

The San Francisco Call

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

Address All Communications to THE SAN FRANCISCO CALL
Telephone "Kearny 88"—Ask for The Call. The Operator Will Connect You With the Department You Wish.

BUSINESS OFFICE: Market and Third Streets, San Francisco
Open Until 11 O'clock Every Night in the Year.
EDITORIAL ROOMS: Market and Third Streets
MAIN CITY BRANCH: 1651 Fillmore Street Near Post
OAKLAND OFFICE: 468 11th St. (Bacon block). Telephone Oakland 1088
ALAMEDA OFFICE: 1405 Park Street. Telephone Alameda 576
BERKELEY OFFICE: SW. Cor. Center and Oxford. Telephone Berkeley 77
CHICAGO OFFICE: Marquette Bldg. C. George Krogness, Representative
NEW YORK OFFICE: 30 Tribune Bldg. Stephen B. Smith, Representative
WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT: Ira E. Bennett

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 \$35.00
DAILY CALL (Including Sunday), 6 months \$24.00
DAILY CALL—By single month \$2.00
SUNDAY CALL 1 year \$25.00
WEEKLY CALL 1 year \$1.00
FOREIGN Daily \$8.00 Per Year Extra
Sunday \$4.15 Per Year Extra
Postage Weekly \$1.00 Per Year Extra

Entered at the United States Postoffice as Second Class Matter.
ALL POSTMASTERS ARE AUTHORIZED TO RECEIVE SUBSCRIPTIONS.
Sample Copies Will Be Forwarded When Requested.
Mail subscribers in ordering change of address should be particular to give both NEW AND OLD ADDRESS in order to insure a prompt and correct compliance with their request.

PULLMAN COMPANY DODGING TAXES

WHEN it comes to a question of dodging taxes the Pullman company never disappoints expectation. It is always ready with some pretext of lawyerly evasion. On Thursday the corporation brought suit in the federal courts to set aside the assessment imposed by the state board of equalization, taking refuge behind the plea that it is not a railroad company and, therefore, not subject to assessment by the state board.

It happens that the California constitution in defining the powers of the state board says nothing about "railroad companies." It says "the franchise, roadway, roadbed, rails and rolling stock of all railroads operated in more than one county in this state shall be assessed by the state board of equalization at their actual value." The Pullman cars are, of course, rolling stock of a railroad, and the franchise or good will of the business is properly assessed under this provision in addition to the actual value of the sleeping cars.

The corporation further pleads that the assessment, fixed at \$1,685,527, amounts to confiscation of property by way of taxation, because, as the petitioner alleges, the plant is worth, in fact, only \$866,368. This, of course, is matter of proof, but it may be said now in answer that the corporation does not come into court with clean hands in this matter, because it has constantly refused to furnish the state board with any information as to earnings, which must always be the prime test of value. If, for the sake of argument, it is assumed that the complaint states the actual cost of all Pullman cars operated in California, that is not the final test of value for assessment purposes as provided by the constitution. The state board is directed to consider the value of the franchise and to ascertain that the sum of earnings must be supplied in evidence. The corporation has never furnished that information, although repeatedly requested to do so, and in the absence of such knowledge an arbitrary assessment was justified in accordance with the practice prescribed by law in such cases. As a matter of fact, the assessment is moderate, as will appear very clearly when the corporation is compelled by the court to supply evidence of its earnings.

THE AFFIDAVIT EDITOR ON THE CANAL

NO. 1 volume 1 of the Canal Record, published at Ancon, under the authority of the isthmian canal commission, has made its modest appearance. If this official organ of the commission shall depart from the past policy of concealment and misrepresentation that has characterized the press agency of the canal administration it will become a most esteemed contemporary. Otherwise it will be merely an object of derision. We hope that the Canal Record has turned over a new leaf. The editorial announcement says, among other things:

Space will also be given to letters from employees relating to any topic upon which they may choose to write, subject only to the restrictions that such communications must be couched in respectful language and must be signed in each instance with the name and address of the writer.

There is a hint of censorship in the phrase "respectful language" which may be supposed to include, or rather, exclude, a multitude of sins that grieve the official heart, but, perhaps, the blue pencil will not often be required. The rebellious employe will seek some other medium.

Some idea of the social life on the canal is given. There are four official clubhouses for employes, with a total membership above 1,600. The great American games of pool, billiards, baseball and basket ball are encouraged. The Record is discreetly silent about poker and bridge. Mention of these games might not be "respectful" to the administration. We rejoice to learn that vaudeville is provided as well as quinine. Some of us would as soon take one medicine as the other.

