

The San Francisco Call

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The Meaning of Crane's Dismissal

THE international situation in Manchuria is described as "delicate." So much might easily have been inferred from the rough measure of curt dismissal dealt to Minister Crane by Secretary Knox.

John Hay committed America to the policy of maintaining the "open door" in Manchuria. Mr. Taft, when secretary of war, made a speech at Shanghai in which he said that the United States would insist upon the integrity of "all" of China.

If the United States is going to insist upon the "open door" and the integrity of China, how will she do it? To consider this question one must think of war and our chances with the guns of Nippon. There are eight American armored cruisers in the Pacific, at present at Hawaii, but under orders for Manila.

In fine, the United States is in no position to issue an ultimatum to Japan on this question of the open door in Manchuria. Mr. Taft in his speech at Shanghai gave a sort of guarantee that the United States would maintain the integrity of China against foreign aggression.

The result will be that Japan will pursue its Manchurian program unchecked, to the accompaniment of a lot of ornamental talking by the state department in the name of diplomacy.

A MILITARY man without his war scare is poor indeed. Even in retirement the soldier feels the pricking of fear for his unhappy country. He bids her arm to meet the foe and if there is no invader in sight or even audible below the horizon he can always stuff something that will look sufficiently frightful to serve the purpose.

Proposes Compulsory Service

General Adna R. Chaffee, U. S. A., retired, of Los Angeles, is the most recent missionary in this field of endeavor and he believes that the only safety lies in compulsory military service. He is quoted: I will venture to say that an army of 200,000 men could be maintained for what it now costs to maintain our army of 70,000.

He would compel three years' service with the colors, with further liability as a reservist. "Compulsory service," he exclaimed in a burst of enthusiasm, "would bring the army straight home to the hearts of the people."

General Chaffee is quoted here only as a bad example. He is one of those who would encourage the odious and pernicious spirit of militarism that now rides Europe like a nightmare and is forcing European nations into bankruptcy.

Gossip of Railwaymen

The transcontinental freight bureau has advised its members that a reduction is planned in the rate on green hides and sheep pelts from points in Oregon and Washington to group "D" and "E" points as per tariff No. 2F.

Specialties by Taylor and Krantzman and by Curley Monroe and Hedges brothers were the features of the entertainment. Frank Poulani, the Italian magician, gave an interesting performance to the delight of every one present.

P. K. Gordon, Pacific coast passenger agent of the Washington-Sunset route, returned yesterday from a business trip through the southern part of the state.

F. M. Thompson, Southern Pacific agent at Klamath Falls, is in the city for the Portola festival.

W. B. Scott, assistant director of maintenance and operation of the Hariman lines, with office at Chicago, is in the city for a few days.

-X- ANSWERS TO QUERIES -X-

DISCRETION—P. Petaluma, Cal. Is discretion ever pronounced as if written "discretion"? This department does not know how some persons pronounce the word, but it does know that it should be pronounced as if written dis-kresh-un.

AGED—P. Petaluma, Cal. How should the word aged be pronounced? As if written a-jed and ajd, with the sound of a in each of the two words as in "ale" and "e" in the first word as in "end."

DEER HUNTING—Hunter, Pleto, Cal. When does the season for deer hunting close? The season opens July 15 and closes November 1. There is a provision of the law which declares that the super-

The Insider

Tells how a man's interests and conversation change as he leaves the things of a primitive age behind him and climbs up in the world.

The Switch From Horses to Gas Wagons

EVERYBODY in San Francisco that sits up until 12 o'clock knows John Flynn. They don't know that they know John Flynn, because they think his name is Finney the Hackman; and he has been known by his alias so long that Flynn is useful to him only for the purposes of voting and paying taxes.

Since the fire Finney has been keeping up with the procession. He saw the writing on the wall, sold his horses and bought a pair of automobiles. Finney is the only one in his business that has progressed from hacks to gas wagons and naturally his two machines are the subject of much interest and admiring comment from the night hawks that fit around the corner.

The other night he was expatiating on the wonders of the automobile to a couple of prospective customers when a hackman from an opposite corner came over, probably because he was lonesome, and butted into the conversation. Finney bore up under the interruptions as long as he could, but finally snapped out: "G'wan back across the street. You smell of the stable."

Writer Mistaken for a Racetrack Clerk

Stewart Edward White, who arrived at the St. Francis the other day with his wife, is a brother of Gilbert White, the artist, and the picture one so often sees of Stewart in boots and sombrero with his dog at his side is after a portrait by his brother.

