The San Francisco Call

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Delivered by Carrier, 20 Cents Per Week. 75 Cents Per Month. Single Copies 5 Cents.
Terms by Mail, Including Postage (Cash With Order):

DAILY CALL (including Sunday), 1 year	$8.00
DAILY CALL (including Sunday), 6 months	$4.00
DAILY CALL—By single month	75c
SUNDAY CALL, 1 year	2.50
WEEKLY CALL, 1 year	1.00
FOREIGN POSTAGE. Daily	$8.00 Per Year Extra
Sunday	4.15 Per Year Extra
Weekly	1.00 Per Year Extra

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SAN FRANCISCO SEEN THROUGH A BEER GLASS

THE Milwaukee Wisconsin, discussing the population of cities in the first class—upward of 300,000—in connection with the Census Bureau estimates of 1904, has this to say about two cities visited by conflagration—San Francisco and Baltimore:

While Pittsburg has thus gone up in the scale of cities of the first class, Baltimore has trembled in the balance, and San Francisco has gone down. There is reason to believe that the Baltimore figures, published after the fire, were liberal estimates, though the remarkable recovery of the city may have since made the facts conform with them. As for San Francisco, visited in April last year by the most dreadful calamity which ever befell an American city, it still cowers from the shock. So large is the proportion of its population which fled after the earthquake and the fire and has not yet returned that though it was ninth among the first-class cities in 1904, there is doubt if an enumeration of its actual inhabitants at the present time would entitle it to be continued in group I. It has one asset that neither earthquake nor fire has depreciated—a harbor which vies with the grandest and safest in the world. Rebuilt San Francisco will undoubtedly be in the course of time, but in the judgment of many recent disinterested visitors the process will be painfully slow.

"Still cowers from the shock!" Milwaukee sees us cower. What queer things you behold when you look through the bottom of a beer glass. The census estimates of 1904, on which the Wisconsin bases its entertaining comments, gave San Francisco 352,298 population. That was more than two years ago, and at the time of the fire the city had grown so rapidly that we had close to 500,000 people. If we have less than that now it is because we have no houses to put them in. We shall get them all back and more, just as soon as we can provide house room and shelter. We have built 10,000 houses since the fire.

In the meantime, nobody in San Francisco is observed to "cower." We are enjoying a season of grand opera, of a higher class than Milwaukee ever gets. There are more theaters open to full houses than we can count. Everybody is at work and wages are high. We are conducting a most instructive and stimulating municipal housecleaning, to which we invite the attention of Milwaukee between drinks.

HE WOULD REPEAL HUMAN NATURE

ONCE more the man is found who proposes to make an end of Wall street, the money power and the stock gamblers. Naturally he comes from Kansas, but for all that he is neither new nor novel. His predecessors in the same line of endeavor have been busy for more than a thousand years. The newest crusader is Representative Campbell of Kansas. He is a redoubtable champion, and wears at his belt some of the tentacles of the octopus. It was he, in fact, who brought about the big Standard Oil investigation. Now he is ready to stop gambling in stocks, and has been in consultation with President Roosevelt on the matter. After his interview with the chief executive he said:

Every business man realizes that the prosperity of the country is threatened by the panics in Wall street due to the manipulation of stock gamblers. The hue and cry that is raised every time there is a slump in the stock market causes a feeling of apprehension that makes capital timid and thus disturbs the general business situation. It is in this way that such panics become a positive menace to the country's welfare. I shall go over the interstate acts for the purpose of ascertaining if there is not some law that will put an end to tremendous gambling operations in New York. It seems to me there ought to be legislation that will prevent stock operators from gambling in the securities of common carriers that transport interstate commerce. I do not know that there is any such law, and if not Congress should enact one. If the situation cannot be reached entirely by the Federal Government, Congress should co-operate with the States in reaching it. State legislatures can enact legislation that will prevent the maintenance of places where people can buy and sell stocks on margins. I shall make a thorough investigation and bring the matter to the attention of Congress at the next session.