There is one alarming note that we find hidden away in a corner of the Record, and it says: "The commission printing plant turned out 24,000,000 pieces of printed matter during the last year." God help us; the affidavit editor has invaded the canal zone.

SOME CLERICAL INTOLERANCE

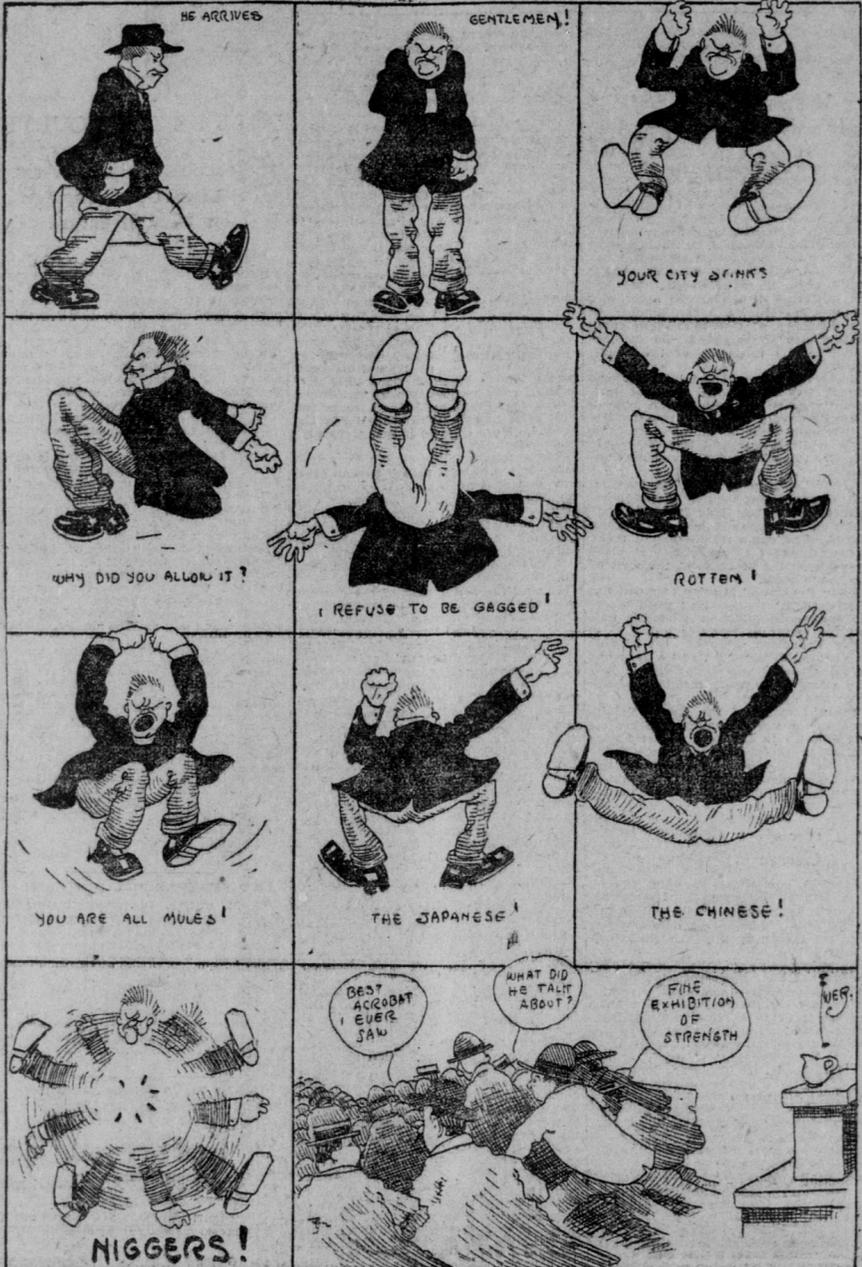
THE clerical view or, rather, the views of a certain section of the clergy, on the matter of Asiatic immigration finds example in the following paragraph written by the Rev. Wilbur F. Crafts:

Our present relations to the yellow and brown man can no more continue than our former relations to the black man. They are equally inconsistent with the golden rule and the declaration of independence. Public conscience, when informed and aroused, will again overcome selfish interests. If American planters and cotton manufacturers could not perpetuate slavery, surely a handful of foreign workmen cannot permanently endanger and dishonor our country by their insulting cry, "Asiatics must go!" Rather, race prejudice must go.

