

The San Francisco Call

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

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Telephone "Kearny 86"—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—1671 Fillmore Street Near Post

OAKLAND OFFICE—468 11th St. (Bacon Block). Tel. Sunset Oakland 1082

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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.....\$5.00

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 Daily.....\$5.00 Per Year Extra

POSTAGE Sunday.....\$1.15 Per Year Extra

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.

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THE GOVERNOR AND THE BANK COMMISSION

GOVERNOR GILLETT is quoted as saying that the remedy for present ills is more bank commissioners and a revision of banking laws. That is the politician's remedy. Has anything gone wrong? Create another office and enact some quack legislation. These are the patented substitutes for honesty and duty.

With common honesty in the bank commission, the California safe deposit and trust company would have been closed out more than a year ago. The commissioners knew that the bank was no better than a trap for unwary depositors and they permitted it to keep open.

All that may provide comfortable places for Herrin's heels, but it will not pay off a single unhappy depositor in the California safe deposit and trust company, nor will it prevent the same thing happening again if the bank commission is made an asylum for grafting politicians.

The real and effective remedy for these conditions is to send a dishonest bank commissioner or two to jail. There is plenty of law to cover the case and the offense is clear.

POWERS IN A FOOLISH COMPETITION

THE whole world seems to have gone mad at the same moment with the mania for building monster battleships. England proposes to build twelve huge ships of the Dreadnought type within the next two years, and Germany is preparing to complete within twelve years seventeen warships of equal size with the English monsters.

Congress will not give as much as Metcalf asks, but it will be liberal. If other nations engage in a race or competition of this sort the United States cannot afford to lag behind.

All summer long the peace conference sits at The Hague. In winter the several parliaments get together and provide means for killing their fellow men.

A WEIRD WAIL FROM OREGON

THE Portland Oregonian, morose perhaps from the influence of a melancholy climate, sorrowfully inquires, "Will the worm turn?" The subject of this unhappy similitude is the great state of Oregon, which, we learn with distress, is crushed under the heel of the oppressor, E. H. Harriman.

The special wickedness of Harriman in Oregonian eyes is that he is making that territory tributary to California instead of developing the Portland terminal. By way of specification, the diversion of the Klamath country traffic to the south rather than the north is quoted as one of Harriman's sins.

But there was a difference in building a line which would drain business out of California and one which would keep it in its natural, time worn channel. In the California project no obstacle seemed too great to be overcome; in the Oregon project no obstacle was too small to be offered as an excuse for not building.

Shop Early



petitor the "natural, time worn channel." This is a wholly new form of the Harriman myth, but it credits him with less than human intelligence. Possibly he was beguiled by the fact that the Klamath is for its greater length a California river whose valley makes easy grades.

The unaccountable behavior of Harriman is attributed by the Oregonian to a wicked conspiracy of Stubbs, Kruttschnitt and Schwerin, through whose wicked machinations and evil purpose suffering Oregon has not had "a fair deal from the California trinity of Svegalis, for whom Mr. Harriman has been playing Trolley for so many years."

If the patient worm is at length ready to turn we suggest that she—if that is the proper gender—should bite Svengali and not the blameless Trolley.

STREETS NEED INSPECTION

MAYOR TAYLOR'S remarks at Stanford university have a very pertinent and immediate bearing on the condition of San Francisco streets. We quote:

Everything will go to rack and ruin unless watched. In San Francisco it has been much this way in the past, and we hope in the future it will be different. For instance, the streets should be inspected. If not daily or weekly, at least monthly. Things should not be as they have been. We have laid new streets, and then left them and they have gone to ruin for want of attention.

All very true and we hope the mayor will take his own lesson to heart. The streets are not given proper care, we presume for lack of due inspection. Public service corporations are permitted to destroy them and are not compelled to restore the breaks to proper condition.

NOTE AND COMMENT

The bank commissioners should at least refund the salaries they have drawn.

With an undertaker on the new grand jury there is apt to be grave trouble ahead for the criminals.

David J. Walker says he hasn't a cent. He ought to be able to sympathize with some of the depositors in his bank.

When members of the present board of supervisors accuse each other of stretching the truth there may be some doubt as to whether either of them is right; but under the old regime it was a sure shot that both would have been.

It looks as if a coin may have to be flipped to decide the San Francisco postmastership.

It might be a good plan to throw a cordon of police around Oakland's Chinatown and let the tongs fight it out.

Perhaps "Big" Jim Gallagher's absence is to be of the Kathleen Mavourneen kind—"It may be for years and it may be forever."

Sir Clifton Robinson, known as the tramway king of the British isles, is here. He will be able to pick up many pointers on how not to run a street railway system.

