

The San Francisco Call. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1902. JOHN D. SPRECKELS, Proprietor. PUBLICATION OFFICE... Market and Third, S. F. EDITORIAL ROOMS... 217 to 221 Stevenson St.

THE CALAVERAS TREES.

THE Calaveras Prospect responds, generously, to our call for information regarding the big trees. The editor enrolls himself definitely on the side that stands for permanent preservation of the biggest and oldest trees in the world.

Agreeing so far, he impeaches us of ignorance of the difference between the big trees and the redwoods of the coast. We were aware that they are species of the same genus, the big trees being the Sequoia gigantea and the redwoods the Sequoia sempervirens.

That this timber is being lumbered, wherever it has passed into private ownership, is a fact that has not heretofore been disputed. If it have no value for lumber or dimension timber, then all the groves are safe from the saw and there is no need of haste in securing the North and South groves, heretofore known as the big trees of Calaveras.

It seems that both groves were long in one ownership, and were sold together on the same tract, and are under one ownership still. The Prospect says that the two groups are part of a great timber tract, which if lumbered will remove the shelter from the headwaters of important streams, and that it is fighting to save not only the big trees but this whole timber belt.

We hope so, and stand ready to aid to that result. Why should it not be purchased by the Federal Government? So far the United States has not bought, to save, a single acre of timber in the West. It has simply reserved from sale to private parties portions of the public domain that are covered with timber.

The Appalachian Park should be preserved. We have no objection to that, and California will not flinch at paying her share of the millions that it will cost. But the tract outlined by the Prospect serves more economic purposes of importance to mankind than all the forests of the Appalachian Range.

Therefore, let us balance the Appalachian Park by the purchase of these timber tracts which skirt the forest reserves of California, until the Government controls enough of the timber belt to compel careful lumbering that will harvest all ripe timber and leave the rest to grow as a permanent forest crop.

Democratic orators may talk as they please about tariff revision, but the people are aware that the Dingley tariff has brought prosperity to American industries and has given more work and more wages to more men than any other legislative act in human history.

BERKELEY NORTH HALL.

THE inadequacy of the university buildings at Berkeley has been long manifest. The enormous enrollment of students far exceeds the shelter which the institution can give. The overflow during dry weather can camp on the grounds, hear lectures on the steps or under the trees, but in the rainy season these expedients must be abandoned.

It is a crisis for the university, and the State must meet it. The building may be susceptible of temporary reinforcement, but the next Legislature should provide for its entire removal and substitution by a modern building, fitted to the purpose, with ample exits, and fireproof. No matter about the cost of such a building. Here is a university which in its student roll is near the head of the world's institutions

of learning. There is every reason to believe that the increase will continue in the future. It is the peculiar glory of the State. But it is insufficiently and ignobly housed, has not shelter for its students, and even the principal roof under which they gather may tumble on their heads.

There is every reason to believe that the expert official condemnation of North Hall is within the facts, and the State may any moment witness a horror there that will make weeping in all its borders. It is not right to subject the faculty and students to such straits and to such a strain. The State must act through the Legislature and remove the risk and at the same time secure a building in line with the high destiny of the university.

A Massachusetts man, whose name is not given, but who is described by the Boston papers as a Unitarian clergyman, has proposed the organization of a movement to bring about the nomination of Senator Hoar and David Starr Jordan for President and Vice President in 1904, and those who like the ticket would better make note of it.

A DEMOCRATIC DILEMMA.

POLITICAL experts residing at Washington and studying the probabilities of the campaign from that vantage ground have been considering what would be the results of the election of a Democratic majority to the House of Representatives. Among their conclusions on that subject is one of more than ordinary interest, since it shows the condition to which the Democratic party in the House has been reduced by the Bryan leadership.

So few and comparatively weak are the Northern Democrats now serving in the House that nearly all important Democratic positions on committees are filled by Southern men. This should the Democrats control the next House the chairmanships of those committees would have to go in nearly every case to the South. Now the Southern Representatives are good men in their way, but they do not represent the business interests of the republic, for they come from a section that is not in the great industrial and commercial movement of the country.