These utterances breathe the old intolerant spirit that people used to know under the name of odium theologium—the spirit of religious hate. Mr. Crafts goes on to declare that: the movement to exclude Asiatic immigration is "due to the aggressive activity of a small minority of foreign workmen who terrorize congress." This is quite painfully distressing. Who shall rescue congress from these vain and silly alarms? This pint pot measure for a movement that agitates America, Canada, Australia and South Africa amuses. Four great peoples terrorized and none in sight to save them but Rev. Mr. Crafts!

By some astonishing process of theological reasoning Mr. Crafts sees in the exclusion movement a parallel with the slavery that existed in the south before the war. As a matter of fact, the

Tillman Comes to Town



purpose of exclusion is to prevent the creation of a class of servile labor.

We would not classify other clergymen with Mr. Crafts, and yet there is a distinctively clerical type of mind of which he offers an example, loquacious, half baked and half cocked, always ready to exploit a capacious ignorance with all the pretentious air of an ex cathedra judgment.

HERRIN, WILSON ET AL.

THE Santa Barbara Independent appeals to Caesar. Will Mr. Herrin kindly remove the boodler Wilson from the state railroad commission? All other means have failed. Says the Independent:

Herrin possesses powers that heretofore have stood every test. It is freely admitted that the Southern Pacific attorney in chief is the governor general of California. He made Wilson a railroad commissioner. He can unmake Wilson and thereby win the gratitude of his people.

The writer prays that the reader of this article will not construe his words on Herrin as in any sense sarcastic. It is but a plain statement of facts. That the people of California are satisfied with the conditions and their government has been amply proved in the repeated elections, when they have voted again to continue Herrin in power.

Herrin has now the opportunity to prove his appreciation of the loyalty of the people to him. Mr. Herrin does not seem to share the prejudice against boodlers and bribe takers. Indeed, they are a commodity in which he deals. Whether the bribes that Herrin gives come in the shape of office or other inducement, he cannot afford to discourage the industry. Wilson is worse than his colleagues on the board, because he has been found out; but none of them is honest. They all take money from the state for which they render no service. Their official existence is a public scandal. If they had any sort of decency they would one and all resign.

NOTE AND COMMENT

Russia proposes to build the biggest battleship afloat. It will be of little use for fighting purposes if it doesn't stay afloat longer than her other ones did.

Fairbanks supporters insist that his boom is not dead. To be sure, rigor mortis has not set in; but it's sufficiently comatose to cease worrying anybody but Fairbanks and his adherents.

Governor Hughes says that the

Personal Mention

F. W. Street of Sonora is at the Dorchester.
James J. Hamlyn of Oroville is at the Baltimore.
Dr. S. J. Litterer is at the St. James from Petaluma.
Dr. G. G. Hart, United States navy, is at the Savoy.
G. Harding and family of Suisun are at the St. James.
E. D. Walsh is a guest at the Dale from Kansas City.
Charles R. Day of Providence, R. I., is at the St. Francis.
Lieutenant P. J. Morrissey is at the Imperial from Boston.
C. L. Billie, a mining operator of Oroville, is at the Imperial.
Theodore Sayers registered at the Dale yesterday from Reno.
John H. Miller and Mrs. Miller of New York city are at the Savoy.
Dr. E. F. Gasley and Mrs. Gasley are at the Majestic from Austin, Nev.
Adjutant General J. B. Lauck of Sacramento is a guest at the Grand Central.
Alfred Hanford registered at the St. Francis yesterday from Sacramento.
James M. Burch and Mrs. Burch are guests at the Fairmont from Dubuque.
Julius Tutuer of Cleveland took apartments at the Fairmont yesterday.
S. A. Spillman of Ottumwa, Iowa, and Mrs. Spillman are guests at the Baltimore.
D. M. Riordan, mine owner and investor, is at the Fairmont from New York.
A. J. Roberts, a mining man of Tonopah, is among the guests at the Savoy.
Edward Ackerman and Mrs. Ackerman of San Anselmo are at the Dorchester.
H. N. Whitford of Manila and Lucius Robson of New York are at the Jefferson.
Thomas A. Marshall of Keltsburg, Ind., Christopher Gottlieb of Kansas

Exploiting a Poet

The queer literary effects produced on a bagpipe at the expense of George Sterling and Ambrose Bierce

By Edward F. Cahill

WALKING by the circus tent on Market street the other day I listened for a moment to the man within who was making a noise like a lion on the bagpipe of an auto. Strange, mysterious sounds, they set the young imagination all agape with visions of lions, tigers and chimeras dire. Hidden behind the canvas the swelling roar gave a small boy the creeps, and after all it was but a nature faker codging for nickels.

