulating influence of that marvelous man who showed that by talent, tireless energy and dauntless courage a man can attain to leadership and mastery, and gain for himself all the prizes of life. That example has been inspiring to thousands, and its benefits to the world have been large, but its influence of it is already waning. Men are coming to have less regard for individual glory and more for the general welfare. The spirit that found a stern joy in strenuous competition is giving way to that nobler one which finds its joy in co-operation and helpfulness.

The twentieth century will have very different ideals from those which have so intensely influenced human life during the whole of this one. It promises to be much more nearly a Christian century than this. It is therefore one to which all men and all nations can look forward with hopefulness. RED CROSS WATCH MEETING. ONCE more we remind our readers of the "watch meeting" to be held by the American National Red Cross this evening at Golden Gate Hall, on Sutter street. Arrangements have been made by the society for similar meetings in upward of fifteen thousand cities, towns and villages in the United States, consequently those who attend will be in sympathetic touch with the grandest of all demonstrations made in welcome of the twentieth century.

The meetings are to be held for the purpose of obtaining contributions to the funds of the society. As has been pointed out, the Red Cross societies in other countries have received endowments from various sources which supply them with means for prompt action whenever an emergency calls for it. The American National Red Cross has no such endowment. When in peace or in war a call is made upon it in the cause of humanity, to which it is devoted, funds have first to be raised before help can be given. So long as that condition of affairs lasts the Red Cross of the United States will be less fitted than that of Europe to perform its charitable and humane work. It is right and fitting that the beginning of the new century should be marked in this country by such liberal contributions to the Red Cross fund as will enable it to act as swiftly as the emergency demands, and to follow with help immediately upon the occurrence of disaster. Bear the meeting in mind, and be among those who watch the old year out and the new century in at Golden Gate Hall under the banner of the Red Cross and in sympathy with its work and its aspirations.

A SONG WITH A MORAL.

WALL street as a rule teaches by example more than by precept; and by experience more than by example. In the great school which it keeps open for all venturesome comers, the lessons are costly and each has to learn them for himself and profit by them as best he can. It is therefore a matter of passing interest to note that much of the moral of all Wall street instruction has been embodied in a song and was sung with hilarity by the brokers at the Christmas eve jinks in the Stock Exchange. The chorus of the song runs thus:

Here's to the bull and the bear; May each one get his share, But as for the lamb We don't care a— We'll skin him out of his hair; O hair; We'll skin him out of his hair! Now of course it is known to the people of every part of the United States except those of New York City that a sheep has no hair; and therefore in trying to raise hair from a sheep it is necessary to take the skin itself. Wall street does that with the lamb who ventures to graze in its pastures. That Christmas song of the brokers, that exultation of bulls and bears, comes as a suggestive ditty to

the people of the country. This is to be a prosperous year. There will be much speculation all around us. The enticements of Wall street will be many. The safe thing to do is to keep out of the ring. Don't be a lamb.

MORE PORTO RICANS COMING.

DISPATCHES from San Juan, Porto Rico, announce that the steamship Arkadia has sailed from Ponce for New Orleans "having on board 400 Porto Ricans, sixty-five per cent of whom are women and children, destined for Hawaii."

That little item of news is a matter of some concern to the people of California and particularly to those employed as workers in our farms and orchards. Not long ago, as will be well remembered, a number of Porto Ricans engaged for work in Hawaii were brought across the continent. From the time it was known they were coming, a yellow journal of this city began working up a sensation, charging that the Porto Ricans were being carried into slavery. By the exercise of its peculiar tactics it managed to induce a good many of the number to break their engagement to go to Hawaii, and to stop in this State. They were without money, without skill in our kinds of labor and could speak only Porto Rican Spanish. They thus became competitors with California labor and were of necessity compelled to accept any wages offered. Moreover, as may be clearly foreseen, they are likely to become charges upon the charity of the communities that receive them.

All such considerations were as nothing to the yellow journal. Having made a fake display of philanthropy by provoking the Porto Ricans to refuse to go to Hawaii, it then undertook to make another by providing work for them. The means by which it sought to do that without expense to itself are shown by the following telegram which it sent to the editor of the Coast Advocate:

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 18. George P. Schaefer, Halfmoon Bay, Cal.: Will you assist us in doing a kindness to stranded Porto Ricans by giving immediate employment or a good home for one of them? Are mild-mannered, strong young men, speak only Spanish and can do plain manual labor. Telegraph answer.