We fear that Mr. Campbell got small encouragement from the President. Mr. Roosevelt has the advantage of the man from Kansas in that he knows the lessons of history. He knows that it is wrong to gamble, and he knows that all men do gamble and will gamble. Some call it buying securities, and others name it just plain business or swapping jackknives, unsight, unseen; but they are all ready to take a chance in one shape or another. But there always have been men like Congressman Campbell trying to repeal human nature. The only way to reform Wall street and make it less a danger to the country is to put a stiff bridle on the bankers who risk their depositors' funds to finance the operations of reckless speculators. Make the gamblers risk their own money if they must gamble. The recurring squeezes in Wall street in the last year have been mostly due to the fact that bankers had been too liberal with loans to the gamblers.

SEMIPROFESSIONALISM IN COLLEGE SPORT

THEY take their football very seriously at Harvard, and the echoes of the loud controversy are heard to the ends of the earth, with President Roosevelt on one side denouncing the "mollycoddles" and President Eliot on the other protesting against the savage sports of the barbarians. It seems as if the barbarians had won for the present at least. In comment on the report of the Harvard Overseers in favor of continuing the sport, the Boston Transcript remarks that "today's action will be a great relief to the undergraduates at Cambridge and to the thousands of alumni all over the country." It seems that the souls of the barbarians had been oppressed with gloom for fear the mollycoddles might prevail.

The report, however, is not altogether reassuring. It admits that many grave abuses have grown up about the game. One of these is the extravagant management that has grown out of the large receipts of gate money. On this subject the report says:

At the present time the greater part of the athletic expenses are met from gate receipts and only a small part from subscriptions from the students. The sudents' subscriptions to athletics are less today than they were when the athletic committee first began its work, and, in spite of this decrease, there is a large surplus every year in the hands of the graduate manager. The result is a lack of public sentiment among the students against extravagance in athletic management and a lack of effort on the part of the undergraduate managers to keep expenses down, due in part to the lack of public sentiment and in part to the ease with which the money is obtained. This is a defect in the present system. It is wiser, in the opinion of this committee, that a more substantial part of the expense of the intercollegiate contests should be borne by the students, thus encouraging a sound interest in their proper management and avoiding the demoralizing effect of the present system.

That is a very mild pronouncement on a serious evil. So much money comes into the hands of the Harvard athletic committee that extravagant sums are paid for coaches, the training tables and incidentals. The game has in fact become semiprofessional, and consequently is no longer sport so far as the participants are concerned. Notwithstanding the waste of money in these directions the surplus of athletic receipts over expenses in 1906 was $27,816.

We do not attach so much importance to the objection that the game is rough and barbarous, because that can be mitigated if not wholly removed by modification of the rules, but the semiprofessionalism and spirit that it encourages is bad for university life, whether in California or New England.

NOTE AND COMMENT

Dowie promised to come back, but Voliva is willing to accept Elijah's excuses.

When the Pacific States Telephone Company paid the Fiddler Heney was not expected to furnish the music.

The return of $6000 worth of drafts to Farmer Simeon H. West proves conclusively that the touch was not made by a Supervisor.

Mr. Armour of Packingtown has apparently decided not to make public the amount of his contribution for the rehabilitation of Upton Sinclair's Helicon Hall.

The Hon. Topp Troupe of Springfield has been an officer and delegate in every Ohio Republican convention for thirty years and has adroitly escaped mention as available Presidential timber.

With an impetuous disregard of his earnest efforts as a conservator of the public weal, the administration threatens to distract Foraker's attention from that Brownsville affair by making Burton Taft's Ohio manager.

Cartoonist Ewer's Review of the Week's News

∴ In the Joke World ∴

"'Twas ever thus," I said one day, "I've seen my fondest hopes decay."

"Your pardon, friend," a stranger cried. "Didst ever use formaldehyde?"—Pittsburg Post.

* * *

Boy Patient—Can you walk on your hands?

Nurse—No, dear; I can't do anything like that.

Boy Patient—I thought you said you were a trained nurse.—Pacific Monthly.

* * *

Mrs. Squabble—John, it is five years tomorrow since I said the word that was to make you happy for life. Do you remember how I hesitated before saying it?

Mr. Squabble—Hesitated! You never have said it.—Chicago News.

