

Next Friday the whole country must stand up and be counted. Read in The Sunday Call tomorrow what this census really means.

THE WEATHER
YESTERDAY—Cloudy; west wind; maximum temperature, 60; minimum, 50.
FORECAST FOR TODAY—Unsettled, with occasional showers in the morning; moderate southwest winds.

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SAN FRANCISCO, SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 1910.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

MERCHANTS TO AID WORK OF CENSUS TAKING

Launch Systematic Campaign to Lighten Work of Federal Enumerators

Employees in Great Department Stores Given Sample Sheet of Questions Asked

Importance to City of Securing Full and Complete Returns Is Emphasized

SAN FRANCISCO merchants are volunteering census supervisors. To catch every individual who may possibly be reached, the merchants and businessmen who are large employers already have begun a systematic campaign to aid Census Supervisor George B. Baldwin in his work of giving San Francisco the highest possible enumeration. In the larger stores of the city the merchants have detailed part of their office forces to prepare full and complete lists of the employees. To each employe will be given a sample sheet to be filled out for the census enumerator when he calls at the home of the individual.

Stores Aid Census Men

In the White House Raphael Well has given the matter personal attention and already has complete returns of half of the 600 employees working there. At Nathan-Dohrmann company notices have been circulated among the employes giving a schedule of the questions to be answered and calling attention to the importance of making out a correct report. Similar steps are to be taken by every large store in the city and requests are being made daily for the necessary blanks and mailing envelopes. The expectations are that by April 15 a complete return of the employes of all the department stores will be in the hands of Captain Baldwin.

The sentiment among the merchants on the census question is the same. All are intent on obtaining a full and complete report, realizing that the result will not alone affect the representation of the city in congress and the state legislature, but will regulate also the state and federal money appropriations for public work.

Of Vital Importance

"It is a matter of vital importance," said Andrew M. Davis of the Emporium, "and no effort should be spared to have the returns as complete as possible. The work of preparing a list of the 1,200 employes of the Emporium will be probably under the direct supervision of B. F. Schlesinger. It will be a comparatively simple matter for us to make out the returns and will take far less time than it would the census enumerators."

Raphael Well of the White House said that the merchants of the city could not pay too much attention to the approaching census. "The entire community," he said, "should be awake to the work that is going on in this regard. I feel sure that the merchants will aid in the work with great pleasure and they will be of invaluable assistance to the department. Apart from obtaining a list of the employes in the White House, it is our intention to have a window display, giving 24 translations of the official call."

"I have posted a house order calling attention to the census," said Fred Dohrmann of Nathan-Dohrmann company, "and will do everything possible to facilitate the work of the enumerators. It is an important work, and every citizen should do his utmost in helping the government in getting a correct report."

Aid Federal Authorities

Equally emphatic in their endorsements of aiding the enumerators were Leon Roos of Roos Brothers, P. Verdir of the City of Paris and J. L. Samuels of the Lace House, all of whom declared they were ready to assist the federal authorities.

John L. Walters of D. N. & E. Walters has charge of the census taking in that store and will begin work immediately.

"This work," he said, "must be done thoroughly and systematically, and the efforts of the merchants ought to prove of great help. Interest in having a correct census should not rest with the merchants alone. The matter should be seriously considered by every person in the community. It is a simple task that the government requires, and the community will be helping itself by helping the government in obtaining a full and correct report."

It is expected that by tomorrow night every house in the city will be provided with the census blanks. This will allow a week's time in which to study the questions, so that at the appointed time there will be no difficulty in answering them satisfactorily.

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PANIC IS CAUSED BY EXPLOSION IN THEATER

Accidents Narrowly Averted When Motorcycle Collapses

NEW YORK, April 8.—Panic broke out among 1,000 spectators at the Alhambra theater in Harlem, tonight when the gasoline tank of a motorcycle ridden by a young woman on the stage exploded and sheets of flame curtained the cage around the track.

