

THE SAN FRANCISCO CALL

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MEN and MATTERS IN THE FORE as the WORLD MOVES



Astoria Versus Fishermen.

Special Correspondence. HEADQUARTERS OF THE CALL. HENRIETTA STREET, COVENT GARDEN, LONDON, May 30.—Fishing rights in the upper reaches of the river Thames, close to Cliveden, have been for the last two years the source of much heated controversy between the Thames Conservancy and William Waldorf Astor. The body which controls the river stock it yearly with a view to the aim of providing recreation for a number of persons who choose to spend their Sundays and holidays as faithful disciples of Isaac Walton. In former years Mr. Astor, while prohibiting fishermen from casting their rods from that part of the river bank which adjoins the Cliveden estate, graciously allowed them to fish from boats in the river itself. This concession gave but scant satisfaction to the innocent sportsmen and this year the Thames conservancy has been again appealed to. A deputation waited upon the lord of Cliveden a few days ago only to find out that he had decided to close the river—stream and bank—against all but his personal friends. As the law stands he is perfectly within his right in doing so, but the Thames conservancy, in spite of the fact that it is an absolutely fossilized and conservative body, can get its back up at times, and it is believed that Mr. Astor has prodded it into doing so. If all other means fail to move Mr. Astor the conservancy will apply to Parliament to make new laws for the government of the river Thames. It is somewhat significant that Queen Alexandra and Princess Victoria, who used to be frequent visitors to that part of the river, have not been seen there since it became known that Mr. Astor had excluded ordinary fishing folk.

Special Correspondence. An Audience With Edward. HEADQUARTERS OF THE CALL. HENRIETTA STREET, COVENT GARDEN, LONDON, May 30.—As private audiences with King Edward are generally granted only to distinguished men either in the diplomatic or consular services, the recent reception of Jacob H. Schiff of the New York banking house of Kuhn, Loeb & Co. caused much discussion in society circles. Mr. Schiff, on getting home, seems to have had but little to say regarding his audience with his Majesty, but I learn privately that it was secured through the influence of Sir Ernest Cassel, the Jewish Baronet, who is on terms of personal intimacy with the King, and that the whole affair was arranged at the last Newmarket race meeting, where Mr. Schiff came into personal contact with King Edward for the first time. Mr. Schiff is also said to have contributed a good round sum to charities in which the Jewish community here is interested. The alien emigration act is causing the Jews much anxiety and they are doing all they can to save their coreligionists from repatriation. Mr. Schiff went alone into the Whitechapel slums and there investigated for himself the conditions under which the poor Jews live. He was the guest of the Rothschilds during a portion of the time he spent in London and with Lord Rothschild he went closely into the methods that govern and regulate the Jewish Board of Guardians. He also visited the Alexandra Trust, which was founded by Sir Thomas Lipton and in which her Majesty the Queen is so personally interested. He saw the work people of the district enjoy their midday meal there and he expressed astonishment at the cheapness and good quality of the food supplied. He wondered why a similar institution could not be established in Whitechapel for the benefit of working Jews. It is understood that Sir Ernest Cassel is considering a scheme of the kind.

Origin of the Whitecaps. The term "whitecaps" has come to be synonymous with bands of men united by secret ties for the purpose of committing unlawful acts or for the purpose of taking the law into their own hands and administering justice to offenders against public morals who cannot be reached in the regular way. But New England's earliest "whitecaps" and the first bearers of the name were organized for a different purpose. Their origin dated back to the days of Rainsford Rogers, an impostor and vagabond, whose villainies outdid all the efforts of Henry Taft. Rogers was a sharper of the keenest penetration, and his plan was to take advantage of the credulity of the unsophisticated New Englanders by the most daring and original of bunco games. Though illiterate, he was once a schoolteacher. He pretended a deep knowledge of chemistry, and claimed that he possessed the power to raise or to lay spirits, good and evil, at his pleasure. He began his career of operating on the superstitious belief of people at Morristown, N. J., in 1783, where he succeeded in defrauding a large number of followers out of a large sum of money

A MORE ANIMATED ASPECT.

