

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 86"—Ask for The Call. The Operator Will Connect You With the Department You Wish.

BUSINESS OFFICE—Market and Third Streets, San Francisco
EDITORIAL ROOMS—Market and Third Streets
MAIN CITY BRANCH—1651 Fillmore Street Near Post

OAKLAND OFFICE—458 11th St. (Bacon Block)
ALAMEDA OFFICE—1435 Park Street
BERKELEY OFFICE—SW. Cor. Center and Oxford
CHICAGO OFFICE—1634 Marquette Bldg.
NEW YORK OFFICE—805 Brunswick Bldg.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT—Port Bldg.
Subscription Rates
Delivered by Carrier, 20 Cents Per Week, 75 Cents Per Month.

Terms by Mail, for UNITED STATES, including Postage (Cash With Order)
DAILY CALL (Including Sunday), 6 Months \$4.00
DAILY CALL—By Single Month \$1.00

Entered at the United States Postoffice as Second Class Matter.
ALL POSTMASTERS ARE AUTHORIZED TO RECEIVE SUBSCRIPTIONS.

ROBERT UNDERWOOD JOHNSON of the Century magazine writes a strange letter to the New York Evening Post on the subject of the Hetch Hetchy grant and the methods of his argument may be regarded as a fair example of the temper, tone and knowledge of the subject that actuate the sentimental opposition to the grant.

An Editor Who Did Not Verify His Facts
Those who are fighting for the integrity of the Yosemite park are only interested in the Spring Valley water company as its claims may be related to the question whether there is any necessity for San Francisco to resort to the destruction of the Hetch Hetchy valley to get its supply.

The Call hesitates to believe that Mr. Manson said anything so foolish as Mr. Johnson here attributes to him. This charge of neglect was first put forward by Lawyer McCutchen on behalf of Spring Valley and was advanced in bad faith because Mr. McCutchen knew the facts and the reason why condemnation proceedings have not been instituted.

These tactics are very much of a piece with Mr. Johnson's statement that rates are fixed "judicially," by which we may presume he means they are fixed by the courts. The courts—the federal courts, Mr. Johnson—have expressly refused to fix rates.

So much for Mr. Johnson's basis of argument. If Mr. Johnson desired information concerning the nature of the grinding monopoly from which San Francisco desires to escape he might have found it in the following paragraph from Collier's, which states facts:

Los Angeles originally owned its own water system, which years ago was leased to private interests. In February, 1902, the city resumed control of its water system under the terms of the lease.

The trouble with Mr. Johnson and his school is that they are not in search of facts, but lay hold of any sort of material without taking pains to verify the charges. We expect such tactics from corporation lawyers like McCutchen, but a man holding the position of Mr. Johnson owes himself a duty to verify his facts.

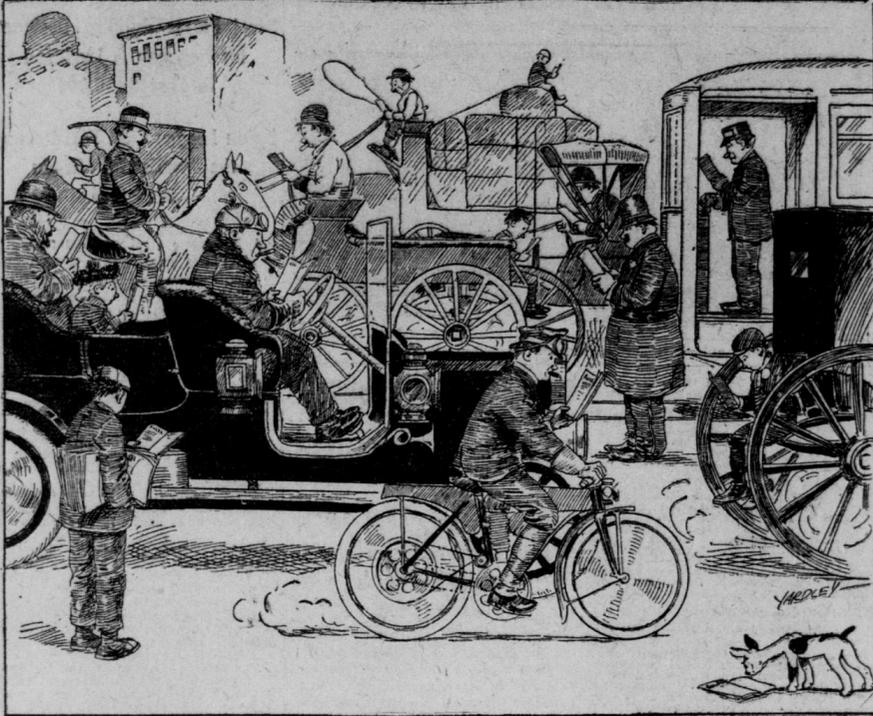
The important announcement is made that the Canadian-Pacific will proceed at once to electrify its whole system through the mountains of the west, "experts having reported that there are enough waterfalls immediately adjacent to the Canadian Pacific main line to develop energy sufficient to run all the railways of the world."

