

The San Francisco Call

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SEATTLE is much concerned about reports that have got abroad concerning the disposition of hotel keepers and other tradesmen of that city to make some extra hay while the Alaskan Yukon-Pacific sun shines. The exposition which will shortly open in the Puget sound city will draw crowds of visitors who would like to be assured that they will not be treated as the natural prey of the local tradesmen. A recent letter from Seattle to an eastern paper declared that the hotelmen of the city were bonded in conspiracy or piracy, which is, perhaps, the same thing. The letter naturally elicited a competent "roast" from the Seattle chamber of commerce and the newspapers, but as the writer had taken the precaution to give a wrong name and address the shooting was mostly in the air.

There appears to be no doubt that the chamber of commerce is making an honest effort to moderate the enthusiastic prices that some of the hotelmen would like to charge, and further, the chamber will maintain a bureau where visitors may get information about accommodations. Yet there is a suspicion abroad that the hotel keepers, or some of them, will prove a stiff necked generation.

From the pleading tone of the local press it is evident that the proposition to raise prices all round has some important support. Hence this elaborate argument in the Post-Intelligencer of a principle that might seem obvious enough without any sort of argument:

Ice manufacturers are entitled to a fair profit on the ice they make and sell in the city; but they are not entitled to any more than that, and certainly, if they care anything for Seattle's good name, they will not take advantage of the exposition to run prices up to a point that will yield them extravagant profits during the coming summer.

If the price of ice is put up the prices of other things will go up, too. If butchers have to pay more for ice they will charge more for meat; if producers, milk vendors, marketmen, restaurant keepers, hotels, grocers, storage plants and other concerns involved, one way or another, in the handling, sale and distribution of articles of food, are each required to pay more for ice, they will charge the consumer more for what the consumer buys from them.

It will not do to run prices up to an abnormal level in this city during the exposition.

The stranger must not be skinned within these gates.

It appears to take a lot of talk to impress Seattle with a sense that it will be impolitic to skin the stranger. Where the inborn depravity of the iceman leads others may be seduced to follow. In the meantime The Call hopes, in the interest of Californian visitors, who will be many, that the chamber of commerce and the obviously enlightened press of Seattle will labor successfully with what they like to call their "hard headed businessmen." Perhaps they mean hard fisted.

ADOLPHUS WASHINGTON GREELY, the amiable military personage who administered the affairs of San Francisco for some months after the big fire, declares from his experience as an arctic explorer that the success or failure of expeditions in that thrilling region of thick ribbed ice is largely a matter of luck. He thinks that Lieutenant Shackleton of the British navy, who got closer to the south pole than any other explorer, had good luck. It need not be doubted that in contending with the unknown chance plays an even more important part than it does in the ordinary affairs of life. Yet in the long run success follows good judgment, and General Greely's remarks concerning Lieutenant Shackleton's equipment and precautions show that a wise foresight constituted the most important element of his enterprise. General Greely is quoted:

