

The San Francisco Call

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SPRING VALLEY'S IMPUDENT DEMAND

THE Spring Valley water company declares and swears in the United States circuit court that its property and plant are worth \$53,000,000. The mortgage on that property in the shape of bonds is \$17,859,000. The cash paid in for the stock is less than \$15,000,000. These are the capital liabilities on security which the corporation values at \$53,000,000. That is to say, there is a debt of about \$32,000,000 secured on property which the owner insists is worth \$53,000,000. That is the capital sum on which the company asks the circuit court to make a decree that the water rate payers of San Francisco shall pay at least 5 per cent interest.

If the showing made by the corporation in court is anywhere near correct there is a margin of more than \$20,000,000 over and above the capital liabilities. Yet the company comes now before the people of San Francisco and tells them that it cannot either borrow or raise by assessment the sum of \$200,000 needed for replacement of plant. The president of the corporation demands that the city shall supply this \$200,000 without consideration and to be added to the capital value of the plant, on which the rate payers must pay interest.

To back up this impudent demand the corporation threatens the city with shortage in the water supply that will cause a widespread cancellation of fire insurance. President Payson intimates that the company is virtually insolvent.

Very well. If the Spring Valley water company is insolvent, as Mr. Payson pretends, let a receiver be appointed, and as the water rate payers of San Francisco are the parties chiefly interested the receiver should be named to represent them.

We do not care at this time to discuss at any length the stock watering operations of this company. It is a long and involved history, of which the most recent feature was the conversion of \$14,000,000 par value of stock into \$28,000,000. That inflation was created by the stroke of a pen under the excuse that the company desired to increase the bond issue. This duplication of stock is now used in the circuit court to bolster up the claim that the property is worth \$53,000,000.

From the facts here set forth—they are all of record—it is demonstrated that one or other of the contentions put forward by the company must be false. Either the valuation of \$53,000,000 is enormously exaggerated or the company is not insolvent, not unable to borrow the comparatively insignificant sum of \$200,000. The truth is that both of these contentions are false. The property is worth nowhere near \$53,000,000, and the company will have no difficulty whatever in raising the required \$200,000. The only lien on the property is that created by the mortgage for the \$17,859,000 bond issue.

There will be no shortage of water in San Francisco. When Mr. Payson makes this threat he forgets his own words incorporated in his annual report to the stock holders of the company in January last. In that report he said:

There were in the peninsular reservoirs after the disaster 19,608,000,000 gallons of water, which, in connection with the amount of 15,000,000,000 gallons daily that we draw from our sources on the other side of the bay, would have supplied San Francisco for nearly four years. There are now in the reservoirs over 16,000,000,000 gallons, which, with the above mentioned sources across the bay, means a supply for San Francisco, without further rainfall, for fully 1,000 days.

With these words on record, with a property which he values at \$53,000,000 and only encumbered for \$17,859,000, he pretends that the company is unable to raise \$200,000 and threatens a water shortage unless the tax-payers of the city make a present of \$200,000 to the corporation.

A GREAT FINANCIAL CENTER

THE remarkably large bank clearings in San Francisco and their steady increase since the fire have directed the attention of the whole financial world to this city. Among other explanations for this financial activity the Journal of Finance declares that it is characteristic of the history of gold producing centers. San Francisco, Seattle and Goldfield are mentioned as cities showing abnormally large banking deposits because they are so close to the sources of supply in Nevada, California and Alaska. We quote:

In Goldfield, for instance, the per capita of wealth is said to be greater than for any other city in the United States. The banks of Goldfield have deposits of from \$10,000,000 to \$12,000,000, while the population of the city is about 15,000.

There are at least half a dozen individual deposits in Goldfield banks of about half a million dollars. All such deposits for the most part represent wealth which has been dug out of the ground in the Goldfield region. It has been accumulated with astonishing rapidity, and it has not drifted toward New York to be loaned on call to stock market speculators, nor been put up as margin against commitments on the New York stock market, but it has found investment right around Goldfield, stimulating business of all kinds in Goldfield and making it a profitable city, not merely for persons interested in mining, but for merchants, professional people, mechanics and others.

