

The San Francisco Call

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Do It Now



The Insider

Observes that the rat destroying spirit has progressed far enough to make even a cabman forget his fare to chase a skulking rodent

Cabby Kills Rat and Saves City

THAT rat catching is going on in all parts of the city and that all classes of people are interested in it is evidenced by the incident of the hackman who, driving a fare slowly home the other evening, saw a dark shadow scurry along the line of the gutter and pause with uplifted nose, as if searching for the scraps of foodstuffs that have been lacking of late.

Disregarding his fare, who poked his head out of the window and wanted to know what the matter was, the hackman seized his whip, leaped from his seat and stepped lightly to the edge of the gutter. The rat heard him, however, and slipped into the bottom of the channel.

Then there was no way out of it for the rat, so up and down he fled, pursued by the relentless whip of the cabman, who lashed every inch of the gutter as the rat tore madly up and down. A crowd had gathered, and cabman and rat fought their battle amid the encouraging comments of those watching. At last a faint squeak from the tortured animal announced that he had given up. As the cabman took his whip and remounted the box some one in the crowd called out: "Well, you've made 10 cents, anyway." "Pooh," retorted the cabman with sublime contempt. "Ten cents! I've probably saved the life of the whole city."

Carman Tells Why Refuse Fills Cars

Boarding a Castro street car the other day the conductor wore a look of such deep disgust that I felt impelled to ask the reason. "Matter?" he said in answer. "Look at this car."

I looked. Strawn on the floor to the depth of at least half an inch were bits of old newspapers, cigarette stumps, empty boxes, burnt matches, bits of tobacco, remains of popcorn, piles of peanut shells, wisps of torn veils, crumpled circulars, advertising cards, what not, expectorations, banana skins, all crushed in the mud and filth which coated the debris covered floor.

"Do you think they'd stand for that where I come from?" demanded the conductor wrathfully. "I can tell you that in Buffalo if a man didn't sweep out his car at least once in every three trips he was jumped on by the inspector mighty quick. Why, back there, if there was a piece of paper on the floor one trip and it was still there the next, that man was likely to lose his job. I'd keep this car clean if the company would furnish me with a broom. Why doesn't the company furnish the men with brooms? That's easy. It would cost seven cents a broom wholesale to do it, and the average cost to the company would be about two cents a month. Think of that, and just look at this stuff. I'd buy a broom myself if it wasn't for the principle of the thing." And the man of the Castro street line relapsed into disgusted silence.

The Smart Set

THE Greenway dance at the Fairmont hotel tonight practically will close the social season, as far as the older members of the smart set are concerned, and it promises to be one of the winter's most brilliant affairs. It will be attended by about 300 people, many of whom will be guests first at the big dinners which will be given before the event.

The wedding of Miss Mabel Mason and John Bishop yesterday was one of the season's prettiest affairs. It was attended by the smart set of Sausalito, as well as by many friends from this side of the bay. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Mr. Mason at high noon in the Sausalito Episcopal church, which had been lavishly decorated with spring blossoms for the event. The bride has never looked prettier than she did in her wedding gown and filmy veil, and her five pretty attendants completed a charming picture. After the wedding a breakfast followed at the home of Mrs. Charles Mason, and late in the afternoon the couple left for a honeymoon trip in the south. Upon their return they will have a cottage next door to the Mason home in Sausalito.

Mr. Peter McBean will have a group of the season's girls as her guests at luncheon tomorrow in honor of Miss Marian and Miss Elizabeth Newhall. The girls, 14 in number, will be seated at a round table decorated with masses of violets and daffodils. Among the other guests will be Miss Julia Langhorne, Miss Gertrude Hyde-Smith, Miss Martha Calhoun, Miss Helen Irwin and Miss Mary Keeney.

Mr. and Mrs. William Minter have bidden a dozen friends to a dinner at their Pacific avenue home tomorrow night. Their guests of honor will be Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Calhoun.