BUSINESS conditions showed some change last week. While quotations as a rule exhibited little fluctuation, the feeling throughout the country appeared firmer on the whole, with more optimism and inclination to do business. In these respects the aspect of trade was better than for some weeks. In no part of the country was this improved feeling more manifest than in Wall street. While trading continued light, there was no selling pressure nor even any pronounced tendency to liquidate, and, in fact, the professionals were not inclined to sell anything bearing a standard brand. A better demand for good bonds was apparent, and as a demand for bonds is almost invariably followed by a better demand for the higher class of dividend-paying stocks, the street became more buoyant. Some well posted operators even went so far as to express the opinion that a moderate rally in the market might be expected after the two political conventions were out of the way, though the wish might have been father to the thought. The fact is, everybody seems to want a rise in stocks. There are few bears, while the bulls are numerous. But nothing can be done in the way of a bull campaign without the active participation of the public, which still hold aloof and cannot be induced to buy on a large scale. They watch the quotations day after day and are apparently deeply interested, but they take it out in watching, as the fox watched the grapes. Astute observers in close touch with the stock market said a year ago that the public had sunk more money in Wall street than anybody was aware of and that it would be several years ere their pockets would be replenished with the speculative capacity, and it looks as if their predictions were coming out true. At any rate, while good stocks are unquestionably low and money is wonderfully plentiful and cheap and readily accessible to solvent borrowers, and the leading financiers are employing all their blandishments to induce the investing class to take hold of the market, they are turning a deaf ear to the siren song and staying out of the arena. The leading factor at present is the condition of the crops. In fact, it is freely said that they will dominate all trade conditions this year, as the effect of the "Presidential year" has been largely discounted. Prospects for a bounteous yield of everything are excellent, and it is probably this condition which imparts increased confidence to the commercial situation. Wheat, cotton and corn bid fair to be very large crops, and the minor products of the farm are not behind them, though the season is several weeks backward. Gold exports have apparently ceased for the time being, at least, and as receipts of Japanese gold at San Francisco are again offsetting the shipments of gold from New York to Europe, and, indeed, exceeding them at the moment, no more talk of the unfavorable effects of a gold efflux is heard. The New York banks say that with the regular production of the country, the receipts from Japan and the Klondike, reinforced later on by cotton and grain bills on Europe, combined with the stock now on hand, which in itself is abundant, there need be no apprehension concerning gold exports from now on. Another favorable showing which is attracting considerable attention is the increase in exports of manufactures from the United States, our shipments of manufactured iron alone during the past ten months amounting to \$89,000,000, or almost \$10,000,000 more than during the corresponding period last year. And this in spite of the great falling off in the domestic demand for iron and steel, which has done so much to depress stocks and general trade and make the country bilious. It is quite possible that if the vast steel combine had been managed by conservative business men instead of a set of madcaps and reckless plungers, who apparently labored under the delusion that gold double eagles grew on bushes like blackberries and that the crop was inexhaustible, the current recession in trade might have been much less marked and perhaps avoided altogether. Ten years from now, when perspective gives us a broader and more comprehensive view of this era, it will probably be found that the iron and steel trust was the great rank weed, the upas tree, that grew up in the financial and commercial garden and blighted all the cultivated plants in the plot. For the rest, business is quiet and devoid of especial feature. R. G. Dun & Co. report that the cost of living has continued to decrease without interruption since March 1. Stocks of food products and manufactured goods have largely increased and are still increasing. The markets of the West are full of provisions, and it has been found, after many years' observation, that commercial inactivity is almost always preceded by a heavily supplied and declining provision market, and vice versa. The demand for cash wheat at Chicago and other Western points is extremely slow. The Minneapolis flour mills found it necessary to close down several days last week owing to the poor demand for flour. The textile mills of Pennsylvania and New Jersey have lately been obliged to do the same, and for the same reason. The New England footwear factories alone reported a fair demand for their product. No further reductions in the staffs of the great railways were reported, but all the railroads are retrenching, and their earnings continue to show a small decrease, say 2 or 3 per cent, from the preceding year. A significant commercial sign is the readiness with which employers of labor find men to fill the places of strikers. This has not been the case until quite recently, and it goes to show the decreased activity in general business. As such it is a most significant barometer to current conditions. Turning from the country at large to the Pacific Coast, we find conditions fully as cheerful as they have been at any time. There is the same steady influx of home-seekers, the same cutting up of large land holdings to accommodate these immigrants, the same plethora of money, the same fine crop prospects, the same large export and interior trade, the same broad and sanguine commercial smile. True, business is quieter than last year at this time, but then this is the case all over the United States, and we cannot expect to completely ignore nor to be immune from influences that govern the rest of the country. Besides, this is summer, when trade is always more or less quiet. The bank clearings of the country last week were 14.2 per cent below those for the corresponding week last year, but the clearings themselves were larger than for the preceding week by \$200,000,000, being in round numbers \$1,779,420,000. The failures for the week were 227, against 215 last year, and included none of note. Two children in this city ate pills recently that had been thrown as samples on doorsteps, and death in terrible agony soon followed. Nothing has been done to

