The San Francisco Call

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LET US HAVE THE SAME SUPERVISION OF RAILWAY OPERATION AS PROTECTS TRAVELERS BY WATER

THIS country suffers an unaccountable lapse of the supervision that should be applied to the causes of railroad accidents. Casualties occurring on the railways are regarded and treated as matters of purely local concern, and the slipshod inquiries that follow are usually perfunctory, often tinged with politics and never informed with expert knowledge. Disasters by sea are treated in a wholly different way and are followed by a rigid inquiry, conducted by officials selected for their skill and knowledge of seafaring life. Yet the number of casualties due to railroad accidents far exceeds the loss of life and limb by shipwreck.

Not only does this expert examination follow and seek to ascertain the cause of shipwreck, but the same bureau is charged with the duty of inspection to ascertain the seaworthiness of ships. Nothing of the sort is applied to the operation of railways. Everything is left to the discretion of the operating department. If the railway officials see their way to make money by taking chances on the lives of passengers, there is nothing to prevent.

There is obvious need of a national railway bureau of inspection to regulate operation and ascertain the causes of accidents. These duties, as far as they get any sort of attention, are now intrusted to the casual coroner's jury, ignorant and irresponsible mostly and very often selected by an official who owes his political existence to the railroad company.

For the fiscal year 1906 there were 108,324 casualties to persons traveling on railways in the United States, and 10,618 of these were fatal. Of those killed 359 were passengers; trespassers, mostly tramps, made up about half of the total, and the remainder were railway employes. The various railways in this country employ 285,556 train hands, and of these one out of every 124 was killed and one out of every eight injured. The list is a frightful one, larger than exists in any other country.

The loss of life by shipwreck is probably greater than on the railroads, but there is not that frightful butcher's bill for personal injuries for which the railways are responsible. The traveling public and the railway employes whose lives and limbs are put in jeopardy have the right to such supervision of apparatus and operation as may best insure their safety.

HARD ON THE "HIGHER UPS"

ROLAND B. MOLINEUX, once the central figure of a sensational murder trial, writes from his prison experience of the reformation of criminals. In brief, he concludes that all sentences should be of indefinite term, and no convict should be released until he demonstrates his complete reformation to the satisfaction of a court of rehabilitation.

It is very well that men of intelligence and education, like Molineux, should be able to give us the benefit of their observations of prison life from the prisoner's point of view. In Charities and the Commons, a periodical of philanthropy, Molineux tells how the court would work:

Civilization will have advanced a step when for the first time a prisoner appears in that court. The burden of proof being upon him, he makes the opening address. A little halting, perhaps, it is at first, yet it shows the intelligence these years have developed. He tells the story of his life previous to imprisonment, it can be verified, and then shows by witnesses all he has since accomplished. The warden testifies to his perfect discipline; a teacher to his having learned correctly to speak, read and write the English language; possibly, he has even mastered a foreign tongue; also he is now expert in keeping books, or he has worked in the various shops of the prison, and instructors pronounce him a skilled mechanic. Also it is shown that deposited in the prison treasury are his savings, the state having paid him for his labor. Friends, relatives, or those that have become interested in him during his imprisonment, prove that work has been provided for him in some place distant from his former temptations and associations.

That is very pretty and might work well when applied to the lower forms of crime and criminals, but let us suppose, for the sake of argument, that Patrick Calhoun, or some other captain of industry, should be sent to prison for bribery on an indefinite sentence; how would he be able to prove his reformation to the satisfaction of a court? He is already able to read and write the English language. Quite possibly he has mastered a foreign tongue, but even that did not keep him out of mischief. He is expert, too expert, in keeping books, but that does not always keep a man honest.

The Molineux plan would be hard on the "higher ups." They might have to stay in prison until the crack of doom or until they could show themselves fit to be trusted where public utility franchises are lying about loose.

HEARST HAMMERING BRYAN—WHY?