* * *

"How were those eggs I left for you last week, ma'am?" asked the honest agriculturist.

"Every one of them was rotten," she replied, vigorously.

"I am sorry," he said; then bowed low and inquired deferentially: "But were they perfectly satisfactory otherwise?"—Judge.

Gossip of the Doings of Railroad Men

C. L. Seagrave, general colonization agent of the Santa Fe, arrived in the city yesterday and will leave this evening for his headquarters in Chicago. "We are doing all we can," he observed yesterday, "to build up California, as our people are convinced that you have the garden spot of the world. Your greatest rival is, of course, the Southwest, where land is cheap and where the agent is enabled to pile up a big commission. He works for his own interests, of course, and booms that territory. The Panhandle of Texas, Indian Territory and Oklahoma are taking a number of people—people who should really come here. The cheap land is, however, almost all sold off and that immigration will soon be diverted to this coast."

* * *

"The mild Hindu" is beginning to realize that the West is not suited to his particular temperament and to his fastidious tastes. He has been working in large numbers on the Western Pacific, in the neighborhood of Oroville, but he does not come up to the exacting requirements of the contractors. He does not do a full day's work, that being against his religion. He will not patronize the butcher shop, but will contrive to subsist on canned milk and flour. He has been weighed in the balance and found wanting, and the result is that no Hindu need apply for work on the Western Pacific. It is to him "darwaza band," which, in his language, means "the door is closed."

* * *

The rebuilding of San Francisco, say the freight men of the foreign lines, is already beginning to have an effect on the shipments of redwood lumber to Eastern points. All of the firms in California that have been shipping their products to the East are swamped with orders which they cannot fill on account of the big local demand. This extends not only to the rough lumber, but to doors and moldings.

* * *

Freight is beginning to be received from the East in the city and 120 through cars arrived in Oakland last Friday. There were 168 cars on the western division yesterday and General Superintendent W. S. Palmer of the Southern Pacific issued orders that all should be moved into the Oakland yards so as to clear the division. There were only 55 unloaded cars in Oakland yesterday and about 300 on the coast division.

* * *

Edward Twiggs severed his connection with the passenger department of the Union Pacific yesterday and joined the forces of R. R. Ritchie of the Chicago Northwestern. Before leaving the Union Pacific the office force presented Twiggs with a handsome silver toilet set.

* * *

Five hundred colonists passed through Ogden on Friday for California and the majority of the travelers were headed for San Francisco.

* * *

E. E. Penn, who has been ticket [illegible] of the Canadian Pacific for many years, has been appointed general agent of the passenger department. Penn has many friends in the railroad world and he was the recipient of many congratulations yesterday on his promotion.

* * *

George W. Colby of the Great Northern has received word from the head office in Seattle that his line intends to put on a compartment and observatory car between Seattle and St. Paul.

* * *

Travel to Yosemite by way of Raymond will be opened by Tuesday. Such is the announcement made by the passenger department of the Southern [illegible]

New World Goods Poorly Handled in the Old

CONSUL H. W. HARRIS of Mannheim gives the following concrete examples of the cumbersome methods sometimes adopted by foreign agencies—probably of their own choosing—that he says would not be tolerated a day in the United States:

This consulate has knowledge of a small American life insurance policy, handed to the applicant five weeks after the medical examination, with no question in dispute and no word of information in the meantime whether a policy would be issued or not. With the issue of this policy and the payment of the first two premiums upon it, the offices at New York, London, Paris, Berlin and Franfort, together with a local agent, have each had something to do.

The consulate has knowledge of an American resident of this district who desired an American filecase for his office. He applied to the local agent in the town in which he lives and was told that application to the agent at Berlin for price would be made. Six days later price was furnished, with the explanation that he had to write the agent at Frankfort. The Frankfort agent wrote Berlin and the answer came back through the same channels. He added further that the case could be delivered in three weeks. All this between two cities scarcely 250 miles apart.

