

The San Francisco Call
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TODAY the nation halts for a moment from the march of business and everyday affairs to do honor to the memory of the greatest American since Washington. It would be foolish to institute comparisons. Washington and Lincoln were essentially different. We do not measure the power and splendor of the ocean by the magnificence of the mountains. Each is great in its own way. The nation does reverence to the characters of the men who have made its history illustrious.

It may be said that Lincoln was the greatest American as the type has developed. His kindly courtesy, his judicial temperament, his acute and sometimes rude sense of humor, his great heart and large sympathies were characteristic of the best evolution of the American man. Lincoln has been called "the man of sorrows," and surely no other of his countrymen has been fated to carry a burden so heavy. The unflinching and at the same time cheerful temper with which he carried through a work that might have appalled and prostrated a weaker man was a distinctively American trait. It has been said of the people of San Francisco that in the cataclysm of 1906 they carried themselves with "a gay courage." That is American. That was Lincoln.

His own words are immortal. We speak not now of the marvelous address at Gettysburg that has made a model of condensed eloquence for all time, but of the second inaugural, when he held up to the American people a picture that might have been drawn from his own personality:

With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves, and with all nations.

Unkindly fate did not permit that he should finish that work and bind up the nation's wounds. But the lasting peace that he foresaw has come for him and for his countrymen, and north and south today they gather and rejoice to do him honor, realizing in him the portrait drawn by James Russell Lowell:

The kindly, earnest, brave, foreseeing man,
Sagacious, patient, dreading praise, not blame.
New birth of our new soil, the first American.

Lincoln's greatest monument is in the love of his countrymen. He is saint, hero and statesman, and, withal, the most imposing figure of the nineteenth century. In the words of William Howard Taft: "Certain it is that we have never had a man in public life whose sense of duty was stronger, whose bearing toward those with whom he came in contact, whether his friends or political opponents, was characterized by a greater sense of fairness than Abraham Lincoln. We have never had a man in public life who took upon himself uncomplainingly the woes of the nation and suffered in soul from the weight of them as he did. We have never had a man in our history who had such a mixture of farsightedness, of understanding of the people, of common sense, of high sense of duty, of power of inexorable logic and of confidence in the goodness of God in working out a righteous result as this great product of the soil of Kentucky and Illinois."

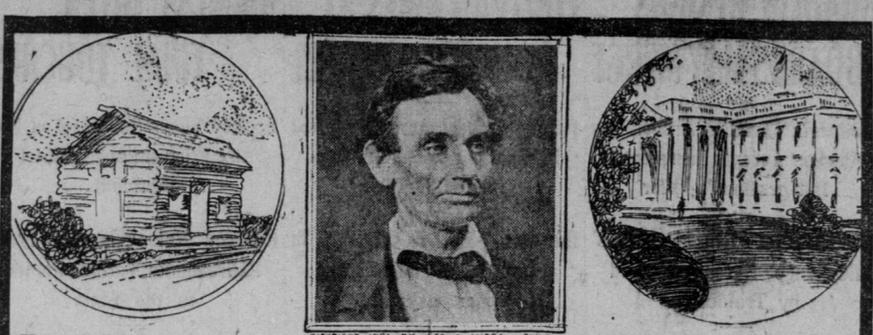
AN unlimited supply of promises and a plentiful lack of performance still characterize the conduct of the United Railroads. It used to be the case that Mr. Thornwell Mullally was the able-bodied undertaker on this job for the corporation, sufficient for all purposes of humbug, but now apparently the work has grown so heavy that he is compelled to call in assistance to help him make his vows. In the meantime nothing is done. The streets are left in ruins and the obligations of the company are not fulfilled.

The United Railroads holds as a free gift from the city franchises worth \$20,000,000. The only conditions attached to this great gift are that the company shall keep the streets paved between its tracks and shall give reasonably good service. Neither of these conditions—trifling enough in view of the magnitude of the concession—is fulfilled. When the city officials call attention to this neglect they are put off with more promises.

It has rained a good deal in the last month, but there has been plenty of fine weather since April, 1906, and a wet month does not excuse the neglect and broken promises of nearly three years. In all that period we have been hearing of the wonderful things the company was going to do and in all that time the streets have lain in ruins as they still lie and the service is as bad as ever. The truth is that the management is lamentably incompetent in any field but stock jobbing and politics.