Commenting upon the action of the yellow faker, the Coast Advocate says: "It created a hullabaloo, stopped the men and women from going to occupations where they could have earned a comfortable livelihood, and where they would doubtless be much better off than in the land they left; and now appeals to the public in well turned phrases to assume the care of the unfortunates whom its grasping lust for trade has thrown helpless and penniless among a strange people, of whose ways and customs they are intensely ignorant." If this bombastes furious in the journalistic field were sincere in its efforts for the amelioration of the condition of these people, why does it not send them back to their own country, announce the fact that it has done so, and await the praise that might be bestowed were the public satisfied that the act arose from a disinterested motive?

After a further exposure of the methods of the yellow journal, the Coast Advocate goes on to say: "Many times in the past people who could not afford to give five cents without imposing hardships upon their own, have been cajoled into giving five or more dollars" to some protégé of the yellow journal; and concludes by saying: "It is time this incubus upon the American journalistic world should be called down. It is nauseating." That is the record made up by the yellow journal in dealing with the first number of Porto Ricans engaged to work in Hawaii; and now another company of Porto Ricans are on their way toward this city. Surely it will be worth while for the public authorities, the labor unions and all concerned to see to it that none of them be stopped in this State to be either placed as competitors with our own workers or else made charges upon public charity. One fake of that kind is bad enough. Let us not have another.

BAD TIMES IN BRITAIN

OUR British cousins are having bad times. The war in South Africa continues to harass Britain's army and her treasury; and now a great disturbance has taken place in her financial affairs, leading to the failure of many firms and seriously imperiling others. The coming of the new century will find London in anything but a joyous mood. The fact that Lord Dufferin has been involved in the failure of the London and Globe Finance Corporation furnishes another illustration of the old saying, "Call no man fortunate until he is dead." No Englishman of his time was more successful and more fortunate through a long series of years than Dufferin. He is the most distinguished of the living Governors of Canada and of India, in both of which countries he is honored for his ability and his service; and moreover as a diplomatist at Constantinople and at Paris he attained a reputation as high as that gained by his service in the colonies. Now in his old age one evil after another falls upon him, and he has to face the wreck of his fortune as well as of his happiness.

For a long time past there have been forebodings of financial troubles in Great Britain and also in Germany. These forecasts have undoubtedly had some effect in preparing the public mind, and consequently the evil of the London failures will not be so great as would have been the case had they come wholly unexpected. The disaster will throw gloom over London, and will cause some anxiety elsewhere, but will hardly occasion anything like a general panic. It is a cloud that will pass, and does not to any great extent dim the bright prospects of the new year.

The only defense that has been made of the outrage and brutality of West Point hazing is that it was a "measure of correction." Somebody powerful enough and close enough in the confidence of the President ought to carry that measure to the completion, where the other students of the academy would be taught that the trade in which they are being educated by the Government is not one of crime.

Morocco has paid the indemnity which we demanded of her. This appears to be one of the incidents in which the study of history is good for a nation. We had a little discussion with Morocco once before, and her existing governing spirits probably were taught to remember that we meant then what we said and we have not changed in temperament.

When Congress comes to enact the new apportionment bill our delegation should remind the House that California expects an additional Congressman by way of marking the difference between the old century and the new.

California expects her Legislature to start the new century by setting an example of straight politics and good government, but there may be some disappointments ahead.

A recent dispatch from Europe described the financial situation in Germany as being "black in the face," so it would seem to be a good time for the Kaiser to get in and paint it red.

EVERYBODY

EVERYBODY is on the tip-toe of expectancy concerning the "century ball" that is coming off at the Jewett home this evening. The wide latitude allowed by the invitations—guests to come in character representing some fad or fancy of the old century or some anticipated wrinkle of the new year—are sure to be productive of much merriment. I confess I am anxious to see how Mrs. Jewett will arrange her home for the affair. She is nothing if not original, and I have an idea that on this occasion she will surpass herself. Then, again, I am more than curious to see what she will wear.

On Christmas night Mrs. Jewett gave a delightful little dinner that just bristled with new, pretty and effective ideas. Sixteen people sat down to a table that was beautiful to behold, with its arrangement of fruit and holly. As the guests entered the room they were showered with fine white confetti, until they looked as though they had just come in from a snowstorm. Another surprise was the string of dolls dangling from the central chandelier. One went to each guest, and with them went a dainty present concealed somewhere about the sawdust images.

A Christmas house party such as you read about in swell novels is the kind they had over at "Casa Boyd," the lovely country seat of Mrs. and Mr. Colin M. Boyd, at Frutivale, on Christmas day. The Boyds are ideal entertainers. Their guests are always free to follow their own sweet will, if they so please, or else they may enjoy the many good things that are always arranged for their entertainment. When I tell you that on Tuesday last they surpassed even their own high standard, you may get a faint idea of their merry Christmas. I think there never was such a Christmas night. First came the good cheer, then the dances, in which the feature par excellence was the Virginia reel, and then the fire. The fire was not a part of the programme, but when all the excitement was over we all concluded that it certainly ended a merry day in just the proper way.

