

The San Francisco Call

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FUEL FAMINE OFFERS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE RELIEF CORPORATION

SAN FRANCISCO'S refugees are suffering for coal. There is much distress in the camps for lack of fuel and the situation does not improve. A great many families are still sheltered— if shelter it may be called—in flimsy tents that have practically outlived their usefulness. The small gas heaters that are supplied in some of the cottages are of little effect to contend with the sharp weather that has prevailed for nearly a month.

It is not alone the poor of the camps, the refugees proper, that are suffering. Other people in moderate circumstances feel the pinch of high prices and scarcity of fuel. In the present condition of the market it is not sufficient to have "the price." The distribution of coal goes by favor. The man with a "pull" gets the preference.

In this emergency we believe that the Relief Corporation can do a great work for the poor of San Francisco if its controlling spirits will just get out of the imaginary rut of scientific charity, so called. That variety of charity is nothing but a state of mind at best, a form of scientific superstition, paresis ambitious to achieve paralysis.

Here is the opportunity for the Relief Corporation to charter colliers and bring coal in plenty to the suffering people. It will be told, of course, that there are no coal-carrying ships available for charter. It will be told that there is no coal to be bought on the Pacific Coast; that the lumber-carrying steamers are using it up; that many of the British Columbia miners have gone to the Nevada mines—it will be told the half truths and whole lies that are being passed out to a shivering public. The people interested in the fuel monopoly will call the Relief Corporation fools and try to raise a laugh at their expense. They may be accused of "butting in" where they have no business.

But there is coal to be had, and there are ships and trains to carry it. Money can find the ships and cars and the coal to fill them. The Relief Corporation has the money—enough of it to solve tougher problems than this. If it cannot buy coal and charter ships and trains in the Northwest, there is still cable communication with Australia, which has coal in plenty and idle steam tonnage to hurry it here. The Relief Corporation is still bewildered over what to do with its \$4,000,000 surplus. Here is a great and useful work for it—a work closely akin to that for which the fund was subscribed.

The Relief Corporation is not expected to be a money-making proposition. Quite probably it will have to pay something more than the market for the cost of carriage or even for coal at the pit mouth. The corporation is not limited by strictly business considerations. A great need can be relieved by making a small loss. This newspaper calls on you, Mr. Phelan, and on you, Mr. Spreckels, and on you, Mr. de Young, and the other influential and humane men who are intrusted with the administration of the relief fund. We call upon you to make a valuable precedent for a worthy object. The fact that it is a new departure need not deter. There is pressing need and it is your business, your trust and your duty to relieve it.

The fact that you will thereby assist in breaking down a greedy and heartless monopoly will be, we are certain, a powerful consideration making for your assent to the proposition here suggested. We feel assured that one and all you have the interests of the poor at heart and will do nothing to assist the scheme to squeeze the last dollar from the small consumer; but, on the contrary, we are persuaded that this condition will most strongly address itself to your humane temper and spirit of incorporated relief and inspire you to immediate action. It is, in fact, the poor of San Francisco who are suffering from the present scarcity. The big business houses, the manufacturers and the corporations have the first call on the fuel in market. The small consumer can bring neither fear nor favor to help him fill his coal bin.

GREAT MORAL AWAKENING AT SACRAMENTO

If one might construe the bills introduced at Sacramento as expressions of opinion and policy by their putative parents the conclusion could not be escaped that this is a Legislature of all the virtues, and that an extraordinary and, indeed, unexpected "moral awakening" had swept the membership like a tidal wave or some other convulsion of nature of the sort that brings sinners to repentance and their knees. We should not, for instance, call Grove Johnson a hoary old reprobate because we find him right on the side of the ten commandments with a searching Sunday law that might make Connecticut look blue. We don't know whom or what Mr. Johnson is after this time, but we welcome him to the ranks of the elect. It was time he got religion, and he seems to have it bad. We hope it will last for at least two months. We scarcely know whether it was the same dim religious spirit moving Mr. Johnson that inspired his bill to permit criminals to select their own judges—it is suspected that some of them own judges—to try them. There is a haunting suspicion that this Johnsonian measure was designed in the interest of Abe Ruef—our own honest Abe—but it may be merely the natural cussedness of John-

Legislative Attaches at Work



son, who wants to clutter up the criminal and civil practice of the courts some more, as if the procedure were not already complicated and bedeviled to madness by the perverse ingenuity of lawyers. The inevitable conclusion compelled by the two measures described is that Assemblyman Johnson is in favor of the ten commandments, but against their enforcement.

