

The San Francisco Call

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

Entered at the United States Postoffice as Second Class Matter
ALL POSTMASTERS ARE AUTHORIZED TO RECEIVE SUBSCRIPTIONS

BLUNDERBORE of the Los Angeles Times smells the blood of a "traitor"—of many traitors—and wants to "eat 'em alive." It is the progressives of the republican party that this greedy, antiquated ogre would devour were it not that he is toothless and doddering.

Blunderbore assumes with obstreperous rejoicing the truth of those queer Washington dispatches of the past week which have represented that Mr. Taft has formed an alliance, offensive and defensive, with Joe Cannon and Senator Aldrich and has made a declaration of war against the insurgents of the progressives.

This bugle note from Washington calling the party together under the republican standard means one of two things: either the absolute surrendering of the little "insurgent" bunch, a stopping of their raucous noise and the guidance of the party under principles formulated by the 99 per cent, or the driving of the odd fellow out of the party lines, outside of the pickets and directly into the camp of the enemy.

Therefore he would "drum the traitors out" of the party. It appears that he counts himself and General de Young as 99 per cent of the republican party in California, and with the help of De Young's tin sword and his own drum he will drive the insurgents into the sea.

Not much attention need be paid to the antics of a foolish and ill tempered old man, but he can not "drum out" the progressives, and we refuse to believe that Mr. Taft has lined up with the reactionaries for any reason, and least of all, for the reason stated, that they are opposing his policies.

WITHIN the last two or three years a new and potent attraction has been added to California as a winter resort. This is the opening of the Yosemite valley during those months when it was formerly inaccessible to the general run of tourists and excursionists by reason of the deep snows that collect in Sierra gorges.

When not visiting the far famed features of the wonderland the tourists enjoyed themselves skating, tobogganing, skeeing, playing ice hockey, sleighing and snowballing. These winter sports are being encouraged and facilities for their enjoyment can be had at the hotels.

Hotels in the valley now keep open the year round and access is easy. Altogether, it is an attraction that ought to be impressed on the attention of the traveling public in the eastern states.

THE northern end of the San Joaquin valley is beginning to develop with new energy its facilities for irrigation. The great success of the Turlock and Modesto irrigation districts has inspired neighboring communities to follow their example on an extended scale.

A striking example is found in the recent organization of the South San Joaquin irrigation district in the county of that name. The district comprises 70,000 acres of fertile land, lacking only water to make every square foot productive with the intensive cultivation which necessarily follows the introduction of water in canals.

There is no better land that lies out of doors than this, but, owing to insufficient rainfall, it has been hitherto unavailable for anything but the hazardous pursuit of small grain farming, which might bring a crop once in five years, and then would not amount to much.

It is gratifying to know that the irrigation district laws of California have at length been hammered into practical and practicable shape.

WHITTLING DOWN THE STICK



REPRESENTATIVE SMITH of Bakersfield has introduced in congress with much parade of constitutional law his bill to turn over to the states the water rights and privileges in the national domain now controlled and administered by the forestry service.

Mr. Smith explains learnedly that these rights already belong to the states, which, if it were true, might seem to make his bill superfluous, but perhaps he does not quite believe himself. He does not complain that these properties have been unwisely or unjustly administered by the forestry service.

There is now, and has been for a great many years, a considerable body of these water rights in the hands of the states, with what results we know. We know that in California, for instance, water rights worth millions of dollars, water rights that should be public property, have been alienated forever without any sort of compensation for their use.

The Call does not class Mr. Smith with these plunder mongers, but he is barking up the wrong tree and playing their game. He is the victim of his own impetuosity and wants to cross the bridge before it is built.

IT would be well for the apple growers of California, who represent a very considerable interest, to take note of the Lafean bill, now under consideration by congress, to regulate the dimensions of the packages in which their product must be shipped if it is to become the subject of interstate commerce.

While the eastern grower admits the superiority of our western fruits, his envy of the financial returns to our growers has prompted a petty vengeance which is displayed in the Lafean apple package bill introduced at the last session of congress.

Not only does the bill provide for an inconvenient sort of package, but it presumes to prescribe the nature of the brands to be affixed. In the absence of the text of the bill it can not be said exactly what effect it would have on the apple growing industry of California, but the local growers will do well to give the matter some attention with a view to possible co-operation with the Oregon and Washington protestants.

THE first memorial which strikes the eyes of a traveler when he arrives at Jerusalem, says a French visitor who has recently returned to Paris, is the new church of the Germans on Mount Zion. It is built on land given by Abdul Hamid to the German emperor.

The church will be served by German benedictines, and it is to be consecrated next year, it is said, in the presence of Prince Eitel, representing the kaiser. Afterward the prince will take part in the opening of the sanatorium, also German, which is near by.

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THE SMART SET

THERE is diversion enough promised for the debutante and her older sister, not to mention the still older devotees of society, in the program of social events for the later days of the month.

