

The San Francisco Call

JOHN D. SPRECKELS, Proprietor
CHARLES W. HORNICK, General Manager
ERNEST S. SIMPSON, Managing Editor

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BANKS SEEKING MARKET STREET

ONE of the greatest factors in the re-establishment of the retail district is the decision of several of the banks to locate on Market street. This is regarded as highly important from more standpoints than one. In the first place it strengthens the status of that thoroughfare and inspires greater confidence among the retailers, for they will naturally argue that where the bankers decide to establish a new banking district it would be wise to be in the neighborhood. It was demonstrated before the fire that banks were a necessity in the retail district, and those who started them had no reason to repent the step. The advantages to both banks and stores were rapidly shown. The banks gained depositors and the stores customers. People who had been compelled to go downtown to their banks found it far more convenient to have them near at hand and so patronized the new establishments quickly and liberally.

The bankers who will locate on Market street will not only increase their own business, but will attract around their institutions mercantile firms and will go far toward extending the area of the retail district. The institutions that have elected to build permanent homes on Market street have taken the choicest corners, and as all first class stores seek corners for the better display of their goods they will be compelled to take up their quarters on adjacent streets.

If the banks had been able to move to Market street before the fire they would have done so gladly, but the impossibility of getting suitable locations kept them in their quarters. How quickly the bankers availed themselves of the calamity born opportunity of going to Market street may be judged from the list of banks that have determined to build on that thoroughfare. When the Hibernia bank moved out to Market and Jones streets there were not wanting prophets of evil to say it was a bad move, holding to the opinion that all the banks should be in the same district or close together.

It was regarded almost in the nature of a crime to move out of the so called financial area. This so called area will, however, not be changed by the action of the savings banks in adopting Market street as their home. There will be no change in the commercial banks, with the exception of the Union Trust, which will move to its new location on Market and Grant avenue when its building is erected.

The list of the banks that will be housed on Market, from Montgomery to Powell, is an imposing one and speaks well for the importance of the city. The Metropolitan will be on the site of the old Grand hotel; the Crocker bank will be opposite, and so will the Union Trust till its new home is built. Farther up Market street and on the same side as the Crocker bank is the Mutual, and across the street in the Claus Spreckels building is the National Bank of the Pacific. A few feet west is the gigantic structure of the Humboldt bank. Where O'Farrell runs into Market will be the San Francisco savings union, and on Market and Grant the Union Trust. In the new building going up at Market and Ellis it is said the Western national will be installed.

When all these banks are permanently located there will be few cities with as fine a showing, for we shall have two distinct banking centers—the commercial banks in the heart of the financial district and the savings banks where retail stores cluster.

IMPORTANT CHANGES IN ASSESSMENT OF RAILROADS

THE unanimity with which the big railroad companies are making a poor month before the state board of equalization does them no credit. The devices employed are so transparent and so widely at variance with the known financial facts as to suggest and even enforce the theory that Mr. Black Ryan and the other railroad tax agents are persuaded that they are playing with children. The showing of poverty lacks even the merit of ingenuity.

The overland roads terminating in California are paying comfortable dividends. Never in their history were the Southern Pacific and the Santa Fe so prosperous. Mr. Harriman has announced an increase of the Southern Pacific dividend to 6 per cent. Last year the property paid 5 per cent. The most profitable part of the two overland systems lies in California. It is here they make the money that enables them to pay big dividends and have a comfortable surplus left besides.

It is quite true that both systems have some unprofitable divisions. The South Pacific coast (narrow gauge) has never paid interest on the price that Huntington paid for it. That is not the fault of the road, but is due to the fact that Huntington paid an enormously inflated price in order to shut off competition. The deficit so created is purely artificial. In the same way the North Shore road was bought by Harriman with the same purpose of shutting out competition. It may be said in passing that both of these purchases constitute criminal offenses and the deficits are only a monument to greed.

The assiduity of the roads in minimizing their profits on this side of the continent while they contradict themselves in Wall street is due to the fact that the state board has agreed on a new basis of assessment. The board has adopted the plan recommended by the state revenue commission of assessing the property of railroad corporations in proportion to the gross earnings, and the suggested rate of 4 per cent on such earnings will be, according to present advices, the measure of assessment. That will result in an

Paying the Fine



increase of some \$33,000,000 in round figures, being 40 per cent more than last year's assessment of the railroads. It is gratifying to learn that the board will in all probability increase the Pullman company's assessment by a round million dollars.