Goldfield illustrates on a comparatively small scale the law that money stays near the place where it is made. It has not as much mobility as people think.

San Francisco is not at all dependent exclusively on the gold and copper that come out of the nearby mines, because the agricultural and horticultural interests already far outstrip the mine product, but the truth is that in the first instance the gold and silver dug out of the mountains built this town and are now helping to rebuild it. It is these facts that constitute and actuate the remarkable financial activity and soundness which has attracted so much attention to San Francisco, as to which there is this further testimony:

After the terrible earthquake catastrophe had visited San Francisco last year not a single bank failed. The reserves of San Francisco banks at the time of the earthquake were greater than for any other large city of the country, and in some instances were 40 or 50 per cent. Large sums were

Did I Hear Somebody Call Me?



Jose Will Sing as Topliner With Klaw and Erlanger's Vaudeville Artists

By James Crawford

RICHARD J. JOSE, who is singing simple ballads in the American theater, will spend next season as a "top liner" in Klaw & Erlanger's "advanced vaudeville" and may not be heard again in San Francisco for at least a year after the close of his present engagement.

This bit of news conveys regret to more people than would be similarly affected by an announcement that Caruso or Constantino would never return here. "Dick" Jose's voice has never been "placed" nor has he ever taken a day's schooling under a distinguished teacher of vocalism, but the most quality and wonderful range of his tenor are aided by a natural sympathy of expression that could not be acquired by study. In other words, he is a "born" singer and the fate that deprived him of an operatic training also robbed the music world of a great artist. He has sung himself into the hearts of the masses despite his defective technique.

Even those connoisseurs who find fault with Jose's phrasing and pauses must acknowledge, if they are fair, that his singing of "Silver Threads Among the Gold" or "When You and I Were Young, Maggie," touches their souls in a way that less humble songs voiced by artists of finer culture could not equal. It is the heart behind the song as well as the sentiment in it that makes Jose's hit with hearers who do not consider music as either art or science but as sounds that stir the emotions.

Henry Russell, director of the San Carlo opera company, writes from Paris that the next tour of that organization will be started at Montreal the second week in November and will extend to this coast. Nordica, Nelsen and Constantino will be the leading artists. This should dispose of the rumors that Russell is likely to succeed Heinrich Conradi as impresario of the New York Metropolitan opera house.

Nordica, by the way, is going to Munich to study the arrangements of the opera house there with a view to adapting some of them to the institution she is planning to establish on the banks of the Hudson. She says it will not be titled "The American Balthus," but "The Lillian Nordica Festival Home," and that when its purpose is thoroughly understood it will receive solid support from those who appreciate the dangers and difficulties besetting American girls who are forced to acquire their musical education in Europe because of the impossibility of obtaining proper training in this country.

John Philip Sousa and his band will begin their thirty-sixth semiannual

tour in September and arrive here in October, when several concerts in this city and one in the Greek theater will be given. This will be Sousa's eighth memorial visit of the Pacific with his band. Since the band's organization, in 1892, it has given more than 7,500 concerts and played in about 300 different cities.

Walter Damrosch will bring here next winter the first great eastern orchestra to visit San Francisco since the memorable visit of Theodore Thomas about twenty years ago, when he gave music feasts in the old Mechanic's pavilion. Since then we have been serenaded by various eastern instrumental organizations, but no "celist" or conductor of the caliber of Damrosch's New York symphony orchestra.

Among the coming season's probabilities is a visit to us by the Kneisel quartet of Philadelphia. It has been definitely arranged that the famous organization will not be disbanded, but will resume its work next fall. This result is due to the prompt action of a number of the friends of the quartet, who induced Mr. Kneisel to decline the offer of the conductorship of the Philadelphia orchestra, which was recently made to him, and to continue with his quartet the career in which he has achieved so much distinction. He is now in Europe for the purpose of organizing a "celist" to succeed Mr. Schroeder, who has retired. The quartet as reconstituted will be in readiness at the usual time for its engagements in the season of 1907-08, and a transcontinental tour is contemplated.

