

The San Francisco Call

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TOO MUCH NOISE ON THE FRONT BENCHES

WARS and rumors of wars. Of comfort let no man speak. Captain Richmond Pearson Hobson is talking through his belligerent hat. Senator Perkins has nailed his colors to the mast that once he sailed before. He hurls his loud defiance and is ready to sign articles. Honduras has started in to whip Nicaragua between drinks. Cuba threatens to declare war on the United States if we don't provide offices for every blessed horse-thief on the much vexed island. The hurly burly roars terribly.

The Jamestown exhibitionaries are preparing to show how the real thing is done when Yankee Doodle sticks a feather in his cap and calls it macaroni. They will fight, bleed and die for the price of admission, and their obituaries will be published daily in the advertising columns of the newspapers. The gospel of war is loud in the land. Give us more big ships or we perish. Give the devil his due.

The big policeman is having an awful time. 'Tis a tough job to live up to his Nobel peace prize. Texas is fighting mad because certain military persons of color shot up the town. The ingenious and politic Foraker rings the fire alarm and has the big policeman on the carpet. 'Tis a wordy war that splits the welkin wide.

The cares of empire sit heavily on the weary Titan in Washington. He is making faces at California and shaking his fist. He repeats our laws and assails us with messages of 40,000 words that snort. He will have peace if he has to fight for it. Yet is his native hue of resolution sicklied over with the pale cast of thought, which was Shakespeare's way of diagnosing cold feet. He finds the Californians a stiff-necked generation, and with grotesque diplomacy of conciliation offers to make peace by recognizing Schmitz as the chosen ambassador and plenipotentiary of the State. To the plain man that might seem like rubbing it in. In truth, the contemporary father of his country is more terrible on a peace footing—first in war and worst in peace.

Let us have peace, lay down our arms and sheathe the embattled tongue. The cure for all this warlike chatter and witches' broth of belligerent brag and fuddle has been discovered by a Boston woman, who has started a crusade against the tin soldier—the real tin soldier of childhood—which inspires to bloodthirsty conduct. Away with the bleeding tin soldier that demoralizes the youth of the land. Senator Perkins was brought up on tin soldiers, and here he is in his old age doing a war dance. There is too much noise on the front benches; too much tin soldiering and not enough knitting. Let us cultivate the arts of peace and learn to keep our hands in our neighbors' pockets.

DIPLOMACY REDUCED TO ABSURDITY

ONE learns with some solicitude that our national machine for the output of "delicate diplomacy" slipped a cog early in the Japanese game. The veriest tyro in this entertaining play should know that it is fatal to admit anything advanced by the other fellow. You never could have got David Harum to admit that the Japanese had a treaty right to go to school in San Francisco. No, sir; David knew better than that, and he was the greatest American diplomat. But the very first rattle out of the box Secretary Root admitted that San Francisco had been unjustly and illegally discriminating against "innocent little children"—as the Eastern press calls them—of the Japanese. If it was urged that these innocents abroad wore whiskers, that did not matter. The right to go to school was a right of residence, and must be accorded to the Japanese innocents. The big policeman shouted, "I'll teach them!"

That was the first page of diplomacy, but it appeared on reflection that perhaps they had made a mistake. From being cocksure they began to doubt whether they had power to make good with Japan. If California insisted on her right to regulate her domestic affairs our diplomats had dugged a pit which they themselves fell in. It was an embarrassing situation, requiring exercise of the most delicate diplomacy to rescue the unhappy meddler who had put his foot in the Japanese trap. In fact, they have kept Root so busy apologizing that he has not since had time to say a word about the Japanese seal pirates.

The miracle of this delicate diplomacy will be appreciated when it is understood that our diplomats started the game with two assumptions, both mistaken. They assumed, first, that Japanese children were excluded from the common schools of San Francisco, and, second, that they had power to regulate the California school system. In a word, they went off half-cocked, and their extremity was so great that they had to send for Schmitz to pull them out of the hole. This is diplomacy reduced to an absurdity.

FIRE INSURANCE AND THE LAW

IT seems as if the enthusiasm of the Legislature in the popular cause of punishing the fire insurance welters might lead that body into ill-considered action calculated to defeat its own purpose. It is not clear, for instance, how the Legislature can validly limit the right of free contract or enact an effective law to make an ironclad standard policy compulsory on all companies. The Legislature may limit contractual relations in virtue of the police power, but that right does not apply in this instance. Of course, the intention is to shut out the "earthquake clause" and other skulking limitations of contract that have in the past been introduced by stealth, owing to the carelessness of the insured; but if a man desire to enter into a contract of that kind with his eyes open, it is scarcely the province of the Legislature to stop him,

Editing the Testimony



—NEW YORK WORLD

and it is quite doubtful whether any such power exists. The function of the Legislature in this regard is first to enact a standard form that shall be just to both parties, and, secondly, to take precautions against the introduction by stealth of variations from the standard. That purpose can be accomplished by requiring all such variations to be distinguished from the standard by some typographical device and by special indorsement directing attention to the new matter.