There is no objection to circus methods in the circus, but when the brass banding and the bagpipe squeezing and the burnt cork are applied to the exploitation of a work of art for a sordid purpose the process is vulgar and debasing. One feels a certain sympathy for George Sterling and Ambrose Bierce for the shabby way they have been used as cheapjohn merchandise. Mr. Sterling has written a poem, Mr. Bierce has praised it in terms that do not appear to me extravagant. All that is very well, but here steps in the editorial press agent and with clumsy fist tries to convert Bierce and Sterling into a minstrel show. It is the method of the circus faker making a noise like a lion by squeezing his bagpipe to wheedle dollars from a hayseed pocket. "The celebrated and unexamined Mr. Ambrose Bierce will appear in tights for this one occasion only. Mr. Bierce's legs are a poem." Why should George Sterling be converted into a holy show?

Not very long before Tennyson died he wrote to a friend on one of the literary reviews, "Don't let the awkward squad fire over my grave." But the cruelty is greater when the sufferer is alive.

The piping of the press agents will not accomplish its sordid purpose. Sterling's poetry will never be popular. That is no reproach, nor on the other hand is popularity the poet's shame. Bierce compares Sterling's verse with Milton's "Comus." The comparison is apt. "Comus" is one of the greatest poems ever written and I venture to bet my neighbor's umbrella that not a hundred men in America have read it through outside of the philologists, a truckling folk and tiresome, suspected of cherishing Begwulf, which sounds like a remark made by a dog. It was my fortune once to see "Comus" put on the stage. Good Lord, how many years ago—at Drury Lane. It was about that time they began to call the theater "Old Drury." In all "Comus" there is just one line that has fastened itself on the popular imagination, and that is always misquoted. It has earned immortality by transmutation into a proverb. Guess what. Every schoolboy ought to know that because, mind you, this is one of the greatest poems ever written, and no circus about it.

Suppose we put Sterling in the class with Coleridge and Keats. Does anybody read these poets nowadays? If it were all like this—I quote from memory—

In Xanadu did Kublai Khan
A stately pleasure dome decree.
Where Alph the sacred river ran
Through caverns measureless to man,
Down to a sunless sea.

But there are dreary deserts of words in both writers, while the best of it is too good for the popular taste. Yet the homely phrases of Gray's Elegy have become part of the everyday language of the plain people.

If there is any place in which Sterling fails it is perhaps in that exquisite sense of nature that Mathew Arnold attributed to the Celtic influence on literature. I cannot explain this sense, but I may offer an example. Again I quote from memory, a slovenly practice, but since the fire I have no books. It is a line written by Mathew Arnold:

The wide unplumbed straying sea.

So far as I know that is about the only really poetic line in all Arnold's verse, but that is glory enough for one man's achievement.

I advance the opinion with some diffidence that Sterling fails somewhat of this. I can see that he works for a like effect, but I venture to say that the result is hard and creaky at the joints. It seems to me to lack the spontaneity that a little more elbow grease might give. That sounds like a contradiction in terms, but it is not. I do not insist on the point. I merely suggest, and in fact there are verses in the poem that nearly touch perfection in this regard, as for instance—

The colored morning shakes
A splendor on the ruby sandbed beach.

Yet I think that Sterling's muse is one of the Furies rather than the Nymphs. What more frightful than:

And Satan yawning on his brazen seat
Fondles a screaming thing his fends have slayed.

That last line offers example of a common fault in Sterling's verse. It does not scan.

Verse Current in Press of Nation

THE VANISHED DAYS
LAY the jest about the julep in the camphor balls at last,
For the miracle has happened and the olden days are past;
That which makes Milwaukee thirsty does not foam in Tennessee,
And the lid in old Missouri is as tight locked as can be—
Oh, the comic paper colonel and his cronies well may sigh,
For the mint is waving gayly, but the south is going dry.

By the stillside on the hillside in Kentucky all is still,
For the only damp refreshment must be dipped up from the rill,
Noth' Cal'ns' stately ruler gives his soda glass a shove,
And discusses local option with the South Cal'ns' gov.;
It is useless at the fountain to be whimsical of the eye,
For the cocktail glass is dusty and the south is going dry.