It was past 1 when the two and happy guests bid each other good night. It was hardly 4 o'clock when dear Mr. Boyd was roused from his pleasant dreams by the cry of "fire!" In less than five minutes all the members of the household were rushing through the smoke-filled house to the cellar, where a defective chimney was causing all the mischief. Each and every one fell to work with bucket and hose, and danger was speedily averted. The "war" was back to the downy beds and took up the thread of interrupted dreams.

We all had just the jolliest kind of a time at the Ames vaudeville show on Thursday night. The performance went off without a single hitch, and the actors covered themselves with lasting glory. Lathrop's little play was a gem—full of bright, snappy lines and clever situations. I hear it is to be done by truly actors, but I believe they will do it one bit better than did J. North Ames and beautiful Norma Preston.

In the midst of all the fun, though, there was a sweetly sad side to the evening. We all said "good-by" and "bon voyage" to Edith and Norma Preston. They left on Saturday for a trip around the world, and it will be a few months before we have them once more with us. I never saw anything half as pathetic as the soldiers' Christmas festival.

PERSONAL MENTION.

J. Touhey, a Sacramento merchant, is stopping at the Lick. D. Smith, a physician of Livermore, is a guest at the California. M. E. Lyon, a wealthy furniture manufacturer of San Jose, is at the Palace. E. E. Manhelm, one of Fresno's best known merchants, is at the Occidental. W. H. McClintock, an extensive mine-owner of Sonora, is registered at the Lick. George E. Owens, a prosperous oil man of Los Angeles, and Mrs. Owens are at the Russ. E. J. Roy, who is interested in Santa Barbara real estate, is stopping at the Grand. C. C. Merrill, a prominent insurance man of Santa Rosa, is staying at the California. H. Rusty, a capitalist and land-owner of Stockton, is among yesterday's arrivals at the Grand. C. A. Peterson, well known in connection with his Pescadero cattle interests, is at the Russ. Dr. D. E. Chapman, a physician connected with the Napa Insane Asylum, is registered at the Grand. John Hays Hammond, Cecil Rhodes' right hand man, has returned from a brief trip to Oregon and has put up at the Palace.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES

DEALERS IN COINS—E. R. P. Encinal, Cal. If his correspondent will send the addresses of dealers in old coins will be forwarded. This department does not advertise such.

SOLDIERS' LAND CLAIM—T. R. Sacramento. No provision has been made for the award of land to soldiers who served in the Spanish-American war, as was done with those soldiers who served in the war of the Rebellion.

SHELLS—EGGS—J. L. Lorin, Cal. When hens lay eggs without shells it is a result of a lack of a sufficient supply of lime and an excess of soft and animal food. The remedy is to give the hens powdered oyster shells, powdered eggshells, plenty of gravel and old plaster broken up into small bits.

ADMIRAL—C. R. W. Del Rey, Cal. The grade of admiral in the United States Navy is specially created. Those who have held that grade prior to Admiral George Dewey were Farragut, who was commissioned in 1862, and then Porter, who was commissioned upon the death of Farragut in 1868. On the death of Admiral Porter in 1891 the grade became extinct and was not revived until Congress conferred it on Dewey.

TABLE ETIQUETTE—Table Talk, Carson City, Nev. The serving of salad at a dinner is a matter of taste with the hosts. As a rule the Americans serve salad either immediately before or after the soup, as an appetizer. The French serve the salad with the roast to settle the dinner. Everything that is taken as food is as a rule eaten. Bouillon is a clarified soup, and whether one eats or drinks bouillon depends upon the manner of serving the same. If served in cups it is proper to say that it is drinking soup, if served in an ordinary soup plate and carried to the mouth by means of a spoon it is proper to say that it is eating soup. Generally speaking, when other soups are in question, it is proper to say "eat soup." In France bouillon is always served at dinner. If served at a luncheon it should be served in cups. Soup should be eaten from the side of the spoon. The proper way to handle a dinner knife at table is to grasp the handle in the palm of the hand, close the third, fourth and fifth fingers, and the index finger on the back of the blade and use the thumb to steady the blade.

A GAY SEASON is promised at Hotel del Coronado, Coronado, Cal., this winter with a jolly holiday, an expert golf tournament, meeting of field, trial club, hunting, fishing, boating, dancing, etc.

READY FOR SURPRISES AT JEWETT BALL

BY SALLY SHARP.



