

THE SAN FRANCISCO CALL

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MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 1904

TRADE CONDITIONS QUIET.

TRADE was singularly dull and featureless last week all over the country. From the Atlantic to the Pacific there was hardly a ripple on the surface of the commercial pool.

There was one satisfactory condition, which was the diminution of rust damage reports from the Northwest. That scare has about run its course. The injury to the wheat crop from this cause is figured at about 15 per cent, or about 90,000,000 bushels.

The Chicago strike is still deranging matters throughout the West, especially in the cattle-raising sections, and the stockmen of the Dakotas are reported in desperate straits, as, failing to find the usual outlet for their cattle, they are obliged to keep them on the ranges and feed them at a heavy loss.

Another feature of general trade is the large number of clearance sales reported in retail quarters. They are unusually numerous and are taken to indicate a falling off in the demand for food and clothing.

The volume of business, however, as far as the bank clearances indicate, is at the moment rather larger than at this time last year, as the clearings show a gain over 1903 of 6.5 per cent, which is a better showing than they have been making of late, and most of the important cities are ranged in the increase column.

Conditions in the leading staples have not changed for weeks. Provisions are dragging all over the country. Wool is firm enough in price, but quieter, as the high quotations lead the manufacturers to proceed with caution.

There is nothing new in Wall street. There seems to be nothing in sight to produce either a bull or a bear market, hence stock valuations show no pronounced changes. The general tone is buoyant, however, and it would be easier to make a bull than a bear market.

The failures for the week were 285, against 142 for the corresponding week in 1903, but they were small and generally insignificant.

THE CAMPAIGN OPENS.

THE Democratic campaign in New York is open. The task was committed to Senator Bailey of Texas. The Senator is privately understood and alleged to be the representative of the Standard Oil trust, and so was qualified to pour oil on the troubled waters of New York Democratic politics.

Having disposed of the economic issue of the campaign by accepting the Republican position as correct, he proceeded to attack the President as an exponent of social equality with the negro, and ran a Texas steer gallop through the race question.

If he will take his bearings he may learn that no one wants the South to be ruled by negroes. That is not at all the question. The constitution says that when the South, to avoid negro rule, suppresses the negro vote, the negro population shall not be counted in the apportionment for members of Congress and votes in the Electoral College.

All that President Roosevelt has ever claimed for the negro was put in his speech at the Lincoln monument in 1903. He said: "It was my own good fortune to serve beside colored troops at Santiago. A man who is good enough to shed his blood for his country is good enough to be given a square deal afterward."

Now let Senator Bailey explain if he can that it is a square deal to disfranchise the negro and then use him in the population apportionment to increase the political power of those who have disfranchised him.

Two local physicians were censured by a Coroner's jury a few days since for the grave offense of suppressing a crime that had been masked under the easily worn and little respected honor of another member of the medical profession.

A suggestion was recently made that the local authorities convert four blocks of Van Ness avenue into a mining dumps to remind the Knights Templar and other distinguished visitors, who will be among us shortly, of our palmy days.

The revolutionists of Paraguay are doing yeoman service to prove that the story of the general who marched his army up the hill and then marched it down again was no joke. The malcontents are certainly a diverting lot, true to the traditional quarrels of the South Americans and refreshingly unconscious of their position as toy soldiers in the wars of the world.

A United States soldier posing as a foreign nobleman succeeded a few days since in getting himself into a serious muddle with the peace officers of New York and now he faces a rather gloomy future filled with prospective prosecutions for forgery.

MISS DEMOCRACY: "DID I HEAR SOMETHING FROM YOU, ALTON?"



TRACKLESS RAILWAY IN PRUSSIA

A trackless railway is being erected by the community of Mannheim, which will be the first of its kind in Prussia. It will run from Mannheim to Langenfeld and will be about two and a half miles long, with two short branches intended for freight purposes.

The main line will serve for the transportation of persons, baggage, mail and freight. An extension is possible at both ends. The roadway from Mannheim to Langenfeld is twenty-three feet wide, with a good basaltic cover about fifteen feet in width, running almost in an air line, with the exception of a few curves. A special contrivance for coupling is provided in order to keep the cars exactly in line; this takes the place of wheel flanges in ordinary rail trains.

The wiring will consist of two hard copper wires, with hard rubber insulators, carried by iron poles about eighteen feet above the middle of the road. For entering farmyards lying close to the road there will be used instead of the regular wire a connector and flexible cable fifty to seventy feet in length, by means of which the current will be transmitted to the motor car.

A MOMENT OR TWO WITH WELL KNOWN PERSONS

The King of Spain is passionately fond of horseback riding. He began as a boy of 7 and chose bigger horses as he grew up.

Senator Platt of New York has moved to his new house at Highland Mills, Orange County, New York, where he has bought a 400-acre farm and he says he intends to make this his permanent home hereafter.

A grandson of Alexander Hamilton resides in Elk Neck, Md., keeping a country store and acting as postmaster. He is seventy-four years old and always speaks of the first Secretary of the Treasury as "grandpa."