There was some difference of opinion between Controller Nye and the chairman of the board, Mr. Alexander Brown, but it concerned matters of detail and methods rather than principle. Mr. Nye wanted the gross earnings for the last fiscal year used as the basis of assessment. Mr. Brown preferred to follow the settled practice of the board and use the figures of the previous year. In support of this view it is contended that the exact figures for the fiscal year ending June 30 last are not yet obtainable in official form. This is probably true in the narrow official sense, but the figures have, in fact, been given out for financial consumption. But after all this is merely a question of detail on which there may be an honest difference of opinion. The gross earnings for the last fiscal year will come up next summer as the basis of assessment and showing an increase will result in another important addition to the assessment. The main thing is the establishment of a scientific and automatic basis of assessment in substitute for the old plan of guesswork and dirty politics.

COLLECT THE FINE

THE judgment of Judge Landis in Chicago imposing an impressive fine of many millions on the Standard oil company represents and expresses the accumulated popular indignation of a quarter century in terms of dollars. The Standard oil people and their led captains and horn blowers were wont to say: "Why, all these things have been known for years. We have been taking rebates and crushing competition all over the country for 30 years. The evidence is available in the inquiries of legislative and other public commissions. If these practices were criminal, why were prosecutions not instituted?"

These facts and the question that went with them were not easily answered. It seemed as if the hand of justice were paralyzed. The books were full of prohibitive and criminal legislation covering the case, but the department of justice was silent. In the words of Philander Knox, then at the head of the department, they were not "running amuck."

Now, whether the policy of enforcing the law shall be stigmatized as "running amuck" or not, it is certain that it remained for Theodore Roosevelt to overcome the tremendous force of official inertia. No man who has not come in contact with officialism understands the dead weight of bureaucracy or realizes the heroic efforts required to get anything done where it is outside the rut. In addition to the customary force of official inertia there are in cases like the present secret political influences that hamper or sidetrack action.

Most of us understand the tremendous political force exercised by the Standard oil group. Let us take the example nearest to hand. In California E. H. Harriman, through his agent, W. F. Herrin, exercises a nearly absolute political control. Harriman is of the Standard oil group. They found the millions that gave him his start in railroad finance.

The same cohesive force of public plunder exists in every state. In New York Senator Chauncey M. Depew is the aged and decrepit nominee of Harriman, and in alliance with the other "interests" they can count something like one-third of the membership of the United States Senate. It is this power that Roosevelt has defied and attacked. No other president has dared as much, although all the facts have been public knowledge for a score of years.

This fight has but just begun, but already we observe symptoms of official cold feet in the department of justice. It is remarked by a subordinate in the office that the big fine imposed by Judge Landis may create reaction in favor of the Standard oil crowd because the punishment seems vindictive. We confidently expected some such searchings of the official heart. It needs the big stick to keep them moving. The public will look to the department of justice to see that this matter is pushed home and will accept no silly excuses. The department of justice will be held to account for the full and speedy fulfillment of its duty.

Italian Grand Opera Season Will Begin in September

By James Crawford

COLLAMARINI, whose singing and acting of Carmen several years ago at the Tivoli were town talk, will be a principal of the reorganized Lombardi Italian opera company, which will open a season here, either in the Central theater or at the Chutes, September 25.

This interesting information comes from two reliable sources. Signor Patrizi, the Italian journalist of San Francisco, who accompanied the impresario to Milan, has written it to Manager Will Greenbaum, and Signor Nocerino, American representative of Lombardi, has applied to the Central theater management for the use of that playhouse.

Whether he obtains it depends upon the terms he offers. If he makes it advantageous to Howell to interrupt the season of melodrama we shall have grand opera at the Central. If not, then we shall have it at the Chutes.

In addition to Collamarini, the new company includes Signora Adelina Padovani, a lyric soprano who is said to be even more sensational than Tetrazzini; Signorina Bertozzi, one of the great dramatic sopranos of Italy; Cavalletti, a dramatic tenor from La Scala, and two barytones who are noted in Italy both for singing and acting. The only member of the former company retained is Ollinto Lombardi, the basso. An orchestra of 35 and a chorus of 40 singers are promised.