MRS. ALICE ZISKA JENING, WHO HAS RETIRED FROM SOCIETY AND IS NOW DEVOTING ALL HER TIME TO THE STUDY OF VOCAL MUSIC.

at the Presidio on Christmas eve. I'll admit that we girls worked hard and fully expected the great success the fate turned out to be, but I must say we were incapable of imagining the joy it was to present gifts to the boys. I choked up more than once when I saw those dear fellows, with their deep-sunken eyes, pale faces and yellow kid ears, propped up with pillows and comparing presents. I must say that I never knew before the splendid amount of joy a plain linen pocket handkerchief could bring to a lonely heart. And say, you should have seen those boys munch candy, not the French mixed variety, but the plain "grocery kind"; and you should also have seen them munch icecream. I have not heard anything from the doctors at the post, but I imagine they had a busy Tuesday.

Mrs. Willis is home once more, and so, of course, is her niece, India Scott Willis. I think Mrs. Willis is without exception the most loyal Californian I know. After a sojourn of several weeks in New York, she got back here just three days before Christmas, and then put in a trio of shopping days such as were never known before. Mrs. Willis thinks lots of her friends, and she considered that the best she could do for them on Christmas was to send them presents purchased right in this beautiful city.

WORLD'S NAVAL NEWS.

The French armored ships Duperré and Neptune are to be modernized and receive new boilers and a change of batteries, at an estimated cost of \$30,000 for each ship. The Duperré was built in 1871 at a cost of \$2,800,000, and the Neptune cost \$3,900,000 in 1887. The are both antiquated ships, and the Neptune has a poor reputation as to sea-going qualities. The British cruiser Europa, of 11,000 tons, which was completed about one year ago and has made one cruise only, is to be re-boilered. The Belleville boilers in the ship have proved worse than useless, and it has been decided to apply the only remedy to cure the defect—the taking out of her thirty boilers. It involves an expense of about \$150,000. Additional frauds in the Japanese navy are coming to light, three clerks at the Saheho dockyard and four merchants having recently been arrested, charged with embezzlement and collusion. The frauds appear to be almost general at the several shore stations, several high rank officers and a number of clerks being implicated at three dockyards.

The Earl of Selborne, the new first lord of the British Admiralty, has resigned the chairmanship of the church defense committee. He is still, however, one of the directors of the P. & O. Steam Navigation Company, which receives a liberal annual subsidy from the Admiralty, and has been no intimation of his resignation nor intention of so doing.

The British Navy League calls attention to the fact that the fighting strength of Great Britain in China waters is far inferior to that of France and Russia combined, and only slightly superior to that of Germany. Of battleships England has only three against six of Russia and France and four of Germany. England has but three armored cruisers, whereas Russia and France have six and Germany one. Of first and second class cruisers England has nine, Russia and France eight and Germany six.

The British armored cruiser Cressy, of 12,000 tons, has had her first coal consumption trial of thirty hours under one-fifth power. The ship was down to her designed mean draught of 22 feet 3 inches, and the engines developed 4731 horsepower, with 208 pounds of steam and 74 revolutions. The speed was 13.89 knots and the coal consumption 1.87 pounds per unit of horse-power. Under full power the engines are to develop 21,000 horse-power and 21 knots speed. The Cressy is of the same class and identical with the Aboukir, Rachana, Euryalus, Hogue and Suttie, now in course of construction. They are sheathed and coppered, and the six new American armored cruisers of the California class are improved copies of the British type.

The three Russian torpedo vessels, Oslotr, Kepal and Losos, building in France, will be subjected to unusually severe tests before being accepted, and their construction involves a great expense in that the frames and hulls are to be of nickel steel, which is very difficult of working. The boats are to steam 26 knots with 4750 horse-power. The trials include one of eight hours at 14 knots to ascertain the coal consumption, after which there is to be a six-hour trial at full speed, to be followed by a speed trial of 22 knots, during which the behavior of the engines is to be carefully noted, and within two hours of the end of this trial the boats are again to make a spin under full speed for two hours. There is a penalty of \$200 for each one-quarter knot less than 26 and down to 25 knots, at which a penalty of \$5000 is imposed for each one-quarter knot down to 24 knots, which latter is the lowest limit for acceptance. A miscalculation or a break-down may thus cost the

ADVERTISEMENTS.

FOR CHILDREN Nothing, that comes in a bottle, is more important for children than Scott's emulsion of cod-liver oil. And "important" means that it keeps them in even health. Whenever they show the least disturbance of even balance of health, it promptly restores them. It is to be used as a food, whenever their usual-food does not quite answer the purpose of food. We'll send you a little to try, if you like. SCOTT & BOWNE, 409 Pearl street, New York