John L. Sullivan is managing a New York cafe now. He is getting old, but if you don't like what is handed to you at his place he is still willing to hand you something else with that terrible right. Sullivan is a most obliging caterer.

Andrew Carnegie gives a bonus of 10 per cent upon their yearly wages to all employees upon the Skibo estates who are total abstainers from intoxicating drink. He believes that such are well worth their bonus, both from an economic and a social point of view.

MUCH IN LITTLE IN THE CALL SCRAP PILE

The International Committee of Anarchists, in a recent session at Barcelona, decided to establish a new center of the Anarchist Society at Tangier, Morocco, whence its propaganda will be spread.

General Kuropatkin's complaint that his men are too old calls attention to the fact that the Russian system tends to place rather old men with the colors in war time. The liability for service extends from the twenty-first to the forty-third year. The first four years are spent with the colors and the conscript is then a reservist for fourteen years. It is quite likely, therefore, that Kuropatkin has received many reservists of about 39 years of age. Japan's service age is from 17 to 40.

Ninety-two persons have been killed in the Alps this season. A bill has been introduced into the House of Commons designed to confer upon the Home Secretary power to order a new trial in cases where he thinks there are proper grounds, as when there is reason to suppose that a prisoner may have been the victim of a miscarriage of justice.

The camp of an English volunteer regiment was attacked by a hurricane on August 6. Nearly all the camp equipment was carried away and lost, although an officer's bathtub was found three-quarters of a mile away. The colonel was waded some distance and landed on the rocks. Both his shoulders were dislocated and he was badly cut.

In Tibet nearly every public office has two incumbents. One is supposed to be a check on the other. But sometimes this dual authority does not work well—in war, for example.

IN ANSWER TO QUERIES BY THE CALL READERS

JAPANESE POPULATION—J. W. R., city. The number of Japanese in Japan is given as 44,895,956 before the war.

PUBLIC LANDS—Lenox, city. The State Surveyor's office, Sacramento, can furnish you information such as you desire as to State lands.

BOTH CORRECT—M. B. Tudor, Cal. There is no objection to either of the following expressions: "It is ten minutes of twelve," or "It is ten minutes to twelve."

THE NAVY YARD—J. B. S., city. For the information desired as to the amount of pay the employees at the navy yard, Mare Island, received on a particular day, address a letter of inquiry to the commandant, Mare Island.

TRAINING SHIP—A., Alameda, Cal. A boy must be between fifteen and seventeen years of age to be admitted in the United States in a training ship. For full information address a communication to the United States Training Station, Yerba Buena Island, San Francisco, Cal.

Townsend's California Glace Fruits in artistic fire-etched boxes. 718 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.

FOR DAINTY MAID AND THE MATRON FAIR

A Little of Everything of Matters Feminine.

BEAUTIFUL PEARLS ARE OWNED BY SOCIETY LEADERS OF GOTHAM

Caprices of Fashion, Recipes and Useful Hints.

A London milliner owns the oldest bill for dressmaking in the world. It is a crude stone tablet found in a desert of Chaldea and relates to an order for ninety-two robes and tunics for the virgins and priestesses of the temple, fourteen of the costumes to be perfumed with myrrh, aloes and cassia, after the fashion mentioned in the Psalms.

JAPANESE WOMEN AT TENNIS. Japanese women, for all their pretty listlessness of carriage and manner, are beginning to take an interest in athletic sports. An American woman tells how she played tennis in Japan with native women.

"It is wonderful how agile they are," she said, "and it certainly is a most extraordinary sight to see them playing in the regular Japanese dress, the pretty soft silk robe so associated with reclining ease, and the thick soled sandals."

"You can imagine the effect of the sunlight on the sheen and gorgeous hues of the silken dress. Of course, the serve and return of the balls sends the gayly costumed little ladies into the prettiest of posturing. They look like flowers lightly blowing about the court."

"The thick soled sandals are not hard to run in. Indeed, I was assured they were most comfortable for the sport."

"Some of the Japanese ladies I met set up a strong enough game to play with their husbands, who enjoyed the imported game immensely."—New York Sun.

DAINTY TABLECLOTHS.

Tablecloths de luxe are now favored for set dinners. Their centers are composed of lace or drawn thread insertions and embroideries. This is decorative alone, but to make it more so a piece of gold or silver gauze is frequently laid on the table under the lace insertion, through which the gauze gleams with dainty effect. Silver table decorations go with the silver gauze; gold gauze is preferable when the flower vases are of crystal or colored glass and when the dinner service has much gilding upon it.

ODD EMPLOYMENT FOR WOMEN.

There is one woman blacksmith in Chicago. Nine women are livery stable keepers and eleven are undertakers, four are plumbers and steamfitters, twenty-five are bartenders, sixty-six are lawyers, seventy-nine are dentists, 165 are listed with the clergy and 548 are physicians and surgeons.

The Soul of Wit.

A caller stopped at the house of a certain man and asked if he was at home.

"Deed, an' he's not," replied the woman who answered the ring.

"Can you tell me where he is?" "I could not."

