

You can get well acquainted with the man who will be Portola in The Sunday Call tomorrow.

THE CALL

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VOLUME CVI.—NO. 96.

SAN FRANCISCO, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1909.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

SAN FRANCISCO ASSESSMENT IS SIXTY PER CENT

Since 1891 This City Has Been Increased by the State Board \$383,217,315

In the Same Period Los Angeles Has Been So Increased But \$9,313,732

SAN FRANCISCO HAS THE BURDEN

SACRAMENTO, Sept. 3.—San Francisco's assessment: Total, 1909 assessment, \$492,565,197. Halfroad appropriation, \$394,282. Total, \$493,259,479. State rate 1909 (without equalization), 414. San Francisco's state tax (without equalization), \$2,042,004.24. Assessor Dodge's claim, 60 per cent. Based on state appraisal, 37 per cent. Rate on buildings based on actual cost, 51 per cent. Rate on buildings based on cost today, 60 per cent. Number of times city increased by board since 1891, 5. Total per cent raised, 115. Total amount increase, \$383,217,315. Number of times city decreased, none. Total increase of Los Angeles by state board since 1891, \$9,313,732.

By PAUL SINSHEIMER

Special Dispatch to The Call

SACRAMENTO, Sept. 3.—Facts and figures, estimates and percentages were submitted to the state board of equalization this afternoon by Assessor Washington Dodge in support of his contention that the assessment of San Francisco should not be raised. Assessor Dodge maintained that the county was on a 60 per cent basis. He reached this conclusion by several different systems of calculation. He argued further that on the valuations fixed by the state's appraisers, which he thought too high, the city's roll was 57 per cent, or approximately the required standard.

Battle With McElvaine

At the outset of the session there was a rapid cross fire between Dodge and Jeff McElvaine, the equalizer from the southern district. Dodge submitted a letter and documentary evidence to the board to refute a statement made by McElvaine in Los Angeles in which it was implied that certain assessments had been raised in San Francisco on advance information that those properties were to be appraised.

McElvaine then switched to appraisal

made this week of the Claus Spreckels estate and declared that a discrepancy existed as to the assessments on those properties. He cited the holdings at Third and Market streets and at Golden Gate avenue and Taylor street. Dodge answered that he regarded the appraisements as high. McElvaine then cited many other holdings, including the residence of Mrs. Eleanor Martin, which had been raised from \$14,000 to \$70,000 on the assessment roll. This change had been made by a deputy in Dodge's office as a result of an inspection of the premises.

Plead for the City

San Francisco was also represented at today's hearing by Thomas Jennings, chairman of the finance committee of the board of supervisors, and the following committee from the real estate board: A. J. Rich, F. F. Delisle, W. R. White and James G. Jones. Each addressed the state board in turn, holding that San Francisco should not be burdened further with taxes.

"We think you ought to let us alone," said Rich.

"Just say to San Francisco: 'All right, San Francisco, we will shake hands on it and leave you alone.' Then next year reduce us to 50 per cent, the figure at which the rest of the state is assessed."

Dodge Makes Statement

Dodge spoke at some length against any change in the San Francisco roll at this time.

"I have passed it to the highest point," he said, "to satisfy the demand of the board of supervisors for revenue. I believe I have assessed the city at 60 per cent. The figures of your own appraisers show that our buildings are assessed at 58 1/2 per cent, our real estate at 56 per cent, or an average assessment of 57 per cent. I still claim that we are assessed up to 50 per cent.

High Assessment

"I can point out hundreds of buildings that are assessed at 50 per cent. Take the sum total of the building permits of the last year and you will find by my roll that they are assessed at 75 per cent of their cost. Go back further and take all the building permits since the fire and you will find that I have assessed them at 51 per cent of their cost.

"Fifty per cent of their original cost is equivalent to more than 60 per cent of what they could be erected for now, because immediately after

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JURY DID NOT THINK IT WAS FAKE ROBBERY

Lee B. Warren Said Actress Asked Him to Steal Jewels
LOS ANGELES, Sept. 3.—Lee B. Warren, who said he had wealthy family connections near Fresno, was convicted today of having stolen the jewels of an actress from a deposit box at the Long Beach bathhouse.

Warren's defense was that it was a make believe robbery, which the actress, whose name off the stage is Margaret Light, had helped to plan to give her notoriety.

Warren's wife, a 17 year old girl, with whom he said he eloped from Fresno, told the same story on the witness stand. But the jury brought in a verdict of guilty in 20 minutes. Warren will be sentenced Tuesday.