The significance of this announcement lies in the fact that it foreshadows the future of American railroading in the west wherever water power is available. The Canadian trunk line is the first to take a step that most of the others have had in contemplation for some time past.

Hitherto American railroads have confined the use of electricity on their lines to suburban traction, and the power has been generated by steam. That is the case with the terminal trains on the New York Central and on the New Haven roads.

WM. R. WATSON, Librarian. San Francisco, February 4.
MARGARET BLAKE ALVBERSON. Oakland, January 31.

Rules of the Road



in Canada competition will quickly compel a resort to similar means on this side of the line, and it is not impossible that in ten years all railroads in northern and central California will be operated with electricity generated by water power.

LET'S talk about the weather and bid a welcome to rude Boreas, whose icy finger bristles the wild, rampaging rivers and makes the blood flow tingling in the veins. Any time within a month the weather has made fighting talk in California, and it may be yet too soon to shout before we are out of the woods, but it seems at last as if the season of the gumshoe and the wrecked umbrella, the winter of our discontent, were over.

No Fighting Talk About The Weather
When, intent on wreck and ravage, Like a predatory savage, Thou didst leap thy banks and double Backward in thy search for trouble;

The engineer is the epic hero of an unpoetic century and the steam shovel is his weapon. He moves mountains and bids the floods turn back. He has tamed the predatory Colorado and will put a bridle on the undisciplined Sacramento.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE
LIBRARIAN EXPLAINS SYSTEM
Editor The Call: Your comment on this library in the editorial columns of The Call which I fear, give some impression as to the resources of the library.

GREAT FLOOD 47 YEARS AGO
Editor The Call: I saw an article in The Call during the highest point of the flood of this year. I understood the article to say this was the second greatest flood that California ever had. The paper got misplaced, so I can not refer accurately, but I remember enough of it to count this flood the greatest I have lived here since 1852.

Miss Helen Wilson entertained yesterday at a luncheon given at her home in Washington street, when formal announcement was made of the engagement of the young hostess and F. M. Greer, U. S. N.

Thursday, February 11, and will be held, like the others preceding this event, at the attractive home of the hostess. Bridge is announced for the afternoon.

Miss Jean Tyson will be the complimentary guest at a luncheon to be given Monday, February 15, when Mrs. Eugene Bresse will preside as hostess. The guests will all be members of the younger set.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph H. Jenkins of Portland, Ore., who were at the Fairmont recently, have continued their wedding journey to the southern part of the state, and at last accounts were enjoying a tour of the Grand canyon of the Colorado.

Mr. and Mrs. John Brickell have returned after a honeymoon trip to the southern part of the state and are established at the Nordhoff for the present.