The same American desired a typewriter, and there being no agent in the town where he lives for the machine to which he was accustomed, he wrote the factory in the United States, explaining why he wrote and saying he wished that particular machine. Three weeks later he received a brief letter from the Berlin agent, stating that the machine was an excellent one, which he was prepared to sell at a certain price. Of effort to sell, or to follow the matter up there was none. Similar facts must have come within the observation of all Americans living abroad. American products known everywhere in the United States are kept before the public there by the constant expenditure of large sums for advertising. The same goods are offered in a foreign market and take their chances without any advertising matter whatever.

But the case as a whole is by no means a discouraging one. On the contrary, no one can survey America's foreign trade without seeing abundant evidence of the splendid organization and enterprise which have pushed it forward. That the limits have been even approximately reached no intelligent man will believe. Rather does such survey give a faint forecast of what this trade will be when this same organization and enterprise have been carried into all fields as they have in some.

Chile Seeking Means to Attract Labor

CONSUL Alfred A. Winslow of Valparaiso reports that the labor question in Chile is becoming a very serious matter and one that is keeping back the development of the country along all lines.

There is a great lack of laborers both in the city and on the farm, and because of this workmen demand very high wages and are so independent that in many cases they are of little service. There are no labor organizations, but workmen are so scarce that any one who wishes to work can demand and obtain almost any price. Common laborers have been paid eight and ten pesos per day, which means from $2.40 to $3 United States gold. The usual wage is from five to six pesos ($1.50 to $1.80) per day, and skilled labor in proportion. Even at these prices it is impossible to get near enough men.

One firm in this city with very large interests in this country has arranged to bring over 2000 coolies on contract, and a corporation is considering the matter of bringing in a like number of workmen from Argentina. It is conservatively estimated that 10,000 men could be given employment for the next two or three years in rebuilding the city of Valparaiso. Where these men are to come from is a mystery. The Government realizes this, and is considering the question of immigration. It is proposed to grant liberal land concessions to actual settlers. There is still much valuable land not occupied, and the agricultural products are needed for the country to supply food for workmen in the cities and in the mines at a reasonable price. As it is, living is very expensive here.

Personal Mention

C. J. Collins of Salt Lake City is at the Imperial.

F. B. Ross of Goldfield registered at the Imperial yesterday.

Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Foster of Boston are registered at the Jefferson.

J. S. Frank, a resident of Sydney, Australia, is at the St Francis.

Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Stewart of Orange, N J., are at the Majestic Annex.

C. R. Murdock, a mine owner at Goldfield, is at the St. Francis.

Mr. and Mrs. L. de Sallier, wealthy residents of Goldfield, are at the Savoy.

Alden Anderson of Sacramento, former Lieutenant Governor, is at the Majestic.

Mr. and Mrs. Larrin Anderson and child of Shanghai are registered at the St. Francis.

Emil Waterman, the grain and stock broker, leaves on Wednesday for a several months' European trip.

Among the arrivals at the Hamlin yesterday were John F. Brown of Reno and A. E. Crafts of Boston.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred O. Headly of Newark, N. J., are at the Majestic Annex. Headly is president of the Headly-Farmer Company of New York.

Hamilton Ward of Buffalo, the commander in chief of the Veterans of the Spanish-American War, who is in the city on a tour of inspection of the various posts, is registered at the Hamlin.

Verse Current in the Press of the Nation

ABOUT THE HORSE

WHAT will not men consent to do
For to improve the horse's breed,
And make him comelier to view,
And mend his gait and lift his speed!

Supreme the work! Nor time, nor gold,
Nor skill, nor strategy they stint,
From long before the colt is foaled
Until the veteran's final sprint.

Whatever is there about Horse
That stirs this tireless zeal in man
To make him do a stated course
A little faster than he can?

The locomotive long ago
Upset the claim that he was fast;
On common roads the automo-
bile has him hopelessly outclassed.

Good animal to ride, to plough,
Or to embellish rural scenes;
But if you really want to go,
He isn't in it with machines.

And yet the brains of men still buzz
With zeal the horse's breed to bless,
And call it bettered when he does
His mile in half a second less.

The tracks they build! the crowds they lure!
The Legislatures they enthrall;
Protesting that their aims are pure,
And mostly agricultural!

Queer, isn't it? that equine weal
Should seem so geared to human ruth,
Do men dissemble what they feel?
They like a racehorse, that's the truth.