SPRING VALLEY has made thrifty use of the overworked sensibilities of the so called "nature lovers," some of whom are on the corporation payroll and many of whom have never even seen the ground which they profess to hold sacred, although they have not the most elementary conception of the change proposed to be made. Some of these, advocates like Mr. Underwood Johnson of the Century magazine, do not hesitate to misrepresent the facts of the situation, as we have already had occasion to show in these columns. Mr. Johnson, addressing the senate committee on public lands on Wednesday, is reported to have said:

We claim that the company is not a grinding monopoly, first, because the water rates are not fixed by the company; second, Spring Valley has offered to sell at a price fixed by arbitration; third, it is an undisputed fact that the city can condemn under right of eminent domain. Who fixes water rates in San Francisco? The rates now under collection were determined by the company. The board of supervisors has fixed none of the rates collected since 1902 and the municipal control in this regard has been a ridiculous fiction of law



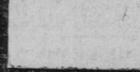
LINCOLN

By Dr. C. W. Doyle

The following poem was written shortly before his death about six years ago by the late Dr. C. W. Doyle of Santa Cruz. It is here published for the first time.

He looked with steadfast eyes beyond the gloom
That gathered o'er his country; saw the light
Dawn in an east of peace, though tears his sight
Bedimmed, and hell of battle, and the fume
Of headlong charge; he heard above the boom
Of cannons' thunder—in the hottest fight,
And when man's lust for blood was at its height—
The voice of God: he saw beyond the tomb.

The heaviest load that son of man e'er bore,
The sorrows of a world, were on him laid;
The greatest soul that ever lived with fire
Was tried by God. He bore the burden sore,
Like to his brother Christ, all undismayed,
And now with God he has his heart's desire.



for half a dozen years. The rates that have been collected are out of all proportion higher than in any other city of like magnitude in America. If this does not constitute a grinding monopoly, perhaps Mr. Johnson will give us a better definition.

It is not true that Spring Valley has offered to sell at a price fixed by arbitration or by anybody but the officials of the company. The single offer to sell at a named price far beyond the value estimated by experts was withdrawn a few hours after it was made. The legal obstacles that make condemnation impossible in a transaction of this magnitude have been frequently explained to Mr. Johnson, but that does not appear to make any difference to him.

The truth is that Johnson and his kind are trying to ride two horses traveling in different directions. At one moment they make themselves champions of Spring Valley as the perfect and impeccable corporation. In the next they bewail the loss of a mosquito ridden meadow for which it is proposed to substitute a mountain lake. If they are unable to show that the change would not improve the scenery and its general effect they get back at once to the fictitious woes of Spring Valley. Their familiarity with Mr. Bourn's manufactured commodity of lament might serve to indicate its source.

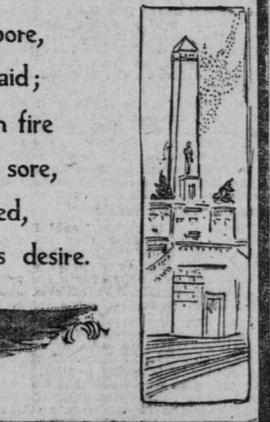
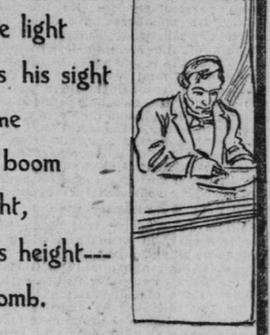
In the meantime San Francisco is not dependent on the action of congress in this matter. The city has the permit of the secretary of the interior and should proceed at once to vest its rights under that grant.

THE CALL has not at any time believed that the disturbance at Sacramento was anything more serious than a loud noise. While we realized that the Japanese question is the most important matter affecting the life of the Pacific coast states it was obvious that the course taken up by certain busybodies in the legislature was mistaken and likely to hinder rather than help. So we have from the beginning relied on the sane judgment of their colleagues

to hold down these obstreperous people, whose hearts may be in the right place, albeit they suffer the inconvenience of not having their heads on straight. This has been a sort of double barreled tempest. The east has been quite as noisy as California and more abusive. The pens of the ready writers beyond the mountains have been going like flails, but to all that one says "Pshaw!" They will have forgotten their fury in a week and then will be ready to concede that the weightiest matter in hand of the nation is the preservation of a homogeneous America for white men. This country has one race question on its hands now and does not know what to do about it. We can not afford to take on with our eyes open another of these dangerous problems. The episode or incident now closed will have its uses in bringing the occasionally uproarious and abusive easterner to his senses when a calmer frame of mind shall supervene. When the gorgeous east sobers up from its debauch on hot and rebellious stuff there will come a tardy sense that blood is thicker than water.