Katherine Goodson, the English pianist, writes to her American managers that she has secured some interesting novelties by French and Russian composers which she will present for the first time during her next American tour. Her engagements in England and on the continent will afford her only a brief vacation before her return to this country next November.

On the eve of his departure for home, Oscar Hammerstein announced in London that his new tenor for the Manhattan opera house would be Casauran, who was born in Egypt and has sung in Constantinople, Cairo and Algiers. The impresario discovered him in Madrid and an enthusiastic admirer, claiming for him a magnificent physique and a superb voice.

Henry W. Savage has received word from Franz Lehar, composer of "The Merry Widow," that he is expected for New York in September to be present for the first American performance of his much talked of opera. Lehar was practically unknown until the tuneful waltzes in his Viennese "Widow" took musical Europe by storm.

Cornerstone of California Club Will Be Laid Next Saturday

By Mary Ashe Miller

THE principal event of the summer in the club world will be the laying of the cornerstone of the new home of the California club, 1759 Clay street, on next Saturday at 2 o'clock. As many of the members of the club as are within traveling distance will be present for the occasion, and there will be interesting ceremonies in connection with it. The same copper box that held the records and was imbedded in the foundation of the former handsome clubhouse, which was destroyed in the conflagration of last year, will again be placed in its old position. The contract for the present building was let on April 18, 1907, and it will be ready for occupancy when the club reopens on the first Tuesday in September. Fortunately for the club, most of the furniture was saved, owing to the thoughtful care of Judge Aylett R. Cotton, the husband of Mrs. Cotton, who was then president of the club. He had nearly everything in the clubhouse removed to the law of J. B. Stetson's house at Van Ness avenue and Clay street, across the street from the line of the fire.

The California club is the only organization of women invited to send delegates to the industrial peace conference, which is to be held in this city next week, and furthermore all of the members have been invited to attend the sessions. The delegates appointed by the board of directors of the club are: Mrs. J. W. Orr, Mrs. A. P. Ellis, Mrs. Lovell White, Dr. Minora E. Kibbe, Mrs. Sidney Smith Palmer and Mrs. E. L. Baldwin. On the reception committee of the conference will be: Mrs. J. W. Orr, Mrs. A. R. Cotton and Mrs. Lovell White.

The club, which presented Dr. Felix Adler during his recent visit to this city, has arranged for another interesting lecture for the near future. The speaker in this instance is to be Dr. James H. Hyslop, the noted scientist and former professor of logic and ethics at Columbia university. He will lecture in the auditorium of the Bush street temple on Sunday afternoon, August 4, at 2 o'clock, and his subject will be "Science and the Future." Dr. Hyslop is the second of Columbia's noted men who has been invited by the University of California to lecture during this session of the summer school. A man of wonderful personality, a close student of "Science and the Future," Professor James H. Hyslop, the president of the leading experimental psychologists. Many students who have studied under Dr. Hyslop are on this coast and

he will speak also in Los Angeles and Portland. His investigations into the psychic powers have aroused much interest and have made Dr. Hyslop's name famous not only in this country but in Europe.

A meeting of the board of directors of Laurel Hall club was held on Thursday last at the home of Miss Henrietta Stadtmuller, president of the club, 819 Eddy street, to discuss the question of a meeting place for their organization this winter. No definite conclusion was reached and the members are still searching for suitable quarters. The first regular meeting of the club for the winter season will be held on the first Wednesday in September.

No decision has been reached as yet by the board of directors of the Corona club as to whether they will give a two months' vacation and meet again early in August, or whether three months will be taken, postponing the opening of their club to September. Mrs. Bullock, the president, nearly all of the directors and many of the members are out of town at present.

Club women throughout the state are invited to communicate news of their organizations to this department of The Call.

Answers to Queries

CASH DEPOSIT—A. H. Monterey, Cal. To determine whether a corporation has the right to demand a deposit from persons who desire to obtain the commodity offered to them, pay the deposit, then make a demand for the return of the same, and if it is refused, commence an action in the justice court for the recovery of the amount and obtain a judicial answer to the question. This department does not give legal advice.