Mr. Joseph B. Coryell and her sister, Miss Eulalie Jessup, have been spending a few days at Del Monte. Mr. and Mrs. Coryell and their children will remain in the southern part of the state for some time.

Mr. and Mrs. George E. Bates and Mr. and Mrs. John Hanify, who left San Francisco for southern California a few weeks ago, have extended their trip and are now at the Royal Poinciana, Palm Beach, Fla. They write most enthusiastically of the southern resort and will not return for a month or six weeks.

Miss Lucy Bancroft will give a bridge party Saturday evening to 20 of the younger folk. Especially pretty prizes will be given.

Mr. Horace Pillsbury and her children have returned to their Menlo Park home after a week in Riverside.

Answers to Queries

WARSHIPS—Subscriber, Redwood City. Can a nation build as many warships as it pleases, or is there a limit? A nation is not limited as to the number of ships it may desire in its navy.

STREET ELEVATION—H. City. What is the elevation of Third and Market streets and that of Devisadero and Fulton? The former is 35 feet above base, and the latter 120.

REPRESENTATION—F. A. City. On what proportion of population is congressional representation based? On the census report every 10 years. At this time, census of 1900, representation is on the ratio of 1 to every 134,132.

MARRIAGE LICENSE—Stranger, Oakland. Is a marriage license required in the United States and territories? Marriage license is required in all the states and territories except Alaska, New Jersey (if residents, otherwise required), New Mexico and South Carolina.

Conditions in California

The California Promotion committee wired to its eastern bureau yesterday as follows: California temperatures for the last 24 hours:
Eureka: Minimum 44, Maximum 50
San Francisco: Minimum 45, Maximum 50
San Diego: Minimum 56, Maximum 68
A cold storage and ice plant is to be built at once in Modesto, Stanislaus county's county seat.
Petroleum produced in California during 1907 amounted to about 27,530,000 barrels, valued at approximately \$11,000,000. The 1906 production was 23,000,000 barrels, with a value of \$9,230,000. The prospects for 1908 are for a slightly increased production over last year. Most of the older fields are on the decline, but this loss is made up by the greater yield of others, and prospecting on several new fields is in progress. The consumption of oil has been steadily increasing, having already passed the amount of production. Prices here have risen from 15 cents per barrel in the early part of 1905 to 60 cents at the present time.
Completion within 30 days is looked for on the Electric building, at Second and Folsom streets, San Francisco. The building is of six stories, class A with an area of 6747 feet. It is faced with sandstone and pressed brick.

THE DRIED FRUIT CONTROVERSY

THE CALL hopes that the suggestion that a California expert be appointed to membership on the national commission to examine dried fruit conditions in connection with the administration of the pure food law will be carried out. This state is more largely interested in this particular matter than any other, and there has been very general complaint that the rulings of the department, in charge of Dr. Wiley, have been narrow in spirit and neither intelligent nor well reasoned. Although the commission to be appointed may be invested with more extensive duties than that of dealing with dried fruits and their methods of manufacture, we believe that California's right to representation should be recognized. A whole industry depends on the results of this inquiry. Concerning the plans of the commission Representative Needham said the other day to the Sacramento Bee:

I am assured that this referee board will be instructed that its members are to take all the time they need and may use whatever money may be necessary to go to the very bottom of the questions at issue. They may employ outside chemists if they desire. Both the president and Secretary Wilson regard the subject of such importance from a commercial and capitalistic standpoint that the decision, when announced, whether it favors the contentions of the government or of the opponents of restrictions on the use of preservatives, will be regarded as final and that there will remain no further recourse unless it be to take the question into the courts.

We assume that the dried fruit interests will take steps to present their side of the case fully and are organizing for that purpose.