Agnes Hatfield of Newark, N. J., known on the stage as Cedora, had reached a speed of 45 miles an hour around the small spherical track when her motorcycle collapsed.

Its fall smashed the gasoline tank, scattering gasoline over the floor. An explosion followed and the cage became a mass of flames.

Mrs. Hatfield was bruised, but attendants best out the flames before she was seriously burned.

EDWARD C. DE GROFF, JUNEAU MERCHANT. Juneau, Alaska, April 8.—Edward C. de Groff, the oldest merchant in Alaska and owner of valuable gold mining property, died in Sitka last night of dropsy. He built the first cabin on Courthouse hill, Juneau.

CONVICT SHOT DOWN AFTER A BRUTAL ATTACK

Military Prisoner, Dazed From Assault by Guard, Makes Dash for Liberty

Number of Lives Endangered by Rain of Bullets Fired at Fleeing Man

After being brutally assaulted by one of his guards, W. G. Collins, a military convict from Alcatraz, tried to run away yesterday morning on the army transport dock and was instantly shot down and killed. Although the killing of Collins was done in the line of duty and is regarded as a grim military necessity, much sympathy was expressed for the dead man, who, dazed from a cruel and unnecessary blow, may not have realized what he was doing when he ran.

Collins and other prisoners had been brought from Alcatraz under the usual guard to transfer cement from the wharf to the steamer General Miffin. J. J. Curran, a government clerk employed on the dock and engaged in checking the cement as the prisoners carried it away, told the story of the shooting.

Struck Blow With Rifle

"The prisoners were hustling the bags away so fast," he said, "that I had difficulty in keeping check, and I was just about to ask Sergeant Doyle, who was in charge of the guard, to have the men go a little easier, when one of the guards rushed up to Collins and said:

"Dig in, you —! Move faster." Collins replied that he was doing his best. "The guard waited until Collins' head was turned and then struck the prisoner a terrific blow on the neck with the butt end of the rifle. I thought the man was going to fall. He staggered a little and then seemed to take a brace on himself. He pulled his cap down over his eyes and pressed his lips tightly together. I watched him closely because I expected to see him drop. As I looked I saw tears roll down his cheeks. All of a sudden he turned and ran up the dock. The guards began to shoot and a few minutes later the guard who had struck him returned and said:

Shooting Endangers Lives

The shooting endangered the lives of a number of dock employes and one bullet is said to have knocked a feather out of the hat of a woman who was leaving the dock. Henry Linderblad and John O'Brien stepped almost into the line of fire. Linderblad said that one bullet went so close that it stung his little finger.

Collins was mortally wounded before he emerged from the wharf shed, but he continued to run. The guard kept up the fire and at last he fell dead about half way between the shed and the dock gate. The ambulance was summoned from the harbor hospital, but the services of the surgeon were not needed and the body was turned over to the coroner.

Eleven shots were fired at Collins and four of them, all in the back, took effect. Any one of the wounds would have killed him.

SUICIDE DISCOVERED IN HIS GAS FILLED ROOM

Shinglers Tires of Life Without Friends or Relatives

OAKLAND, April 8.—E. H. Hyer, a shingler, 25 years old, who lived at 1262 Franklin street, committed suicide last night by opening the gas jets in his room and closing the door and windows fast. The reason for his act is not known, but the landlady, Mrs. Mabel Walls, says that he had appeared to be depressed. Hyer left Mrs. Walls a short note as follows:

"Please forgive me for this act. Mail the letters you will find in their respective addresses. It is my last request." Another note was left to the coroner, as follows:

"I have no friends or relatives to look, so just 'plant' me. Please make sure that I am dead."

Six other letters were found, addressed as follows: Miss Jennie Luce, 631 Merriman street, Oakland; Fred Part, 22 South Hancock street, Los Angeles; R. F. Whitten, 1508 Lemon street, Long Beach; Miss Clara Haroldson and Miss Hazel Haroldson, both at 226 Sixth avenue, Seattle.