Leaving the versatile Johnson in the attitude of a foxy saint, with one leg on either side of the fence, let us take up the case of Senator Hartman, who appears among the many who are called. Mr. Hartman offers the commonwealth of California a bill that puts in plain prose the sentiments of the eminent Dr. Isaac Watts, to wit:

Let dogs delight to bark and fight,
For God hath made them so;
Let bears and lions growl and fight,
For 'tis their nature to.
Birds in their little nests agree,
And 'tis a shameful sight
When children of one family
Fall out and chide and fight.

'Tis the voice of Hartman speaking, but one seems to feel the hand of Ruef, which is a natural-born reacher. We feel sure that the prizefight trust will take notice.

In a word, the bill file points the way of salvation, but none need make the mistake that in Sacramento virtue is its own reward. To the casual observer, indeed, this Legislature looks too good to be true.

SOME BLUNDERS CORRECTED

SOME critics of the Panama canal management were free to say last month when bids for the contract were made on the day assigned that gross blunders had been committed, and they did not disguise their belief that similar mistakes would postpone indefinitely the letting of the contracts. These prophets of evil are confuted by the event, and the contracts will without doubt be let to some one of the bidders who appeared on Saturday. The basis of compensation, if the lowest bid is accepted, will be 6.75 per cent on the estimated cost. Certain important modifications in the contract have been made since December 12, when it was found that the requirements were such as to discourage bidders. These modifications are chiefly:

Reduction in the amount of the bond required; relief of the contractor from liability for defective material, throwing upon the Government the expense of replacing any that may be discovered; a Government guarantee to cover fluctuations in the wage scale on the isthmus; and a stipulation by the Government that no contractor shall be held in loss on account of faulty engineering data.

The last mentioned provision was demanded by prospective bidders because the Government engineers had been proved guilty of certain astonishing blunders. Among these were the plans for the Gatun dam and the three locks to be constructed at that point. The plans called for locks of 900 feet in length. When the Senate committee investigated the canal management last spring a witness pointed out that the drawings called for locks of only 790 feet in length. Commissioner Noble disputed this statement and insisted that he had sketched the plans for the locks himself and they provided for locks with 900 feet inside space. That was very well, but on examination of the drawings he found that the locks had in fact been cut down to 790 feet. The cause for this reduction was quite simple, although not very creditable to the Government engineers. It was found on measurement that there was not room enough on the hill for locks of the original length, as designed. In a word, the design was a good deal in the air. We may hope there will be no further blunders of this magnitude to correct.

NOTE AND COMMENT

It may be true that the world is growing more honest, but we observe that the thefts, embezzlements, etc., of the United States for 1906 totaled up the sum of \$14,739,653, which does not include any part of the fruits of endeavor gathered by the San Francisco grafters.

Gossip in Railway Circles

F. W. McDonald, industrial commissioner of the Santa Fe, had a narrow escape from death on last Monday afternoon. He was in his office in the Monadnock building, when the west wall of the Palace Hotel was being torn down. A part of the fire escape tore loose from the falling bricks and was hurled across the alley. It broke through the window of McDonald's room and almost smashed the glass partition that divides his office from that of John Duffy. McDonald jumped from his chair, and so saved his skull from being fractured.

H. O. Wilson, who attends to the freight interests of the Union Pacific, and S. F. Booth, who is the general passenger agent of the same company, left yesterday for San Jose to attend the annual banquet of the National Union last night. L. M. Cheshire, the local agent of the Union Pacific at San Jose, is the president of the union.

J. H. Griffin, district freight agent of the Canadian Pacific, in speaking of his line, said: "I was all through Canada before coming out here, and I was astonished at the general prosperity of the country. An immense amount of business is being done in Montreal, Toronto and London, and Winnipeg will one day be the Chicago of Canada. The Canadian Pacific has several branch lines under construction, especially in Manitoba and Alberta, so as to tap the grain country. These lines will be the first

to be finished, as the biggest business is in these two sections. I understand the work of completing the Cross Nest line is to be undertaken shortly. It is already built from Dunmore Junction to Midway, B. C., but no date has been set when it is to be connected with the main line east of Vancouver. When finished we shall have the shortest route to the coast."

