

The San Francisco Call

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Delivered by Carrier, 20 Cents Per Week, 75 Cents Per Month, Daily and Sunday
Single Copies, 5 Cents

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THE bank clearings in San Francisco and the other important cities of California continue to show, week by week, a large and gratifying increase. Last week this city showed a gain \$3,358,408, as compared with the corresponding total for the same period last year.

The sum of business handled for the week was \$36,928,785, which is in advance of the volume of transactions in the period immediately preceding the fire, when business was regarded as unusually good.

That this growth of business is not accidental or spasmodic will appear from the following table of monthly clearings:

Table with 3 columns: Month, 1908, 1909. Rows: January, February, March, April, May, June, July.

San Francisco capital is moving the crops, and this operation, of course, takes a great deal of money out of local circulation for the moment. That condition is merely temporary, and the circulating medium will shortly begin to flow back to the financial centers for the supply of the producers' needs.

On the subject of the comparative wealth of populations the federal census bureau has recently compiled a table that shows that Californians are the richest people in the world, man for man. This is the table:

Table with 3 columns: State, Total Wealth, Wealth per Capita. Rows: California, New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Massachusetts, Ohio, United States, Great Britain, France.

Not only is the per capita wealth of Californians greater than that of any other people, but likewise their load of debt is less. The per capita debt of Californians is \$9.71, while that of the whole United States is \$14.52, as compared with \$74.83 in Great Britain and \$150.61 in France.

As regards business in other parts of the country, the steel industry is the best barometer of trade. A recent Pittsburg dispatch says:

The iron and steel trade has developed to a point where many of the mills are discriminating in the taking of work and are turning down contracts which owing to the nature of the specifications or the material do not offer a desirable tonnage. Work of this class is taken only at advanced prices. The pig iron market has strengthened and the labor situation shows improvement.

The most significant fact indicating the condition of the iron industry is the recent increase in dividends made by the steel trust. The statement of this great corporation shows that it has turned the corner, and steadily increasing markets promise a full revival of business.

IN the line of philanthropic activities worthy of imitation in San Francisco is the work of the New York working girls' vacation society. The number of women employed in local industries in this city is constantly increasing and their duties are laborious and exacting. Little or nothing is now done to make the burden of life easier for them, and there is here a great and important field for philanthropic endeavor that might favorably commend itself to some such organized body as the California club or other women's organizations engaged in such work.

Concerning the work of the New York society a statement in the Post of that city says:

It is not, in the completest sense, a charitable organization. It is about as much so as a hospital, where one pays for one can. Its object is to enable working girls who are sick or broken down in health to get two weeks or a month in the country. If they are able they pay a nominal sum. If not, they do not.

There is a waiting list. Ten houses, in various delightful country locations, are filled to overflowing, with about twenty-five girls each. There are still 125 who would like to go to the country. If the society had money, enough it could provide for them. There is no limit to the number of houses the society could operate, for it is officered by women who are capable of doing the managing.

Last year fifty girls went to Green Farms and Mrs. Williams took the best care of them. Some 148 went to Farmington Lodge. At Westport, Conn., the society had 166 guests. Elmcote, near Chester, N. Y., had ninety-six. Breezy Corner had seventy—and, by the way, Breezy Corner is more breezy than ever this year, as somebody made it a present of a piano and piano stool not long ago.

This year the society has opened two new cottages, the Nancy and the Rose, at Hadlyme, Conn.

Two weeks' stay is allowed at each of these retreats. There are two others, Hillcrest and Uplands, in the Adirondacks, which are devoted to girls with weak throats and lungs. There the outing lasts for a month.

Two weeks in the country means much to these hard working girls, of whom there are thousands in San Francisco. The New York society is able to provide vacations of two weeks at \$10 apiece for the girls and it is a great boon. We suggest that the work be taken up in San Francisco, and it need not be confined to the summer months, as our climate makes vacation season all the year round. Something already has been done along this line, but by no means enough.