PROMINENT MERCHANT TAILOR PASSES AWAY

John A. McKinnon Succumbs After Long Illness

OAKLAND, April 8.—John A. McKinnon, for many years one of the leading merchant tailors of Oakland, died this morning at his residence, 471 Twenty-seventh street, after a long illness, from Bright's disease.

WIRELESS GETS MESSAGE FROM EASTERN COAST

Long Distance Record for Overland Communication Made by Local Operators

Signals Sent From Key West to Norfolk, Virginia, Are Recorded Here

Records Made on Pacific Coast Within 18 Months

Wireless records made on the Pacific coast within 18 months: October, 1908—Between San Francisco and Hawaii—2,098 miles. July, 1908—Between San Diego and United States warships—2,900 miles. October, 1909—Between San Francisco and United States army transports—3,500 miles. February, 1909—Between Point Loma and Boston—3,537 miles. November, 1909—Between San Francisco and steamer Korea—4,500 miles. November, 1908—Between San Francisco and Japanese stations—5,761 miles. April, 1910—Between San Francisco and Key West, Fla.—3,600 miles, but overland, where high mountains might interfere.

San Francisco is at last in communication with the east coast of the United States by wireless.

The feat was accomplished Thursday night by A. Y. Tuel, night operator for the United Wireless Telegraph company at the Hillcrest station. The messages sped from Key West, Fla., and were directed to Norfolk, Va. San Francisco was not "butting in on the line," but Thursday was an exceptional wireless night and the operator had no difficulty, after studying the signals along the east coast, in ascertaining the he was listening to messages from the Atlantic ocean.

San Francisco operators do not know the signals of the east coast, but an eastern operator, recently of the United States signal service on the Atlantic coast, interpreted the message.

Longest Distance Over Land

Thursday night's achievement is not the first wireless message received on this coast from Atlantic stations. Messages have been received from Massachusetts wireless stations as late as last February, but never from such a distance as from Key West across the continent.

"We have received messages from greater distances than Key West," said Tuel yesterday, "but never across the continent, where there might have been serious interference with the high mountain ranges."

In November, 1908, the United wireless station on Russian hill heard messages between ports in Japan, but on account of the code used by that country it was impossible to interpret them. The distance was nearly 6,000 miles, but it was across the sea, where there was no interference.

Largest Station on Coast

A wireless record was made recently, when the Pacific Mail steamship Korea talked with the station on Russian hill when at a distance of 4,500 miles from this port. This is not exactly a new record, however, when compared with the hearing of the Japanese messages, but it is a new record from a ship at sea.

The United wireless company has recently completed one of the largest and most powerful stations on the Pacific coast on the Crocker tract. It consists of two masts, each 203 feet in height, situated 493 feet apart and with their bases resting on ground at an altitude of 250 feet.

In the station is a 15 kilowatt set, the largest in use on the Pacific coast and capable of transmitting messages 3,500 miles under all conditions and probably from 5,000 to 6,000 miles under the most favorable conditions. No attempts have yet been made to send messages to the Atlantic coast, although it would be possible with the large power stations now located in or near this city.

Several Records Made Here

Alaska can and does send messages to east coast stations at the present time, but the stations in that territory are under government control and are much larger than the commercial stations here. San Francisco has established several records in receiving wireless messages—several of them from much longer distances than Key West, but none of them for such a distance overland.

"This is the first time we have heard the east coast at this station," said Tuel in speaking of the record yesterday. "We have heard ticking from the east coast—at least we think we have—but we have never been positive of it until the other night. I did not know it for sure at that time until I spoke of it to the other operators, one of whom only recently came from the east and who was familiar with the signals, which are changed rather frequently. We intend to try in a few days to send messages to the Atlantic."

Comet Again Sighted Visible 15 Minutes



The course of Halley's comet in passing between the earth and the sun and a portrait of the wanderer's discoverer.