Answers to Queries

ST. CLARE—S. City. In relation to your question about the body of St. Clare, Rev. Richard A. Gleason of Santa Clara college writes to this department: "About five years ago I visited the Mother House of the Poor Clares at Assisi, in Umbria, Italy. There, in a crypt under the church, I saw the kneeling figure of the saint. I saw only the head and the feet and the hands, as the rest of the body was clad in the garb of the order. The head was in good condition, so, too, the hands and feet. The body had been buried nearly 600 years and was discovered to be virtually incorrupt only when exhumed prior to removing it to a new resting place. This removal took place in the first half of the last century. I give to this fact the credence that is due to any well authenticated historic fact. Consult her His. The Princess of Poverty, printed at the Convent of Poor Clare, Omaha, Neb."

SHIPPING PORTS—Subscriber, City. Duluth, Minn., lays claim to being the greatest shipping port in the world. According to the United States bureau of statistics the total tonnage of

By The Call's Jester

BALLAD OF WILD HUNTING

Some go out in quest of the ivory mounted bear. Getting thunderous excitement, quite a lack of dull repose; Others plan to slay the fish armored osprey. Or chloroform the butterfly that litters on the rose. Moose hunting, goose hunting have their clientele. Whale drives, quail drives draw a motley throng. Some go after venison with a godly benison— They can stalk their quarry with a happy hunting song. Men go to the Congo after hippopotamus. Steaks and cutlets breaded, with the gizzard on the side; All they have to do there is to slay a beast or two there— 'Steen pound, soft nose projectiles will pierce the creature's hide. Some hunters, gum hunters, say that sport is hard; They can't, they shan't use that adjective; It can only be applied to the sport that I have tried— Hunting o'er the city just to find a place to live. Some think apartment houses lurk in every street— They are cunning creatures with most subtly hidden lairs; A new and modern flat for two, such a one that ought to do. Is far more difficult to stalk than extinct grizzly bears. Steam heat, parlor suite rarer than the auk, My rent (high rent) 's evasive as a mouse; Lead will bag a tiger cat, gold you need to land a flat— If you're after sport imperial just try to hunt a flat. —A. L. F.

freight handled during 1906 was 37,376,213. That of New York and Chicago for the same year, respectively, was 30,314,082 and 14,740,115 tons. The reports for 1905 show: London, England, 33,478,158 tons; Liverpool, 24,385,519 tons; Hongkong, 23,853,616 tons; Hamburg, 20,762,000 tons, and Antwerp, 19,875,680.

CONTRACT—C. E. E., Berkeley. A contract is an agreement between two or more parties. The writing contains the terms and conditions of the agreement between the parties. If you wish to be sure that a contract is properly drawn up, consult a reputable attorney.

JAMES—Reader, Oakland, Cal. The given name James is Jakob in German. The name varies in different languages, as follows: Latin, Jacobus; French, Jacques; Italian, Jacopo, Giacomo, Giacobe; Spanish, Jacobo, Diego, Jago, Jaime; Portuguese, Jaime, Diogo.

LEFT THE CITY—A Subscriber, City. It is impossible to give any approximate figure as to the number of persons who left San Francisco on April 18, 1896, and during the week following.

Smart Set

AN interesting engagement, which is being announced informally this week to the friends of the principals, is that of Miss Anna Nicholson Scott and Joseph Wilber Coffin, both of whom are prominent in the younger smart set.

Miss Hope Bliss will be hostess at a luncheon today, her guest of honor being Miss Dolly MacGavin. Her guests will be 12 in number and include several of the debutantes. The affair will take place in the Bliss home on Broadway.

Mr. and Mrs. Aylett Cotton are at the Potter hotel in Santa Barbara, where they went immediately after their wedding a week ago. Mrs. Cotton was Miss Alice Borel.

Two dances take place on Friday night of this week, through a confusion in the original dating of these events. One is Mrs. Ynez Shorb White's second cotillon at the Fairmont hotel, which will be attended by about 150 young society people.

Miss Scott is a pretty girl, with blue eyes and light brown hair. She is a graduate of the University of California, and unusually clever and attractive. Her acquaintance, led their friends to expect the pleasant bit of news just received.

Miss Hannah du Bois was hostess yesterday at a delightful luncheon which was given at the Francesca club to several of the year's debutantes.

Miss Florence Lundborg was the guest last week of Mrs. Laura Roe in the latter's pretty Ross Valley home. Mrs. Roe returned only recently from a short eastern trip, where she visited various relatives and friends.