J. J. Byrne, assistant passenger traffic manager of the Santa Fe, arrived in the city yesterday. His headquarters is in Los Angeles.

S. A. Story, manager of the Lake Shore and Lehigh Valley Dispatch, was in the city yesterday and called upon the different railroad offices. He stated that he was in Los Angeles for fourteen days, and only saw the sun twice. He said that he was astonished at the amount of building that was being done in San Francisco, and declared the work spoke volumes for the grit and enterprise of the people.

John Brock, president of the Tonopah Railroad, is on a visit to the city. He says Nevada is only in the commencement of her gold production.

F. A. Valentine, district passenger agent of the Canadian Pacific, is on a visit to Los Angeles, and is expected back within a few days. Jay Adams of the Nickel Plate left last night for an extended trip through the Northwest.

Progress of the State Noted by Press of California

AMERICAN cities have found it profitable to learn from the example of Paris. Many of them have expended vast sums to make themselves attractive, and all that have done so have reaped financial rewards while gratifying the civic pride and the love of the beautiful of their inhabitants. Among California cities Los Angeles was first to realize the value of attractiveness as a commercial asset, and her people, actuated by wisdom as well as a broad spirit of local patriotism, have voted their port of entry into the United States. They have proved that it pays to improve and beautify, and they are reaping a reward that they have justly earned by their enterprise and public spirit.—Oakland Tribune.

The sunset of Rockefeller's life is touching," writes a sentimental Eastern girl. Well, just try to "touch" his pocketbook, or ask him to reduce the price of oil, and see what kind of a "set" he will give you.—Berkeley Gazette.

Up in Alpine County there was a tie vote on the office of Superior Judge, and now a new election is to be called to settle which one of the candidates shall wear the ermine. A singular feature in connection with the contest is that in the whole of Alpine County there are only ninety voters. It is often a difficult matter to secure a jury in a criminal case, and if the court were to charge a venire of fifty jurors the Sheriff would have to visit every portion of the county and serve more than 50 per cent of the citizens.—Bakersfield Californian.

The ordinary man would still much rather glorify woman and set her on a mock throne, where he can debase her at will, than have to acknowledge in her a real title to regard. It is difficult for a man to overcome his essential self-importance. Most of us perhaps prefer to have inferiors around us—an objectionable trait of character, but natural. And only very slowly have we men been getting to prefer our womankind as friends and equals, rather than as queens and petting us as a baby or a spoiled dog does.—Eureka Times.

From Los Angeles comes the announcement that the Chamber of Commerce of that city proposes to get up an "official excursion" of its members to Honolulu, that the start will be made from San Pedro and that "the purpose is to impress the people of Hawaii with the desirability of making San Pedro and Los Angeles their port of entry into the United States." However, all these matters will adjust themselves. The speedy construction of the direct line of railway from San Diego to the East, and the subsequent utilization of the harbor here as the port of all Southern California and the entire Pacific Southwest, will put a quietus upon silly schemes to push San Pedro to the front. In the meantime, by all means, let the Hawaiians be "impressed."—San Diego Union.

A man must be in a peculiar condition of mind who will attempt to commit suicide and afterward assert he did not know what he was doing. What are our insane asylums for?—Nevada City Miner-Transcript.

The new Mayor of Los Angeles has sent to Washington for a duplicate Big Skelley. The saloons are in his way.—Berkeley Gazette.

Scotty's mine is located. Now watch the rush for Death Valley. Also watch out for the stock announcement.—San Bernardino Index.

Press of the Nation Comments on Current Events

M. MELBA sang at the Manhattan Opera-house, New York, the other night. Of course she sang well, but her notes were unheeded because of the beating of the golden calf. There was \$50,000,000 worth of diamonds on display. The house shook with wondrous jewels. The noise made by the barbaric pearl and gold was deafening. It was one of the most successful social functions of the season. There was no let or hindrance. Everybody who was anybody accepted the license and joyously made an uproar with all the precious stones she had. Melba? Melba sang. But who heard or cared for Melba? Think of the main fact—\$50,000,000 worth of diamonds—and then dare to say that we are not a great people.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

The captain of a Brooklyn lighter was dug out alive a day or two since after being buried for forty hours under a cargo of coffee. He will probably drink something else for the rest of his life.—Boston Transcript.