The Insider

Tells of demands for the presence of Jules C. Clerfayt in Belgium for the purpose of celebrating his great-great-grandfather's victory over Austrians at Jemappes

Clerfayt Recounts Ancestor's Triumph
ALL Belgium demands the presence of "General" Jules C. Clerfayt next fall. On November 6 that nation will celebrate the victory of Jemappes, when 26,000 Austrians were hurled from an impregnable position as easily as our own Jules throws down a Zaza cocktail.

General Clerfayt, who slaughtered Austrians as readily as his more famous descendant, our own Jules, slaughters hamburg steaks and pickled eels, turned on Dumouriez a few months later and whipped him and his victorious army at Neerwinden. This is the story told by Jules and his testimony is corroborated by a Brussels paper, which says:

"Friends, how can the immortal Belgian nation celebrate the battle of Jemappes without the presence of General Jules C. Clerfayt of San Francisco, descendant of him who defeated the Austrians, and because the French dared to assume authority over Belgium he thrashed them at Neerwinden. Clerfayt must come. No Clerfayt, no Jemappes."

Jules admits that he is the great-great-grandson of that General Clerfayt whose proportional place in the record of great warriors history has failed to describe. "Shall I go?" said Clerfayt. "What a question? Why the eyes of all Europe will be on me. I, the great-great-grandson of the hero of Jemappes."

Women Began War on Racetrack Gambling
There are few moral reforms in this country that can not be traced either directly or indirectly to women. The fight against the racetrack is no exception. To Mrs. Amanda Hicks of Berkeley is said to be due the credit for the origin of the current fight against turf gambling.

Attack Upon Waiter Proves Costly Scrap
It did not greatly surprise those who remember Harry Oelrichs and his fistic prowess when in this city to learn that he will have to pay \$4,800 damages for assaulting a New York hotel waiter. Young Oelrichs and one of our gay jeunesse doree had a somewhat similar encounter at the last Mardi Gras ball at the Hopkins Institute, but the two young men afterward swore eternal friendship.

Passenger Desires His Whisky Straight
Under date of January 25, Henry Clay Barnabee writes from Jamaica Plain, Mass., that he has nearly recovered from the effects of the two accidents that threatened to end his stage career forever. And apropos the town where he is living during his period of recuperation, he tells this story:

American Woman Is a Leader in London
Those who read that Mrs. Whitelaw Reid was entertaining "Mrs. Adair of London" at her father's home in Millbrae had little idea who the London lady really is. They knew of her as a fashionable entertainer of the London smart set, but their notions were hazy as to whether she was a hostess or a professional "entertainer" like Mrs. James Brown Potter and Cissy Loftus.

Opportunity Missed by Golf Enthusiasts
When John W. Gates passed through here last week the golf enthusiasts made a great mistake in not interviewing him for points about the construction of the ideal links. The multi-millionaire has spent about a million on his own golf links at Port Arthur, I am told. When the links is completed it will be one of the finest in the world, the clubhouse alone costing \$100,000. The links covers 750 acres, the land costing as much as the clubhouse.

Miss Helen Wilson entertained yesterday at a luncheon given at her home in Washington street, when formal announcement was made of the engagement of the young hostess and F. M. Greer, U. S. N.

Thursday, February 11, and will be held, like the others preceding this event, at the attractive home of the hostess. Bridge is announced for the afternoon.

Miss Jean Tyson will be the complimentary guest at a luncheon to be given Monday, February 15, when Mrs. Eugene Bresse will preside as hostess. The guests will all be members of the younger set.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph H. Jenkins of Portland, Ore., who were at the Fairmont recently, have continued their wedding journey to the southern part of the state, and at last accounts were enjoying a tour of the Grand canyon of the Colorado.

Mr. and Mrs. John Brickell have returned after a honeymoon trip to the southern part of the state and are established at the Nordhoff for the present.

Impertinent Question No. 89
Why Are You What You Are?
For the most original or wittiest answer to this question—the briefer the better—The Call will pay FIVE DOLLARS. For the next five answers The Call will pay ONE DOLLAR EACH.