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A Promising Infant Industry Discovered In Los Angeles

A PROMISING infant industry has been "unearthed" in Los Angeles, although, unlike its neighbors in that region, it seeks no advertising and employs no press agent. Indeed, its discovery and present fame was due to unsolicited accident.

It appears, then, that in Los Angeles there is a modest factory whose product is the manufacture of the American mummy of commerce. We do not know whether Mr. Aldrich has extended his fostering hand to guard this infant industry from the competition of the pauper mummies of Egypt, and, indeed, we fear the matter has been overlooked owing, no doubt, to the shrinking modesty of the producers. But we may commend the matter to the attention of Senator Flint, who is authority on tariff matters. A really promising Los Angeles industry may be suffering by his neglect. We learn from a Los Angeles dispatch:

The "embalmed body of an Indian squaw and papoose," found in a pine box in a railroad office in Battle Creek, Ia., where it had been shipped from Los Angeles, is nothing but a papier mache figure of a woman and child constructed here by a local manufacturer of "ancient" mummies for the market. It was intended for exhibition purposes when shipped to Iowa.

The production of aboriginal remains out of paper pulp is presumably intended as a contribution to the twin sciences of anthropology and paleontology. Since the unfortunate controversy over the prehistoric authenticity of the Calaveras skull the credit of those sciences has somewhat languished. But there appears to be a recrudescence of activity, and while Los Angeles is exporting certified mummies another scientific gent has discovered a new peacock embedded in a deposit of asphalt, and some well diggers in San Bernardino have extracted from a depth hundreds of feet below the surface of the earth a watch. No, the watch was not going when discovered, and scientific authority south of Tehachapi is divided as to its origin.

But if Iowa wants to buy from California the mortal part of a dead Indian Los Angeles will be found equal to supplying the demand even at the cost of some embarrassment to the railroad people, who suspected that they had another trunk murder on their hands.

VICE PRESIDENT SCHWERIN of the Pacific Mail steamship company is always amusing, whether his mood be angry or peaceful. Indeed, he contributes more freely to the general gaiety when he is in a rage than on those rare occasions when he is wrapped in boundless content.

Mr. Schwerin's latest indignation is lavished on the fool people who had persuaded themselves that Jack Binns had saved the lives of hundreds of people on board the wrecked steamship Republic, which foundered in the Atlantic some months ago. Binns worked the wireless telegraph and brought relief and rescue.

Mr. Schwerin says it is no such thing. The wireless apparatus, he contends, would not work under such conditions because the collision had destroyed the means of power. The fact that it did work and proved effective for the purpose of bringing rescue does not leave Mr. Schwerin. "The story is all bunkum," he declares, and in the next breath he adds:

The only effect the wireless had upon the Republic and Florida collision was to instill confidence in the passengers by bringing numerous steamships to the aid of the disabled vessels. It could not possibly have aided the Columbia, which went down on this coast. The Columbia was rammed by a steam schooner and went down in eight minutes. In what way could the wireless have aided the passengers of that steamer? I do not know of a single instance in which the wireless has contributed to the safeguarding of vessels.

The reasoning is worth quotation as an example of the sort of logic that Mr. Schwerin deems conclusive against the installation of wireless apparatus on the ships of his company. Mr. Schwerin did not say that he would not provide this means of safety because it would cost some money to install.

THE Pasadena gardeners are ambitious to compass fame by climbing on the shoulders of Luther Burbank, although they do not hesitate to administer a random kick to their means of support. Perhaps it was the only way, for, in truth, nobody would ever have heard of the Pasadena gardeners had it not been for the loud report of the scattergun which they have aimed at Burbank.

Two of a trade rarely agree. The Pasadena nurserymen appear to resent Mr. Burbank's fame and are ambitious to share its advertising value, but to that end they have employed an unworthy means. They will not advance their own reputation by making vague charges against Burbank. The record of his accomplishment is secure, and it has found recognition by the most important scientific bodies in the country.