The scattered returns from the Christmas shooting affrays in the South continue to come in. Their frequency would carry the impression that the favorite interior decoration for the Southern stocking was a six-shooter.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

It is nevertheless worth noticing that since the entente cordiale between the mother country and France was consummated the St. Petersburg correspondents of the London dailies, who reside in the British capital, no longer compare anything in Russia to the French revolution.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

A wealthy Little Rock planter became highly incensed the other day because he was offered a \$20 gold certificate bearing the signature of the colored register of the treasury. You could never make us mad that way.—Washington Post.

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"They tell me that Federer's balloon burst the other day and that he fell to the ground. Was he hurt?" "Not by the fall, but just as he reached the ground a motor car ran over him."—Pilegende Blaetter.

Blanche—Poor Helen! Has the worst been told? Grace—I think not. They're all waiting for your version.—Smart Set.

Mother—Yes, children, Santa comes down the chimney so quietly that you never hear him.

"Indeed!" exclaimed dear girl No. 2. "I had no idea there was a man that cold alive!"—Chicago News.

"They say," remarked the first dear girl, "that Miss Elderleigh is engaged to a man old enough to be her grandfather."

BEER—A. O. S. City. This department does not furnish information on the subject of adulterating beer or food. Beer, pure and simple, is said to be a tonic if taken in moderate quantity and not calculated to affect the nervous system; but if adulterated it is sure to be harmful.

PIMPLES—X. Y. Z. City. If you are troubled with pimples do not "monkey with them." It is an evidence that your blood is out of order, and the best thing you can do is to consult a first-class physician, who will give you a proper prescription; then the pimples will disappear.

LITTLE BOY BLUE—Reader, City. The poem entitled "Little Boy Blue," in which are the lines: "Under the haystack Little Boy Blue 'Sleeps with his head under his arm," was written by Abby Sage Richardson.

Townsend's Cal. Gals. from San Francisco at Emporium, Post and Van Ness, 1250 Sutter st. and 1203 and 1235 Valencia st.

The Smart Set

No more beautiful affair has taken place this winter than the elaborate dinner given last night by Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Hopkins for Miss Lyne Hopkinson and her handsome home on California street. The guests were seated at four round tables, each decorated simply in different colors. In the bay window of the large dining-room was a table, gay with brilliant daffodils and ferns, with pale yellow shaded candelabra, and there sat the attractive guest of honor. The other tables were, respectively, decorated with lilies of the valley and delicate ferns, with faint green-shaded candelabra; pink bridesmaid roses and pink candle shades, and vivid red roses with handsome gold filigree candle shades over red silk. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Fred McNear, Mr. and Mrs. Gus Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Henry T. Scott, Mr. and Mrs. Donohoe, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Blanchard Chase, Mr. and Mrs. King, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Sharon, Mr. and Mrs. Evan S. Pillsbury, Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Schwerin, Mr. and Mrs. Mountford Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Nuttall, Mr. and Mrs. William Hopkins, Mrs. Eleanor Martin, Mrs. Crockett, Miss Flood, Miss Maudie Langhorne, Miss Helene Irwin, Miss Mary Keeney, Miss Margaret Hyde-Smith, Miss Emily Wilson, Edward M. Greenwood, Gerald Rathbone, Samuel Hopkins, Dr. Harry L. Tevis and Charles Felton.

Miss Carrie Gwin was the hostess at a very charming bridge party yesterday afternoon at the Town and Country Club, on Francis street, at which she entertained five tables of guests. Among those present were Mrs. George C. Boardman, Mrs. E. B. Pond, Mrs. Rosenstock, Mrs. J. R. K. Nuttall, Mrs. M. P. Jones, Mrs. H. M. A. Miller, Mrs. Emma Butler, Mrs. Henry L. Dodge, Mrs. Henry Clarence Breeden, Mrs. Gale, Mrs. Horace Davis, Mrs. Lucy Otis, Mrs. William P. Morgan, Mrs. Ira Pierce and Mrs. Cyrus Walker.

