

THE SAN FRANCISCO CALL

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TALK OF THE TOWN AND TOPICS OF THE TIMES



Dewey and the Diver.

Joe Reardon, a big strapping young Irishman, has the reputation of being the best diver in the United States naval service. He has earned it by doing stunts below the surface of nearly every sea on which Uncle Sam's war vessels have sailed.

At 1 o'clock when Admiral Dewey noticed that the wrecking operations had ceased, he sent for the executive officer, the captain and the gunner to learn what was the trouble.

Blank was strapped, as he tells the story, and on hearing of Ralston's liberality, he stepped into the California Bank one morning and asked if he could appeal to Mr. Roy's candor.

When Ralston was informed of the request he gave instructions to have the visitor admitted. The boy walked in with as much confidence as if he had a million dollar load on his shoulders.

Impressed by the boy's candor the generous Ralston handed him an order on the cashier for the amount asked and passed on to other matters.

The glow-worm and the firefly glow Among the ways of bygone days; A golden shaft shot from a bow Or silver, star and moon swing low.

There has just been sold in London to a firm of stamp experts doing business there and in this city a collection which has been twenty-one years in the making.

Townsend's California Glace fruits and choice candies, in artistic fire-stamped boxes, are now present for Eastern friends.

TRADE SITUATION FAVORABLE.

THERE is not much variety to business at present. The markets of the country are generally in a normal condition, more so than for some months, and whether we look at agriculture or finance or merchandising we find the same monotonous conditions.

The staples are in a humdrum condition at the moment, but they exhibit one particular feature which must not escape attention. The record for March shows a very significant trend in prices, as eight out of thirteen classes of products, including breadstuffs, meats, textiles, hides and leather and building material, declined.

The financial conditions continue excellent. Money is in abundance all over the country and likely to continue so. A significant feature in this connection is that recent engagements for gold to be shipped to Paris attracted no attention and were offset by liberal receipts of gold from Japan at San Francisco.

The crop prospects of the country, on which so much depends, are excellent. Fine weather all over the great wheat belt is encouraging the sowing of spring wheat, and though conditions are rather below the normal they are better than they have been.

The stubborn efforts being made in Paris by representatives of the United States of Colombia to impede the construction of the Panama canal cannot serve even an evil purpose.

THE ARBITRATION TREATY.

A FEW weeks ago a national arbitration association was formed in Washington, to promote an arbitration treaty between the United States and Great Britain. The meeting to form this association was attended by a large number of eminent men.

After weeks of a wearying game of hide and seek on the sea Japan and Russia have progressed in belligerency far enough to engage in a land battle on the soil of Korea.

tries, perceiving the benefit of this method, should seek to avoid friction over each question that arises, by a general arbitration treaty, under which an orderly settlement may be had.

With men like Cardinal Gibbons, Jacob Dickinson, General Miles, Bishop Potter, Archbishop Ireland, Judge Gray, Edward Everett Hale and others of equal influence and dignity, and of all parties and religious denominations, promoting such a treaty, it is to be regretted that a constant note of opposition and of bitter antagonism is heard, caused by prejudice that has its radix in long past events to which this country was not a party.

During the coming campaign there may be no time to promote this movement, but it is to be hoped that next year public opinion on the subject will be made known to the Government in such positive form that the initial steps will be taken by the two nations to bring it about.

Some of our local ministers have taken occasion in public discussion to castigate certain collegians that believe that beer drinking, roistering, hoodlumism and cad-dishness constitute elements of success in studentship in higher culture.

Additional escapes of Chinese coolies from the Mail Dock detention shed have been called to the attention of the Federal authorities with a monitory reflection that something be done to prevent this cheating of the exclusion law.

The Supervisors of San Francisco are of the opinion that we should have a law to stop the disgraceful race-track gambling which is daily drawing thousands of men and boys into a net of dishonesty and disgrace in our wide open downtown poolrooms.

It is the purpose of the Democrats to have 4000 seats in the arena at their St. Louis national convention. Every seat will be occupied. Every occupant will have a policy of national politics.

