

The San Francisco Call

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THE completion of the Western Pacific, an event of the highest significance for California, passed without a ripple. No elaborate ceremonies and no festivities or speech making attended the driving of the final spike. Indeed, the connecting link was made of common steel and was driven by a section hand without any libation of expensive wines.

It was just an everyday affair of routine. Yet the completion of this road means a great deal to California. It means the opening of new territory producing high class freight. It means a further network of branch lines and possibly connection with the great overland systems on the north.

It should be evident that the Western Pacific can not subsist on main line traffic alone, but must have feeders to tap tributary territory. Such roads are a prime necessity for the successful operation of an overland system. Without them the main line is practically crippled.

It is not known how much truth there may be in the reports of connections to be made between the Hill roads and the Western Pacific. Projects of that sort are guarded with the utmost secrecy up to the point when actual work begins. When John F. Stevens visited Oregon a year ago in the employ of Hill, to make preparations for the Deschutes canyon road, he traveled under an assumed name. Yet his presence in that region was known to the Southern Pacific and he was shadowed by detectives in the employ of that corporation.

Now the Deschutes canyon road may be intended only as a feeder for Hill's north bank road, running down the Columbia river to Portland, but this feeder is pointed straight for California and the territory which it will traverse is largely desert. Extended to California and a connection with the Western Pacific it would become an important railroad factor which, by alliance with the Gould system, would give the Hill roads an entrance to Oakland and San Francisco.

All this, of course, is speculation, based on the logic of railroad strategy. What is certain is that the completion of the Western Pacific introduces a new competitive factor in the trade of California. There will be, of course, no war of rates, but there will be competition of service and greatly increased facilities for marketing the products of the state.

THE preliminary work for the assessment and collection of the tax on dividends of corporations is a matter of extreme complication and the book keepers are tearing their hair in desperation. In the first place corporations have mostly fallen into the way of making up their books and balances to conclude with the close of the fiscal year in midsummer. But the new law requires them to submit a complete account of profits and earnings for the calendar year. It will thus be necessary to take stock and make up balances twice a year unless the scheme of book keeping is changed about.

The law imposes an excise tax on "the entire net income over and above \$5,000 received from all sources." Now in corporation book keeping net income is an uncertain and variable quantity. We may hazard the conjecture that net incomes of this sort will suffer a surprising shrinkage in the reports that the government will get during the months of January and February showing the operations of the preceding year. The ingenuity of book keepers in disguising business facts is not a new thing. There may, for instance, be a large excess of income over expenses, but that may be offset by a decline in the value of stock on hand. Other difficult questions must arise concerning the assignment and apportionment of expenses or receipts to one yearly period or another.

In fact, if we consider the vast number of corporations in active business and the novelty of the undertaking it becomes obvious that the government has undertaken a tremendous task. The trade is not confined to New York. It exists in every city on this continent and follows the camps of miners and soldiers to the ends of the earth. Its ramifications are described by a writer in McClure's Magazine:

Once acquainted with the advantages of the foreign trade, the New York dealer immediately entered into competition with the French and Polish traders across the world. There are no boundaries to this business; its travelers go constantly to and fro upon the earth, peering into the new places, especially into spots where men congregate on the golden frontiers; and the news comes back from them to Paris and London and New York. After South Africa the New York dealers went by hundreds into the east—to Shanghai and to Australia; they followed the Russian army through the Russo-Japanese war; they went into Alaska with the gold rush and into Nevada, and they have camped in scores and hundreds on the banks of the new Panama canal.

