

The San Francisco Call

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In the Good Old Summer Time



"My Wife's Gone to the Country, Hurra! Hurra!"

—CLEVELAND LEADER.

RECOURSE to the federal courts by the United Railroads for an injunction to restrain the city from building the Geary street railway might very well be characterized as a burlesque of litigation.

Take, for example, the pretense that because the city has granted certain franchises for street railways to the United Railroads or its predecessors in interest, these grants imply a right of monopoly in urban transportation with which the municipal body must not meddle.

Again, the United Railroads sets up a claim to ownership of certain defunct franchises covering specified blocks in Geary street. It is elementary law that the life of a street railway franchise is dependent on continuous use, and these franchises, if they ever existed, were forfeited years ago by nonuser.

These contentions, so gravely announced, may serve as a measure of the importance of the suit by way of proof that its single purpose is delay and obstruction. Indeed, the disguise is transparent. The real purpose is disclosed by the Chronicle, which is in the confidence of the corporation and doubtless speaks by authority.

The point of all this is that prudence requires that the expenditure of money for constructing the municipal road and sales of bonds on which we must pay interest should be postponed until these legal questions are settled.

The Chronicle is simply working in with the purpose of the corporation. It does not follow that if the district court refuses to grant an injunction the work will be delayed after that by the mere filing of an appeal. Indeed, there is no legal obstacle to prevent the city from proceeding with the work today, because the court very properly and in accord with the best modern practice refused to grant the injunction on an ex parte showing.

The mere layman might suppose that American courts would become impatient over the abuse of their powers and practice to work obstruction by means of lawsuits based on obvious trivialities. The present suit differs but slightly from that tried in the state courts with the same purpose, but our supreme court, while showing conclusively that the contentions were unworthy of serious consideration, nevertheless dealt leniently with the proponents, who had abused its time and patience.

LITTLE importance is attached by The Call to prevailing rumors that a change in the superintendency of Golden Gate park is in contemplation. John McLaren has made the park what it is, the finest and the most beautiful municipal playground in America.

The people of San Francisco are more proud of Golden Gate park than any other single municipal institution. The tax payers have freely contributed a great many million dollars for its maintenance and equipment and they are well pleased with the investment.

Long and competent service is entitled to recognition, and it would be a crime to make this post, on which so much depends, the prey of hungry politicians.

UNCLE JOE CANNON has gone down into the enemy's country and is raking Kansas before and behind with a fire of doddering profanity. It is a forlorn hope, a desperate venture to gather in votes to keep him in the speaker's chair.

Uncle does not like Senator Bristow, which is the fighting Kansan's good fortune. The talkative old person out of Danville, Ill., in the course of his passionate pilgrimage

through Kansas attempted a reply to Bristow's grave charges against Senators Aldrich and Guggenheim in relation to their part in fixing the rubber schedule in the tariff. This was uncle's reply:

I do not know whether Senator Aldrich and others organized a trust. Being uninformed, I neither deny nor affirm, but if Senator Aldrich, occupying his great position, did organize a trust, then, under the Sherman anti-trust act, provided that trust is engaged in interstate commerce, he is liable not only to severe punishment by fine, but to imprisonment in the penitentiary.

Let me suggest to Mr. Bristow and his constituents that instead of endeavoring to make political capital by misstating official figures and making charges against a brother senator, he had better, as a good citizen, give the information that he professes to have to the appropriate grand jury and to the department of justice for their action in the enforcement of the laws that cover us all.

This, of course, is the merest political claptrap. The burden of Bristow's charge was that Aldrich and Guggenheim used their senatorial office to fix the duties on a commodity in whose manufacture they were directly interested. A congressman should no more use his office to fatten his pocket, directly or indirectly, than should a judge try a case in which he has a pecuniary interest.

Uncle is becoming a sort of melancholy joke.

THE uses of crude oil are already multifarious and seem likely to increase. As a help to the road builder for solidifying surfaces the crude petroleum has proved its efficiency. Its use as fuel for making steam is being extended from day to day and its many and varied properties in this relation receive fresh illustration in practice.

In order to put an end to the fires which annually sweep over the Adirondack forest preserves, the railroads which penetrate the territory might well be compelled to adopt oil as fuel. The supply of this fuel is as convenient of access as coal, and there remains only the changing of the engines to accommodate them to the new conditions.