NEWS BROKEN TO BRADBURY SEWING SACKS

Aged Ex-Millionaire Convict Is Stunned by Denial of His Plea for Pardon

Complains of Ill Health, but Is Refused Other Than Common Prison Fare

[Special Dispatch to The Call]

SAN QUENTIN, Sept. 3.—Standing in a dark corner of the prison jute mill, mending a defective sack, William B. Bradbury, millionaire and convict, heard the news from Captain Randolph this morning that his plea for a pardon had been denied by Governor Gillett.

A look of utter hopelessness came into the aged man's face, the sack and needle he was holding fell from his hands and he tottered back against a pile of jute as though stunned by a blow.

"It can't be true," he said faintly, as though trying to convince himself that the report was false. His face, shorn of the familiar beard, had turned whiter than his close cropped hair and there was a mist in his eyes as he stared blindly at the captain of the guard.

It was some time before he recovered from the shock of the ill news. "Then it means that I must serve my full sentence here?" he asked plaintively. Captain Randolph nodded. "But I might secure a parole?" was his next question. The captain explained to him that a prisoner must serve a year before a parole can be granted. "It is persecution!" exclaimed the aged millionaire. "They are hounding me to death. I am too old to work like this, mending bags. I can't see in this dim light and the noise here is terrible. I am nervous and old and sick. This place is torture."

The captain walked away and Bradbury, a stoop shouldered, broken down figure in stripes, went back to his laborious task of mending bags where a stitch had been dropped by the machine.

Although Bradbury applied to Dr. Wade Stone for medicine and complained that he was suffering from indigestion, Captain Randolph states that his appetite is good. "He took kindly to beans and stew," said the captain, "and eats his meals with relish."

There is at least one man in San Rafael who regrets sincerely Bradbury's removal to San Quentin, and that is his former cellmate in the county jail, George Spring. Spring has lost all interest in life. The big easy leather chair of the millionaire that Spring was wont to occupy while Bradbury lay on his bed is gone, and so are the reading lamp and the other comforts that the wealthy prisoner had imported from his Corte Madera home.

The elaborate meals, of which Spring usually ate the major part, have given place to coffee and stew and bread. Spring had become a well trained millionaire's valet, but now he is only a jailbird waiting trial for assault.

Division of Property

Just what real property William B. Bradbury, the millionaire who is now undergoing a year's imprisonment in San Quentin for perjury, has conveyed to his wife and to the Bradbury estate investment company was revealed yesterday when title was quieted by Judge Conley, under the McEnerney act, to the various parcels.

Mrs. Mary M. Bradbury testified that the lot at the northeast corner of Van Ness avenue and California street and the lot at the northwest corner of Polk and California streets stood one-half in her name and one-half in the name of the investment company. Bradbury conveyed the half interest to his wife on October, 18, 1903, and March 16, 1898, and the other half to the company on September 22, 1904, and August 26, 1907.

Standing entirely in the name of the Bradbury estate company is the following property: Land in Polk street, west of California; Prospect place, north of California; Church street, north of Twenty-third; Tenth avenue, south of I street, and a lot in the Masonic cemetery. These were conveyed to the company by Bradbury and his wife September 22, 1904, and August 26, 1907.

The check was drawn for \$27,500 and has passed through the hands of several parties, including the San Francisco press club, as indicated by the endorsements on the back. The forgery was detected at once by the local bank authorities when it was received, and when shown to members of the firm here they unhesitatingly declared it was a forgery.

Even the "per E. H. Rinner" was wrong, as Rinners name is simply John and he uses only a "J" in signing his name.

LEAVES LEGACIES TO CHARITIES OF THIS CITY

Boston Woman Gives Liberally to Catholic Institutions
[Special Dispatch to The Call]
BOSTON, Mass., Sept. 3.—Under the will of the late Bridget R. Fay of this city, which was filed for probate today, it became known that 41 Catholic institutions in the various sections of the country would be benefited to the extent of \$1,000 each.

The San Francisco institutions which will receive this amount are as follows: Roman Catholic orphan asylum, Our Lady's home for aged and infirm, St. Vincent's school, Magdalen asylum and industrial school for girls, St. Joseph's infant asylum and the convent of the Sisters of the Holy Family.

The deceased left a fortune of about \$80,000, all of which, with the exception of \$12,000, is given to charity. The \$12,000 is given to her husband, John Fay.

Mrs. Fay died August 15 at the age of 86. For years she has contributed very liberally to charities.