Japanese Army Rations.

General Weston, chief of subsistence of the American army, has solved what he believes to be the great secret of the wonderful mobility of the Japanese army. It lies in the field ration, a sample of which he has received from Major W. B. Barker at Nagasaki, one of the American officers who are watching the war. The ration shows that the Japanese soldier can live and fight for a month on a food supply that weighs less than the daily ration of the American soldier in the field. The fish received by General Weston is about seven inches long and an inch and a half thick in the middle, and is dried until it resembles petrified wood. It weighs only twelve ounces, but Major Parker says it will sustain a Japanese soldier for seven days. When soldiers are on the march they eat the fish just as it is, biting off small pieces, which are thoroughly masticated, but when they are in camp the fish is shaved off in small slices and cooked with rice. The fish resembles a mackerel, but its Japanese name is "mambushu". The fish is about two feet long and thick and solid before preparation for the army ration. In preparing it for army use it is cut in two and steamed and dried alternately until it is reduced to about one-eighth of its original size, with a corresponding reduction in weight. Each Japanese soldier can carry enough fish and rice to last him three or four weeks and a whole army can be made absolutely independent of commissariat trains that are indispensable in other armies. If the Russian soldiers could live on as little as the Japanese require the Siberian Railroad would have little to do but haul troops, for one trainload of dried fish and rice would sustain General Kuropatkin's army for weeks. Dried fish is used only as a field ration. The regular daily ration in the Japanese army consists of one and a half pounds of rice and half a pound of canned meats. The daily ration in the United States army weighs about four pounds and the emergency ration is not a great deal lighter.

Berlin's Marine Bride.

"The Marine Bride," one of the best-known characters in the streets of Berlin, is dead. She was usually to be seen on Unter den Linden, between Friedrichstrasse and the Brandenburger Thor. She was a worn looking woman, about fifty-five, shabbily dressed, although of good family, and always carried a heavy bag. Every Berliner knew her, and no one molested the poor, demented creature. Her story is tragic. Many years ago she was betrothed to a navy surgeon, and shortly after her engagement she received news that he was drowned at sea. Her mind became unbalanced, and since the day of the fatal news she has wandered along Unter den Linden, believing that her betrothed would return to Berlin, driving through the Brandenburger Thor. In the heavy bag she carried what she believed was a suit of clothes, for which her lover would exchange his sea-stained garments.—London Daily Telegraph. Occasionally a girl marries a man just to keep him from hanging around the house evenings.

GUARDING ST. PETERSBURG.