October, 1909, vs. October, 1908
The Call Makes Big Gains
In Local Classified and Foreign Advertisements
CALL'S GAIN (Local Display) - - - - - 59,486 Lines
CALL'S GAIN (Foreign and Classified) - - - - - 7,770 Lines
Total - - - - - 67,256 Lines
TOTAL GAIN 67,256 Lines, or 4,804 Inches
(No Special Editions)
THE CALL IS THE ONLY SAN FRANCISCO DAILY PAPER THAT HAS PUBLISHED THE STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION ISSUED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN ADVERTISERS.
62,612 DAILY---85 Per Cent of it in the Homes of People Who Buy in San Francisco
Home Circulation Pays Advertisers

THE big boatload of governors and congressmen that sailed down the Mississippi with the president did some hot politics when they were not feasting or playing draw poker. The correspondent of the Chicago Tribune on board declares that the insurgents organized a rebellion against Uncle Joe Cannon of serious proportions and comprising some thirty to forty of the faithful who hitherto had been classed among the "regulars." The correspondent describes a poker session among Cannon's friends:

Last night there was a conference in the captain's cabin of the Quincy. In the conference, which has been excused as a session of the nation's most popular indoor pastime, were eleven gentlemen who do things at Washington. Speaker Cannon, Senator Lorimer of Illinois, Senator Warner of Missouri, Congressman Calderhead of Kansas, Senator Bradley of Kentucky and Senator Curtis of Kansas and Congressman Rodenberg of Illinois were present.

"Uncle Joe" was informed as kindly as possible, according to the reports which have leaked from the captain's cabin, that he has gone under water for the second time and that President Taft, and he alone, can save him. Every other plan of saving the speaker was discussed and abandoned but the last straw to appeal to Taft to say something for Cannon, just as he did for Aldrich at Winona.

After the session broke up it is stated that a select deputation of Uncle Joe's friends waited on the president with a request that he take occasion to declare in a public way that the speaker is "a gentleman who ought to command the respect of the republican party and the nation generally."

When Mr. Taft made occasion to issue a certificate of good character to Aldrich his remarks were not received by the public in an encouraging way. He is not in the least likely to repeat the mistake by indorsing Cannon.

It is announced that early in December a committee of the regulars will wait on Cannon to request him to let it be known that he will retire from politics because his continuance in control will endanger the success of the republican party in the coming congressional elections. Gossip mentions Representative Needham's name as one of this committee.

A GRAVE question arises whether congress is compelled by the terms of the constitution to call a convention to pass on proposed constitutional amendments. Henry Litchfield West, in the Forum, declares that thirty states have memorialized congress to call a convention to submit a constitutional amendment providing for the election of senators by direct vote of the people. It appears that, in fact, the number of states which have memorialized congress in this regard is thirty-one, which makes a fraction more than the requisite two-thirds. The states that have acted are:

Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming

The matter is about to come up during the session of congress this winter. The words of the constitution make the duty of congress mandatory in this regard, but at the same time it is quite doubtful whether any positive action will be taken. The politicians are shy of any sort of action likely to disturb the existing order and they will doubtless find no difficulty about discovering technical flaws in the form of the state memorials which will be held to invalidate enough of them to reduce the number below two-thirds. There will be long hesitation before a constitutional convention is called, because such a body, although constituted for the purpose of passing on a single amendment, could not be limited to that, and might propose to reform the whole constitution. Congress will be very slow about opening any such box of troubles. It does not appear that there is any sort of judicial machinery that could be used to compel congress to act.

THE fact that raisins are being used for horse feed on a vineyard in San Bernardino county inspires the Oregonian to preach a sermon on the uses and profits of co-operation among farmers, expounding doctrine which none may dispute in the abstract, although its application in the present instance may not touch the situation so closely as the sermonizer supposes. This is how it seems to the Oregonian:

The contrast between the economic conditions of the raisin growers and the producers of citrus fruits in California is exceedingly instructive. The latter have applied intelligence to their problems, and in doing so have achieved great prosperity. The former have persisted in farming without using their brains, and they grow poorer every year. The bigger their crops the more wretched their condition. The men who grow oranges and lemons have united their interests in a society which employs men to grade, pack and market their fruit. These employes, being honest and capable, shipments are managed so judiciously that no markets are overstocked and the farmer gets the full value of his crop.

Letters From the People

LAST UNION GENERAL NOT DEAD
Editor Call: The death of General Oliver O. Howard was announced in The Call of last Wednesday, 27th ult., under the caption, "Last Federal Commander Dead," other city papers used the caption, "Last Union General Dead," and stated that, "including General Howard's services in the Indian wars, he probably was in more engagements than any other officer in the United States army."