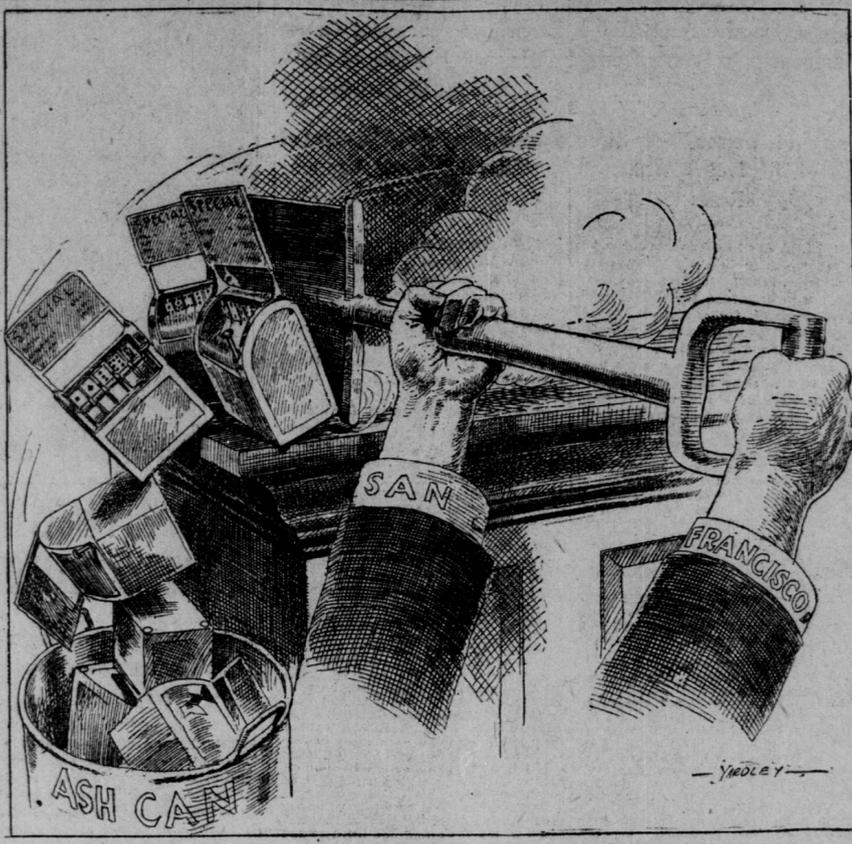
Realizing that Lieutenant Shackleton was an experienced antarctic explorer, I felt safe in predicting that he would accomplish greater achievements than those of any other explorer. He carried with him an outfit that was far superior to any ever carried by an explorer. He was the first man to carry ponies with him instead of dogs, and, although at the time of his departure there was some speculation as to the advisability of this move, time has demonstrated that the ponies were far superior to the smaller animals. Lieutenant Shackleton also took motor sleds and other modern equipment with him. The former did not meet expectations, but I dare say that motor sleds some day will play a very important part in polar exploration.

Every arctic explorer must take chances. He engages in battle with an immitigable and uncertain climate, an antagonist that gives no quarter to the unprotected, and yet the final victory is certain. The question still remains whether it is worth while. General Greely says the most important result of the Shackleton expedition was to locate definitely the magnetic south pole. That object was previously known only by reputation. Its existence is no longer merely a pious opinion.

ANDREW CARNEGIE usually has something suggestive and illuminating to say on any subject to which he has given thought. That fact gives ground for the conclusion that he had given little reflection to the acute contemporary competition of navies when he remarked that England made a fatal mistake when she began building Dreadnoughts and battleships of the 20,000 ton type. In an address made at the international peace festival recently held in New York Mr. Carnegie said:

Never before in the history of the world have the leading powers been engaged in hastening the construction of engines of destruction to the extent that they are now. An explanation of this deplorable condition is to be found in the fatuous blunder of the government of Britain in creating a new class of battleships, the so called "Dreadnoughts." A short time ago England had a navy which was estimated as being five times more powerful than that of Germany. In order to remain the unchallenged mistress of the seas all that she had to do was to avoid increasing the size and armament of vessels. Strange to say, a cabinet was found which approved what amounted to a revolution in naval armaments, and at once reduced to comparative worthlessness the 400 efficient warships then consti-

A Spade Flush



tuting the British navy. With the building of British "Dreadnoughts" came the building of German ships of equivalent displacement and destructiveness, and now the United States and the other world powers are all actively engaged in turning out these great battleships.

Undoubtedly the first 20,000 ton battleship made obsolete all the less powerful fighting machines, but the assumption lying at the base of Mr. Carnegie's reasoning is that if England had not taken the initiative in this competition no other nation would have undertaken anything of the sort. Of course, that assumption is baseless and absurd. In fact, plans for a battleship of equal power with the Dreadnought were pigeonholed in Washington by our deliberate navy department years before the British admiralty laid the keel of the first 20,000 tonner. Mr. Carnegie's assumption that the process of naval evolution would cease if only England would stay put is merely ridiculous.