They always did; they always will—
Some of them, anyhow—and risk
A wager on it, or a spill,
And reck not, so the pace be brisk.

Best was the good old rural way,
Afar from cops and poolrooms, too,
When John and James, each in his sleigh,
Debated what their nags could do.
—Harper's Weekly.

YOU CAN'T

You cannot cure hams with a hammer,
You can't weigh a gram with a grammar,
Mend socks with a socket,
Build docks with a docket,
Nor gather up clams with a clamor.

You can't pick locks with a pickle,
You can't cure the sick with a sickle,
Pluck figs from a figment,
Drive pigs with a pigment,
Nor make your watch tick with a tickle.

You can't make a mate of your mater,
You can't get a crate from a crater,
Catch moles with a molar,
Bake rolls with a roller,
But you can get a wait from a waiter.

You cannot raise crops from a cropper,
You can't shave your chops with a chopper,
Break nags with a nagger,
Shoot stags with a stagger,
Nor pop to a girl with a popper.

You can't grow your beeves from the beaver,
You can't catch the heaves from a heaver,
Get grains from a grainer,
Draw strains from a strainer,
Nor cleave to your wife with a cleaver.

A bat can't be made out of batter,
A flat's not a thing that can flatter,
A pond does not ponder,
A wand will not wander,
And so that's the end of our patter.
—Boston Transcript.

HOW TO PROPOSE

Do not pop on your knees
When the question you pop, sir;
If you do, all your life
On your knees you will stop, sir.

Do you love me—not thus,
For an answer may fail her;
She may ask months to solve
All the doubts that assail her.

"Will you marry me?"—that's
Going straight to the issue;
She'll reply "Yes!"—or "No!"
And so bless you or "dish" you.
—Boston Evening Transcript.

Cost of Living in the Canary Islands

CONSUL SOLOMON BERLINER of Teneriffe responds as follows to inquiries from different parts of the United States as to the cost of living in the Canary Islands and how they compare in this respect with the United States. The writers usually state that they have limited incomes:

"I am informed that fifteen years ago no place in the world was cheaper to live in than the Canary Islands; but during the last five to six years the conditions have entirely changed, and there can be but few places where the necessaries of life are more costly. Rents are not only much higher than in the United States, but the houses are less commodious and almost entirely lacking in modern conveniences. Servants' wages vary from $4 to $8 per month, but one servant in the United States is capable of as much work as three here; one good servant in the United States at $20 per month is cheaper than three here.

The following are the current prices per pound for household articles at retail, expressed in American cents: Cut or lump sugar, 14; granulated sugar, 11; coffee, green, 26 to 42; tea, 55 to 100; common salt, 4; table salt, 6; rice, 5 to 10; flour, 5; lard, 17; ham, 26; cheese, 21 to 30; butter, canned or fresh, 43; meat, 15; meat, with bones clean, 25; choice meat, 35; lamb, 25; veal, 25; pork, 17; and bread, 4 cents per pound; eggs, 35 cents per dozen. By the quart oil is 33; petroleum, 9; cows' milk, 13, and goat milk, 11 cents. Charcoal is $1.40 per hundred pounds; coal, $11 per ton. The price of bread and meat is fixed by the City Council. The foregoing prices are in American gold, the Spanish peseta being figured at 17½ cents.

"During the last five to six years resident foreigners receiving their income or salary in gold have had the benefit of exchange, the premium on gold having ranged from 35 to 45 per cent. But since January, 1906, the premium on gold has steadily been on the decline, and from May onward the rate has been between 9 and 10 per cent. So far, however, the retailers have not reduced the prices of imported articles, and, in addition to ordinary profits, they still calculate the gold premium at 40 per cent, and arrange their prices accordingly. The prices of articles grown locally have advanced from 10 to 20 per cent. In my annual report I gave the list of articles upon which octroi is levied, and it will have been observed that this includes almost all household commodities—food, light, coal, etc. Those upon which no octroi tax is levied, viz, sugar, coffee, cocoa, tea and spices, pay duty which varies from 100 to 300 per cent on original cost at port of shipment.