Let us hope that the Collamarini has retained the full measure of vocal and dramatic force and relinquished some of the superfluous flesh that was hers when last she appeared here. During her first Tivoli season she charmed the visual as well as the aural sense, but ere she finished her return engagement we were shocked to see her Carmen gradually adding wadding gait. To some of her all too solid adipose had melted 'neath Italy's sunny influence we may be tempted again to pronounce her Carmen the greatest ever, not forgetting that of Calve.

As no mention has been made of Lombardi having booked Tetrazzini, it may be accepted that she will not be in his avary this season. But that is not saying positively we shall not hear the capricious cantatrice in the near future.

Before he went abroad W. H. Leahy hinted that his mission was to organize and return with an Italian opera company headed by Tetrazzini, and until he is definitely heard from concerning her intentions it would be foolish to abandon hope of again enjoying the spell cast by her wonderful voice. If any person on earth could induce the

Tetrazzini to return to America that person is "Doc" Leahy, for to his managerial shrewdness she is indebted for extrication from difficulties that seemed to heap upon her unsophisticated—when she was here before. And perhaps all prima donnas are not ingrates.

Dr. J. Fred Wolfe informs me that he has made definite arrangements for the forthcoming season of symphony concerts in the Greek theater, nor will he devote particular attention to the subject until after the University of California reopens for the term. It is whispered, unofficially, however, that most of the great music artists booked for the coast next winter will be heard in conjunction with the university orchestra.

"The Merry Widow," whose sensational vogue in Europe and melodious waltz music already are well known in this country, will have its premiere production in America in Syracuse on September 23 and will be heard in New York three weeks later.

Another light opera, success, now running at the Apollo theater, London, which is to have its first American performance under the management of Henry W. Savage, is Edward German's opera, "The Merry Widow," scheduled to open in Washington November 4.

London Charlton has completed his formal arraignment of musical artists that he has gathered under his managerial banner. Mme. Sembrich and Mme. Gadske head the list, which includes 13 attractions in all, ranging from the pink of prima donnas to a string quartet. David Bispham's return to America, after an entire year in England, brings this famous singer back to the Charlton fold.

Edward A. MacDowell, the stricken composer, sits day after day in his New York apartments scarcely knowing or caring what is going on in the world about him. Mentally and physically he is only a shade of his former self and the aid of those who know and love him and admire his music will his last years be passed in comfort. But the MacDowell fund is growing rapidly and encouragingly.

The committee, composed of eminent New Yorkers, soon will make a report, and it is expected that when the time arrives enough will have been contributed by lovers of music to place MacDowell safely beyond the hand of grim and wearing want.

Clara Clemens, Mark Twain's daughter, who made her professional debut as a contralto last season, again will respect. They sit quietly by and hear themselves declared intellectually inferior. They allow their own sons to speak of them as dependents.

At the New York meeting Mary Dreier said: "Woman's entrance into the world is developing a social conscience in women as it has done in men, and more and more of us are seeing the vision without which people perish, as the prophet has said."

Rose Pastor Stokes said: "If suffrage comes to women, it will come through the working women, and not through the club women." A woman suffrage resolution was passed.

The Chicago meeting was held at Hull House. Delegates were there from Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Missouri. This division resolved to ask the federal government to appoint a woman upon the national labor bureau.

The California state nurses' association will hold its annual convention in Oakland, August 5, 6 and 7.

Clubwomen of the City Preparing to Take Up Their Work Again and Large Activities Are Planned

THE Laurel Hall club, which suspended all work the middle of May for a well earned vacation, will convene on the first Wednesday in September at 2 o'clock. A full attendance is urgently requested by the directors, as the fall and winter programs will be arranged.

The Cap and Bell club has taken rooms with the Sequoia over the woman's exchange in Bush street, above Van Ness avenue. Here it will meet early in September to plan the winter's work. In the meantime, under the leadership of Professor Carpenter of Oakland, an orchestra of 20 stringed instruments are practicing each week. Much is being accomplished in a musical way at these rehearsals.

The Corona club, which is advancing the interests of the Mission district, will hold its first meeting for the coming season on September 12 at the Mission Masonic temple. There are 200 active workers on the roll of this enterprising club and the directors hope for a full attendance at the initial session.