A review of the ranking Democrats on various important committees of the House shows that chairmanships in case of a Democratic victory in the Congressional elections would be distributed thus: Accounts, Bartlett of Georgia in place of Bull of Rhode Island; Agriculture, Williams of Mississippi to succeed Wadsworth of New York; Appropriations, Livingston of Georgia to succeed Cannon of Illinois; Banking and Currency, Talbot of South Carolina to succeed Fowler of New Jersey; Census, Griffith of Indiana to succeed Hopkins of Illinois; Coinage, Weights and Measures, Cochran of Missouri to succeed Southard of Ohio; District of Columbia, Meyer of Louisiana to succeed Babcock of Wisconsin; Education, De Armond of Missouri to succeed Grow of Pennsylvania; Elections, Fox of Mississippi to succeed Taylor of Ohio; Foreign Affairs, Dingsmore of Arkansas to succeed Hitt of Illinois; Indian Affairs, Little of Arkansas to succeed Sherman of New York; Insular Affairs, Jones of Virginia to succeed Cooper of Wisconsin; Interstate Commerce, Davey of Louisiana to succeed Hepburn of Iowa; Invalid Pensions, Miers of Indiana to succeed Sulloway of New Hampshire; Judiciary, De Armond of Missouri to succeed Ray of New York; Merchant Marine, Spight of Mississippi to succeed Grosvenor of Ohio; Military Affairs, Sulzer of New York to succeed Hull of Iowa; Naval Affairs, Meyer of Louisiana to succeed Foss of Illinois; Pensions, Richardson of Alabama to succeed Loudenslager of New Jersey; Postoffice, Swanson of Virginia to succeed Loud of California; Public Buildings, Bankhead of Alabama to succeed Mercer of Nebraska; Public Lands, Shafroth of Colorado to succeed Lacey of Iowa; Reform in the Civil Service, Elliott of South Carolina to succeed Gillett of Massachusetts; Rivers and Harbors, Lester of Georgia to succeed Burton of Ohio; Territories, Moon of Tennessee to succeed Knox of Massachusetts; War Claims, Sims of Tennessee to succeed Mahon of Pennsylvania, and Ways and Means, Richardson of Tennessee to succeed Payne of New York.

With the exception of the time of the Civil War there has never such a sectional division of committee places in the House. A Democratic victory would therefore put the party leaders in the House in a strange dilemma. Either they would have to give almost every committee chairmanship to one section of the Union, or else they would have to set aside the claims of ranking members and give chairmanships to new men from the North without experience in Congressional service.

From that dilemma the country will of course save the already distracted party. Democracy will not have control of the next House and will not have to fret itself over committee chairmanships, but the very fact that such a condition prevails in the House is an interesting lesson on the effect of Bryanism on American politics.

Official investigators have discovered that the Federal immigration office at New York is a nest of corruption. It is to be regretted that the dishonest servants of Uncle Sam cannot be subjected to the same punishment which they are commissioned to inflict upon undesirable immigrants to the United States.

Devery of New York had at least one consolation when he was reelected by the Democratic convention of New York. The majority of the political party with which he insists upon associating himself demonstrated in its action that it still possesses sufficient self-respect to fight for decent company.

Before the voters of any Congressional district in California consent to make a change in their Representative in the House let them demand of the opposition a clear statement of what change they would make in existing legislation and how the change would improve public welfare.

It is announced that Reginald Vanderbilt need not return to Yale to take his second examination for a degree, as the university is willing to send a professor to visit him at his summer home and examine him there. Surely it is nice to be rich when one is a student.

It is said that upward of 60 per cent of all the cotton mills of the Southern States are to be merged into one big combination, and now it is safe to say a good many Southern Congressmen will be less brash in denouncing trusts than they have been in the past.

JAPAN'S GIANT BUDDHA, A WONDER IN THE WORLD OF ORIENTAL ART



MARVELOUS BRONZE STATUE, THE DAIBUTSU, OR GREAT BUDDHA OF JAPAN, WHICH GIANTLIKE STANDS IN ALMOST PERFECT PRESERVATION, AS ONE OF THE MOST REMARKABLE WORKS OF ART IN THE MODERN WORLD.

SITTING alone upon the lotus, under the open sky, wrapped in eternal calm, is the "Daibutsu," or Great Buddha, one of the most remarkable works of art in Japan, or, for that matter, in the world.

This colossal bronze statue is situated in Kamakura, about an hour by rail from Yokohama. Kamakura itself is a paradox, a name only, the city having disappeared from off the face of the earth. Seven hundred and ten years ago, and for 300 years thereafter, Kamakura was the military capital of Japan, the seat of the Shogunate, a city of some million of inhabitants, where Princes of the realm, feudal lords, with their long trains of men-at-arms, surrounded the haughty and powerful ruler. Over a broad site spread for miles the quaint homes of the people, surrounding the great yashiki of the Shogun. Here the science of archery was studied—and put to the proof; the arts and literature flourished; temples were reared. And under the roof of the state-hall stood the ancient statue, symbol through long ages of peace profound, of that serene and holy meditation wherein the soul, forgetful of the littleness, the sordidness, the illusion of life, becomes one of the eternal reality.

Yes, Kamakura was a busy, bustling city, crowded with people, the Daibutsu in its temple set in their midst. To-day there is no vestige of city, no stick nor stone of temple; all are gone as completely as are the men of that generation. But still upon his lotus in serene meditation sits the calmly beatific Great Buddha, where he sat centuries ago.