The patriotic people of America honor the heroes and commanders of the war of the rebellion and will be pleased to know that at least one of them still with us and lives in Washington, D. C. As to his right to the title and the engagements participated in by him, I quote from an official report which can be found in the public libraries of the country, viz:

Report No. 670, U. S. Senate, fifty-fifth congress, second session, March 10, 1898.—Extract: "With a single exception, General Nelson A. Miles participated in every battle of the army of the Potomac from Yorktown to the surrender at Appomattox courthouse. From September, 1862, until the close of the war he commanded in battle his regiment, brigade, division, and for a short time the army corps to which he belonged, having been wounded four times..."

He was perhaps engaged in more hard fought battles than any general officer of our army, including 35 distinct battles, and over 100 serious affairs in which artillery, cavalry and infantry were engaged.

"He successfully conducted no less than six campaigns against Indians since the war and received the surrender of more Indians than any other man. He received brevets for his services during the rebellion to the highest that could be given; a medal of honor for distinguished services at the battle of Chancellorsville May 3, 1863, and the thanks of the legislatures of several states and territories for his services in Indian campaigns."

Notwithstanding that General Miles was not a trained soldier and but a very young man at the beginning of the war, yet he fought and earned his way upward from the lowest grade to the highest possible at that time, commanding at 25 years of age an army corps in the field for a short time when it numbered more than the present United States army."

THOMAS F. McGRATH, First Lieutenant Sixty-ninth New York Volunteers, San Francisco, Nov. 3, 1909.

Cement Tanks for Storage

Consul Alfred K. Moe draws attention, in the following report from Bordeaux, to the French utilization of the improved cement tanks lined with glass. Several years ago cement tanks began to take the place of wooden tanks in a number of the larger wine storage houses. One of the reasons for this substitution appears to have been the cheaper cost of material for cement tanks, as the price for timber had been gradually rising, and even at the higher prices was scarce and difficult to secure.

Although constant improvement was being effected in the construction and utilization of cement or concrete tanks the great objection to their use still remained, i. e., that in the storage of wines the acids in the liquid very often decomposed the cement, while the cement walls in turn absorbed the freshness and "bouquet" of the wine. The wooden tanks were more expensive, but their value was greater, as they preserved the wine in a proper condition.

The effort to place acid proof linings or coatings on the walls of cement tanks seems to have proved of slight value in the matter of ameliorating the conditions of absorption. The idea of coating the walls with squares of glass, absorbed the freshness and "bouquet" of the wine. The wooden tanks were more expensive, but their value was greater, as they preserved the wine in a proper condition.

As constructed in France, glass lined cement tanks may be used for all kinds of liquids except those containing a large percentage of acids, the latter leading to the decomposition of the cement joints and the loosening of the glass plates. These tanks are particularly useful as storage receptacles for wines, alcohols, brandies, liqueurs, ciders, oils, gasoline, kerosene, turpentine, etc. It is said that tanks so constructed are neither affected by humidity nor by infiltrations, that they resist fire and inundation, and have a further advantage in that they are not liable to be struck by lightning as are tanks of metallic material. Variations of temperature effect a minimum loss by evaporation, the degree being reported at less than 1 per cent. At equivalent temperature wooden tanks lose between 5 and 7 per cent.

THE first of the winter weddings and surely one of the most brilliant of the season was that of Miss Helen Baker and Drummond McGavin, which took place last evening in Trinity church. The edifice was crowded to its doors with the friends of the young couple, and seldom has there been a prettier formal setting in historic Trinity, or a more interesting service. The officiating clergymen were Right Rev. Bishop William Ford Nichols and Rev. Frederick Clappett. The great high altar was a bank of yellow chrysanthemums. Yellow was the dominant color in the gowns of the bridal party. The bride was gowned in the conventional white satin, embellished with rare lace and finished with a voluminous tulle veil and wreath of real orange blossoms. She carried a bouquet of orchids and lilies of the valley. The maid of honor, Miss Dorothy Baker, was effectively gowned in white satin, elaborated with lace and touches of gold, while she carried an armful of yellow chrysanthemums. The bevy of bridesmaids wore gowns of pale yellow chiffon over satin and carried yellow chrysanthemums. Each girl wore a white veil and a wreath of Cecile Brunner roses in her hair.