The interpretative study given by Miss Margaret Kemble yesterday afternoon at the St. Francis attracted a large audience of society people, who listened with interest to the young speaker's exposition of "Elektra," the music drama by Richard Strauss.

The wedding of Miss Mollie Norcross and Leslie Wright took place yesterday afternoon in the First Unitarian church and was attended only by the relatives of the couple.

Mr. and Mrs. John F. Merrill will remain indefinitely at the Hotel Normandie, where they have been established for the season.

J. W. Kline of Philadelphia gave a dinner recently at the Palace hotel and a theater party afterward to the following guests:

There will be two or three dancing parties to divert the younger set this week and one of the most enjoyable of these without doubt will be the dance of the Friday Night club at Century hall, when there will be a round of dinner parties before the dance and a large attendance of the younger crowd who are on the club membership.

THEY were railroadmen. Not local railroadmen, of course, but they had attended a banquet the previous night.

Effective January 15 J. D. Rearden becomes traffic manager of the Union oil company, vice C. H. Woodruff, who has resigned on account of ill health.

Options on 14 blocks in the northwestern part of Portland have been obtained by the Northern Pacific as a site for terminal yards, for which \$1,952,000 will be paid.

The record of construction shows clearly that the railroads built only such lines as they were compelled to build. Most of the mileage was constructed into new territory, which was demanding traffic facilities.

Lord Curzon of Kedleston, who opened the resumed debate in the house of lords on the finance bill, occupies a unique position in the peerage, says the London Globe.

It is not only in Great Britain that members of the medical profession have cause for complaint, as the following extract from an article in the Revue extract from the pen of Professor Charcot shows: In 1845, under Louis Philippe, there were 8,000 doctors in France.

In the space of 45 years, 1846 to 1891, the number had almost doubled, the yearly increase being 155. In the decades following this period the augmentation is given at 200, and since 1901 the increase has been much greater.

Twenty years ago J. P. Morgan Jr. began working as a shipping clerk with Drexel, Morgan & Co. Later he became executive head of his father's London house.

DEBATES—J. H. City. Please furnish me some good pointers for a debate on the Panama canal. I am on the affirmative side.

FIRST CALL—Mrs. S. J. Oakland. How soon after a first call is made should it be returned? Within 10 days.

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Letters From the People

SUBSCRIPTION IS SUGGESTED

Editor The Call: As a man who has traveled and in a measure been connected with some of the largest expositions, also being greatly interested in the future of California, I wish to make the following suggestions touching the great Panama exposition.

The lack of money has been the great drawback and the cause of failure in many instances where undertakings like this have been made. Every man, woman and child in the state of California is looking to its future and that future in a measure is theirs.

Another point is that of expense to those coming a great distance. Railroad rates will take care of themselves, but the exorbitant charge for accommodations has been the great criticism in all former cities where expositions have been held.

In other words, let us keep the penny far enough away so that we may see the dollars ahead and all join hands to make the Panama exposition world renowned and show that California is where they do things but don't do the people. Yours for success.

E. J. HERMANS,
San Mateo, January 8, 1910.

Answers to Queries

ROCKS AND GATE—A. S. Walker. What is the distance from the Cliff house to the Seal rocks? What is the width of the Golden gate at the entrance and width at narrowest point?

LUCK—A. F. F. Walnut Creek. Is there such a thing as good luck and bad luck? We do not know. Some people believe that persons are born to good luck and others to bad luck, and that nothing will change that destiny.

RABBITS—Subscriber, City. Is the rabbit a ruminant or a rodent? Has it a double stomach like the cow?

WIELAND'S DEATH—N. S. Potrero, City. What was the date of the death of John Wieland, founder of Wieland's brewery in San Francisco?

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The New Jerusalem

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Remarkable Peer of England

One of the most remarkable members of the peerage is Lord Halsbury, who has just celebrated his eighty-fourth birthday. In spite of his great age, says M. A. P., he is wonderfully vigorous, and he still indulges in long walks, while his mind is as keenly active as ever.

By the way, it is not generally known to the present generation that Lord Halsbury once narrowly escaped death from a pistol shot fired by a madman, while the famous lawyer was defending a prisoner.

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Lord Curzon's Position

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This object of ambition he was unable to gratify, and accordingly he was elected an Irish representative peer. He is the only Irish representative peer ever elected to that position without connection with Ireland by family or property.

Lord Curzon is the eldest son of Lord Scarsdale, who, like the marquis of Normandy, is a clergyman, and will, on succeeding to that peerage, be unable to divest himself of the Irish representative peerage, which is an office for life and not vacated even by permanent mental incapacity.

Army of Doctors in France

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In five years, from 1901 to 1906, the number of new diplomas was 2,400, or an average 600 a year, and in the two years following, namely 1907 and 1908, the number is 2,000, which means 1,000 a year, and the number of students at the medical schools and the universities continues to grow.