THE latest war news of significance is to the effect that, with the imminent fall of Port Arthur to spur them to feverish activity, Russian military councils have directed their attention to the defense of their own capital. News dispatches from St. Petersburg state that the fortifications guarding the waterway to the Czar's imperial city on the Gulf of Riga and at the entrance of the Gulf of Finland are being strengthened by the addition of some new and high power guns, that the approaches to Cronstadt are being mined and that the fortress of that name has been made the center for a chain of water batteries stretching along either shore of the Gulf of Finland. St. Petersburg is being made impregnable. This news carries with it a weight of vital significance disproportionate to the mere record of the armament of the protecting fortresses. Nobody believes that the capital of Russia is in immediate danger of being beleaguered, nor, indeed, that a direct attack upon it by Japanese forces is even a probability. A Japanese fleet in European waters would be met with as great a storm of protest from non-combating powers as our own flying squadron in the Spanish war had it carried into execution the threat of a direct attack upon Spanish seaports. The meat in this situation for the diplomats and strategists to digest is this: that Russia has awakened to the fact that she is being whipped unmercifully in this struggle with little Japan, and the fear that comes to the wounded has made her show her teeth to the rest of the European pack which stands in eager anticipation about her borders. These few months of fighting in the Far East has brought a great surprise to the world, a greater surprise to Russia. Even those who gave of their sympathies to the brown men from the first dared hope only for an even break in the shares of victory between the two antagonists; others who were bound by fear or favor to the giant of the north could see in the hostilities ahead nothing but a series of heavy skirmishes in which Russian force would annihilate the upstarts from the Mikado's land. Followed disaster after disaster to the Russian navy, the occupation of Korea without a struggle, the landing of Japanese troops upon the shores of Manchuria. Still the pro-Russians urged that the world should just wait until the Russian soldier got into action. He has done so, has been terribly beaten on the Yalu and on the Liaotung peninsula, and the Russian stronghold in the East is about to fall from his hands. All this has struck home to the Czar and his people. All vaunted might and terrible strength conjured up by fear about the grim shadow of the great Slav empire is being shredded away by the bayonet strokes of the Japanese. Russia turns her eyes to her ally, France; France leans nearer to the Dover cliffs than to the Neva's banks. To Germany Russia looks; Kaiser Wilhelm never raises his eyes from his knitting now. A great fear strikes home to the Russian heart. The road to St. Petersburg, like the road to Moscow nearly a hundred years ago, is hedged with defenses.

A PERPLEXED HERDER.

AS the chairman of the Democratic Congress committee is named Cowherd, it is fair to assume that one of his ancestors was quite successful as a herder. The distinguished gentleman from Missouri, however, is having a much harder time as a herder than ever his ancestor had. Evidently it is much more difficult to herd political asses than to herd cows, for in his efforts to herd his party into some kind of orderly grouping and making them keep to the road the Missourian is having no success at all. A recent report from Washington announces that Mr. Cowherd has opened the campaign headquarters of his committee, but is in great perplexity as to what to do next. According to the report Mr. Cowherd says the committee is receiving a great number of applications for speeches on this and that subject of current political interest, but especially on the tariff. He thinks this is going to be another campaign of education like that of 1896; but is not sure whether free silver will be a plank in the platform, whether advanced tariff doctrines will be expounded by the party's declaration of principles, or what attitude will be taken in regard to the trusts and other matters. Under the circumstances the perplexed campaign manager does not know what kind of literature to send out. At present he is going slow. Perhaps in the end he may decide to abandon politics and take to herding cows. Such a course would not only enable him to be true to the traditions of his name, but would lead him into paths both pleasanter and more profitable.

Answers to Queries.

SANTA ROSA—S. A. Duncans Mill, Cal. Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, California, is at an elevation of 192 feet above the level of the sea. TO NAGASAKI—A. O. R., City. The distance from San Francisco to Nagasaki via Yokohama is 5338 miles and via Honolulu is 6184 miles. CASINO—Subscriber, City. In the game of Casino unless it has been agreed that on the last deal, points made shall count as made, the count is cards first. HOLIDAY—Subscriber, Oakland, Cal. This department has on several occasions announced that in the United States there is no national holiday, not even the Fourth of July, as Congress has never declared a national holiday for the Union. CHEAT—J. F., Napa, Cal. "Cheat" is a volunteer growth that sometimes appears in wheat and oats. It manifests itself in lowlands and is a result of ground that is too moist. For additional information on this subject address communication to the experimental station, University of California, Berkeley. RINCÓN HILL—Subscriber, City. "Rincón" is Spanish for "inside corner." That section of land on which now stands the Sailors' Home, once the United States Marine Hospital, was in the early days of San Francisco called "Punta del rincón," or point of the inside corner. The hill, which at one time was the fashionable residence district of San Francisco, derived its name from the "punta del rincón." PRINCE OF WALES—S., City. The Prince of Wales is the eldest son of the reigning sovereign. After the present sovereign of England became King Edward VII the title of Prince of Wales fell to his eldest son, George Frederick Ernest Albert, Duke of York, who was born June 3, 1865. The King had an elder son, Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence, who was born in 1864 and died in 1892. THE BALDWIN HOTEL—S., City. The Baldwin Hotel in San Francisco, which was destroyed by fire in 1898, was a six-story building that contained 495 rooms. It was what is known among builders as a frame building within a brick shell. The top of the dome was 168 feet above the line of the sidewalk. It had a frontage of 185 feet on Market street, 25 on Eddy, 275 on Powell and 185 on Ellis. These are the dimensions of the new Flood building, ground measurement. This week pen, eye-glasses, 15c-50c. 79 4th st. front Key's Cel. Oyster House. Service for others is the solvent of our own sorrow. Townsend's California Glace fruits in artistic fire-etched boxes. 715 Market st. Special information supplied daily to business houses and public men by the Press Clipping Bureau (Allen's), 233 California street. Telephone Main 1042.

