

The San Francisco Call

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BUSINESS OFFICE... Market and Third Streets, San Francisco
EDITORIAL ROOMS... Market and Third Streets

MAIN CITY BRANCH... 1651 Fillmore Street Near Post

OAKLAND OFFICE... 668 11th St. (Bacon Block) Tel. Sunset-Oakland 1933

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Subscription Rates: Delivered by Carrier, 20 Cents Per Week 75 Cents Per Month Single Copies, 5 Cents.

Terms by Mail for UNITED STATES, including Postage (Cash With Order): DAILY CALL (including Sunday), 1 Year \$8.00

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

The indomitable Britisher is resolved on the conquest of the south pole. Of late years the Swedes have led in this field of endeavor, which has an attraction all its own, although to average humanity it might seem a futile and ineffectual pursuit.

Lieutenant Shackleton of the British navy holds the palm and the record for polar exploration. He has left the union jack shivering and lonely amid the desolate antarctic regions of rock ribbed ice and howling blizzards.

Exploration will doubtless proceed without counting the cost. What nation's flag may first surmount the farthest north or farthest south no man may say. No race has a monopoly of courage or daring, and all that is needed for its application to accomplishment is some cause to inflame the imagination.

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ROOSEVELT has sailed for Africa. His departure was made the occasion of a portentous popular demonstration. His expedition as such has no political significance. It is a sentimental journey, not a passionate pilgrimage.

An industrious effort has been made and is making to create the belief that Roosevelt's popularity is failing. There are powerful interests that would be pleased to convince themselves and other people that the man is what the street calls "a dead one."

Roosevelt will come back. He will come back with undiminished popularity and unabated force. He has a great future, notwithstanding and partly by reason of the hatreds and the jealousy that pursue him even in retirement.

The newspapers offer a fair and reasonable measure of the drift and force of public sentiment, and in that sense the hostile interests might profitably count up the lavish tale of columns given to telling of Roosevelt's departure on a vacation journey.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES

ESTATE-Subscriber, City. After a man dies and leaves an estate there is a law requiring that the fact shall be published for a certain length of time before his estate can be settled.

Last Flower of the Convention System

It is perhaps too soon as yet to make a final estimate of the good or evil that the legislature has accomplished, and reliance may be placed on Governor Gillett's sense of right to save the commonwealth from certain iniquitous and scandalous measures that passed the houses.

No doubt at all times there was a strong minority of decent membership, but it constituted only a minority at best. The majority conceded only what it must, and it made these concessions only after plentiful kicking and squealing. It deserves no thanks whatever and will get none.

The passage of Grove Johnson's change of venue bill supplies a fair measure of the standard of honesty in this legislature. The bill was frankly designed in the interest of criminals, and should it become law by the governor's signature will be a grave injury to the jurisprudence of the whole state.

Go down the line. Consider the little things in amplification of proof for this conclusion. One observes, by way of example, with something of the amusement that the heedless observer might accord to the maneuvers of a petty larcenator, that one of the dying acts of the legislature was the provision of public money to finance Eddie Wolfe's officially conducted excursion into economic science.

In a word, this legislature was the last flower of the convention system, petty, dirty and corrupt, except where it acted under compulsion.

Roosevelt's Sentiments Voiced Plainly

By O. H. FERNBACH

THEodore Roosevelt, on sailing for Africa, announced that it would be a waste of time for anyone to write to him while he was gone.

I'M OFF to the land of the Killifool bird
And the grim, undesirable Kaktor,
The gamboling Gnu and the Yak of the Zoo,

WHEN cheerfully camped on the African brink,
Ananias's pets I am routing,
The monk that can't talk and the tree that don't think,

WHEN deep in the brush a gorilla I meet,
Whom I hail as some friend from Mombasa,
And find I'm mistaken, in fashion to beat

School for Laughter
We referred some time ago to a school which had been opened in Milan for the purpose of teaching people how to laugh.

Philippines Rich in Minerals
The London and China Telegraph publishes the following in reference to gold mining in the Philippine islands:

The Smart Set

THE Presidio hop last evening was quite as successful as the several preceding affairs that have attracted guests to the officers' club.