MR. HEARST declares open war on Mr. Bryan. Most people suspected that Hearst had a knife in his boot, ready to be stuck into "the peerless leader" if occasion should offer, when nobody was looking. Quite possibly Hearst will say, even now, that he is not attacking Bryan, but merely the unprincipled followers of the Nebraskan, who are organizing the Massachusetts democracy by hook and by crook to carry the state delegation for a twice beaten candidate next year.

Mr. Hearst devotes many columns of his Monday issue to an exposition of his view of "the high handed exhibition of gavel rule by which the Bartlett faction gagged the democratic state convention." It is a quarrel that concerns California not at all and has only the most trifling intrinsic interest in the west. When it is given place on the first page of Mr. Hearst's San Francisco newspaper its only significance lies in the exposure of bad blood between the newspaper publisher and Bryan. It appears that George Fred Williams, the Massachusetts politician, captured, bound and gagged the convention and took the organization away from the Hearst faction. This is the way Hearst views it:

The boldness and irregularity of the whole proceedings, as carried out by Williams and his lieutenants, has caused much speculation in democratic circles in the state today as to the attitude Mr. Bryan will assume.

These tactics are even worse than any ever attempted by corporate interests to control conventions and dictate the nomination of friendly candidates, which have been denounced so bitterly by Bryan and other radical leaders.

Another interesting phase of the situation is the fact that Bryan fought unceasingly against the seating of the Illinois delegation to the last national democratic convention in St. Louis in 1904, headed by Roger Sullivan of Chicago.

Persons familiar with both situations declared yesterday that the tactics of the Bartlett faction, supported by Williams, Bryan's friend, went even further yesterday than the Sullivan faction went in Illinois three years ago to control that delegation.

How will "Bryan's friend" like that, and how will Bryan like it? Its only public interest lies in its bearing on Hearst's recent declaration that he was not a candidate for the democratic nomination. For the rest the view taken by the policeman on the ground appears to cover the case: "It's just a few democrats fighting among themselves, and we ain't called on to interfere until they begin to throw things."

Teddy's Whirl Through the South

EXPORTING A CHRISTMAS DINNER

UNCLE SAM is good to his boys. Christmas is coming and the men in blue and khaki in far Manila are beginning to feel hungry for a taste of the great American bird—not him or her that figures on the coin of the realm, but the turkey that fattens on the foothill slopes of California. White meat and dark meat aplenty and a wad of the pie that mother used to make is sailing across the broad Pacific to give our soldier boys a taste of God's country when Chirstmas comes.

Whoever would have supposed that the war office is human? What federal bureau is suspected of a stomach or bowels of compassion? Perhaps it was big Bill Taft, amply provided as he is with such apparatus of emotion, who had this happy thought to send a Christmas dinner for an army across the desolate Pacific. If that be so, more power to his elbow and may he live to eat many Christmas dinners and never have the plum pudding nightmare.

The Roman poet remarked that we change our skies but not our mind when we cross the seas. It might be said of the American exile that where he goes his dinner follows. You can get buckwheat cakes and molasses on the island of Luzon and an illuminated procession of breakfast foods pursues us round the world.

NOTE AND COMMENT

Modesty is a disease, according to a London doctor. Anyway, it isn't epidemic.

In Tennessee a man named Corn is running for office. He should harvest a large vote.

Ryan's supporters urge with pride that he is a self-made man, but they are shy abut boasting that he is a self-nominated candidate.

Major Henry B. Hersey says the United States is behind Europe in aerial navigation. Wouldn't "beneath" be a better word?

A New York policeman who shot a man in the brain while standing off a mob claims as a defense that he fired into the air. Judgment must be withheld until we find out how tall the victim was.

The dispatches are wrong in stating that the oldest Odd Fellow in the United States has just died. If he is the oldest he isn't dead, and if he is dead he isn't the oldest.

The San Jose Times has an editorial captioned "We Shall Be Too Full for Utterance," and on the same page is found this editorial sentence: "In Rugby the student may attain the greatest height his own immaturity can reach and yet that immaturity will not longer attain the branches that his imaginings will not excel." Can it be that the caption was in the wrong tense?