KILLED BY LIVE WIRE

Holtville, Sept. 3.—Terence Goodwin, 23 years old, engineer at the Holtan power plant on the Alamo river, was killed yesterday when he accidentally came in contact with a transformer in the power house.

"Let the skeptics who disbelieve my story go to the north pole. There they will find a small brass tube which I buried under the flag. That tube contains a short statement about my trip. I couldn't leave my visiting card because I did not happen to have one with me."—Dr. F. A. Cook.

DR. COOK IN INTERVIEW DESCRIBES GREAT TRIP

Explorer Left a Small Brass Tube Buried at the Pole as Proof of His Discovery



DR. FREDERICK A. COOK

last few years and I shall have to make up for it." Doctor Cook then briefly described his journey. Regarding his discovery Doctor Cook said:

"Then came April 21. That was the great day. We looked for the sun. As soon as we got it I made several observations. Great joy came over us. We were only 16 miles from the desired spot. I said to myself, 'Bully for Frederick!' Then we went on.

"The last stretch was the easiest I ever made in my life, although I had still to make two observations and the ice was very broken here. But my spirits were high and I shouted like a boy. The Eskimos looked at one another, surprised at my gaiety. They did not share my joy.

"I felt that I ought to be there. I made my last observation and found that I was standing on the pole. 'My feelings—well, I was too tired really to feel any sensation. I planted the stars and stripes in the ice field and my heart grew warm when I saw it wave in the wind.'

"How does the north pole look?" was asked.
"Well," said Doctor Cook, smiling, "it amounts to the size of a 25 cent piece. There is nothing to see but ice; no water; only ice. There were more holes there than at the eighty-seventh degree, which shows there is a movement and drift there; but this and other observations I made afterwards, when I got more settled. I stopped two days at the pole and I assure you it was not easy to say goodby to the spot.

"As I was sitting at the pole I could not help smiling at the people who on my return would call the whole expedition a humbug. I was sure the people would say that I had bought my two witnesses and that my notebook with my daily observations had been manufactured on board this ship.

"The only thing I can put up against this is what the York Eskimos have told Knud Rasmussen. Let the skeptics who disbelieve my story go to the north pole. There they will find a small brass tube which I buried under the flag. That tube contains a short statement about my trip. I couldn't leave my visiting card, because I did not happen to have one with me.

STAYED ON SPOT UNTIL FREEZING THREATENED

"Perhaps," the explorer added, dryly, "I should have stayed there longer had it not begun to freeze us in our idleness. The Eskimos were uneasy and the dogs howled fearfully. On April 23, therefore, I again turned my nose southward, which was much easier, as you can not turn your nose in any other direction when you stand at the pole."

"Describing the return journey Doctor Cook said: 'Fortune now smiled. We did 20 miles per day until we reached the ominous eighty-seventh degree. Then I felt the ice moving eastward, carrying us with it. A terrible fog swept around us and kept us for three weeks. We got no farther than the eighty-fourth degree. Then began a heavy walk toward Heiberg's land and another three weeks of fog. When that cleared, I saw we had drifted southwest to Ringnesland, where we found open water and tower high screw ice, which stopped our way eastward.

"We now began to suffer hunger. Our provisions were becoming exhausted and we were unable to find depots. We entered Ringnesland and on June 20 found the first animals of our return—bear and seal. We shot a bear.

"And now our goal was the whalers at Lancaster sound. We followed the drift ice to the south 80 miles a day, but were stopped by pack ice in Wellington channel, which was impassable either by boat or sledge. Here was lots of game but we did not dare shoot it. We had only taken 100 bullets to the pole and now only 15 were left. We went into Jones sound after walrus and bears and found open, calm water. We met polar wolves with which some of our dogs made friends and ran away.

"We spent day and night in an open boat ten miles from shore. This lasted for two months while storms raged over our heads. At last we got ashore again, but we had no fuel and were obliged to eat uncooked food. Next day we found fuel and what a feast we had. But we suffered much hunger during this period. One night a bear came and stole our food. We had many fights with musk oxen which attacked us. Our best weapon against them was the lasso."

The correspondent's story quotes Doctor Cook as saying in conclusion:

"Say that the day we reached our provisions stored at Etah was a greater day than April 21. I long to get back to civilization, to move among my fellow men; I long to press my wife to my heart. I am the happiest man living. Tell the whole world I thank God I am back."

Some had hoped the Hans Eggede would reach port tonight and Doctor Egan had prepared to welcome Doctor Cook with fireworks from the deck of the Fedora. The quarantine station at Elsinore, however, signaled that a gale was in progress and that it was improbable that the steamer would reach her destination before tomorrow morning.