CABINET HELP IS WANTED BY TAFT

Five Now Employed Have "Given Notice" That They Do Not Like "Place"

[Special Dispatch to The Call] WASHINGTON, April 8.—Despite denials it is regarded as certain that within a year President Taft will practically have a new cabinet. But four of the present members will be in office. These are Attorney General Wickersham, Secretary of Agriculture Wilson, Secretary of Commerce and Labor Nagel and Secretary of the Navy Meyer. Those to leave within a year are Secretary of State Knox, Secretary of the Interior Ballinger, Postmaster General Hitchcock, Secretary of War Dickinson and Secretary of the Treasury MacVeagh.

Secretary Knox's present frame of mind is described as "sore." He has stood up under much criticism of his state department methods, the president has not come to his assistance, and his fellow members of the cabinet have not helped matters. Some of the latter were made angry by the readiness with which the country accepted the idea that Knox was to be premier of the cabinet and the president's chief advisor.

Knox's friends told him that nothing could keep him out of the presidency if he went into President Taft's cabinet and made himself the biggest figure in it. Now Knox is said to have discovered that not he, but Attorney General Wickersham is the big man in the cabinet. The last straw of all was Wickersham's selection as the one to make the administration's keynote speech in the coming congressional campaign. He will deliver the speech, reading the insurgents out of the republican party, Saturday night at Chicago.

Secretary MacVeagh is willing to stay in office, but the stand pat leaders of the senate, who say he is a free trader, are hostile.

Secretary Dickinson's friends say he is finding it irksome to sit as a democrat at a republican council table. Postmaster General Hitchcock is to manage the congressional campaign.

Secretary Ballinger has frequently professed a desire to relinquish the burden of his office, but has stayed in thus far on the pretext that he did not wish to resign "under fire."

NUN CALLED BY DEATH AT AGE OF NINETY YEARS

[Special Dispatch to The Call] SANTA CLARA, April 8.—Sister Mary Patricius of Notre Dame convent, Santa Clara, died at that institution here tonight, aged 90 years.

Sister Patricius was born in County Mayo, Ireland, and entered the congregation of the Sisters of Notre Dame in 1850. Thirty-four years of her life as a sister were spent as a member of the society here.

SUPPORT SOLICITED FOR "RAISIN DAY"

Fresno Citizens Will Ask for Aid of San Francisco Businessmen

[Special Dispatch to The Call] FRESNO, April 8.—Members of the California raisin day committee will go to Coalinga tomorrow night to attend the banquet to be given there in honor of the San Francisco chamber of commerce and at that time they will urge the members of that body present to lend their support to the raisin day movement. Addresses on "Raisin Day" will be delivered at the banquet by local representatives.

One of the elaborate features of the campaign will be an automobile canvass of the San Joaquin valley, to be made on April 15 and 16. Delegations from this city will go out in machines to all the towns in the San Joaquin valley and urge the support of the people there.

At a meeting of the Raisin day committee today it was decided to give every school child in Fresno county two post cards to be mailed to eastern friends on April 16, postal card day. In doing this about 25,000 postal cards will be sent out by the school children alone.

Arrangements have been made for big displays of raisins on all the big trans-Atlantic steamship lines from now until Raisin day. Those lines will also serve raisin bread, pastry and other dishes.

MISS RUTH McFARLAND BECOMES A BRIDE TODAY

Alexander Balfour of Burlingame Will Wed in Los Angeles

[Special Dispatch to The Call] BURLINGAME, April 8.—A wedding that is of interest to society was solemnized in Los Angeles tomorrow when Miss Ruth McFarland, daughter of Mrs. J. D. McFarland and niece of the late Justice McFarland, will become the bride of Alexander Balfour, secretary and club man of Burlingame and son of Robert Balfour, senior member of the firm of Balfour, Guthrie & Co.

The wedding, which is set for 2 o'clock, will be a brilliant affair. The ceremony will be celebrated in the Church of the Angels in the southern city.

Balfour and his bride will leave for Europe on an extended wedding trip, but will return to Burlingame about September 1. While in Great Britain they will spend a portion of their time on the estate of Robert Balfour in Scotland.