prevent a repetition of the crime, and yet the law seeks to protect even pet dogs that may be sought as victims by designing and malicious persons. Legislation framed to give children at least equal protection would be welcomed as encouraging.

Suing a Prince.

Prince Frederick Leopold of Prussia has just had a judgment issued against him by the Berlin courts in a suit brought against him by his former chief of the household, Baron von Luck, and has been condemned to pay the latter a pension of \$3900 a year for the remainder of his life. This is the first occasion, I believe, of a Prince of the reigning House of Prussia being brought into court, and of having a judgment rendered against him, and the affair has attracted a good deal of attention on the continent of Europe just on that account. It would not have been possible under the old laws, but has been rendered so by the terms of the new code, which is destined to prove one of the principal memorials of the present Emperor's reign. It is a pity, however, that the case was ever allowed to come into court, for the Prince is colossally rich and the sum at stake was a relatively small one. Moreover, Baron Luck had been for many years an old and devoted servant of the Prince and claimed, when forced to sever his relations with the Prince, a pension based on the whole time that he had spent in the Prince's service, whereas Frederick Leopold was only inclined to rate his pension upon the relatively brief period that he had acted as grand master of his household. Emperor William declined to interfere, it being, however, generally understood that he sympathized with the Baron, and thus it is that the courts have been called upon to determine the issue, settling it, as I have stated above, against the Prince and in favor of the Baron.—La Marquise de Fontenoy.

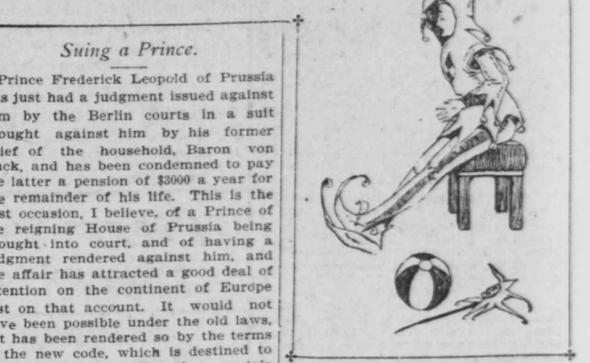
The Rose of Memory.

Once, in a garden of supreme delight, I saw it, rimmed with dew; Sweet-singing to the scented summer night: "It is a dream of you!" "A dream of you, dear—bringing sweet unrest, From which I would not part. . . . How could it bloom to wither on my breast, Sweetheart! Sweetheart! Sweetheart!" After the years comes love, by memory led. Where stars forget to gleam: The garden ruined, and the dear rose dead.—The phantom of a dream! There, with the ghosts of stars that made heaven bright, Prophetic of love's pain, Alone love kneels, and prays the holy light: To bring the dream again. After the years! . . . Life is a little space—The frailest flower's breath, And life's one joy to dream of your dear face.—Down to the gates of death. O, sea! dividing lives that loved in vain—O coral isles afar! Darkness and distance, where the storms come plain.—From troubled star to star—Read me her dreams, beneath the alien skies. Over the wild sea-foam. . . . Love is not love that is not sacrifice—And love will lead love home.—Atlanta Constitution.