The safety fund law is another matter calling for careful deliberation. There is some feeling in regard to this provision, owing to the creditable action of certain companies, but there is something to be said for the law, and if companies operating under it are to be shut out the result must be to decrease still further the sum of fire insurance available in California. Legislation calculated to act in that way should be adopted only in case of imperative necessity, because, even under present conditions, there is not insurance enough to go around.

BLIND TO OUR OWN INTERESTS

OUR form of government was never designed to do justice to outlying dependencies. Whether it be Alaska or Hawaii or the Philippine Islands, Congress does not want to be bothered with their affairs. There people have no votes.

That may sound cynical, but its truth is demonstrated by almost uniform experience. No more gross example of injustice to a whole people is extant today than the refusal of Congress to pass the Philippine tariff bill. No reasonable argument has ever been advanced against this bill. It has been recommended for passage by the President and by Secretary Taft and Secretary Root. In his last annual message Mr. Roosevelt said:

I most earnestly hope that the bill to provide a lower tariff for or else absolute free trade in Philippine products will become a law. No harm will come to any American industry. * * * This nation owes no more imperative duty to itself and mankind than the duty of managing the affairs of all the islands under the American flag—the Philippines, Porto Rico and Hawaii—so as to make it evident that it is in every way to their advantage that the flag should fly over them.

The bill is today as dead as mutton on the files of Congress. It is an acknowledged measure of justice, but it has no chance of passage because of the imaginary fears of some protected interests. It may be pointed out that San Francisco has a very considerable selfish interest in the passage of the measure, which would necessarily increase largely our commerce with the islands, but we have not observed that any of the local commercial bodies have taken any active part in urging the opening of this port to Philippine trade.

Personal Mention

W. H. Simpson of New York is at the Majestic.
Captain R. S. Paxton, U. S. A., is at the Savoy.
F. C. Byrne and wife of Seattle are at the Savoy.
Admiral Lyon of Mare Island is at the Dorchester.
C. H. Burden, a Sonora business man, is at the Imperial.
W. B. Edmunds of Boston is registered at the Baltimore.
H. E. Pickett, a Sacramento business man, is at the Imperial.
William E. Bray of Ladysmith, B. C., is at the Hotel Majestic.
C. E. Robinson and wife of Tonopah are at the Hotel Dorchester.
George T. Gosling, a liquor man of Philadelphia, is at the Palace.
E. Raulier arrived yesterday from Panama and is at the Jefferson.
W. H. Hollenbeck of Fresno, a well-known contractor, is at the Baltimore.
John W. Brock of Philadelphia, president of the Tonopah Railroad, his wife and his daughter, Miss Louis B. Brock, are at the Palace.
Charles R. Lewers, formerly a professor of law at Stanford University and now a practicing attorney at Reno, Nev., is at the Hotel Baltimore.
T. B. Rieley, president of the Nevada State Bank and Trust Company of Goldfield and of the L. M. Sullivan Company, is, with his wife and daughter,

at the Palace, registered from Carson, Nev.
William O. Maxwell, a prominent commercial man of Santa Maria, is at the Hamilton.
Among the well-known Nevada mining men at the St. Francis are M. J. O'Meara of Tonopah, W. J. Stoneham of Tonopah, Milton M. Detch of Goldfield.
Augustus A. Busch, son of Adolphus Busch, the wealthy St. Louis brewer, is at the Hotel Jefferson. He is accompanied by John M. Norton of St. Louis and will be in the city several days on business.
R. P. Dunlop of Tonopah and G. H. Hayes of Goldfield. The latter, who has been with his wife at Pasadena, arrived yesterday to attend the automobile show.
Senor Carlos Herrera of Guatemala and wife and daughter, who have been traveling for a year in Europe, are at the Majestic Annex and will remain in this city several days before leaving for their home.
WOMAN AT HER BEST
A woman's character and powers are finest about 40. A woman has gained everything at 40 and lost nothing; she is at the full vigor of her intellectual powers; she has acquired experience and judgment and is not far enough away from youth to have become unsympathetic even to its wildest vagaries.—Bystander.

The Smart Set

THE Burlingame Club is the center of much gaiety this week, as the polo teams from the south are all staying there and there are any number of dinners and luncheons being given by the members. Yesterday was particularly gay and preceding the polo games of the afternoon, played at "The Crossways," the Carolans' field, were several luncheons. Mrs. Francis Carolan entertained at one of the most elaborate of these in honor of Miss Katrina Page-Brown, who is her guest for the winter. The twenty-four guests were seated at a large round table in the main dining-room of the club, which was prettily decorated in daffodils, tulips and jonquils.