The scientific authorities who control the policy of the Carnegie institute find themselves sadly at variance with the Pasadena gardeners and they must be humiliated in a corresponding degree. Indeed, the most important grievance of these absurd little people is that Burbank is, as they say, "egotistic." We are unable to decide how far this charge may be well based, but if Mr. Burbank is in fact egotistical he has every reason to be. Envy loves a shining mark.

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RECITES CONGO ATROCITIES OF KING LEOPOLD

Missionary Relates Personal Experiences in Refutation Of Kowalsky's Defense

Editor Call: In one of your recent issues I note that Colonel Kowalsky speaks in favor of King Leopold of Belgium, and says that the "missionaries have been unjust."

Now, I would not have it understood that I think the brave colonel would tell a lie, but, rather, that he, as a well paid lawyer might do in defending a criminal in a court, has set facts aside to make the best of his defendant, his client.

He writes of the pawning of his majesty's jewels as a grand thing, but there might easily be found another view of the case by looking into the subsequent family history of the man. Will the colonel prove that Leopold is a moral man because of the church he has built in connection with his palace? This would be of the same value as to prove his greatness because he says his family jewels were pawned to enable him to carry out his Congo plans.

Regarding jewels, Belgian and French papers have called those worn by King Leopold's favorite women "the Congo jewels." They state the gems are the "pure thing," but no such term has been used to describe the females who wore them. Some time ago I read in a Belgian paper, over the name of one of their eminent parliamentarians, a scathing letter, in which it was stated as the writer's opinion that it could not have been the design of those who, with the king, signed the treaties of Berlin or Brussels that Leopold should by widespread oppression and bloodshed wring money out of the heart of Africa with which to build a palace for the sultana of his female associates. (A more definite term was used by the Belgian writer to describe the women.)

The colonel does not run much risk in attacking "the missionaries." As a rule, they don't strike back, so no courage is required to fight against them. But can the colonel show that they have made false attacks on the government of King Leopold?

While dwelling in the Congo, within reach of its magistrats, the missionaries openly declared that evil things were going on in the rubber regions of the country. Every such statement was denied by Leopold's press, but the reports were all true. King Leopold's own "commission of inquiry" after its exhaustive investigation on the field, did not contradict even one of the statements we had made. The American consul general's report, the reports of the English and Italian consuls, have all borne testimony against the laws and rubber regime on the Congo, and they support our evidence.

In my opinion, the paid lawyer-colonel never was on the upper Congo, but such men as Richard Harding Davis, Glave, Colonel Williams and others who have visited the country have written as we did. Has the colonel read what Doctor Halsey of New York wrote, after his journey to the Congo? Has he read "La Question Congolaise" written by a Belgian Roman Catholic, D. D. Hon. Bihou Root, one of America's greatest men, while secretary of state examined the evidence supplied by both parties and he was satisfied we were honest—hence the action taken by our government. No doubt the colonel has scanned the book written for the king by the man who was once his friend and for whom the colonel did a good deal; but he knows that Wack is another paid witness.

Let me add I have seen dead bodies of people shot by King Leopold's black, and by his white soldiers, too. I have seen even women who had been most cruelly treated and even unmercifully flogged on the bare back with hippo hide whips. I have before me photographs of five people—four of whom I knew personally—who each had a hand cut off by Leopold's agents, all because their district had not brought enough labor tax to the local white officer. I have seen the women working as hostages chained by the neck to strange men—night and day so chained—until their husbands or friends should bring the rubber to secure their release. On one occasion I saw two baskets of human hands—hands of men, of women, of infants—being carried to the white officer and magistrate of my district as proof that the soldiers had carried out the orders given them. The same men had a baton with about 15 (fifteen) hands tied to it. Three days afterward we recovered from the forest one child minus a hand—one who by Leopold's soldiers had been thus mutilated and left to die. She had been there three days alone with her dead mother and two dead children, her own brothers.

I could give you other stories of what we have actually seen, but they are not necessary.