It may be that the building of the Dreadnought was unfortunate for England, because from that point started a new and expensive race for naval supremacy that made the previous British preponderance of sea power more or less negligible, but it should be obvious that if the Dreadnought had not been built the Germans or the Americans would have made the start in the competition which for the moment so deeply excites the people of Great Britain.

WHEN all the other virtues fled, "hope, the charmer, lingered still behind." It is the almost desolated plight of the democratic party, speaking by the voice of Marse Henry Watterson. One rejoices, irrespective of partisan thinking, that Mr. Watterson is still able to be around. Not long ago it was hinted that he had enough, but his motto is "Never say die," and he still keeps the firing line with his trusty old musket. That venerable weapon is always noisy and sometimes scattering, but it is never rusty.

Mr. Watterson foresees disaster for the republican party. The sword of Damocles and the handwriting on the wall compete with a crop of dragon's teeth and all the old properties of newspaper calamity to heap destruction on the head of that grand old party. The appointed hour is come. All that is needed for democratic success is thus set forth:

If there are any true democrats left they should nail their flag to the masthead and stand by their guns, reanimating the halt, the lame and the blind, reassuring those of little faith, though but with the voice of one crying in the wilderness, that God reigns in America as he reigned in Israel; that Truth is mighty and will prevail, and that the promised land is not very far beyond.

Alas, for the gods are dumb. We should not throw cold water on this ancient ammunition. Mr. Watterson appears to be still fighting with bow and arrow against weapons of precision. To advance the march on the "promised land" of offices and fat salaries, he declares that "upon the head of President Taft, a patriotic and upright republican, will be visited the sins of President Roosevelt, an unwise and rapacious republican." Nonsense, colonel; you don't even believe that yourself. "Rapacious," quotha.

Good Sir Henry, most valiant of swashbucklers and partisans, still we love you and wish more power to your elbow, and may your shadow never grow less.

HOW much of California remains unexplored? The American occupation is more than half a century old and yet new wonders are still discovered from time to time. The other day somebody reported the discovery of the remains of a prehistoric city in the San Jacinto mountains that overlook the great San Bernardino desert. To be sure, there were some graceless skeptics that pretended to believe that this discovery was an invention of southern ingenuity applied on its customary function of promoting the sale of corner lots and the installation of a new dragnet for tourists. This unkindly view is strongly reproached by certain recent explorers who went out from Long Beach to vindicate the honor and scientific spirit of their fellow citizens south of Tehachapi. One of these, Mr. A. C. Malone, is quoted in description of the discovery:

You may say for me that the ruins are not the work of any real estate scheme, such as was erroneously reported in certain morning papers, but the remnants of a settlement that was contemporaneous with the time when the ocean flowed over the Coachella and Imperial valleys. We had time only to explore the mere outskirts, and owing to bad weather we were glad to get away as soon as possible, but we saw enough to convince us that if any one piled up these ruins as a pastime they had anywhere from 25 to 50 years' work cut out for them.

I believe the discovery is of great value, and hope that a thorough exploration and report will be made at an early date by persons qualified to examine the ruins in a scientific manner.

We may hope that Mr. Malone's wishes will be fulfilled in the proper scientific spirit and that the explorations will result in throwing some light on the question why any considerable number of people should elect to build their homes in the most inhospitable territory to be found on this continent. If conditions were not greatly different in prehistoric times they must have found no little difficulty in living off the country.

Answers to Queries

WEIGHTS—J. M. City. Why are there three kinds of weights in use, the apothecaries, the Troy and the avoirdupois? Has not the ounce and the pound the same weight in one as in all?

Avoirdupois weight is a system of weights by which coarser commodities are weighed, such as hay, grain, butter and tea. The standard avoirdupois pound of the United States is equivalent to the weight of 27.0015 cubic inches of distilled water at 62 degrees Fahrenheit, the barometer being at 30 inches and the water weighed in the air with brass weights. In this system of weight 16 drams make one ounce, 16 ounces one pound, 25 pounds one quarter, 4 quarters one hundredweight and 20 hundredweight one ton. The above pound contains 7,000 grains or 453.54 grams, so that one pound avoirdupois is equivalent to 1 31/144 pounds Troy.