Those who formed the attractive cortege were Miss Dolly McGavin, sister of the bridegroom, Miss Ruth Richards, Miss Alexander Hamilton, Miss Sara Coffin, Miss Louise Boyd, Miss Louisiana Foster, Miss Bessie Ashton and Miss Claire Nichols. There were two little flower girls who strewed yellow chrysanthemum petals in the pathway of the bride. They were little Marian Baker and Marian Hamilton. The bride was given in marriage by Wakefield Baker. The other attendants were Carlton Curtis, who acted as best man, and the ushers, who were Eyrre Pinckard, Herbert Schmidt, Roy Somers, Donald Fry, Leavitt, Philip and Herbert Baker.

The church ceremony was followed by an elaborate reception at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. L. L. Baker, in Jackson street, and although the guests here were limited to the nearest friends of the family, there were more than 200 persons at this delightful affair. There followed a wedding supper. The rooms and tables were decorated in the favorite yellow, while the bride's table, where only the members of the bridal party were seated, was a study in yellow in a variety of shades and yellow candelabra.

There were many attractive gowns at the reception, but one of the noticeably handsome costumes was worn by Mrs. Walter McGavin, mother of the bridegroom. Mrs. McGavin's gown was a Parisian creation of lavender chiffon over satin and she wore rosettes of the same orchid shade in her hair. Miss Emma Hinchey, who came to this city a few weeks ago from Paris for the wedding, was gowned in old rose satin, embellished with costly lace. Mrs. L. L. Baker wore a gown of gray satin, heavily embroidered.

Among the guests at the reception were: Mr. and Mrs. Bert Ed Gunn, Christian Miller, Mrs. and Mrs. Alexander Moe, Mrs. and Mrs. George Knemeth Moore, Hamilton, Mrs. and Mrs. J. P. Lee, Mrs. and Mrs. Alfred Eyrre, Mrs. and Mrs. George Gus Suro, Plunkard, Mrs. and Mrs. George O'Leary, Mrs. and Mrs. E. A. Baldwin, Mrs. and Mrs. Robert Hall, Percy Murdoch, Mrs. and Mrs. Alexander Moe, Mrs. and Mrs. George Knemeth Moore, Hamilton, Mrs. and Mrs. J. P. Lee, Mrs. and Mrs. Alfred Eyrre, Mrs. and Mrs. George Gus Suro, Plunkard, Mrs. and Mrs. George O'Leary, Mrs. and Mrs. E. A. Baldwin, Mrs. and Mrs. Robert Hall, Percy Murdoch.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES

SIDERAL TIME—Subscriber, Oakland, Cal. What is the method of computing sidereal time? The point in the sky which is used as the starting point of sidereal time is the vernal equinox, that is, the point where the sun crosses the celestial equator about March 20 each year. The sidereal day is measured from the meridian of any place to the time when it crosses it again. The sidereal clock is one that is set so that it marks noon every day, not at the meridian when the sun crosses the meridian, but when the vernal equinox does so. Sidereal time at any moment, therefore, is the hour angle of the vernal equinox at that moment, that is, the time shown by a clock which is set to mark noon at the present moment of the meridian passage of a star.

The face of the clock is divided into 24 hours, and the time is reckoned half days of 12 hours each. Sidereal time will not do for every day purposes, because its noon, or meridian passage, occurs at all hours of the day in different seasons of the year. On September 22, for instance, this comes at midnight.

The approximate relation between the sidereal and mean solar time is very simple. On March 20 the two times agree, and after that the sidereal clock gains two hours a month. On April 5 the sidereal clock is one hour in advance; on April 22, two hours, and so on.