The devout residents of several Indiana towns were forced this year to attend Easter services through the medium of boats, wending their watery way through canals that had been streets.

A woman of this city, whose special sphere of usefulness in the general economy of things is divine healing, has sued her spouse for divorce on the score of cruelties, varied, distressing and elaborately systematized.

Another example of that wisdom which passes understanding and rules in the administration of our Emergency Hospital has come to public notice. An unfortunate, overcome by ammonia poisoning, sought relief in this municipal house of first aid and was discharged in a few hours with the encouraging assurance that he would soon feel no effects of his injuries.

Our health authorities have entered the public schools with what appears to be a vigorous and intelligent purpose of preventing or minimizing disease among the school children. Such a campaign should have begun long ago in San Francisco and its progress will be watched with the greatest concern.

A Los Angeles man, having reached the age of discretion indicated by sixty-four years and having received a sentence of two years' imprisonment for forgery, asked the court to commit him to the penitentiary for life.

In two months the defaulting Treasurer of San Jose rid himself of \$8000 of the city's cash. As a high flyer this ex-custodian of the public funds has Santos-Dumont at a disadvantage of several degrees.

The creditors of Daniel J. Sully, the collapsed New York king of cotton, are frantically engaged in an endeavor to find some of his assets.

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MEN and MATTERS IN THE FOG as the WORLD MOVES



New Zealand Wonders.

To the small island colony of New Zealand nature has been most bountiful in the contrasting variety and prodigality of her gifts, for within the limited area of the land of the Moa are to be found the greatest geysers on earth, the highest waterfall of the universe, the most extensive ice field in the explored world.

Where nature has been so lavish it seems but reasonable that man should be encouraged to great experiments, and New Zealand has proudly risen to expectations by embarking on a tide of progressive legislation which for some time past has commanded the close attention of all civilized people.

Over 120,000 citizens of the United States now annually visit foreign countries, and their expenditures constitute a formidable claim upon the country to be settled in international trade by shipments of merchandise in excess of imports.

The investment of capital is protected in such a manner that for years past money has been pouring into the colony, which, during the present year, has reached the high-water mark of unprecedented general prosperity.

The housing of the poor, the provision of old age pensions for respectable colonists whose advanced years have drifted them beyond wage earning possibilities and the reform measures adopted for the reclamation of children and other first offenders against the country's laws have all been dealt with on lines of liberal advancement that have compelled, even fascinated the interest of more lethargic law-makers in all parts of the world.

These points suggest a few of the social conditions which obtain in this wonderland of the Pacific, where nature has been pleased to make her records in geysers, waterfalls, glaciers and fjords. Of the Tasman glacier, Green, the great Alpine climber, has said that nowhere in the Alps is there such a scene of surpassing grandeur.

Chinese financiers are drawing long faces over the ways and means of raising the 25,000,000 taels (about \$18,000,000) for the celebration of the seventh birthday of that astonishing woman, Tsi An, the modern Semiramis of Eastern Asia.

A monument in the form of a drinking fountain, the gift of the Hon. William Tebb, has been erected at Burslow, England. Cut on the front of the drinking trough is this inscription: "In memory of the mute fidelity of the four hundred thousand horses killed and wounded at the call of their masters during the South African War, 1899-1902, in a cause of which they knew nothing, this fountain is erected by a reverent fellow creature."

Americans Abroad.

Over 120,000 citizens of the United States now annually visit foreign countries, and their expenditures constitute a formidable claim upon the country to be settled in international trade by shipments of merchandise in excess of imports.

The Viceroy looks younger than he is, bearing lightly the weight of his sixty years. His long, flowing beard, burning black eyes, with an occasional yellow sheen, and his somewhat prominent nose bespeak his Armenian extraction.

The prospects on this coast are highly satisfactory. The crop outlook could not be better, and as prices for all farm products are excellent everybody looks forward to continued good times.

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Tsi An's Birthday.

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Due Honor.

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