FISCAL YEAR—H. R. City. It is stated that there was a time when all public accounts of municipal and state governments were closed on the last day of the current year, but that it was found that such interference with the mercantile accounts and it was decided to create a fiscal year, commencing in the middle of a current year.

JEFFRIES-JACKSON—W. R. Philo, Cal. Jim Jeffries and Peter Jackson fought three rounds in San Francisco March 22, 1898, and Jeffries won.

"To" a while, Miss Brady was not held in this esteem, but she soon reinstated herself by her splendid work. William Keith has almost recovered from the unfortunate accident which confined him to the hospital for several days. There was a wound in the left eye, but no serious consequences followed. Keith returned to his home in Berkeley last Friday and will no doubt soon be painting with as much youthful vim as ever.

Personal Mention

L. Horton of San Jose is at the Hamilton. J. Dear of London is at the St. Francis. John Leminger of Chico is at the Majestic.

C. B. Morris of San Bernardino is at the St. Francis. A. F. Gregor, a merchant of Detroit, is at the Dorchester.

F. C. Goodwin and wife of Laredo, Tex., are at the Hamilton.

George C. St. Clair and wife of Chicago are guests at the Hamilton.

Miss B. Howard and Miss J. M. Lewis of Long Beach are at the Jefferson.

James L. Tyler, a real estate man of New York, is registered at the Hamilton.

Professor W. H. Julius, a scientist of Utrecht, Netherlands, is at the Fairmont.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Duncan and Miss Ella McMurry of Ukiah are at the Hamilton.

A. A. Stanton and James R. Davis, mining men of Nevada, are at the St. Francis.

Mrs. M. D. Ormsbee and her daughter, Miss Ormsbee, society women of Chico, are at the Majestic.

Louis de Edelkutz and his brother, Eugene, scions of a noble Hungarian family of Budapest, who are touring America, are at the Fairmont.

In the Joke World

"Compared with former years," said the man who did the family marketing, "the price of beef during the past 12 months has been something fierce."

"That's what!" agreed the amateur sportsman; "when I was gunning several months ago I shot a cow, and the farmer's charge was frightful!"—Catholic Standard and Times.

"And is there no hope for me?" dejectedly asked the rejected suitor. "Oh, of course there is hope for you," replied the fair girl; "there are surely lots of girls in the world who are not as particular as I am."—Catholic Standard and Times.

"Over the Alps lies Italy," the grammarian had written. "The Alps are traversed by the Simpson tunnel, now," corrected the teacher of composition, being a stickler for accuracy.—Philadelphia Ledger.

of the famous academy lent a glamour which he did not deserve. "That reminds me of another queer thing," said a number of women teachers of art in Paris; but they are not sought by women students. It is pathetic to see the American girls who come to Paris with just enough money to last them a year. They think that they will be able to get a picture in the "salon" in a year or so and when they learn that they must very soon, that they can not accomplish as much in a year as they think they are going to do, they make the sum that should have done for one year do duty for three. Then they live on bread and eggs until they grow so weak they can hardly hold a brush.

"They work only half of the day in the atelier in order to save fees and to paint the remainder of the day in their own rooms, which very often are freezing cold, for they economize by not having a fire. They use cheap canvases that hardly brush together and cheap paints and brushes. I have known of women who have worked 12 or 15 years in the hope of finally getting in the salon. When you do get anything in the salon it is a great event; your fellow students come to congratulate you and the people who you live regard you with greater respect. Yet it is not really such a wonderful thing. Lots of pictures get in on pull.

"In the summer the art students went off to Gray or Fontainebleau; the impressionists went to Giverny, where Monet worked. Not that they ever saw him, but they seemed to think that some part of his atmosphere permeated the place. The summer workers were divided into two classes, those who affected an artistic appearance and those who did not. The first class usually thought that people who washed and took thought for their clothing could not paint. They were very frank about saying so, too. Ernest Peixoto was one of the spruce dressers, though he did wear a long flowing tie of an artistic type.