IN THE DARK, BUT NOT EXTINGUISHED

WHEN the court sought to dry up the Salton sea by injunction is an example of sardonic humor employed by the El Centro chamber of commerce by way of comment on Judge Welborn's order shutting off water power from the Holton company, which was supplying the Imperial valley communities with electric current for light and power. The chamber states the effect of the injunction thus:

The canal supplying water to the plant of the Holton power company has been closed by order of the court. This action extinguishes the lights of five towns, stops work in all the creameries in the valley, shuts down a brick making plant requiring 30 horsepower, closes a large steam laundry, stops the wheels in machine shops, shuts off forges and pumps, prevents the refrigeration of meat supplied to the people by butchers, threatens the loss of 2,200 tons of ice now on hand and deprives the people of that indispensable commodity, shuts off the domestic water supply of at least one large town, checks industry of all sorts by depriving of light and power a territory 25 miles long by 12 miles wide and containing a population of at least 15,000, and works great injury to a thriving, industrious community without doing the slightest practical good to a single human being. No relief by means of auxiliary steam power is possible inside of 90 days, and then the cost of light and power would be prohibitive.

The injunction was issued by Judge Welborn of the Los Angeles federal court at the instance of the Liverpool salt company, whose industry was destroyed by the overflow from the Colorado river, which covered the salt fields in the Salton sink. The chamber of commerce, while emptying vials of sarcasm on Judge Welborn's head, makes moan over its own embarrassing plight, "meeting by the light of candles in a schoolhouse," even as we did in San Francisco after the fire—so great an injury may half a dozen words from the mouth of an august tribunal inflict on a defenseless but by no means inarticulate community.

By the dim and profane light of these sputtering candles the chamber of commerce proceeded to intimate that, in the opinion of El Centro, Judge Welborn does not know much. They did not quite compare him to the old lady who wanted to sweep back the ocean with a broom, but, in fine, they resolved that "the court was not fully informed of conditions when it sought to dry up Salton sea by injunction." But what do the merchant princes of El Centro, sitting by candle light, expect? A very slight experience in the way of courts would have taught them that courts do not take pains to inform themselves before restraining orders are issued.

The injunction is granted as a matter of course, on an ex parte petition, without giving the other side an opportunity to be heard. To be sure, the sufferers may come in at the court's convenience and show cause why the injunction should be dissolved, but in the meantime they can sit in the twilight, passing resolutions, or they can go to bed in the dark, swearing. It comes to the same thing.

We are not advised as to the extent of Judge Welborn's information on this matter or its sources, but we do know that it has been the practice of courts to act hastily on the issue of temporary restraining orders, and it is this improvident use of the writ of injunction that President Roosevelt condemned so severely in his recent message. It is the duty of courts to give all sides a hearing, and that duty has been conspicuously ignored in the use of restraining process.

EMBARRASSING FOR CANADA

THE Canadians of the northwest find themselves not a little embarrassed by the Anglo-Japanese treaty of alliance. Canada is party to that treaty, and it contains no provision for the restriction or regulation of immigration such as the treaty between Japan and the United States contains. As a consequence the Canadians who desire to exclude the Japanese from British Columbia find themselves dependent on the favor or good will of the Japanese government for a fulfillment of this desire. Of course, it is in the power of Canada to denounce the treaty; but that seems an extreme measure of doubtful expediency if the end can be compassed by less radical means. The conservative party, which is now in opposition, taunts the premier, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, with

bad diplomacy in not insisting on a treaty provision giving the dominion government the right to restrict Japanese immigration; but Sir Wilfrid retorts that insistence on that power might have caused the rejection of the treaty by Japan, and was discouraged by the British foreign office.

In this rather embarrassing situation Canada finds herself in the humiliating position of a suppliant for Japan's favor. The mission of Hon. Rodolph Lemieux to Tokyo was undertaken in that sense, and it resulted in some sort of agreement or understanding whose terms are obscure. There is apparently no certainty or guarantee for the fulfillment of this undertaking, and the question was put to Sir Wilfrid in the dominion parliament as to means of holding Japan to its promises. In reply the premier said:

If they fail to carry out the understanding, then, sir, we have power to put an end to the treaty. But this is the last resort. This is only if the means of conciliation have failed. We want to preserve the peace with the Japanese. They are allies of ours, and we do not want to humiliate them by asking this parliament to legislate against them.