There is a railroad station with a modern hamlet surrounding it a mile or two from the great statue; there is an old wooden temple with an interesting history built in commemoration of the genius of war, who when he lived was son to that illustrious and valiant Japanese Joan of Arc who conquered Korea; there is an old stone torii of noble proportions and an avenue of fine old trees; there is a modern inn for tourists under pine trees on the edge of the bay—all of these are called Kamakura, yet are scattered rather widely, afar from the statue, and are no part of the ancient city. About 300 years ago a series of tidal waves, earthquake shocks and some disastrous wars which deluged the soil with blood and in which the city more than once was burned, served to destroy the town and to shake down as well the temple built in 1282, that enshrined the Buddha. This temple was fifty yards square, with a roof supported on sixty-three massive pillars. More than 600 years ago, at a date when our ancestors recked little of art, was cast that statue, about fifty feet high, or higher than a four-story house, the length of the face eight feet and a half, of the eye nearly four feet, of the ear more than six and a half feet, circumference of thumb about three feet. The eyes are of gold, and the silver boss (representing a ray of light) in the center of the forehead weighs thirty pounds. The statue is hollow, the inner chamber containing an altar with an image of one of the holy Buddhas, and a staircase into the top of the head.

The work in bronze stands, perhaps, at the head of the incomparable arts of Japan, for it includes, in addition to the various altar-pieces—statues, candlesticks, incense boxes and flower stands or vases—the reverberating gong; the sonorous temple bell, enormous in size and with a solemn and tender tone echoing over a countryside and which visitors come on pilgrimages to hear; the ancient and admirable bronze mirror; artistic and fascinating lanterns; various household pieces enriched with modeling, carving, inlaying, damascening, engraving and a wonderful scheme of coloring; the ancient armor; articulated dragons and other animals by the world-famous artists of the

middle ages, with at least one remarkable and beautiful piece worthy a world's wonder and admiration done by a master of to-day; truly marvelous productions of eagles and other birds, the very plumage of feathery texture; most poetic pictures and panels in metal, and, above all, if there can be a superlative in such a remarkable series, the famous sword of old, superior even to those well-known blades of Damascus and Toledo.

Each one of these phases of the metallic art of Japan merits not alone a page, but an entire volume to itself. And many of them, with pre-eminently the Daibutsu, refute that theory sometimes advanced that the art of the Japanese speaks only through the minutely small.

In the ancient religious city or center of Nara there is standing in the depths of a huge dark temple a Daibutsu that dates from the middle of the eighth century and which was originally covered with gold brought from "foreign countries." It is fully as large as the statue at Kamakura; its head, however, is believed to be comparatively modern, and is certainly very ugly. In no way as a work of art infused with spiritual or symbolical meaning or in effect upon the emotions of the beholder does it compare with the calm and benignant statue of Kamakura. The latter well repays long study and repeated visits, and, in truth, yields comparatively little of its meaning at first sight.

Much of the charm of the temples and religious places of Japan consists in the profound sentiment with which they have been placed in the midst of the most beautiful natural surroundings, generally among great trees, not unlike the firs and redwoods of California in their habit of growth. To approach through a quiet and beautiful country along an avenue of centuries-old trees—trees actually related in family to the awe-inspiring Sequoia gigantea of California—to pass under a lofty and most harmoniously modeled "temple gate" or great archway of simple and distinctive lines and to approach a temple or shrine, plan yet thoroughly artistic in every detail, and sheltered in the impressive greenery and perennial beauty of a grove of tall trees—this is the truly ideal setting for a place of religious worship and meditation. And the great bronze Buddha at Kamakura, deprived of its ancient roof, is itself a shrine under the blue dome of heaven and confined by no walls other than those of the rustling grove. It is to be hoped that the zealous priests in charge may be long in collecting alms enough to rebuild the sheltering temple.

Prunes stuffed with apricots. Townsend's. Townsend's California Glace fruit and candies, 50c a pound, in artistic fire-etched boxes. A nice present for Eastern friends, 633 Market St., Palace Hotel Building.

Special information supplied daily to business houses and public men by the Press Clipping Bureau (Allen's), 22 California Street, Telephone Main 1942.

Standard Novels of the Day Free With the Sunday Call. "THE AUTOCRATS," By Charles K. Lush. "ALICE OF OLD VINCENNES," By Maurice Thompson. "THE GENTLEMAN FROM INDIANA," By Booth Tarkington. "THE LEOPARD'S SPOTS," By Thomas Dixon Jr. "WHEN KNIGHTHOOD WAS IN FLOWER," By Charles Major. "THE GOSPEL OF JUDAS ISCARIOT," By Aaron Dwight Baldwin.