Dr. and Mrs. John Rodgers Clark will leave San Francisco in January for New York, where they will spend several weeks before sailing for Europe. They do not plan to return to San Francisco until late in the fall and will visit England, Italy and France during the spring and summer months.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Peter Weeks, who spent November at the Potter, in Santa Barbara, have returned to their San Mateo home and will remain there during the winter. Miss Kempf, who

The Newhall dance, which is to be given this evening in the handsome Newhall room on Sloat street, promises to be one of the brilliant affairs of the winter, although it is not to be very large. Mrs. Newhall's guest of honor will be Miss Alexandra Hamilton, one of the year's debutantes, and Miss Elizabeth, Miss Marian and Miss Margaret Newhall will assist them in receiving their guests.

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Britain Suppresses Truthful Editor

WHEN the war with Russia began an English newspaper in Kobe, Japan, had a subordinate editor named Bethell—E. T. Bethell.

He was a British provincial journalist who had somehow drifted out to the far east. His task of grubbing through the exchanges and writing an occasional editorial article in the ponderous English style was not of a kind to bring distinction.

In the middle of the war Bethell had an inspiration which was destined to make him a thorn in the flesh to the Japanese government, and which lifted him to such prominence in the Korean national combination had to be made to suppress him—at least for the time.

At first all the knowing smiled at Bethell's enterprise. The circulation field was so miserably narrow and there was not enough advertising in all Korea to wad a gun. Bethell could not afford a cab service, he had to clip his foreign news from Japanese papers a week old. He had no English compositors, only Koreans who set the type by the looks of the letters. He had to be his own editorial writer, reporter and circulator.

Nevertheless the Japanese government soon began to take notice of Editor Bethell. The first sign was an elaborate attack on him in the Yokohama Daily Mail, edited by an Englishman who sneered whenever the Japanese government takes snuff. The Daily Mail said, in brief, that Bethell was a hireling of Russia and a disgrace to British manhood.

The trouble was that Bethell refused to accept the polite official version of Japan's purposes and methods in Korea. He told the truth as he saw it, and not only in English but also in Korean. When the Japanese soldiers began to net Korean peasants from their lairs under pretense of military necessity he told about it in terms that burned their way through even the clouded Korean mind.

Every incident of Japanese outrage and cruelty that came to his ears he printed with a spirit that blinked no unpleasant facts.

Bethell's little paper was the first to give the lie to the official Japanese romance that on a certain November night in 1905 the Korean emperor had willingly signed away his inherited rights and his country's independence. He told how Japanese soldiers had surrounded the palace, how Marquis Ito had threatened the emperor, and how when the emperor still refused to affix his seal to the protectorate treaty, the strong box of the Korean prime minister had been forced and the great seal stolen from it and affixed to the document.

When a so-called patriotic society of Koreans was formed to applaud and uphold the Japanese proceedings Bethell declared that its members were patriots for revenue only, and proved it by tracing the money to the society's leaders from high officials of Japan. He was also the first to let the world know about the delegates whom the old emperor had sent to The Hague to plead against Korea's annexation.

When all these things made Editor Bethell exceedingly obnoxious to the Japanese powers. The short oriental method of dealing with him—that of assassination—could hardly be taken, for he was an Englishman, and up about six weeks ago Englishmen still had some rights, even in Korea, that Japan felt.

Knud Rasmussen of Copenhagen, who has been studying ethnology at Umanak, North Greenland, has started for Smith sound to find an Eskimo tribe which is reputed to have never come in contact with civilization. His aim is eventually to reach the Canadian mainland about the middle of 1908.

Christopher B. Stout, who has been retired by the discontinuance of the postoffice at Centerville, N. J., is said to be the oldest postmaster in point of service in the United States. He has served continuously since his appointment in 1855.

The natives of Borneo place rudely carved images of female figures by the side of the entrances to their huts. The image represents a goddess, which protects the house from any harm or sickness. If there should be illness previously to the placing of the butlong at the entrance, she prevents it from becoming worse.

A new plague protective or rat poison has been discovered in China. It is called "rat-in," and consists of a pasty substance inoculated with a bacillus. A rat which takes enough to cover a pin's head will not only die, but will infect every other rat with which it comes in contact. Five villages have been selected in which to make the test.

Conditions in California

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

California temperatures for the last 24 hours: San Francisco.....Minimum.....53 Maximum.....61 San Diego.....Minimum.....52 Maximum.....68

Reports received by the California Promotion committee from Glenn county say that rapid progress is being made on several large irrigating systems in that part of the state. Humboldt county is sending large quantities of wheat to Australia. Queensland lately left a million feet of lumber, valued at \$50,000, for rough clear redwood in lumber half a million feet of pine. During the year nearly twelve million feet of lumber have left Europe for Australian ports.

Four hundred men are rushing the rehabilitation of the Mills building in San Francisco, which half a million dollars are being expended. It is confidently promised that the great structure will be ready for occupancy by January 1.