Apothecaries weights is the system of weights by which medical prescriptions were formerly compounded. The pound and the ounce are the same as in Troy weight; they differ only in the manner of subdivision. The ounce is divided into 8 drams, 24 scruples, 480 grains. Troy weight is the system by which gold and silver jewelry and the like are weighed. It was so named from Troy in France, where it was first adopted in Europe. The Troy ounce is supposed to have been brought from Cairo during the crusades. In this weight the pound is divided into 12 ounces, the ounce into 20 pennyweights, and the pennyweights into 24 grains; Hence the Troy ounce contains 480 grains and the Troy pound contains 5,760 grains.

ASPARAGUS—S. V. P. City. What is the French method of cooking asparagus? The following is the method as given by a French chef: Pick the loose leaves from the heads and scrape the stalks clean. Wash them in a pan of cold water, tie them up in bundles of 20 each, keeping the heads turned the same way; cut the stalks even leaving them about eight inches long. Put the asparagus in hot water with a small handful of salt in it and boil for 20 minutes and when done drain carefully upon a napkin to avoid breaking of the heads. Dish them up on a square thick piece of toasted bread dipped in the water in which they have been boiled and send them to table with white sauce.

SACRIFICE HIT—Not a fan, City. What is meant by a sacrifice hit in baseball? It is a hit made by a batsman who makes no attempt to hit the ball out of the diamond, but bunts the ball intentionally in such a way that it advances the base runner one or two bases, though he is put out himself. If the batsman reaches first, because of an error, he is credited with a sacrifice hit just the same.

HERALDRY—N. Berkeley, Cal. What rules govern the usage of a coat of arms? The rules are many and would occupy more space than can be devoted to any one question in this department. Go to the free library in Oakland and there you will find works on heraldry and articles in the encyclopedias which will give you all the information you desire on this subject.

ANCESTRY—N. Berkeley, Cal. Where can one obtain information regarding his ancestry? As you do not state what part of the world your ancestors came from this department can not advise you where such information could be obtained, and again, as such researches are made by private parties, this department can not advertise them.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC—D. A. W. Redding, Cal. Where can I obtain reliable information about opportunities for a young energetic man who wants to go to the Argentine republic? Write to Charles S. Wilson, secretary to the United States legation at Buenos Aires, and tell him just what you want to know.

SEALED PACKAGES—T. L. City. If a retail grocer or retail fruit dealer obtains a liquor dealer's license tax from the internal revenue department, does that permit him to sell sealed packages of liquor of less than a quart? It does not. It allows him to sell packages containing a quart.

RICHEST MAN—W. G. City. Who is the richest man in the world? That is a question which no one can answer, as the richest man has not taken the public into his confidence and told it how much he is worth.

WAR VETERANS—L. F. B. Alameda, Cal. Is there any California law that exempts honorably discharged soldiers and sailors of the Spanish-American war from the payment of poll tax? There is none.

NO RUN—R. Port Costa, Cal. In a game of crib A plays 4, B plays 5, C plays 6 and D plays 3. Is not D entitled to count a run of 21? No. The sequence is broken by the two fives in succession.

DIRECTORY—A. O. S. City. Where can I see a Sacramento city directory? In the office of the San Francisco directory.

The Insider

Relates experiences of solicitor for woman's magazine, who encounters objections from fair residents of city who find many excuses for failing to subscribe.

Difference Between Mother and Clubwoman THE solicitor of advertisements and subscriptions often meets with amusing adventures. A San Francisco woman, who has been making the rounds in the interests of the circulation department of a woman's publication, says she could write a Sunday supplement story about some of her experiences. One day this week she visited one woman on her list of possible subscribers, to whom she expounded the merits of her journal.