It is water, water everywhere, and not a drop to drink,
We no longer hear the music of the mellow crystal clink,
When 'the colonel and the major and the gen'l and the judge
Meet to have a little nip to give their appetites an edge,
For the egg nog now is nogless and the rye has gone away,
And the punch bowl holds carnations, and the south is going dry.

All the nightcaps now have tassels and are worn upon the head—
Not the nightcaps that were taken when nobody went to bed;
And the breeze above the bluegrass is as solemn as is death,
For it bears no pungent clove tang on its odoriferous breath;
And each man can walk a chalk line when the stars are in the sky,
For the fizz glass now is fizzless, and the south is going dry.

Lay the jest about the julep 'neath the chestnut tree at last,
For there's but one kind of moonshine and the olden days are past;
When I get down to grandpa's house I'll be a boy again,
Folks ain't afraid of crackles there, Nor bother 'bout the rain,
I'll ride the horses baraback and I'll walk on ev'ry fence;
No one'll scold me when I tear My pants—gee, that's immense!

I'd rather be to grandpa's house Because I have such fun,
And I'll be awful sorry when Vacation time is done,
I'll soon be down to grandpa's house And be a boy once more,
Where I won't get no scolding when I track up grandpa's floor.
—New York Sun

ENGLAND'S COLONIZATION SCHEME
Extract from a British schoolboy's essay on how England colonizes: "I will tell you how England obtains her colonies. First she sends out her missionaries, and they look about for the best land. When they have found it they call the people to prayer, and when their eyes are fast shut up goes the union jack."
The California Promotion committee wired the following to its eastern bureaus in New York yesterday:
California's temperatures for the last 24 hours:
Eureka Minimum 49... Maximum 66
San Francisco Minimum 49... Maximum 70
San Diego Minimum 68... Maximum 79
San Francisco building permits for the week ending Sept. 21, 1907:
Permanent 70... Value \$1,005,000
Alterations 41... Value 25,000
Arrangements have been made in Sacramento for an eight story class A hotel structure of 300 rooms, at Tenth and K streets, on a site 140x150. The cost of building and site will be \$650,000.
Work has begun on the Ross building, at Butler street and Clara lane, San Francisco. This will be an eight story class A structure, 118x191, with a facing of terra cotta.

From the Call's Joke Corner

GOOD IDEA
"My landlady gives me a bored feeling whenever she speaks to me."
"Then why don't you get board somewhere else?"

BEATS "CULCHER"
"I went to one of those grand opny shows when I was down to the city," said the postmaster, "an' I sat there fer two hours tryin' to figger it out. At last I says to a feller sittin' next to me, 'What's this thing about?' an' he said, 'It's about over, thank the Lord.' This culcher business may be all right, but when it comes right down to enjoyin' music, give me one of the machine pianos an' turn loose old 'Swanee River.'"

AS USUAL
"Did those mining stocks go up that you bought last month?"
"No, but the company did."

MUTUAL SUSPICION
"Blank and Blink seem to be trying to avoid each other lately. Did they have a quarrel?"
"No; but Blink owes Blank twenty and is afraid Blank will ask him for it; and on the other hand Blank is afraid Blink will try to touch him for another twenty."

SANK IN THE BAY—C. M. K. Alameda, Cal. The ferry boat San Rafael sank in the bay on San Francisco November 30, 1901.

ARBITRATION—A. S. City. The United Railroads company offered to settle the trouble with the carmen by arbitration before the strike last May.

WHEEL COMPANY—A. B. S. Stockton, Cal. For information relative to some one connected with a wheel company of Toledo, O., address a communication to the "secretary" of the company.

and H. Justin, who are on a western hunting trip, registered at the St. Francis yesterday.

Charles E. Hollister, a fruit grower of Portland, is registered at the Grand Central.

George W. Root and Mrs. Root of Grass Valley are among the guests at the Dale.

E. Golinsky and Mrs. Golinsky of Kennett have apartments at the Majestic annex.

H. C. Plummer and Mrs. Plummer registered at the Majestic yesterday from Placerville.

Harvey Grainger, Mrs. Grainger and Miss Mary Grainger of Savannah, Ga., are at the Fairmont.

W. H. Carlson, former mayor of San Diego, is at the Fairmont. He is accompanied by his wife and son.