Among those present were, besides Mr. and Mrs. Carolan and the guest of honor, Miss Genevieve Harvey, Miss Mary Keeney, Miss Barbara Parrott, Miss Jennie Crocker, Mrs. Helene Irwin, Miss Jeannette von Schroeder, Miss Hyde-Smith, Miss Drown, Walter Hobart, Harry Scott, Frank Houghtaling, John Parrott Jr., Stuart Lowery, Harry L. Rathbone, Mr. Loughborough, Gerald L. Rathbone, Joseph Parrott and W. S. Ronaldson.
Others who entertained were Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Knight, who had a party of twelve or fourteen; Mrs. Henry T. Scott, Mrs. Mountfort Wilson and J. O. Tobin.

A delightfully unique and enjoyable affair was the chafing-dish dinner given last night by Mrs. E. Walton Hedges at her home on Broderick street. Twelve guests were present and the six men were the cooks of the occasion, preparing ten courses of chafing-dish cookery, which were especially toothsome. Soup, creamed sweetbreads, lobster a la Newburg and reed birds were served in dishes, but not all of the credit may be given the men, as each one was assisted by a feminine guest in such degree as seemed in each instance necessary for the salvation of the particular dish in process of manufacture. There was much merriment as the result of this arrangement and it was indeed a success. The decorations for the occasion were most elaborate and were especially commensurate of the day, hatched and cherries being much in evidence. All the cakes and candies were either little hatched, bunches of cherries or tiny stumps adorned with hand-painted cherries, as were the cards on which were written the recipes for the different dishes. Red carnations and red-shaded candelabra were used on the table. In the living-room pink roses and daffodils were used, in the sitting-room were lilacs of the valley and orchids and in the hall were daffodils and violets. Those present were Mrs. Marguerite Hanford, Mrs. Ynez Shorb White, Mrs. Malcolm Henry, Mrs. Katherine Shirley, Mrs. Richard Derby, James Reid, Dr. Pressley, Lieutenant, Commander Barnes, Philip Paschel, Dwight Leeper and Percy Towne.

One of the pleasantest affairs of the week was the dance given last night by the officers of the Presidio Club in the hoproom of the post, which was attended by a large number of guests from here and from the posts around the bay. The room was prettily decorated with flags and greens and presented a most attractive scene. The hop committee consisted of Captain J. F. Brady, Captain Charles C. Pulls and Lieutenant Rollo F. Anderson, who were assisted in receiving by Mrs. J. A. Lundeen, Mrs. John L. Clem and Mrs. Edward T. Brown.

Mrs. Charles Shells has sent out cards for tea at her pretty Sausalito home on Thursday afternoon, February 28, from 3 to 6 o'clock.
An event of today will be the bridge party to be given by Mrs. Frank H. Kerrigan in honor of her step-mother, Mrs. James McNab. The affair will take place at Mrs. Kerrigan's home on Clay street, and nine tables of guests will be entertained.

Mr. and Mrs. John I. Taylor, the latter formerly Miss Daisy Van Ness, who have been visiting Mrs. Taylor's par-

The Insider

Discusses testimony of insanity experts in the Thaw trial and offers the suggestion that our lazy Superior Court Judges go to work

Marks of Insanity Pretty Numerous
W E'LL all be looking for marks of insanity in ourselves since the alienists in the Thaw trial have given us the tip for symptoms. Why, if prominent ears, low foreheads, tattoo marks and such things are indisputable evidence of criminal tendencies it should be an easy matter to round up all the prospective jailbirds and head off trouble. George, Prince of Wales, is tattooed, so was his brother, the Duke of Clarence, who died, and at one time, I remember, all the smart women were being tattooed with butterflies or birds, or their monograms or crests, because the fad was raging in New York. As to egotism as an evidence of insanity it is like all the other stigmata of degeneracy, proof only after the fact. Talking wildly and skipping from subject to subject—well, that generally goes with a bad temper and its indulgence. The whole trial is a contest of lawyers' wits and reminds one of the chapter in Parker's "Right of Way" with Beauty Steele as the savior of the prisoner at bar and what he said to the man when the latter tried to thank him.

Late Dr. Hulbert Had Church Here

Dr. Hulbert, dean of the Divinity School of the Chicago University, who died last Sunday, was formerly pastor of the First Baptist Church of this city. That was a good many years ago, perhaps a quarter of a century. He was a quiet preacher, not at all dramatic in his delivery, but was well liked by his congregation. He was a student, and in appearance was the real scholarly type of clergyman. One of his daughters, Louise, married the pastor of the Morgan Park Baptist Church, Rev. Mr. Wyant. The latter will be remembered out here as a great football player. He visited us in his college days when the Chicago University football team played Stanford.