Jewels of Abd-El-Aziz
During the last 14 months the jewels of Abd-el-Aziz have been at the Mont-de-Piete, in Paris. The sum lent was \$50,000. Some of the jewels are said to be valuable, but much of the lot is tinsel. The rate of interest is 7 per cent, with another 1 per cent as valuation charges. The question is now under consideration whether the loan should be renewed or whether the jewels shall be sold publicly, after the manner of Mme. Humbert's—London Globe

Roman Antiquities Found
An interesting discovery has been made near La Batle Montsalen, the ancient Mons Senecus. It is a Roman oil jar measuring just 13 feet in circumference, and hooped with iron. Near by were found some stelae, and the Abbe Guillaume, the departmental archivist, is engaged in deciphering the Latin inscriptions. The jar has been placed in the museum at Gap to enrich the fine collection of Roman antiquities already housed there—London Globe



Letters From the People

ARMSTRONG GROVE PURCHASE
Santa Rosa, Cal., Feb. 11, '09.
Editor Call: I noticed with interest your article in yesterday's issue headed "Gratt Dominates State," signed "A Native Daughter."

Every section of our state is anxious to encourage state investments, even at the expense of the other sections, and generally property so acquired costs the people two to three times what it would if purchased through private sources, for just as soon as there is a possibility of public acquisition there is marked activity among a few of those on the inside, and the public interest becomes private, yet this same crowd will howl they are public spirited men. We now have an example of this public spirited business pending in the legislature at Sacramento. I refer to the purchase of the Armstrong grove.

The writer has lived in Sonoma county over 20 years, has seen the grove in question and recollects six or seven years ago Walter Armstrong remarking that the grove was worth \$40,000; with no buyer at that time. Now it is offered to the state for \$125,000 (which, I understand, has been reduced to \$100,000), by H. M. Le Baron, a banker.

Why is it that our representatives from this district Price and Whitney will permit the people's money to be wasted in purchasing 400 acres of mountain land at \$250 per acre, when it is not worth over \$150 to any private individual?

I am in favor of progression and public spirit, but not at such a cost. The people of this state are surely indebted to the Call for publishing the true facts concerning this deal, and it is to be hoped that the legislature will see to it that the people get value received in this instance. Yours truly, SUBSCRIBER.

Difficult to Imitate Diamonds
Diamonds are the only gems consisting of one and but one element. This apparent simplicity has not only attracted artificial production but has also been the insuperable barrier which has hindered success. Artificial diamonds certainly have been made, but on such a small scale that they have been practically useless.

In 1855 the method of Despretz consisted of depositing carbon by the disman being of the electric spark in a large vacuum tube. The carbon was deposited on platinum wires and the true fact concerning this deal, and it is to be hoped that the legislature will see to it that the people get value received in this instance. Yours truly, SUBSCRIBER.

The Insider

Tells of wealth and other advantages possessed by the speaker of the state assembly that make him most eligible man from a matrimonial standpoint in Sacramento

"Phil" Stanton's Fads
Include Fast Driving
SPEAKER Philip Ackley Stanton, from a matrimonial standpoint, is the most eligible man in Sacramento today, and, perhaps in the state. He is a bachelor, 41 years of age, rich, amiable and inclined to be good looking. He came west in search of health and settled in Los Angeles, being impressed with the possibilities of it becoming at some time the largest and wealthiest city in the world. This decided him to get into real estate. He made a large fortune in a short time and then started into the business of getting a fad.

As a preliminary he purchased a large tract of land near Brookhurst, which is close to Anaheim, and planted English walnuts, which now bring him in a large income. Then he started into being a raiser of fast horses and has several of the "get" of Belle McKinney.

Fast driving was and is still his passion, and he is never so happy as when handling the ribbons. His trotters are among the finest in the state, and as an amateur whip he is second only to Captain William Banning. But then, again, fast driving has its limitations when pursued as a fad by a man of his disposition. He was a friend of Walter Parker—and the descent, as old Virgil says, was easy.

"Phil," as he is better known, has a house in Los Angeles, a handsome place at Bay City, just below Long Beach, and a fine dwelling at his ranch, amid huge English walnut trees. Are not these advantages enough to make him a most eligible man in a matrimonial sense? A great many ex-pupils of the old Denman school, at Bush and Taylor streets, sincerely mourned when they read of James Denman's death. For many years Mr. Denman was the principal of the school which was named after him, the late Mrs. Etta M. Baumgardner being the vice principal. A. L. Mann became the principal when Mr. Denman left to assume a higher office. Most of those old Denman pupils remember that one of James Denman's fads was "parsing."