"The ateliers are a world by themselves, with little idea of anything that goes beyond the little conventional groove. I remember an instance that showed the limitations. Our own Miss Brady was held in high esteem over there. Benjamin Constant said she drew like an old master. Once she went

also being loaned on call in New York city at the high rates that were then ruling. It is easy to understand, therefore, why not a single bank failed, or even underwent serious embarrassment, as a result of the calamity which destroyed several hundred million dollars' worth of property.

San Francisco must always be the great financial center and market for securities on the Pacific slope.

THE PROPHET'S GROUCH

COUNT TOLSTOY sends a gloomy prediction of catastrophe or something quite as bad for the United States. "The fall of America," he cries, "when I see the deserted shrines of your forefathers I think it will come more swiftly than the fall of Rome." He proceeds:

Prosperity, prosperity! What a shameful plea is that which your American platform makers address to the voters! They do not say: "We will give you an honest, righteous government," but they say: "We'll make you all fat and sleek. If you vote for me you will have a double chin." And no one rises to say: "What will your full dinner pails profit you if while gorging your bellies you lose your immortal souls?"

Let every prophet be proud of his grouch. If he had none he would be no prophet. Prophecy is chiefly a form of personal consolation. It is a religious exercise closely akin to thanksgiving for the annihilation of an enemy, congratulating the lord of hosts on his wise discrimination and perfect workmanship.

Sound the loud timbrel o'er Egypt's dark sea, Jehovah has triumphed, his people are free, Is first cousin to "God bless the duke of Argyle," all forms of personal consolation.

Tolstoy is welcome to indulge himself in prophecies of evil at our expense, but when he says we "stole the Philippines," that is the unkindest cut. If we stole them we are ready to give them back.

HARD SLEDDING FOR THE GRAFTERS

THE flagrant job by which Architect Shea was to gather in a matter of \$100,000 of public money for services partly nominal and partly useless is a legacy of the Schmitz-Ruef reign of graft. As an example of the method, Shea has put in a bill for \$3,000 for plans of an edifice that will never be built and which he knew would never be built. One of the Sheas was formerly city architect, but the salary of that office was too small to satisfy an ambitious family with a "pull" at a time when the tax payers' money was the extravagant reward of political service to the graft regime.

That rule is ended and the Sheas will be given whatever the courts may allow them at the tail end of a lawsuit if they should think it worth while to press their claims. They are no longer dealing with Schmitz and a boodle board of supervisors. There will be hard sledding for the grafters for some time to come.

By Hanna Astrup Larsen

THE death of Julian, the head of the Julian academy in Paris, has given rise to an unconfirmed rumor that Jules Pages is to take his place.

"It certainly would make a great difference in the academy if an artist were at the head of it," said Miss Evelyn McCormick in discussing the subject. "Pages has won a great deal of recognition while he has been an instructor in the academy. In Paris he is considered one of the best, though there are so many artists."

I mentioned that though I personally admired Pages' work and had said so in public and private I had heard it "knocked" more than a little, especially by artists. "That is because his style is of the more modern and is strong and vivid," said Miss McCormick, "while most of the work out here is rather of the kind that is usually called 'Whistlerian,' though it is not like anything Whistler

ever did. Look at the figures Pages paints and you can see that he could not do that rapid work if he did not have an unusually thorough knowledge of artists.

The talk drifted to Julian's academy again and Miss McCormick grew reminiscent of the school where the greater number of the 4000 American students who go to Paris every year to pursue the thorny path of art.

"You know that Julian was not an artist at all," she said. "He used to perform in the open markets; he was one of the champion lifters of heavy weights. Then he thought he would take a few drawing lessons. He never criticized the men students when he went into their class. The men used to say that he would have been kicked out if he had. They were not there for his sake, but for the sake of the splendid instructors he employed. The women, on the other hand, would hang on the words that fell from his lips and would often wait from 2 until 6 o'clock in order to get a criticism from him. The fact that he was the head