Sidereal time can also be determined by observing the position of the constellation known as Cassiopeia's chair. A line drawn from the polar star through the bright stars of this constellation in their daily motion, is almost exactly parallel to the equinoctial colure. When, therefore, this star is vertically above the polar star it is sidereal noon; it is 6 o'clock when the star is due west of the pole; 12 o'clock when due east. A little practice will make it possible to read sidereal time from this clock in the sky, with an average error of not more than 15 minutes.

The constellation of Cassiopeia is easily found. It lies on the opposite side of the polar star from the well known constellation of the dipper, at about the same distance as the pointer, and may be recognized by its zig-zag configuration of the five or six bright stars that mark it. This is what is known as the "chair."

CALLING CARDS—Subscriber, San Jose, Cal. What is the proper form for a calling card for a married woman? A little larger than that used by the unmarried woman. The matron's card bears her married name, as "Mrs. David James Smith." The address is in the lower right hand corner and the "at home" in the lower left hand corner. The time at which the card is to be used is also mentioned, if it is desired to specify the day.

DESERTION—Subscriber, City. Can a soldier who deserts from the United States army in time of peace, and after such desertion resides in this country for two years, be punished if caught? Look to the statute books.

Article 103 of the articles of war says: "No person shall be tried or punished by court martial for desertion from the United States army in time of peace, committed more than two years, before the arraignment of such person for such offense, unless he shall meanwhile have absented himself from the United States, in which case the time of his absence shall be counted in computing the period of the limitation; provided that said limitation shall not begin until the end of the term for which said person was mustered into the service."

Article 59 says: "No noncommissioned officer or soldier shall enlist himself in any other regiment, troop or company without a regular discharge from the regiment, troop or company in which he last served on a penalty of being reputed as a deserter and suffering accordingly. And in case any officer shall knowingly receive or entertain such noncommissioned officer or soldier, or any soldier after his being discovered to be a deserter, immediately confine him and give notice thereof to the corps in which he has last served, the said officer shall, by court martial, be cashiered."

BLOSSOM—M. Colusa, Cal. Do all minerals have the same deposit of the blossom? How far down is the deposit from the surface?

The blossom is the valueless outcrop of a coal seam, also the scattered fragments of ore which may guide the prospector to the lode whence they came. The blossom is not always directly over the deposit, nor does it indicate how deep the deposit is below it. There is some indication that there is ore of the character of the outcrop in the vicinity.

ATLANTIC CABLE—R. City. What was the date of the laying of the Atlantic cable? The work of laying the Atlantic cable was commenced at Valentia, August 5, 1857, and the other end was laid at Newfoundland, August 5, 1858. The first messages that passed were two between the queen of England and the president of the United States on that date.

HANLON BROS.—Subscriber, City. In 1864 or earlier, Big Tom, a trapeze artist, appeared in the Metropolitan Theater, San Francisco, and performed an act in which they gave a peculiar name, which I would like to know, having forgotten it.

You probably refer to the Hanlon brothers, who performed a trapeze act, a sort of double somersault, which they called "Zampliarostran."

CONCRETE WORK—Subscriber, Santa Cruz, Cal. This department suggests that you consult the building laws of your county for the information you desire about concrete work and floors. The laws in regard to these matters are not uniform as to the different counties.

A SONG—S. C. Gonzalez, Cal. Where can I find a song book of the songs of Sir James Ross, Highland Scotch chief?

The song does not appear in any published list. Possibly the correspondence, assisted by some reader of this department, send information on a postal card.

PASSION PLAY—R. City. Was the passion play in the city of San Francisco prior to its production in this city recently?

It was presented at the Grand opera house with James O'Neil in the character of the Savior.

A ROYALTY—Subscriber, Oakland, Cal. To whom shall I apply for information about securing a royalty on a patent?

Call on some patent agent.

INSIDE THE LAW—A. S. Monterey, Cal. Can some of your readers tell me where I can find the law in regard to "Laws made the Law," in which are the following lines: "Away with the technical rights of a thief, The thief that steals and craves a crime, Though a little inside of the law."

ERIN GO BRAGI—Subscriber, City. What is the meaning of the name "Erin Go Bragi"?

This, the ancient cry of the Irish, means Erin forever.