Stewart White lost some money in a bank failure—not the California safe deposit—brought about by the absconding of one of the officials. One day he was introduced to a young man from New York and afterward asked some one what was the young chap's occupation.

Some one asked the author the other day his "method of writing." He said he never started to write anything until he knew what he was going to do; then he wrote as rapidly as possible, making minor corrections only, beginning at 8 a. m. and keeping it up until 10:30 o'clock.

THE SMART SET

THE semiformal character of the Portola receptions, luncheons and dancing parties will not spoil nor detract from the social splendor that is to be the accompaniment of each event.

Mrs. Gertrude Atherton entertained over 100 guests in the gray room at the Fairmont yesterday afternoon in compliment to Miss Maude Fay, the talented Californian, who has received so much social attention during her stay in the city.

Mrs. Frank Buck was hostess at an informal tea given in the laurel court at the Fairmont yesterday afternoon and the guests were all members of the younger set, who enjoyed a delightful hour over the tea cups.

The baroness von Schroeder and the Misses von Schroeder, with Miss Genevieve Walker, were in town over the weekend as the guests of Mrs. Eleanor Martin, but left yesterday for a visit to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Sprague at Menlo.

The teas of early November will be of more social importance, perhaps, than any of the preceding events of the season, for some of the most elaborate receptions of the winter are already scheduled to take place during the first week of the month.

Mrs. Eleanor Martin was hostess at a matinee party at one of the theaters recently and entertained Mrs. Horace Hill, who has been extensively feted during her stay in the city, and several other guests, among whom were Mrs. Horace Pillsbury, Miss Nellie Grant and Mrs. Pierce of Philadelphia.

Mrs. Philip Van Horne Lansdale and her sister, Miss Helen Sidney Smith, gone east, where they will enjoy a visit of several weeks with Mrs. George Pillsbury, who was Miss Bertha Pillsbury during her stay in the city.

Mrs. E. H. Davenport entertained at one of the recent teas that was a delightful affair and the complimented guest was Mrs. Edmonds of Boston, who has been feted at several of these informal receptions during her visit in this city.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Green are among the visitors from San Mateo who will remain in town for the Portola festival. They are at the St. Francis.

Mr. and Mrs. Wyatt Allen are established in their apartments at the Fairmont for the winter.

E. E. Potter has returned from his country home at Palermo, but has taken his home in Clay street and has closed an apartment at the Bella Vista for the early winter before his departure for a visit in the east.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Corvill arrived in the city yesterday and will be at the Fairmont during Portola week.

Mrs. Harry W. Hogue, the charming wife of Judge Hogue of Portland, who has been visiting in this city for several days, will leave this evening after the opening of the Portola festival for her home in the northern city, much to the regret of her friends here, who had expected that she would remain during the week, but her plans have been unavoidably changed.

INDEX OF THE SAN FRANCISCO CALL'S NEWS TODAY

TELEPHONE KEARNY 86
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1909

WEATHER CONDITIONS
YESTERDAY—South wind; cloudy; maximum temperature, 60; minimum, 52.
FORECAST FOR TODAY—Showers; moderate southerly wind. Page 17

EDITORIAL
Why rates should come down. Page 8
Clinging the Hetch Hetchy project. Page 8
Discipline for corporation clerks. Page 8
Meaning of Crane's dismissal. Page 8

PORTOLA
Californians in New York and Chicago to give elaborate banquet in honor of Portola. Page 4
Commercial travelers, toast city and Don Gaspar at merry celebration. Page 4
Committee of out of town mayors awards prizes for best Portola decorations. Page 3
Brilliant military pageant will be witnessed in the streets of the city this morning as the international army leads Portola from his landing to Union square. Page 1
At noon Friday all the warships in the harbor will join the German cruiser Albatross in firing a salute in honor of the birthday of the German emperor. Page 2
Throngs reach city to take part in Portola festival. Page 3
Seats selling by thousands for masquerade ball at Auditorium. Page 4
Prominent men of state to gather at official Portola ball. Page 15