Grammar is taught differently now from what it was 20 years ago, when to "parse a sentence" correctly was considered to be a part of one's education. Declamation was another popular study of the Denman's principal. He always conducted the reading examinations himself, occasionally being assisted by John Swett, when the latter was superintendent of public instruction.

Mr. Denman had the faculty of never forgetting a face and rarely misplacing a name. He could meet an old Denman pupil years after she had left his school and yet remember she had been a pupil there. A good many of those ex-pupils have become prominent in the world since. Mrs. Hermann Oelrichs as Tessie Fair attended the Denman for a few terms, her father believing in the democracy of the public school. Mrs. Edward Moore Robinson (Ailene Ivers) was a Denman pupil. Charlotte Thompson, the playwright, and her sister Marie, the artist, graduated from the Denman. But there are a hundred or so who have made names on the stage as actresses or singers, and writers galore, beside women in business, in school teaching and other professions, who could reminiscence over the days when the late James Denman was their school principal.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES

NORTHWEST LAND REGULATIONS—What are the Canadian land regulations for securing land in Manitoba and elsewhere?
Any person who is the sole head of a family, or any male over 18 years old, may homestead a quarter section of available dominion land in Manitoba, Saskatchewan or Alberta. The applicant must appear in person at the dominion lands agency or subagency for the district. Entry by proxy may be made at any agency, on certain conditions, by father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister of intending homesteader.

Duties.—Six months' residence upon and cultivation of the land in each of three years. A homesteader may live within nine miles of his homestead on a farm of at least 50 acres, solely owned and occupied by him or by his father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister.
In certain districts a homesteader in good standing may pre-empt a quarter section alongside his homestead. Price \$3 per acre. Duties.—Must reside six months in each of six years from date of homestead entry (including the time required to earn homestead patent) and cultivate 50 acres extra.

A homesteader who has exhausted his homestead right and can not obtain a pre-emption may take a purchased homestead in certain districts. Price \$3 per acre. Duties.—Must reside six months in each of three years, cultivate 50 acres and erect a house worth \$300.

COCKROACHES—A Subscriber, Citr. What is there that will exterminate cockroaches?
It is said that pulverized borax is one of the best roach exterminators. There is something in either the smell or touch that is repugnant to the pests and will either kill or drive them away. The borax should be sprinkled in liberal quantity at the places that are infested. This is harmless to humans and animals. Pets green will kill them, but that should be used with extreme caution, as it is very poisonous.

CHIEF SULLIVAN—A. S. City. Where was the late Chief Sullivan of the fire department on the morning of April 18, 1906, at the time he was fatally injured?
He was in his room on the upper floor of the engine house on Bush street adjoining the California hotel. A part of the wall of the hotel crashed through the roof of the engine house and caught the chief before he could escape.

LAND ATTORNEY—L. R. T. C. Merced, Cal. Is it right for a United States land office to charge \$5 for either in a homestead application in addition to \$10 fee and \$0 commission?
The fee should be \$5 for the application and \$10 for the survey. It is impossible to answer the question

SISTER IN LAW—B. S. G. Black Diamond, Cal. If a woman becomes the sister in law of her brother's wife, does she change her relation to her husband if she becomes a widow and marries again?
Once a sister in law always a sister in law.
THE LAST GLASS—S. Alameda, Cal. Who wrote a poem entitled "The Last Glass" in what book is it printed?
It was written by William Collins. You can find it in books of recitations at the free library.

INTRODUCTION—O. S. Citr. A young man wants to introduce his sweetheart to his mother. What should he first say?
Present the mother to the sweetheart.

Impertinent Question No. 90

What Do You Know?
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. Prize winning answers will be printed next Wednesday and checks mailed to the winners at once. Make your answer short and SEND IT ON A POSTAL CARD to

IMPERTINENT QUESTIONS, THE CALL.
Winning Answers to "Why Are You What You Are?"
\$5 prize to A. J. Davis, P. O. box 3, Petaluma. Because I have been doing what I have been doing.
\$1 prize to J. J. O'Meara, 64 Eddy street, city. I'm only like this when the gas bill comes in—I have lucid intervals.
\$1 prize to Miss Clara Gianotti, 2629 Twenty-fifth street, city. A native daughter wouldn't be anything else.
\$1 prize to Mrs. E. J. Hermans, 317 South G street, San Mateo. Because I was not careful in the selection of my parents.
\$1 prize to John Williams, 1501 1/2 Polson street, city. Because I was captured early and tamed.
\$1 prize to Miss Alice Waugh, 1804 Forty-seventh avenue, Malibu. I couldn't be otherwise if I would, and I wouldn't if I could. I'm O. K.