This is what comes to Canada from having its foreign relations created and settled from the London point of view. In every practical sense the Canadians constitute a great, progressive and independent nation; but they are allowed no voice in settling their foreign policy. The single important interest that Canada had in this treaty with Japan was the regulation of immigration; but London would not permit the fulfillment of Canadian aspiration.

A STEEL MAGNATE ON ROOSEVELT

THE recent dinner of the Illinois society in New York, at which Judge E. H. Gary, chairman of the steel trust, presided, was the occasion of some notable utterances, of which the speech of Mr. Gary calls for special notice. Congressman Boutell made some remarks in a partly humorous vein in criticism of Roosevelt, and this brought Mr. Gary to his feet. His position at the head of the greatest corporation in the world makes his pronouncement notable. We quote:

I never deal in personalities and I don't believe in throwing stones; neither do I believe in too much praise. There are questions under consideration at this time of the greatest importance. I want to state that the policy of the present administration, whether it be criticized or praised, whether its methods be regarded as satisfactory or unsatisfactory, has had a great and personal influence on your president, who happens to occupy a position of great responsibility.

In making this personal application to myself I know that the acerbation of the oft stated principles of the president of the United States has increased my feeling of responsibility toward the stock holders I represent, toward our competitors, toward businessmen and toward the public, and that our relations have been improved. I don't hesitate to make this confession. According to my belief business is done on a better basis and on a higher plane because of what I have referred to. I am an optimist. This country forces me to be an optimist. We have been traveling in the clouds. Sometimes it has been difficult to distinguish the way, but we shall soon see when the clouds have disappeared that we are on the mountain top of opportunity and prosperity.

This is timely testimony from an unexpected source to the fact that Roosevelt is a great moral influence holding the nation to the straight and narrow path of righteousness. We have said that Mr. Gary's testimony is unexpected; but, in fact, it ought not to be so. It is true unfortunately that Mr. Gary's view of the president is not popular in circles of high finance; but that is so much the worse for those circles. We rejoice to see in such a high place a disposition to commend them to a better frame of mind.

There is no doubt that the great body of the plain people are in full agreement with the opinions expressed by Mr. Gary.

NOTE AND COMMENT

Walter MacArthur says that Adam was a Japanese. Maybe that explains his exclusion from the Garden of Eden.

The possibilities of the English language are demonstrated by a Los Angeles episode—a broken truck causing the wreck of a train loaded with garden truck.

The policemen who garbed themselves as painters and raided the poolrooms showed wisdom. Even a Sherlock Holmes couldn't have detected a policeman in the guise of a worker.

Boutell says the plain people will send John Cannon to the White House. But that isn't necessarily an announcement that no votes from other elements will be accepted.

Owen Wister, the novelist, has been defeated for councilman in Philadelphia. "The Virginian" voters might have done better by him had he gone over the line to do politics.

February Out West

"A Red Parasol in Mexico," an illustrated serial by J. Torrey Connor, is a pleasing feature of the February number of Out West. The story, which deals with the love affairs of two young tourists, is beautifully illustrated from photographs. Charlton Lawrence Edholm writes of bronco busting, illustrating the article from photographs of ponies in action. Both text and pictures are excellent. Sharlot Hall, who has written some remarkably good poems of the desert, contributes "His Place" to this number. There are a number of other poems and illustrated articles, besides several stories. The editor, Charles F. Lumis, devotes a good deal of space to a vigorous argument with eastern writers over the incorrectness of a newly published dictionary.

ITALY TO HAVE OSTRICH FARMS
In view of the importance of the commerce in ostrich feathers, Vice Consul H. M. Byington of Naples states that Italians are being urged to start ostrich farms in southern Italy, Sicily and Sardinia. The successful results obtained in California and at Nice are cited.