A number of dinner parties preceded the dance, and among those who entertained guests were Miss Dolly MacGavin, who was hostess at an informal dinner given at her home in California street for half a dozen friends, and Mrs. Sterling Postley Adams, who entertained a score of guests at a dinner party before the hop.

Mrs. Remi Chabot entertained yesterday at a luncheon given in the gray room at the Fairmont in compliment to Mr. and Mrs. James Lynch of New York, who are the guests of Mrs. Lynch's mother, Mrs. James K. Moffitt, in Oakland.

Miss Genevieve Walker is at San Rafael, where she is enjoying a visit at the home of the Baroness von Schroeder and is the complimented guest at a series of informal affairs given by the Misses von Schroeder.

Miss Louise Boyd gave one of the prettiest luncheons of the week at her home in San Rafael, but the affair was quite informal and was enjoyed by half a dozen friends of the hostess.

Mrs. Eleanor Martin has been enjoying a brief visit at Burlingame, where she has been the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Cooper, at their picturesque bungalow.

Miss Dorothy Boerke and Miss Lois McCormick are enjoying a delightful outing at Paso Robles and will extend their visit until April 10 instead of returning this week as they had intended.

The friends of Mrs. William Kohl are rejoicing that she has returned to town after her long absence and are the more pleased since it is probable that Mrs. Kohl will remain at the Fairmont for an indefinite stay.

Miss Helen Williams, who has been extensively entertained during her visit in this district in Berkeley, leaves today for her home in New York. Miss Williams has been the guest of friends here for several weeks and has been the complimented guest of many of the recent affairs given by the younger set.

Mrs. Rylana B. Wallace, who has been abroad several months, has returned to this city and is at the Granada, temporarily.

Mr. and Mrs. George Whitell will entertain at an elaborate dinner to be given Saturday evening at the Fairmont for 20 or more guests.

Simple Mosquito Trap
In the suburbs of Calcutta, in the vicinity of tanks and a sluggish canal that cuts across from the Hooghly above to a point below Calcutta, mosquitoes are always present in large numbers, and those who live outside of the city proper suffer from malaria.

The Insider

Tells why the actress who is to wed August Belmont adopted the stage as a profession, although she did not care for public life, and how announcement was misunderstood

Repertoire Mistaken for a Foreign Hussy
ELEANOR ROBSON, who is reported as about to leave the stage and wed August Belmont, never did care for public life.

"That's a better idea than any of the others," said Miss Robson; "for then, mother dear, we can travel together if we get into the same company."

Miss Robson never regretted her decision. She and her mother are well known in this city, where Mrs. Cook played a long engagement with Tim Frawley's original stock company. They both possess a keen sense of humor.

"I like Miss Robson," said his companion, "but I never heard of that girl Repertoir who has everything. Sounds like one of the French hussies. What I want to see is a clean, wholesome play, the kind that won't leave a nasty taste in your mouth. The Repertoir may have everything up to date, but she don't get my five dollars."

Wireless Installed on Old Windjammer
When a schooner can flirt with a liner—well, things marine have become pretty well modernized," remarked a well known sea captain the other day.

Exiles in Windy City Wish They Were Here
There is one club in Chicago that is dear to the heart of every Californian—the California club, which meets once a week for luncheon at the Grand Pacific hotel.

California Girl to Wed a Millionaire
The Stockton friends of Miss Hazel Burdge are discussing with animation the great good fortune that has befallen that young woman, who, it will be recalled, was one of the bridesmaids at the marriage of Miss Sue Nichol with Robert Hayes Smith.

PRIZE OFFERED FOR MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN STATE

The executive committee of the Portola festival offers a prize amounting in value to \$100 for the photo of the most beautiful young woman in the state of California. It is desired to make the celebration of the discovery of San Francisco bay by Gaspar de Portola, the first governor of California, a statewide affair, and it is hoped that every section will send the photos of its most beautiful young women to this committee.

Impertinent Question No. 96

What Is Justice?
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.