Had we told such tales to the United States government regarding our officers abroad we would have been thanked and the evil would have been stamped out. We would have been called public benefactors. As it was we were threatened and denounced as false by the Belgian press and by men of the Wack, Whiteley and Colonel Kowalsky class. I leave you, sir, and your readers to decide who is in this case the "false witness."

After 29 years and 6 months of missionary service on the Congo, I subscribe myself. Yours sincerely,

JOSEPH CLARK, Oakland, August 4, 1909.

Brief History of Captain Don Gaspar de Portola

Facts About the Doughty Spanish Cavalier, Who Was First Governor of California

Whatever significance the word Portola has to the thousands who will celebrate the festival in this city October 19 to 23 will have but slight effect on the mirth makers. That it is to be a week of carnival, with feasts, bull fights, Baille en Mascara, balloon races, aeroplane flights, Olympian games, the Marathon, championship athletic events, and great military and naval parade, is the essential thing. From all parts of the world will come the sightseers for this unique celebration.

But there will be those serious minded enough to inquire the meaning of Portola (with the accent on the final syllable). They will find that Portola is the name of a doughty Spanish cavalier, who was the first governor of California, and the man who discovered San Francisco Bay. When he returns by proxy in October he will be permitted to gasp in real courtly manner and marvel at the wondrous change that has been wrought in this peninsula.

Don Gaspar de Portola was a captain of dragoons in the army of King Charles III of Spain. When, in 1769, the king issued a royal order for the expulsion of the Jesuits, he chose Portola to head a body of 50 soldiers and ordered him to proceed to California, expel the Jesuits, and turn over their missions to the fathers of the Franciscan college of San Fernando of Mexico, and himself assume the government and control of the country as military governor.

Portola knew little of the country he was approaching and imagined the land was paved with silver and that pearls were to be swept up with brooms. So when he arrived in San Diego in October, 1769, the first thing Portola did was to seize the neighboring mission of San Jose Cabo and make search for uncounted treasures. Portola discovered that the supposed wealth of the Californian fathers was a myth.

There was nothing to do but set out for Loreto, a hundred leagues distant. Arriving at their destination in the middle of December, they seized the capital. A whole year and a month passed. On March 9, 1769, the second land expedition, under the command of Governor Portola, set forth from Loreto, and two weeks after his arrival from the south, July 14, 1769, he left San Diego and marched with nearly all his force northward.

Upon reaching the Salinas river, Portola followed it down to its mouth. Upon reaching that point, he supposed, as was, in fact, the case, that Monterey was close at hand, and that the wooded projection on his south was the famous Point of Pines. However, it was thought Monterey lay farther north. Upon this supposition, Portola resumed his march and proceeded up the coast as far as San Francisco Bay, which he reached November 2, 1769.

On the 2d of November some of Portola's soldiers, while hunting deer, saw toward the north an immense arm of the sea running inland and extending in a southeasterly direction as far as they could see. This account, which is given in the Journal of Father Crespi, is the first notice, so far as known, of the bay of San Francisco.

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Note and Comment

The Greenway sins are justified by the Greenway shins.

Having dined at Windsor castle, J. P. Morgan is said to have given King Edward information by which the latter cleaned up \$1,000,000 in United States steel common. This is the largest after dinner tip on record.

PHILAN—B. E. S. City. When was James D. Philan mayor of San Francisco? He served in 1837 and 1838; served during 1839 (short term to conform with the constitution), and served in 1900 and 1901.

BACK FILES—B. E. S. City. Where can I consult back files of the San Francisco papers, say for 1897-8?

Many of the newspaper files were destroyed by the fire of 1906, but some have been restored and may be seen in the free public library in Hayes street near Franklin.

TRANSPORTS—J. L. M. What are the dimensions and tonnage of the United States transport Sherman and Sheridan?

The Sherman, formerly the British steamer Mobile—Length, 445 feet; breadth, 49.2 feet; depth, 30 feet; gross tonnage, 5,780; net, 3,725 tons. The Sheridan, formerly the British steamer Massachusetts—Length, 445.5 feet; breadth, 49.2 feet; depth, 30 feet; gross tonnage, 5,512; net, 3,654.