"All-California clubwomen should take the paper," she said, "for it is published for them and they should support it."

"But I have not lived here long enough to call myself a Californian," was the response. "I am not yet acclimated, and though I belong to a woman's club I am not a California clubwoman exactly, and there is no reason why I should take the paper."

Another woman, when solicited for a subscription, held up her hands in indignation.

"A clubwoman!" she exclaimed. "Why, I am a MOTHER."

One Thing Needed in Employe of Schwerin "Schwerin," said a Pacific Mail official the other day, "is the easiest man in the world to work for."

The listener protested and muttered something that sounded like "likelleis."

"Sure he is," insisted the official, who is close to the big chief and ought to know.

"He wants a man to do only one thing. He wants him to 'come through' all the time."

Clubwomen and Their Work

By Mary Ashe Miller

NOMINATIONS for the officers of the various women's clubs of the city are agitating committees and members and this week will bring matters to a culmination in several of the organizations.

The California club will have a business meeting tomorrow and there are to be nominations. Mrs. E. L. Baldwin, who has presided so efficiently and charmingly for the last year, probably will be re-elected and there will be few changes in the personnel of the present officers, excepting vice presidents. It is whispered that none of the vice presidents, wants office for a second term, so some new names will be introduced tomorrow.

Delegates will be elected also to the annual convention of the State Federation of Women's Clubs, which is to meet in May at Del Monte.

Tuesday, April 17, the afternoon's program will consist of an address by Dr. John Graham Brooks on "The Work of the Consumers' League."

Friday afternoon, April 16, the annual vaudeville show of the club will be given under the direction of Mrs. Arthur Cornwall and, although the program is not completed, some entertaining features are promised.

Tuesday, April 20, the Outdoor Art department, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Lovell White, will have charge of the program and two addresses will be given. The first address, to be illustrated with stereopticon views, will be "A Greater Harbor for San Francisco," by Thomas Magee, while the second is to be by Willis Polk on "The Commercial Value of the Artistic Treatment of Our Water Front." Mrs. S. L. Cauch will sing on this occasion also.

Tuesday, April 27, will be Social day and President's day as well. President Benjamin Ide Wheeler of the University of California will deliver an address on "The New University Idea," and there will be music by the choral section of the club.

The Channing auxiliary will meet this afternoon in the parlors of the First Presbyterian church, a reception to members taking place at 2:45 o'clock. The hostesses will be Mrs. O. D. Baldwin, chairman; Mrs. J. Norman Brittain and Mrs. Horatio Ward Stebbins. At 3 o'clock there will be a brief business meeting, and at 3:20 the following program, to which guests have been bidden, will be carried out:

Piano solos—Brahms, Chopin, Debussy, Liszt, Schumann, Tchaikovsky, Wagner, etc. Violin solos—Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Chopin, Debussy, Liszt, Schumann, Tchaikovsky, Wagner, etc. Vocal solos—Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Chopin, Debussy, Liszt, Schumann, Tchaikovsky, Wagner, etc. Miss Katherine Gray.

Corona club will meet Wednesday and hear the report of the nominating committee, after which the annual reception of the club will be held. Mrs. James E. Hume, president of the California State Federation of Women's Clubs, will be the guest of honor.

Thursday, April 22, is to be nominating day, and no guests will be permitted to participate in the joys of Corona club on the occasion.

The Woman's Public Health Association of California will hold its regular meeting tomorrow morning at 1500 Jackson street at 10:30 o'clock, at which time the streetcars will come up for discussion.

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.

All young women should enter this competition both from a point of patriotism and for the prize offered. The photo finally selected will be used as a model for a poster drawing which will be representative of California in every respect and will be distributed the world over.

The competition will close Saturday, April 27. The executive committee reserves all right to publish the photos in newspapers as it may deem proper.

Mark the name and address plainly on the back of the photos and send to executive committee, Portola festival, rooms 936-938, Phelan building, San Francisco.

Impertinent Question No. 97

What's a Slot Machine?

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.