Answers to Queires

MATINEE—J. T. W., San Jose: Matinee is French and pronounced as if written "Mat-in-a."

* * *

LONDON POLICE FORCE—Subscriber, City: The numerical strength of the London police force is 17,210.

* * *

BATTLING NELSON—A. O., City: Battling Nelson never was the lightweight champion of the United States of America.

* * *

DESERTION—A. A. M., City: The articles of war, United States army, say in regard to time for trial for desertion: "No person shall be liable to be tried and punished by a general courtmartial for desertion in time of peace and not in face of an enemy, committed more than two years before the arraignment for such offense, unless he shall, meanwhile, have absented himself from the United States, in which case the time of his abscence shall be excluded in computing the period of limitation; provided, that said limitaton shall not begin until the end of the term for which said person was mustered into the service."

By The Call's Jester

WORSE THAN GOBLINS

Mabel—Uncle, my Teddy bear goes to s'eep when I tell it an' wakes up when I tell it, an' knows what I say when I talk wif it.

Uncle—Hush, child. The president'll get you if you don't watch out.

* * *

COSTLY ENTHUSIASM

"John, I saw the most beautiful thing in skirts today."

"So did I! She—er—that is—how much did you say you wanted, my dear?"

* * *

SAME THING

"Soakley's yacht is still in harbor. I hear that she couldn't get past the bar."

"No; it was Soakley who had that difficulty."

* * *

THE SKEPTIC

"Do you believe the scientist who says that Mars has inhabitants 15 feet tall?"

"I don't believe Mars has any inhabitants 't all."

* * *

NOT SO SPEEDY

"My son, it's disgraceful the way you are constantly in debt. When I was your age I paid as I went."

"But perhaps you didn't go as fast as I do, father."

* * *

HE GOT IT

Lady—If I should ask you to cut some wood before I gave you any dinner, what would you say?

Tramp—I would say you wuz jokin', becuz such a kind, beautiful lady as you couldn't be so crool. W. J. W.

Personal Mention

S. E. Cross of Stockton is at the Jefferson.

Marion Bollinger of Eureka is at the Imperial.

Thomas M. White of Seattle is at the Pacific Grand.

James B. Dermody of Goldfield is at the Baltimore.

David Martin of Los Angeles is at the Majestic Annex.

C. J. Witt of Winthrop, Shasta county, is at the Baltimore.

H. Alston and Mrs. Alston of Grass Valley are at the Jefferson.

Dwight M. Dwight, a contractor of Long Beach, is at the Dale.

H. L. Peury and Mrs. Peury of Santa Barbara are at the Hamlin.

F. J. Baker and Mrs. Baker of Sacramento are guests at the Jefferson.

Martin M. Hanotaux, a relative of a former premier of France, is at the Fairmont.

Patrick B. Lockwood, a veteran of the Soudan and a globe trotter, is at the Fairmont.

W. A. Rogers, proprietor of the Walnut Creek hotel, is spending a few days at the Hamlin.

J. R. Holly, a silverware manufacturer of Bristol, Conn., and Mrs. Holly are at the Hamlin.

Colonel T. H. Minor of Eureka, who is interested in Nevada mining properties, is at the St. Francis.

J. B. Goodenough, one of the men who helped frame the constitution of the new state of Oklahoma, is a guest at the Grand Central.

D. L. Martin, a cotton man of New Orleans, is at the Grand Central, returning from a trip through the cotton growing regions of India and Egypt.

Motley H. Flint, postmaster at Los Angeles, and Leo V. Youngworth, United States marshal at the same place, are here to attend the sessions of the Masonic grand lodge. They are at the Majestic.

The Insider

Gives some interesting facts about the construction of the Montgomery block, the first large fireproof building in San Francisco

Pioneer Fire Proof Building in City

NOW that fireproof buildings are going up by the score it is of interest to recall the first fireproof structure of any magnitude ever erected in San Francisco. It was completed in 1854 and was known as "Montgomery block." Its owners, twice burned out in the fires of the fifties and determined to avoid further loss from that direction, purchased the three beach and water lots on the corner of Washington and Montgomery streets and started to isolate the building by running a street 30 feet wide from Montgomery to Sansome. They gave 15 by 137 feet of their land and induced other property holders to contribute the necessary remainder. So a street named Merchant was added to the city map.