The Mizpah Charity club will resume its work on August 5 at 1737 Bush street. This club has been in existence many years and among its members are many well known charity workers. In a quiet and unostentatious way the work has been conducted of alleviating the suffering of those in trouble or want. Like many organizations, the Mizpah suffered greatly at the time of the fire, but in spite of the reverses they have accomplished much good during the past year. Conditions now being more settled they have before them every prospect of success. Much work has been mapped out for the winter months. The officers are: President, Mrs. Rulofson; treasurer, Mrs. W. H.

King; recording secretary, Mrs. E. E. Parks; corresponding secretary, Mrs. G. W. Harrison.

Artists Flee From Clamorous Poetry of Labor

By Hanna Astrup Larsen

ACTIVITY in the art world for many weeks has been small and now it is practically nonexistent in San Francisco. The ugly side of reconstruction is to the front and, though the poetry of the tremendous forces put forth in the rebuilding of the city appeal to the artist, it is but reasonable that dense swirling masses of dust blotting out the sky should appeal just as powerfully to the remembrance of green fields and purling streams elsewhere.

A few artists there are who form, as it were, the old guard of Bohemia and remain faithful to their city, even when they have to dodge swaying steel columns and swallow liberal portions of old San Francisco ground fine and borne along on the wind.

Keith, whose boast it is that the great fire interrupted his work for only two hours, from 9 to 11 in the morning, has remained in the city all the summer, except for a brief rest in his home in Berkeley after the accident he suffered not long ago. He has been working with an absorption that hardly permits him to notice whether sandstorms or balmy zephyrs are blowing.

Maynard Dixon has stuck manfully to his post until he left it temporarily for the dustier plains of Arizona. Drawing his inspiration from the atmosphere and the view of home, "Barney O'Hay," on the other side of the bay, he has done some of his best work this summer.

Mathews has been in the city and has been working on the series of mural paintings for the Oakland library. Martinez is in his retreat in the Berkeley hills painting landscapes. The blank drawing space on the walls of Copp's, which have been reserved

for his part of the Bohemian gallery, testify to his reluctance to leave the charms of his bungalow in the hills.

Organized art work is more at a standstill than that of individuals. The Sketch club has not met during the summer, but soon will begin work again with renewed energy. The guild of arts and crafts has kept its doors open a part of the time to keep the interest of the members alive. The new season will be inaugurated with the exhibition of bookbinding, which is to begin August 19, and which promises to be of unusual interest. The Sequoia club, it will be remembered, began a permanent exhibition last spring. The beginning of the fall season no doubt will see the collection of contributors who have not yet sent in anything.

But after all the inactivity is only seeming. Most of the members of the parts of the state and are gathering material that soon will bear fruit in much interesting work. Theodore Wores has been sketching at Green Brae. Ernest Petxotto has been at to study the trees that appeal to him. The women members of the Sketch club who have remained in this neighborhood all have made numerous short sketching trips.

The Carmel club of arts and crafts has realized its purpose of building an art gallery at Carmel. The building opened last Thursday with a private view. The art department of the club has been under the leadership of Sidney Hart, who has been active in pushing the project. The club owns a lot at Carmel, and a pre-erected building has been erected. The place is a favorite haunt of artists and of tourists also, and it has been felt that a per-

manent gallery where San Francisco artists could show their work would be a means of bringing the picture makers and picture lovers together.

Professor A. B. Clarke of the art school faculty at Stanford has taken the initiative in organizing an art club at the university. There is a flourishing art school here, but the faculty has felt the want of contact with the outside world and the lack of opportunity for development along artistic lines. To remedy this lack they plan to bring artists from San Francisco to the university to give lectures on the subjects of which they have made specialties. As a means of bringing some organized effort to bear on the situation, Professor Clarke proposed the club. A guild of arts and crafts has been started in Palo Alto, most of the members being people connected with the university.

The first regular term of the San Francisco Institute of art, exclusive of the summer session, will begin August 5. The Saturday school will be continued throughout the fall and winter, and it is hoped that this department of the school will be of great benefit to the school children who now are back from their vacations. The faculty are Theodore Wores, drawing and painting from life; John A. Stanton, life; M. Earl Cummings, still life; Eugen Neuhaus, decorative design and perspective; Robert H. Fletcher, history of art; Dr. Harry Everett Alderson, anatomy; C. Cass, Eugen Neuhaus, assisted by Miss Jane R. McElroy and Miss E. D. King.

Greenbaum has been sketching at Catalina island. It will be remembered that he had success of his Catalina island views last year.