"When did you see him last?" "At his funeral."

"And who may you be?" "I'm his remains," said the widow, and she closed the door.—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Tight, or rather snug, cuffs of the elbow distinguish the puff sleeves of one fur blouse.



MRS. GEORGE J. GOULD, WHO WEARS A MAGNIFICENT STRING OF PEARLS, AND MRS. CLARENCE MACKAY, WHO IS OFTEN SEEN WITH A BROOCH CONTAINING WHITE, PINK AND BLACK PEARLS.

Mrs. Clarence Mackay has a large diamond and pearl brooch, a stem and leaf, the leaf in three sections, says the New York Times. This brooch is set solidly with diamonds, and in the center of one segment is a white pearl, of another a pink one, and of the other a black pearl. She often wears this to fasten a large bow of white tulle under her chin.

Mrs. George J. Gould's string of pearls is magnificent, and she has a dog collar and many others.

The string given by Senator Clark to his daughter Katherine, now Mrs. Lewis Rutherford Morris, as a wedding gift, is marvelous. Mrs. Frederick Pearson, who was Miss Ayer, daughter of Dr. Ayer, inherited from her mother, Mrs. Ayer, pearls that it took Dr. Ayer years to collect, and which are claimed to be worth \$1,000,000. Miss Pauline Astor has a pearl necklace valued at \$100,000.

Brighter Side of Life.

He Got Up.

A traveling man once put up for the night at the leading hotel in a small town, and before retiring left very particular instructions to be called in time for an early train.

Early in the morning the guest was disturbed by a lively tattoo upon the door.

"Well?" he demanded, sleepily.

"I've got an important message for you," replied the bellboy.

The guest was up in an instant, opened the door and received from the boy a large envelope. He tore it open hastily and inside found a slip of paper on which was written in large letters: "Why don't you get up?" He got up.—Rochester Herald.

Evenly—And did he pine away and die after you refused to marry him? Imogene—No; the ungrateful wretch married miserably well.—Chicago News.

A Desperate Case.

"Boss, Ah yeans de melon crap dropped off half dis yeah?"

"So I hear, uncle."

"An' de sweet tater crap?"

"Yes, uncle."

"An' de 'possum done leabin' Texas?"

"Yes, uncle."

"Bos, you s'posen hit mek any dif-funce of us nigsuhs vote de Dimmy-crat ticket dis fall?"—Atlanta Constitution.

As He Expressed It.

"So you don't mind my piano play-ing, Mr. Skorcher?" said the girl next door.

"Not at all," replied Skorcher; "I like it best, though, when you're coast-ing."

"When I'm coasting?"

"Yes; when you keep your feet off the pedals."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Many of the most effective frocks for girls are still made of accordion plaiting in shaded rose-colored chiffon. Blue and brown chiffon are also treated in the same way, with sashes of souple taffeta and incrustations of dainty lace or point d'esprit, edged with Valenciennes.

With the exception of white and cream, there is no doubt that pink takes predominance and has ousted the pale shades of green and lemon which threatened us in the early part of the season, but which could only be becoming to women possessed of beautiful coloring and youth.

USES FOR MILK.

When you come home from shopping, or are tired from overwork, try a cup of hot milk. It is very refreshing as well as nourishing. The only point to be remembered is to take it in sips and not in one draft. For the complexion milk is excellent. If the face is wrinkled or sallow bathe it in hot milk. Treat the face to hot milk every night and improvement in whiteness will soon be apparent. When you are thoroughly tired out take a milk bath. A gallon costs but little and added to your bath water will make it much more refreshing and works like magic in banishing fatigue.

FRUIT SNOWBALLS.

Take about two cupfuls of bread dough, add half a cupful of butter, mix in one cupful of currants and raisins of any kind of fruit, form the dough into six small balls, steam them half an hour, roll them in powdered sugar and serve hot with whipped cream.

JELLY OMELET.

Mix and cook a plain omelet with two eggs, three tablespoonfuls of milk, a pinch of salt and a very little sugar. Just before folding spread with jam preserves or marmalade, fold in half and when on platter sprinkle with powdered sugar.

TO CLEAN BAMBOO FURNITURE.

Rub with a small brush dipped in warm water and salt. The salt prevents the bamboo becoming yellow. Clean wicker chairs and Japanese and Indian matting in the same way.

In the Gloaming.

"How beautifully," exclaimed Gwendolen, "yon lovely lakelet reflects the last rays of the dying sun! Do you know, I agree with the poetic soul who speaks of water as the 'eye of the landscape.'"

"But it isn't, you know," murmured Jawge. "You are the 'I' of the landscape."

Then the mosquitoes, like a poultice, fell and drove them from the porch.—Chicago Tribune.

All for a Joke.

"You shouldn't be darning socks at this late hour, mother."

"Oh, yes I should."

"Why, don't you know it's midnight?"

"Yes, and don't you know it's never too late to mend?"

And the old lady, who had been sitting up all the evening for a chance to spring the joke, went to bed with a feeling of deep satisfaction.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.