A Prince of Swindlers.

It is noteworthy that for several years past the police in various European capitals have been seeking a man who has swindled various people out of thousands of pounds on the pretext that he was possessed of the plans of German fortresses for which the French Government were prepared to pay him huge sums of money. This mysterious individual was described as the "Prince of Swindlers." He has lived in the most expensive hotels upon the money obtained from his victims and his society was much sought after owing to his charming manners. "Morgan," "Ferguson" and "Baron von Schella" are a few of the names under which he is alleged to have made the acquaintance of many people in fashionable hotels and to have swindled them out of sums of money varying in amount from a few hundred pounds to thousands. His system of obtaining money was ingenious and bold, but it varied in details according to circumstances. It was, in fact, a brilliant elaboration of the confidence trick. Posing under one of his aliases, he would confide in persons who believed in him that he was in communication with a German officer, who was prepared to sell him the plans of the fortifications of Metz or Strasburg, or both. Also that for these documents a Marquis, acting for the French Minister of War, was prepared to pay a very large sum of money—sometimes as much as \$329,000. He would induce his victim to secretly meet the "Marquis" who would offer large sums for the plans, but not so much as the "Baron" desired and negotiations would hang fire. In the meantime the mythical German officer would insist on drawing some money, which the victim was induced to hand over to the "Baron." This would go on until the credulity or the funds of the "gob-tween" were exhausted, and then the "Baron" would fade into space and the French "Marquis" would disappear as mysteriously as he had appeared. Five years ago the English police held a warrant for the arrest of a man believed to be the swindler in question for practicing the same sort of fraud upon an Austrian. Nearly three years ago an English gentleman complained of having been robbed in a precisely similar fashion by "Baron von Schella." Every effort was made to discover this man. Hotels were watched, but the "Baron" was living in affluence abroad and Scotland Yard could do nothing. As regards the arrest in the present case, Mr. Harris and his friend, Mr. Birkbeck, working in collusion with the Scotland Yard detectives, pretended to carry on the negotiations for Mr. Birkbeck to meet "Ferguson" and the "Marquis de Manneville" at the Hotel Moderne, Orleans, to hand over a sum of money. All kept the appointment, and so did the police. The hotel was surrounded and a motor car was in readiness to be used for purposes of pursuit if necessary. The

TALK OF THE TOWN AND TOPICS OF THE TIMES



precautions were not taken without need, for "Ferguson" did succeed in escaping in a cab, and was not captured until he had reached the Serot railroad station—four miles away. He was about to go away by train when the police motor car dashed up to the station. He had \$3,000 francs in his possession, but the "Marquis," who was to pay \$320,000 for the bogus plans in Mr. Harris' possession, had no more than 17 francs in his pocket. On learning of the arrest Mr. Harris crossed to Paris to join Mr. Birkbeck in assisting the police in bringing "Ferguson" to justice. Between two and three years ago "Baron von Schella" ruined a London doctor by inducing him to part with £1500—the whole of his fortune. Schella, who then lived at a private hotel in Bayswater, where the doctor with his wife also resided, produced to him the "secret plans" of Metz, Strasburg and Breslau, and the drawings of a new German gun. These, of course, were fictitious, but he persuaded the doctor that he was to receive 2,000,000 francs for them from the French Government, and promised him £6000 as his share. Another gentleman living in the same hotel was also victimized. The doctor was taken to Holland and introduced to "Count de Beville," who agreed on behalf of the French Government to pay 2,000,000 francs for the plans. A final meeting was arranged to take place at the Lord Warden Hotel, Dover, but the doctor, having parted with all his money, waited in vain for the Count and Baron.—London Mail.

A Toast to a Greenland.

If it is difference of opinion that makes horse races, as Mark Twain avers, it certainly is difference in tastes that makes the art of cuisine. The palate of the hardy Greenlander might be said to have an almost elemental power of distinction, for we read in an English paper that Mr. Kor-Ko-Ya, a Greenlander, who has monopolized the commerce of East Baffinland, has a fleet of fourteen vessels and is worth £2500. He recently celebrated the fortieth anniversary of the foundation of his business, his employes drinking his health in cod liver oil.

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