General H. W. Halleck, who superintended the construction of "Montgomery block," had been superintendent of construction of forts, and the cement walls he built were so thick and solid that not a single brick could be loosened. The east wall was 20 inches thick. The building, which was four stories high, had not a single opening in it and boasted a high parapet. For many years it was the headquarters of brilliant and well known lawyers, renting for $6,000 a month. Later it brought $4,000, and after that fell to $1,200 monthly. "Montgomery block" has perhaps earned more money in rents than any other one building of its size in the city.

A Moving Picture That Was Genuine

Approaching the door of a beautiful country home in Belvedere last Sunday in the act of saying farewell to my hostess, my attention was attracted by a superb painting which hung at the side of the entrance. The scene was a landscape and was surrounded by a deep gilt frame. The landscape depicted a stretch of water with a cloud flecked sky, steep banks and tossing trees. Apparently a high wind was blowing. It was a magnificent work of art full of unrivaled lights and shades and with a strength and virility about it which is amazing. I turned for a last look, and rubbed my eyes, for I thought I must be dreaming. The picture was moving! Not the framed picture itself, but the objects—the water, the trees, even the clouds in the exquisite stormy sky. An indefinable, inscrutable change came over the pictured landscape even as I gazed. In amazement I turned to the owner of the remarkable painting and mutely questioned with my eyes. She laughed outright.

"Don't worry," she said. "You are not the only one who has been puzzled by that painting. It really is a painting, but by the great artist Nature. You are looking at the real thing, and the frame is only placed there to give the natural objects the effect of being a picture. We had a section of the wall cut out and the frame fitted around it. Is it not an idea?" And I thought it was.

Drug Store Lights Fool Yachtsmen

The last yachting cruise of the season has a royal story following in its wake. A certain yacht crew after a long and jolly sail entered on the home stretch after dark. A raw wind had been blowing all the afternoon and all the things on board that could be applied as first aids to the chilled had been used. Perhaps that was why the approach to port seemed a trifle difficult. Nathless all hands managed to steer an appreciably straight course until quite near their anchorage, which they might have reached in safety had it not been for the red and green lights of a big vessel which hung directly in their path. After several futile attempts at passing the winking lights one disgusted mariner grew weary. "Oh, ram the old hulk," he said indignantly. "Go for her good and hard; anything that'll make her get out of the way." The congenial spirits on board did their work. The boat's nose was headed for the dismal hulk which persisted in showing her starboard and larboard lights to the discomfiture of tired and hungry sailors, when—presto! the yacht shoved her way deep into an unexpected bank of mud and sand. The mariners scrambled forward the better to see what had happened. At least they had got around those lights. But their rejoicing was all too soon, for there straight ahead loomed the red and green lights as big as ever. When the sailor boys finally discovered after much scrambling and tumbling that what they had been endeavoring to ram was merely the brilliant lights of a drug store some 40 feet up the beach the language in use was reprehensible even for amateur tars.

The Smart Set

MISS EDITH McCABE and Ernest Ludlow McCormick will be married this afternoon in the home of the bride's mother in Broderick street. Two hundred invitations to the ceremony have been issued and society people have been eagerly awaiting what promises to be one of the season's prettiest weddings. The large drawing room and the adjoining library will be elaborately decorated with huckleberry branches, tiger lilies and pink carnations, and the front bay window, where the young couple will stand, will be a bower of asparagus, fern and white blossoms. After the short ceremony a wedding breakfast will be served, Mr. and Mrs. McCormick leaving this afternoon for their honeymoon trip.

Miss McCabe's gown is a simply cut, heavy white silk, trimmed on the square folds of the waist with old lace. With it she will wear a long veil of silk illusion and carry white orchids. Her matron of honor is her brother's wife, Mrs. Roy McCabe, and her bridesmaid Miss Josephine Lindley.