POLITICAL
Honey says Fickert is incapable of convicting any one. Page 4
McCarthy's slogan of "wide open town" arouses republicans. Page 6
Theodore Bell declares McCarthy's record is one of treason to labor. Page 6
Small crowds greet McCarthy, Fickert and other union labor nominees at night meetings. Page 6
Recent proceedings add seven votes to Francis J. Henry's majority. Page 6
Charles M. Fickert tells noonday meeting that he and E. H. McCarthy have been visited by imported speakers. Page 6

CITY
Automobile club members turn out in force for special night at auto show. Page 9
Mistaken couple ask their woes in complaints before Judge Cahalan. Page 5
Police are puzzled by strange disappearance of Mrs. Eva Swelgart. Page 5
Convenient clerk in the Southern Pacific offices causes postponement of the local hearing in Spokane rate case. Page 18
Bank Superintendent Anderson closes Japanese banks in this city and Los Angeles. Page 5
Letters introduced in evidence against Broker J. F. Krause tell of plan to freeze out stock holders. Page 9

SUBURBAN
During robbery lock Mrs. J. C. Jenson of Oakland in bathroom while they robb her home. Page 1
Women students of University of California plan annual high jinks in Hearst ball tonight. Page 11
Woman seeking adventure finds it in company with strange young men and loses her money. Page 11
Fruitful saloon owner cited for selling liquor after legal hours. Page 11
Wide intercode with tears and saves husband from heavy penalty of law. Page 10
Knights of the Modern Maccabees plan new tent in Oakland. Page 11
Coroner Tisdale to investigate report that Oakland infants' shelter is improperly managed. Page 11
Former Mayor Charles D. Pierce will be buried with Masonic rites. Page 11
Mayor Noy of Alameda saves life of fainting railroad flagman by dragging him off path train. Page 11
Three jurors are passed in De Laney trial. Page 11
Husband fails to prove charges against wife, who gets divorce. Page 11
Jack London sails from Oakland for cruise and owner misses case of beer from yacht. Page 10
Berkeley police chief begins war on gambling by arresting poolroom patron. Page 13
University of California romance culminates in engagement of Miss Zoe Riley and Ephraim Dyer. Page 11

COAST
Margaret Hillington sues Daniel Frohman for divorce on ground of non-support. Page 1
EASTERN
Joint army and navy board to inspect Panama canal entrances with view of planning fortifications. Page 5
Mother in law drops dead when body of suicide son in law is brought home. Page 5
Senator Gore of Oklahoma scores Taft for criticizing state's constitution. Page 5
President Taft pays tribute to people of Texas at Fort Alamo and leaves for his brother's funeral in southern part of state. Page 13

FOREIGN
Roosevelt near death when charged by great ball elephant. Page 13
Sports
Jack Johnson and Promoter Coffroth leave together for New York tomorrow to meet Jeffries. Page 12
Barbarians re-elect Elliot president and choose other officers. Page 12
All National baseball team begins its western trip today. Page 12
Fifty thousand Pittsburg fans turn out to welcome champions home. Page 12
Two Stanford freshmen retained on varsity Rugby team. Page 12
Row among Tigers begins over Detroit's defeat by Pirates. Page 12
Five professional golfers arrive for the Portola tournament and begin practice. Page 4
Smiley Corbett, sprinter that won many races on coast, dies at Windsor. Page 12
Woodland board of education to determine fate of football in schools. Page 12
Harry Krause, pitcher for the Philadelphia Athletics, to umpire ball game in Oakland. Page 12
Berkeley high school and Vallejo team play American football at the park today. Page 4
Amateur boxers to clash in night for Portola championships. Page 4

MARINE
United States survey steamer Epocor comes from the north to make soundings in vicinity of this port. Page 17
SOCIAL
Society's chief interest in Portola festivities centers in ball at the Fairmont. Page 8

COURT CONDEMNNS LAND FOR GRAMMAR SCHOOL
Price Fixed for Lot at Hayes and Pierce Streets
Judgment was rendered by Judge Seawell yesterday condemning in favor of the city, for \$37,125, the land at the southeast corner of Hayes and Pierce streets. The Donnan grammar school will be erected on this site. The price for the land will be paid from the school bonds. Paul J. Starupich and Herman Seaman were the owners of the lot, the dimensions of which are 275 by 131 feet.

FIRE DESTROYS WHOLE BLOCK—El Paso, Tex., Oct. 18.—Fire that started in Peary & Kearney's store at Chiswick, N. H., early this morning destroyed the entire block. The and the Silver Building including the Belmont hotel and the Silver Building newspaper office. Loss, about \$50,000.