

THE SAN FRANCISCO CALL

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CURRENT BUSINESS CONDITIONS.

WHILE there were no salient features to trade last week, certain new conditions arose and they may possibly presage some variation in the monotonous current of commerce which has prevailed for some months.

First, stocks of some kinds of winter goods are now found to be unduly large, owing to the warm weather of a fortnight or so ago, which for the time being checked the usual distribution of winter clothing, fuel and other midwinter merchandise and enabled the production to not only overtake consumption but actually pass it.

Another condition is that prices of some leading staples have shown a tendency to recede from the high plane on which they have been for some time. Thus, the hide market has become duller, with less inquiry reported in a number of sections.

The coal controversy still hangs over the country, and while there has been no strike yet, the possibility that one may occur tends to unsettle business more or less over a wide and densely populated area.

The above are about the only adverse features at the moment. Against them we have a continued brilliant exhibit of the bank clearings, those for the week showing an increase in business over the same time last year of 28.8 per cent, with practically every one of the first cities and towns on the list of the ninety reporting their clearings showing a gain, while the aggregate clearings continued extremely large, being \$3,481,839,000.

The railroad earnings for January show that the month was the most active January ever experienced by the transportation lines, the net increase over January, 1905, being 10.6 per cent, which is about the heaviest monthly increase for over a year.

The stock market itself has been without sensation during the week. The quotations have been fairly sustained as a rule, but it is worthy of note that the volume of business has been steadily shrinking for some days.

As far as this coast is concerned, the week passed without special incident. Renewed rains and warm weather gave additional promise of abundant crops in the harvest of 1906.

San Francisco is showing wonderful industrial and commercial activity. Real estate operations continue large and brisk and the way the city is rushing along with the erection of new buildings, mercantile and residential, has never been exceeded, even in the famous flush days of '49.

WYLIE IS SCARED.

PROFESSOR WYLIE of the Chemical Bureau of the Agricultural Department is scared by the result of his investigations in adulteration. No doubt the sophistication of food is too general, but the professor is going to extremes when he fixes the exact number of millions of children that are killed by soothing syrups and milk.

The appeal for legal interference to punish and prevent adulteration has heretofore been made in the interest of health, and it must be confessed that the results are unsatisfactory. Professor Wylie seems to be putting a last ditch argument on that line, by declaring that he trembles with fear when he approaches the dinner table, loaded with adulterated food.

If Senator Tillman would adopt the rule never to say anything until he has counted 5000 he would get along much better.—Chicago Tribune.

Poultney Bigelow may file an objection against giving that horse credit for reducing Secretary Taft's weight.—Washington Post.

DREAM OF THE RAREBIT FIEND. A multi-panel comic strip featuring a man and a rabbit. The man is obsessed with the rabbit, and the rabbit is a cunning character. The comic includes various scenes of the man's obsession and the rabbit's antics.

OCCIDENTAL ACCIDENTALS.

By A. J. Waterhouse.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW, LITTLE ONE?

WHAT do you know, little boy, little boy? Of the years that hitherward run, Bright with life's gold or gray with alloy, Dripping with tears or smiling in joy?

What do you know, little girl, little girl, Dreaming your dream of bliss? What shall the fabric of years unfold, Straight from the loom whence our life-webs whirl?

I once knew a boy, little lad, little lass, Who dreamed, as I know that you do, That the sun-lighted morrows in rapture should pass.

Your face is so bright, little lass, little lad, Your laugh such a sonnet of bliss, I would pray to the Father your days might be glad.

Subsequent Career of Ananias. After Mr. and Mrs. Ananias had been stricken dead for attempting to make a little financial profit by lying, they wended their way to the straight gate and knocked for admission.

Why didn't you do like Henry H. Rogers is going to do—refuse to testify? "We are not that rich," was the explanation. "Well, anyway," was the response, "your ticket has brought you to the wrong destination. You belong downstairs."

Answers to Queries. A Quotation—H. F. S., City. The quotation asked for is: To hope till hope creates From its own wreck the thing it contemplates. It is from Shelley's "Prometheus Unbound" published in 1819, Act IV, last stanza.

To Locate a Person—Call Reader, Belmont, Cal. If you desire to locate a person who is supposed to have been a resident of San Francisco thirty-five or forty years ago place an advertisement in The Call asking for information of such person.

VALUE OF DETERMINATION.

By Angela Morgan.

There is a certain characteristic frequently encountered in persons of refined sensibilities which proves a serious handicap to them whenever they attempt to gain their due in any walk of life.

This is an interior lack of self-assertion; a shrinking; a too easy deference to the wishes or the convenience of others at those times when the wishes and convenience of one's self should be consulted first.

When not so sustained they cease to be virtues and become weaknesses instead. The element of firmness, the quality of backbone, is essential before any character can become thoroughly sound and admirable.