Mrs. J. LeRoy Nicol was the hostess at a very charming luncheon yesterday at her home, on Laguna and California streets, at which she entertained several of the debutantes of this season and last, and one or two who are to be among the buds of next year. The table was artistically decorated in daffodil and ferns. Those present were Mrs. Nicol's cousins, Miss Emma Kenyon and Miss Anna Kenyon; Miss Mary Keeney, Miss Margaret Hyde-Smith, Miss Edith Page, Miss Margaret Hayne, Miss Julia Langhorn, Miss Marguerite Barron, Miss Frances Coon and Miss Lydia Hopkins.

Mrs. E. Walton Hedges entertained last night at another of the delightful little dinners which she is becoming quite noted and which invariably prove so enjoyable. After dinner Mrs. Hedges took her guests to a theatre party. The table was prettily decorated with lilies of the valley and bridesmaid roses, the candelabra being pink shaded. Those present were Dr. and Mrs. McEnery, Pay Inspector Reynolds, U. S. N., and Mrs. Reynolds, Miss McEnery, Mrs. Hanford, Mrs. Daragh, Mr. Carpenter, E. J. Vogel, Percy Towne and Elmer Harris.

The third of the Galey Club dances for the season will take place this evening at the Paris Tea Gardens, and Miss Emily Wilson and Miss Gertrude Jesselyn will be the hostesses at what promises to be one of the pleasantest events of the winter. There will be quite a number of guests besides the regular members of the club, and the younger members of the most exclusive society of the city will be present.

Mrs. Frederic Kellond, formerly Miss Katherine Selfridge, was among the arrivals yesterday on the transport Logan from Manila and is a guest at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Selfridge, on California street. Lieutenant Kellond, U. S. A., is still in the Philippines, but will arrive with his regiment in the spring. Mrs. Kellond is very popular here and has a host of friends who are rejoicing in her return and in the fact that she is to spend several months in California.

Mrs. Deane and Miss Marie Rose Deane, who have been making their home across the bay since the fire, came to town yesterday and will spend several months here. They are living for the present on Pacific avenue, near Laguna street.

Mrs. Lloyd Baldwin and Miss Grace Baldwin expect to leave on February 2 for New York and will sail from there shortly for Europe, where they will spend six months traveling.

Mr. and Mrs. William Wallace Chapin—the latter formerly Miss Helen Wilson of Seattle—whose wedding was celebrated early in December, arrived in Paris recently, and after spending some time there will go to Belgium to visit Mrs. Chapin's uncle, who is United States Minister to that country.

M. A. Allen of New York is at the Palace.

R. G. Lunt is at the Palace from Los Angeles.

Charles J. Kuhn of San Jose is at the Majestic.

P. Burns of Calgary is registered at the Palace.

W. B. Press is at the St. Francis from Eureka.

William Whelan of New York is at the Elmore.

Frank C. Robertson of Spokane is at the St. Francis.

James T. Barron and Mrs. Barron are at the St. Francis.

J. W. Thorn of Philadelphia is registered at the Palace.

Richard F. Armstrong of New York City is at the Majestic.

Carl Spuhn is registered at the St. Francis from Portland.

E. B. Gage of Tombstone is registered at the St. Francis.

R. Cullinan and Mrs. Cullinan of St. Louis are at the Palace.

Mme. Little Siapoffski of Australia is registered at the Majestic.

J. Lindstrom of Aberdeen, Wash., is registered at the Jefferson.

J. E. Rahim and Mrs. Rahim of Kansas City are at the Majestic.

Dr. M. L. Gray and Mrs. Gray of Seattle are at the Jefferson.

E. O'Connell and Mrs. O'Connell of Coos Bay are at the Majestic.

Charles W. King and Mrs. King are at the Jefferson from Red Bluff.

W. E. Bender and F. W. Bender of Hamilton, Ohio, are at the Jefferson.

E. Cochrane and Mrs. Cochrane are registered at the Dorchester from Toronto.

H. R. Burke, manager of the Portland branch of the Royal Insurance Company, is at the Jefferson.

Judge Fletcher A. Cutler of Eureka, law partner of Governor Gillett, arrived in San Francisco yesterday and is registered at the St. Francis.

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In the Joke World

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Answers to Queries

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