

The San Francisco Call JOHN D. SPRECKELS Proprietor CHARLES W. HORNICK General Manager ERNEST S. SIMPSON Managing Editor



JUDGE ELLISON'S decision in the matter of the Geary street railway bonds presents a luminous exposition of the law in a common sense way.

Ellison Disposes of Obstructions in Geary Street

The Call has never attached any serious importance to the labored, almost grotesque, technicalities put forward on behalf of the street railway monopoly.

The absurd contention that the city of San Francisco has no power to own and operate street railways is conclusively disposed of by Judge Ellison.

The laborious argument on behalf of the petitioner which aimed to show that the preliminary steps for the issue of bonds had not been accurately taken by the board of supervisors is dismissed as contemptuously as it deserves.

On the subject of the debt limit for cities, Judge Ellison's remarks are interesting and throw some light on a subject that has been somewhat confused by objectors who have desired to throw obstacles in the way of civic progress.

There seems to be no limit to a bonded indebtedness incurred for purposes other than public utilities.

John Redmond, the veteran journalist and London correspondent of The Call, sends an amusing cable dispatch to this paper about the indignation and resentment of the British Tories because John Redmond, the Irish leader, has dictated the terms that have been accepted by the premier, Mr. Asquith.

John Redmond the Dominant Figure

John Redmond has merely taken his stand on the apparent logic of the situation. A measure, almost revolutionary in character but necessary in point of policy, is pending to limit the power of the house of lords.

John Redmond points out the way to compel the lords to accept the measure for limitation of their powers.

The vital interest that Ireland has in this conflict is that the lords' power of veto has always constituted an impassable obstacle to home rule.

"CHICKENS come home to roost" is one-half of an Arabic proverb which seems to be true of California in the direct ratio of the estate left by the rooster.

Chickens That Come Home to Roost

Laurel Hall club will hold an important meeting Wednesday afternoon, when the nominations for officers for the coming year will be made.

Gossip of Railwaymen

THE glass in the rear door of the office of the Rock Island is broken again. It seems impossible to keep a whole pane of glass in that door, and F. W. Thompson, general agent, has about resolved to stop buying new glass.

The door has been broken three times within about six weeks, and was fixed by a different person. Some say that it is because of the location of Thompson's private office, which is about four feet from the door.

It looks as if the glass would remain broken.

Jay Adams, Pacific coast passenger agent of the Nickel Plate, returned Saturday from a trip over the southern part of the state.

A concession has been granted by the Guatemala government to David E. Thompson, president of the Pan-American railway, to build the international bridge to be used for railway and highway traffic over the Suchiate river between Mexico and Guatemala.

Edmond R. Gregory, traveling passenger agent of the Santa Fe at Los Angeles, and a son of H. R. Gregory, assistant general passenger agent of the Santa Fe, is in the city for a few days.

It is unofficially reported that the rate on canned salmon to Chicago and west, which it was reported, was to be reduced again to 65 cents, will not be changed, mainly, it is said, because of the protests of the fruit shippers, who insist that they should secure a reduction on canned fruit, if a reduction is made on salmon.

Another railroadman was made happy Saturday night when Reginald Graves, city passenger agent of the Salt Lake route, received a wire that his wife would arrive about 8 o'clock.

The Transportation club has decided to give a Dutch dinner to J. R. Weeks, traffic manager of the Union oil company Saturday night. The weeks will depart in a short time for a trip around the world, stopping at various ports to establish asphalt plants for the company.

The construction of several new lines of railroad and extension of existing lines through virgin timber belts of eastern Texas will soon be started.

Another new line is the Memphis, Dallas and Gulf, projected to run between Memphis, Tenn., and Dallas. It is said that it will traverse a virgin timber region of Arkansas and eastern Texas.

It has been held by the interstate commerce commission that carriers may not defeat their published through fares with party rate tickets.

The Corona club, of which Mrs. Edward Dexter Knight is president, gave its annual reception last Thursday afternoon at the clubrooms in Mission Masonic hall, and it was one of the most enjoyable of the many charming affairs of the club year.

The Susan B. Anthony club will hold its regular monthly meeting this afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Votes for Women club rooms, 315 Sutter street near Grant avenue.

A directors' meeting of the Daughters of California Pioneers will be held this afternoon at 3:30 o'clock.

The program of the California club at the regular meeting tomorrow afternoon will be in charge of the Outdoor Art league department, of which Mrs. Lovell White is the leader.

Tuesday will be neighborhood day at the South Park settlement mothers' club and all visitors will be welcomed.

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The Papyrus club has postponed its next meeting for one week. The program will be in charge of Miss Laura Ferguson.

OPTIC ILLUSION AIDS HALLEY'S COMET VIEWERS Astronomers Even Are Subject to Error When Using the Naked Eye

It is quite amusing to hear from certain quarters that a number of people in a neighboring town saw Halley's comet, minus the tail, on the morning of April 16 before 5 o'clock.

There is no doubt whatever that at an altitude of from 4,000 to 5,000 feet above sea level, or more, as is the case with the Lick observatory, the solar observatory of the Carnegie Institution on Mount Wilson, the Lowell observatory at Flagstaff, Ariz., or on top of the Rocky mountains, the comet may be visible to the naked eye.

The astronomer sights the object with his telescope. He then gazes through finders of smaller caliber and then over outside the finders, or over outside the principal telescope, fixing his eye upon that point in the sky in line with the tube of his telescope.

Between us and the astronomer on top of very high mountains there is an enormous difference. Our line of sight has to traverse several thousand feet of dull, foggy atmosphere, and so while they may see, we do not.

May 20 the comet will be at its shortest distance from the sun. At that point it will have passed through a bath of fire, and will be in the process of its baptism, after which process the so far embryonic tail will bud forth and grow into those dimensions which history records.

COAL-Subscriber, City. When was anthracite first discovered? Is it true that those who first introduced it were mobbed?

BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS-C. C. San Luis Obispo. Who was the author of the poem "Beautiful Flowers"? In what book is it printed?

TEACHER-M. S. Shelville. What should be done in the case of a public school teacher who goes around the state, votes for 10 electors who represent the state.

MOUNT SHASTA-C. G. W. Berkeley. Can the state department take the position of making a money offer to any one who will live for six months on the top of Mount Shasta?

MUSIC-A. S. City. I have composed a song which I want set to music. But wish to have it set. How shall I proceed and what is the fee?

COMMUNICATE with the Librarian of congress at Washington, D. C., who will send you a blank form of application for copyright. The fee is 50 cents.

ELECTORS-A Reader, City. What is the number of presidential electors from San Francisco?

DIRECTORY-Call Subscriber, City. Where can I see Brown's directory? I want the address of a friend?

RESTRICTIONS-Mrs. A. D. Berkeley. Can restrictions in a deed as to a dwelling be enforced? That is calling for legal advice, which this department does not give.

FERTILIZER-C. E. P. Suisun City. This department does not print the addresses of any person engaged in business.

SLAVE HOLDER-Subscriber, City. Was General U. S. Grant ever a slave holder? There is no record that he was.

C. O. WHITEMORE, an attorney of the San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake railroad, is a guest at the Palace.

DR. J. C. McMANUS, of Stockton and V. M. Buech of Indianapolis are among the recent arrivals at the Manx.

FRANK H. RAY, vice president of the American tobacco company, is staying at the Palace with Mrs. Ray.

J. PARKER WHITNEY, capitalist, came down from his ranch near Rocklin yesterday and is at the Palace.