Upon their return to San Francisco Mr. and Mrs. McCormick will take possession of a charming apartment on Jackson street near Fillmore, which is already furnished for them.

* * *

A visitor here from Los Angeles is Mrs. M. R. Crooke, who came up a few days ago and is at the Fairmont. Mrs. Crooke made her home here some years ago with her daughter, Mrs. George Cameron, and has many warm friends in this city.

* * *

After a month's visit with Dr. and Mrs. Alexander Warner in Mill Valley, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Rawlings have gone to Los Gatos for a fortnight. Upon their return they will spend two more weeks with Mrs. Rawlings' parents before leaving for their own home in New Mexico. Mrs. Rawlings spent all of last summer here, her husband joining her a few weeks ago, and it is with much regret that old friends and new see them start on their long journey again. They plan to come to California in about two years for another visit.

* * *

The news of the sudden marriage of Miss Pauline Fore and James K. Moffitt in London a week ago came as a decided surprise to their friends here, even though the engagement had long been known. Miss Fore has been traveling in Europe for some months with Miss Ethel Valentine, also a Californian, but it was not supposed that her marriage would take place until her return to San Francisco in the spring. Mr. Moffitt, however, and his mother, Mrs. J. K. Moffitt Sr., joined the young ladies in London, where they went from Paris late in September, and the wedding took place a few days later. It was witnessed only by Mrs. Moffitt and Miss Valentine. Immediately after the ceremony the young couple left for a honeymoon trip in Mr. Moffitt's big tourist car, with which they intend to explore some of the cathedral towns, possibly extending their tour to the continent in the spring.

* * *

An Alameda wedding of interest is that of Miss Ruby Johnson and Colin Nicol, which is set for this evening and will take place in the handsome Johnson home in Santa Clara avenue. Rev. William Norman Guthrie will perform the ceremony, the bride being attended by her cousin, Mrs. Emery Elliot, who was a bride herself only three weeks ago. John Postlethwaite of San Jose will be Mr. Nicol's best man. After a short wedding trip Mr. and Mrs. Nicol will go to their own home in San Jose, where Mr. Nicol has business interests.

* * *

Mrs. Alfred Pettis of Santa Monica entertained on Wednesday afternoon in honor of Mrs. Irving Sayford of San Francisco, who has been visiting her sister, Mrs. A. F. Johnson, in the southern city. Mr. and Mrs. Sayford returned to town a day or two ago and are preparing to leave about the 15th of this month for New York, where Mr. Sayford's business interests will be centered for some years to come.

* * *

Congratulations are being extended to Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Walton, upon the advent of a little daughter, whose tiny card, sent with her mother's, announces her name to be Miss Barbara Bonestell Walton. Mrs. Walton was Miss Lura Bonestell before her marriage two years ago. For the past year Mr. and Mrs. Walton have made their home in Berkeley, where they purchased a charming home recently.

Conditions in California

The California Promotion committee wired the following to its eastern bureau in New York yesterday:

California temperatures for the last 24 hours:

Eureka	Minimum.....54	Maximum.....58
San Francisco	Minimum.....53	Maximum.....64
San Diego	Minimum.....58	Maximum.....70

Real estate sales in San Francisco during the past month, value $2,272,000.

With a backing of San Jose capital surveys have been completed for big power plants and transmission lines on the Tuolumne river. Fifty thousand horsepower will be generated and the total outlay for construction and equipment will reach between four and five million dollars.

Steel work is finished on the Charles Schmitt building at Kearny and Bush streets, San Francisco. This is an eight story class A structure, 70x75 feet. The facing of pressed brick and terra cotta will be rapidly completed. The building will cost $200,000.

Reconstruction work is finished at the Hale building at Sixth and Market streets, San Francisco. To illustrate the very general movement back to the old downtown shopping districts, it is to be noted that the street floor aisles of this house are already so crowded that progress up and down the aisles is attended with difficulty. A feature of the reconstruction is a new ventilation system, which is a pronounced success, delivering volumes of fresh air on every floor.