NATIONALITY—F. V. D. Sacramento, Cal. A was born in Jersey, which was then French territory, but it is now German and has been since the close of the Franco-Prussian war. A claim that he is now a German, while B says he is a Frenchman. A has since he came to this country taken out American naturalization papers. Is A a Frenchman, a German or an American?

As a man is a native of the country

IN which he was born, A is an Alsatian. If he was a resident of that country at the time the Franco-Prussian war closed he was then a French citizen, but if he was still a resident of the country at the time France ceded the same to the Germans he became a German citizen. Now that he has taken out naturalization papers in this country he is a citizen of the United States and an Alsatian by birth, neither French nor German. Nationality never changes, citizenship may be changed at will.

CLIFF HOUSE—A. L. of S. F. City. When was the original Cliff House destroyed by fire? December 25, 1894.

PEANUTS—W. G. Oakland, Cal. In what counties in California are peanuts cultivated for the market?

In Stanislaus, Merced, Imperial and other counties in the southern part of the state where there is a sandy soil.

HUNTERS LICENSE—Subscriber, City. Can an alien obtain a license to hunt in the state of California?

He can. The amended law which went into effect July 1, 1909, says "Any person not a citizen of the United States must pay a license of \$25. First papers or declaration of intention are insufficient to entitle the applicant to the \$1 license."

Clubwomen and Their Work

By MARY ASHE MILLER

The women's clubs of the city are beginning to manifest signs of life even now, although no regular meetings are to be held for a month, but boards, program committees and the like are already busy.

The California club has had several board meetings during the summer and will hold another next week for the final arrangements for the programs. Mrs. A. W. Scott, the newly appointed chairman of that committee, has recently returned from southern California.

The Outdoor Art league of the California club has not been strictly given up to vacation mood this summer, but its gatherings have continued at irregular intervals.

This afternoon a special meeting will be held at 3 o'clock at the California club to which all women who are interested in the question of parks are invited. The defeat of the recent bond issue projects for the different parks was to many a sore disappointment and particularly to the art league, which has fought for Telegraph hill for many years. This meeting today is for the purpose of considering the plan of asking for a re-submission of the park and Telegraph hill matters under one head to the voters of the city. In the near future the members of the league are to entertain at a Spanish luncheon, which promises to be an affair of great interest.

The Laurel Hall club will resume its meetings on the first Wednesday in September at the California club house as formerly, but a board meeting will be held this week.

Three new departments of the club will be opened this year, the first, the civic section, being simply revived, however, as it was in existence in the club before the fire. The music section will be a very large one and the third will be devoted to literature.

The art section will be under the direction of Mrs. Sophia Peart and assisting her will be a committee consisting of Mrs. John Martinon, Mrs. A. W. Terrill, Mrs. M. Frost and Mrs. H. Schueler.

Mrs. John H. Ferine has been appointed chairman of the reception committee and Miss Amelia Summerton of the house committee.

Corona club's first meeting will be held Friday, September 10, the day having been for the occasion changed from Thursday on account of Admission day. The first meeting will be called federation day and will be devoted to news of the federation work.

The Council of Jewish Women will entertain at a breakfast today at 11 o'clock at the St. Francis hotel, in honor of Miss Sadie American, the executive secretary of the National Council of Jewish Women. The breakfast will be followed by a reception at the rooms of the Forum club, 213 Post street. Mrs. Ben Lowenstein of Cincinnati, first vice president of the National Council of Jewish Women, will be present also.

At the recent meeting of the executive board of the California Federation of Women's Clubs it was proposed by Mrs. W. X. Palmer of Alameda, who appeared in behalf of the Portola festival committee, that during the festival headquarters for the clubwomen of the state be established at the St. Francis hotel. The idea was heartily approved and a reception will be held Tuesday evening, October 19, at the headquarters to emphasize the fact of its existence. No definite plans have been made as yet, but open house will be kept all the week and groups of five clubwomen from various parts