Miss McFarland is a graduate of one of the eastern universities and is a member of the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. Her brother, "Jack" McFarland, is a Stanford graduate, member of the Zeta Psi fraternity and was captain of the track team in 1907.

CELESTIAL WANDERER RETURNS

Halley's Comet Visible at Lick Observatory According to Predictions

OWING TO SUN'S GLARE TAIL WAS NOT SEEN

Is 15,000,000 Miles Away, but Will Come Within Only 14,000,000 Miles

MAY NOT BE SEEN HERE WITH NAKED EYE

LICK OBSERVATORY, Mount Hamilton, April 8.—After an absence of four weeks, during which it was passing by the sun and its brilliancy lost in the glare of the latter, Halley's comet was sighted from here at 4:40 a. m. today by Prof. W. W. Campbell and others connected with the observatory. It was visible for about 15 minutes and appeared somewhat fainter than was expected. Otherwise its appearance coincided in every way with the predictions.

"The faintness of the comet," said Professor Campbell, "was due to the bright sky after dawn. Nothing but the head could be seen, the tail being lost in the glare of the sun. When it appeared today it was 15,000,000 miles from the earth, but will approach nearer as time progresses until May 18, when it will be but 14,000,000 miles distant from us. After that time it will gradually draw away.

Visible May 18

"Until May 18 Halley's comet will be a morning object, becoming visible before the first rays of dawn, and after that time it will be an evening object and will be fairly conspicuous during the last half of May."

"It is unsafe to predict the brightness of a comet and for that reason I do not care to say just when it will become visible to the naked eye, but I believe it will be two weeks before it will be possible for us at the observatory to see it without the aid of telescopes and a week or two later before it will be apparent to those in the valley. The people will have a greater difficulty in seeing it on account of the glare of the electric lights of the city and there is a possibility for that reason that it will not be visible from San Francisco at all. It depends upon its brightness and that, as I said, is unsafe to predict."

Will Pass Through Tail

"We will pass through the tail of the comet on the night of May 18 and will take several hours in so doing. I may say that no danger need be feared. There may be a glow in the sky and perhaps a meteoric display, but apart from this harmless and beautiful phenomenon nothing will occur to affect human lives on earth."

"Until May 18 the comet will be visible just before dawn, and those who intend to watch for it would do well to remember that the sun is rising earlier daily. After May 18 it will be west of the sun and will be visible after sunset."

BERKELEY, April 8.—Professor A. O. Leuschner, head of the department of astronomy here, has reported that the comet has not been seen with the campus telescope on account of the glare of the sun.

According to publication sent to the University of California by Camille Flammarion, the eminent French scientist, the tail of the comet will become visible in June. He has pointed out that during its perihelion passage of November 16 of 1835 the comet appeared to be short of its appendage, but gathered it up once more when leaving the neighborhood of the earth.

CAPTOWN, April 8.—The observatory here sighted Halley's comet this morning for the first time since the passing of the sun.

OAKLAND HARBOR BILL FAVORABLY REPORTED

Provision Made Against Unreasonably High Bids

[Special Dispatch to The Call] WASHINGTON, April 8.—In the river and harbor bill, as reported to the senate today, the appropriation for Oakland harbor is not changed, but a provision is made that in the event that reasonable bids are not forthcoming, enough of the appropriation may be used to purchase of construct a dredging plant.

The appropriation for improving Los Angeles harbor amounting to \$200,000 was a new item and carried a similar provision regarding dredging plant.

For continuing the improvement of the Sacramento and Feather rivers the amount was increased from \$15,000 to \$30,000.

RANSOM POWELL, HEALDSBURG PIONEER.—Healdsburg, April 8.—Ransom Powell, a wealthy pioneer of Sonoma county, died at his home here today at the age of 87 years. Powell came to California from Illinois in 1838 and located in Healdsburg in a mercantile business. He later engaged in ranching.