King Frederick will have an audience with Doctor Cook tomorrow and will decorate him with the Danish gold medal awarded for merit.

BUSINESS TROUBLES CAUSE OF SUICIDE

Despondent Man Escapes His Woes by Inhaling Deadly Fumes of Gas
OAKLAND, Sept. 3.—C. H. Bruhns, proprietor of the Santa Rosa wine depot at 413 Twelfth street, committed suicide today by inhaling gas in a room in the Abbey lodging house, 524 Thirtieth street.

He rented the room for the purpose of ending his life, taking it at noon today. Previous to this he had purchased a long piece of hose, one end of which was found in his mouth, while the other was on the gas jet.

Mrs. H. McLaughlin, landlady of the place, found him at 8 o'clock tonight. He left three letters, one to his wife, of 2000 Dupont street, San Francisco; another to his brother, R. Bruhns, of the same address, and another to Charles Langenberger of 413 Twelfth street, explaining that business troubles caused him to commit suicide. Bruhns was about 40 years of age. He had no children.

BIG NATURAL BRIDGE DISCOVERED IN UTAH

Fossils on High Span Indicate Giant Animal Life
SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Sept. 3.—Spanning 274 feet and over 300 feet high, a natural bridge, said to be the largest known, has been discovered by a party of members of the Utah archaeological society, which has returned from an expedition along the Colorado river in northern Arizona and southern Utah.

ROYALTY TO WELCOME COOK

Danish Ship With Discoverer on Board to Reach Copenhagen Today

Royal Geographical Society Sails to Meet Steamer Bearing Explorer

American Minister and Wife to Present Greetings of the United States

Banquet in Honor of Adventurer to Be Presided Over by Lord Mayor

COPENHAGEN, Sept. 3.—All Denmark tonight is awaiting the arrival of Dr. Frederick A. Cook. A regal welcome awaits the man whose announcement from Lerwick on September 1 that he had discovered the north pole startled the world.

The steamer Hans Eggede, on which the explorer is returning from the frozen north, passed Cape Skagen, the northern extremity of Denmark, at 2 o'clock this afternoon and is expected to steam into the sound late tonight and to dock here tomorrow morning.

Added interest has been lent the occasion by the definite statement of Doctor Cook in an interview off Skagen today that he is able to submit data which will prove beyond cavil that he has reached the goal which for centuries had been the objective point of explorers. He said he was quite prepared to learn that jealous persons were at work endeavoring to cast doubt upon his work, but he stood ready to give over his figures for a test by any scientific authority.

Fails to See Peary

Doctor Cook told the correspondent that he had seen nothing of the expedition of Commander Peary.

He said there was no land at the pole—only water, the depth of which he could not gauge.

The Danes will not be alone in welcoming Doctor Cook, for Copenhagen is filled with visitors. A committee of the Royal geographical society has chartered the steamer M. G. Melchmyer and will proceed into the sound to meet the Hans Eggede.

Maurice F. Egan, the American minister, and his daughter, Miss Carmela Egan, passed the night on board W. Gould Brokaw's yacht Fedora, with the intention of accompanying the steamer to port.

Banquet Discoverer

At a banquet tomorrow night at which Doctor Cook will be the guest of honor, Lord Mayor Oldenburg will propose a toast to President Taft and King Frederick; Minister of Commerce Johann F. C. Hansen will make a speech in honor of Cook, and Commodore Hovgaard, commander of the Danish arctic expedition of 1882-3, will greet the American and on behalf of the polar explorers and congratulate him upon his success in finding the pole.

The Danish newspapers are full of praise of the American enterprise which made possible the trip of exploration of Cook and express their delight at his success. These articles are replete with sympathetic references to the friendship between the United States and Denmark. None of them express real doubt of the truth of the discovery of the pole and all believe that Doctor Cook will be able to put forward his proofs.

EXPLORERS PREPARE TO WELCOME DOCTOR COOK

NEW YORK, Sept. 3.—America's welcome to Doctor Cook will be made one of the principal events of the Hudson-Fulton celebration if the explorer can be persuaded to hasten his return so as to reach New York in September. To this end the board of directors of the Explorers' club tonight sent a cablegram urging Doctor Cook to be the guest of honor at the club's Hudson-Fulton dinner September 30. The message was sent to Copenhagen, to be delivered when the explorer lands there tomorrow from the Hans Eggede.

If the plans meet with Doctor Cook's approval and the date tentatively selected is appointed for the official welcome an international character will be