Peru's Copper Output

During 1907 the Cerro de Pasco company, operating near Cerro de Pasco, Peru, shipped 20,152,000 pounds of copper to the United States, most of it via Panama. In December the quantity was 2,500,000 pounds, the highest of any month during the year. While freight facilities to the coast have to be taken into consideration, and more particularly the congested condition, and the insufficient facilities afforded commerce at Callao, it is assumed that this quantity will be maintained as the monthly average during 1908 and the total shipments for the year will amount to 30,000,000 pounds, or 15,000 tons. From this quantity a gradual increase to 50,000,000, and later to 75,000,000 pounds, is predicted. Independent production supplementing it. The Peruvian prediction is that the ultimate copper output of Cerro de Pasco and the adjoining districts will be 50,000 tons.
Experiments are being made with sugar, which is said to increase the adhesive properties of mortar greatly. Equal parts of sand and lime are mixed.

By The Call's Jester

JAIL BIRDS
The county jail is ratless quite—
According to report:
Beneath the floors no rodents fight
Or squeak in merry sport;
But 'mong the rafters of the jail
The sparrows chirp and sing,
With perky flip of jaunty tail
And fluttering of wing.

Jail birds, jail birds, Dickey and his mate,
Warbling, warbling, happy at their fate.
Jail birds, jail birds, of another kind,
Grumbling, grumbling, iron bars behind.

Downstairs the cells are none too wide,
And long in like degree,
And each of them two men divide—
There isn't room for three.
Upstairs there is no lack of room,
And jail birds nattering
Each has a rafter where to plume
His feathers and to sing.

Rafters, rafters, perch of merry birds,
Chirping, chirping, songs that lack but words.
Grafters, grafters, eating stew and beans,
Thinking, thinking, what San Quentin means. W. J. W.

China Advancing

VICE CONSUL ERNEST VOLLMER, writing from Tientsin, says that one of the unflinching signs of the influence which contact with western civilization and methods has upon the Chinese is evident in the gradual alteration of the systems of punishment of crime in vogue throughout the empire.

The ordinary punishment for minor crimes for ages past has been beating, or "bamboozing," as it is locally called, and the office at station under his care, the police magistrate of Loanchien, in the district named, states that the long deserted and neglected governmental buildings in his city have been restored during the last year.

penal labor and are now used as an industrial institute, where minor criminals are kept busy at useful and remunerative work. Aside from the reconstruction of three large work halls, a washhouse and bathhouse has been completed and a modern sick ward erected. The interior is so arranged that the inmates are divided according to age and the misdemeanor for which they are interned, while the guards and supervisors watch them through a wicker partition.

Close at hand is a new administration building, where the officials live and the offices are located, a general mess hall and kitchen, and a school house, where young men from the district are taught useful crafts and trades free, if they desire this education. This school was organized in compliance with a demand from the inhabitants of the district. A large farm, connected with the old government establishment, is tilled by the inmates of the place, and returns a considerable revenue, aside from supplying much of the food needed.

The cost of maintaining this quasi prison is nearly met by the institution itself, a deficit of but \$450 last year being the whole amount that stood between it and self-support, even after all salaries of officials and teachers had been paid. A similar "school of correction" is located at Tukhsien, and from the success of these pioneer attempts at social betterment of Shanghai it may fairly be assumed that before long every young man of the province who goes wrong will have an opportunity of learning free, a trade which will enable him to better materially his position in society.

Gold in India

Consul General William H. Michael of Calcutta states that the report of the chief of mines of Mysore state for 1904-5 is just out and shows that up to the date of the report there were 15 gold companies operating in that state, of which 5 were paying dividends, 5 producing but paying no dividends, and 5 producing neither gold nor dividends. The capital invested amounts to \$14,982,370 and the average dividends paid on the capital were 28.88 per cent. The total value of gold taken out from the beginning of operations to the close of the report was \$7,003,691, the total dividends paid \$2,109,829 and the royalty paid to the Mysore government \$347,118.