I used to think it a great injustice of fate whenever I saw hoggish, selfish, vulgar people pushing in and getting more than their due, while the unselfish persons who considered others first failed to even approach their rightful inheritance.

This compelling quality constitutes the secret of one man's success and another's failure. It explains why one person can command any favor while another equally deserving finds his slightest wishes ignored.

The secret of the star boarder is likewise explained. You know the confident, aggressive boarder who arrives late for meals, don't you, yet who takes his seat with an assurance not to be denied?

The loud-voiced woman boarder, who fusses and storms and complains, is the one who gets her windows washed, her window shades repaired and her room kept free from dust, while the soft-voiced, sweet-tempered woman is compelled to put up with blurred windows and all the other undesirable things she has not the nerve to resent.

What usually happens as the result of such seeming irony of fate is just this: The refined, gentle person is tempted to believe that refinement and unselfishness do not pay and that only by bullying others and walking over them can one succeed.

I think nowhere have I seen a clearer explanation of this subject than in the letters of Lord Chesterfield to his son. Over and over did Chesterfield repeat the maxim of which he declared, "I do not know any one rule so unexceptionably useful and necessary in every part of life."

He discovered a panacea for all the diseases that afflict mankind. "He ought to have become rich in selling it." "He would have done so if it had not been for just one thing."

She cared no whit for anti-fat, As advertised, I mean; But, oh, she read the papers through To find an anti-lean.

A Little Lesson in Adversity. The man who is most willing to extend a helping hand to his fellow-man is the man who has known what want and poverty and the need of help is.

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Childs was a Baltimore boy, who entered the United States navy at the age of thirteen. He remained in the navy for fifteen months. He was only fourteen when he went to Philadelphia to make a try for his fortune.

At the end of a few years he had saved a few hundred dollars, and opened a store for himself in the building of the Philadelphia Ledger. His definite ambition was to make himself owner of the paper and the building.

At twenty-one he was a member of a publishing firm; and he was still a young man when he came into the realization of his ambition. Despite apparently insuperable hurdles he had reached his goal.



GEORGE W. CHILDS.

ALL SORTS.

James K. Polk, a great-great-grandson of President Polk, is one of the champion whist team of Washington.

Mr. Monkey—What became of the baby? Mrs. Monkey—Mr. Hippo, who is running for office, came around and kissed him.—Harper's Bazar.

"What started old Pinchpenny to studying occult science?" "He wants to cultivate a new sense so he can see a bill collector through a brick wall."—Detroit Free Press.

In the French city of Beauvais a small vehicle, built with two wheels and drawn by a man or boy, is in common use. It is called a vinsigarette.

The Japanese Imperial Library at Tokio has on its shelves something like 3000 written and printed mathematical works, extending as far back as 1556.

The most expensive thermometer is in use at Johns Hopkins University. It is valued at \$10,000 and is an absolutely perfect instrument. The graduations on the glass are so fine that it is necessary to use a microscope to read them.

It is proposed to hold a laborers' exhibition in Paris in 1909. The object will be to offer a comparison between the life of workmen throughout the world to-day and that of laborers in past centuries.

Measuring seven miles in length and signed by 830,654 persons, a petition is to be presented to the British Parliament next session asking that a bill be passed for the prohibition of the vivisection of dogs.

"Why did you insist on only \$90,000 a year as your salary?" "Because," answered the high financier, "as soon as people hear \$100,000 mentioned they get suspicious. It is better to keep the figures marked down a little."—Washington Star.

"I've been told, professor," said Mrs. Locutte, "that the fashionable gown, in your opinion, is immodest." "Not at all, madame," replied Professor Cutting.

"No?" "No; in my opinion the woman who wears it is."—Philadelphia Press.

The new Italian postage stamps will not bear the monarch's head, but a variety of different designs, such as the sea under the rising sun, an Alpine landscape, a ship at sea, a railway train, the Italian arms and a wireless telegraph station.

Dr. G. N. Brinck, deputy superintendent general of education of the Philippines, says that the islands have 300 American teachers, 3000 native teachers and more than 600,000 native pupils, like Japanese in intellectual readiness and keenness.

In a close and uncertain State like Ohio in determining whether or not a sick man was incurable it might depend somewhat in times of great political excitement on whether the doctor was a Republican or a Democrat.—Chicago News.

"Do you think we shall be allowed to follow the same avocations in a future life that we do in this?" "I hope so." "What do you do?" "Nothing."—Cleveland Leader.

The Judge—But if you tooted your horn how is it that the plaintiff did not hear you in time to get out of the way? The Defendant—I am convinced, your Honor, that the accident was due entirely to the inferior velocity of sound.—Brooklyn Life.

Hold-up Pete—Shoot me for a catamount, but them tenderfoots in that coach have nerve. They don't seem a bit skeered of guns. Bad Bill—They ain't skeered of nothing. That's a bunch on their way to the divorce colony.

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