Watches for Women Inferior to Men's

"Yes, madam," said the jeweler, showing watches to a woman customer, "this is a sixteen-point action, the best that is ever put in a lady's watch."
"Don't you put just as good works in a lady's watch as in a gentleman's?" asked the woman.
"Why no, not at all, madam. Ladies do not need such a good watch. Most always they wind up their watch once in a while, and then they let it lie for a week or two without using it. This is as good action as any lady needs."
The woman explained that she was a business woman and just as dependent on trains and boats as a man, but the jeweler remained unmoved in the conviction that sixteen point was all any woman needed.

Plenty of Judges if They All Work

Anent the introduction in the Legislature of Assemblyman Barry's bill providing for sixteen Superior Judges for San Francisco instead of twelve, there is considerable discussion going on in the vicinity of the Temple Sherith Israel, where the Superior Courts have their temporary home. The additional mass of business anticipated by the present Judges through the influx of suits to quiet title to city property for which all records were destroyed in the fire is urged as one of the principal reasons for an increase in the size of the judicial force, and it is pointed out that the calendars in several of the departments are far from clear, even at the present time, and that assignments are piling up much faster than they can be disposed of.

The Judges themselves are not a unit, however, in admitting that the addition of four Judges is necessary or that any advantage would accrue from the change. One of them, who objects to being quoted at the present stage of proceedings, has privately put himself on record as inclining to the belief that a way out of the maze is to be found in a much simpler and less expensive manner.

"Make a visit to all the departments at different times of the day and see for yourself just how much time is being spent in the actual court work," he suggested. "Then figure out the number of trials and motions to be argued. I have tried it, and I believe that if every Judge would give four full hours each day to courtroom work, aside from the work in chambers, the various calendars would be clean and up to date in a short time. Figure it out for yourself."

Prepares Roster of Original Bohemians

Commodore I. Gutte, who is the mustering officer of the "old guard" of Bohemia, has completed a roster showing that thirty-seven of the founders of the Bohemian Club are alive—that is to say, that they are alive so far as the vital spark applies to eating, breathing and kicking. The annual reunion this year will take place at the Palace Hotel.

Gossip in Railway Circles

The builders of the railroad into the Yosemite Valley from Merced announced that the line will be opened for traffic on the first of May. All the blasting has been completed, the grading finished, all the bridges are in place and fifty of the eighty miles of road have been built. Work is now centered on the road leading from the hotel to the terminus of the railroad. Eleven hundred men are employed on the construction of the line. Merced will probably hold a celebration on May 1, the day set for the opening of the line.
James Horsburgh Jr. spent yesterday at Paso Robles and is expected back on Monday.

F. W. Thompson, general Western agent of the Rock Island-Frisco lines, has returned from a tour of the Northwest. The business in the northern towns, he declares, is immense. Much building is going on in Seattle and Portland.

The promoters of the Yucaipe Valley have made a survey for a line from the town of Redlands into the heart of the valley and beyond. They have set aside 160 acres for a townsite. It is to be laid out after the most approved manner and it is said that it will be one of the most delightfully located places in the State.

L. G. Sinnard of the passenger department of the Southern Pacific says that J. Tull, at the instance of the railroad company, has imported from Japan two carloads of the matting plant, which is to be planted in different sections of the State. It is believed that the soil and the climate of California is favorable to its growth. Tull is in charge of the experimental garden at Chico. The matting plant is a peculiar kind of straw from which matting is made, and hopes are entertained that a new industry will be brought into existence in the State.

General Manager A. G. Wells of the Santa Fe is in the city. No date has been set as yet for the reopening of the Franklin tunnel in Contra Costa County.

A meeting of the Transcontinental Association has been called for March 4. The meeting last month was postponed on account of the investigation that was being held here by Interstate Commerce Commissioner Lane. The convention is to be held for the purpose of revising the tariff and making it conform to the new law.

W. A. Bissell, assistant traffic manager of the Santa Fe, who has been at Santa Barbara consulting with President Ripley regarding railroad matters, has returned to town. Bissell says that modesty compels him to be silent about the outcome of his golf tournament with Ripley.

Miss Dorothy Collier went up recently to Lake County to join her mother, Mrs. William B. Collier, at their country place there. Mrs. Collier has been there most of the winter, as her property there has been divided and their house was moved and partly rebuilt, which work Mrs. Collier has been directing. Miss Dorothy Collier and Miss Sara Collier are still in New York, but have as yet no definite date arranged for their return to San Francisco.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Green and Mrs. Wellington Gregg Jr. have returned to San Mateo after a brief trip to New York.

Colonel and Mrs. T. W. M. Draper and the Misses Elsa and Dorothy Draper, who have been so sadly missed from society here this winter, write most enthusiastically of the delightful times they are having in New York. They have taken a country place at Cedarhurst and are to spend several months there. Colonel Draper will return to California shortly and it is