Fuel oil does not throw off sparks and cinders from the smoke-stack of the locomotive and therefore its use on the railroads of the west should be prescribed for all forest regions or where the roads pass through fields of growing grain. The supply of oil from the California fields appears to be practically unlimited and assured. Its economy as fuel has long ago been demonstrated.

JAPAN is framing a new tariff by which it is proposed to make a radical increase of duties amounting to something like 400 per cent. No concessions from these schedules can be given to the United States because our tariff specifically forbids reciprocity. Japan proposes to give us a dose of our own medicine, and we have no kick coming.

But England is different. Being a free trade country, Japanese products are mostly admitted free of duty and English traders feel that this fact entitles them to more consideration than they appear likely to get from Japan. Count Komura said to the diet:

"As Great Britain is pursuing, as you are aware, what is called a free trade policy, there is no room for a convention with that country." When Komura said there was "no room" for concessions he doubtless meant that there was no necessity. There is plenty of room in 400 per cent if the Japanese were disposed to lay stress on the liberal treatment accorded them by their ally.

In consequence of this policy of the Japanese government there is much mental disturbance among the Britishers and the question is suggested, how long will the Anglo-Japanese alliance stand the strain of relations in which one party gives everything and gets nothing in return?

GIFFORD PINCHOT in an interview printed in The Call declares that there is a "joker" in the recently enacted conservation law providing for the withdrawal of water power sites. He declares that the act permits locators to file on sites of this character on the pretense that they are mineral lands.

The same device was extensively employed some years ago to acquire great bodies of timber land in Butte, Plumas and other Sierra counties under pretense that they were placer claims. We believe the government is still in litigation to recover title to these fraudulent locations.

The law should put no obstacle in the way of legitimate mining development, but the acquisition of other kinds of property, like timber rights and water powers, by a trick of this sort should not only be made impossible, but where attempted should be punishable as crime.

It is the unfortunate fact that the best and the most available water powers in California have already been seized under color of law and without compensation, but certain important rights of this character are still protected by the government reserves. The effort to grab these by hook or by crook is constant, and the utmost vigilance is required to defeat the schemers. With a secretary of the interior in whom the people have no confidence this vigilance should be redoubled.

S. P. TO RUN NEW STEAMER

River Boat Seminole to Be Put on the Run to Sacramento

WITHIN the next two months the Southern Pacific will place in operation the river steamer Seminole, which is scheduled to run alternately with the Navajo, now running between this city and Sacramento.

The business of the Navajo has grown to such an extent, said F. E. Baiture, assistant general passenger agent, yesterday, "that the new steamer cannot be placed in operation too soon. Every night at Sacramento there are several who can not get accommodations on the Navajo. A similar condition prevails in this city in the morning."

The Pennsylvania's voluntary relief department will have a pension branch. The plan provides that each member shall contribute 2 cents a day in addition to dues to insure a pension of \$25 a month voluntary at 60 years, after 20 years' service, and compulsory at 70 years. If there is enough money \$5 a month will be added to the pension every three years.

John A. Gill, the newly appointed traveling freight and passenger agent of the Southern Pacific at Reno, left last night to begin his new duties.

E. A. Waters, general right of way and tax agent of the San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake, whose headquarters are in Los Angeles, was in the city yesterday attending to business for his company.

In addition to the sale date already announced for the colonist tickets the Santa Fe will sell colonist tickets August 25 to September 9 inclusive. This is in addition to September 15 to October 15. The same rates and privileges for colonist tickets sold last spring will prevail. Immigrant tickets for use of passengers from New York will be sold at Atlantic ports one day in advance of the sale dates announced. Stopovers will be allowed and the final limit will be October 31.

H. E. Henneberry, formerly connected with the Southern Pacific, Los Angeles, has been appointed chief clerk in charge of passenger accounts in the auditor's office of the Western Pacific.

C. L. McManus, joint freight agent of the Santa Fe and Rock Island at Dallas, has resigned to become general agent at Brownsville, the St. Louis, Brownsville and Mexico, and superintendent of the Rio Grande, a 22 mile road running between Brownsville and Point Isabel.

By building only about 12 miles of track from Mojave and Keeler the Southern Pacific will establish a line from Ogden to Los Angeles. While published maps of the company showed this to have been done, the new work mentioned is not yet finished, and will not be immediately.

What the real object is has not been disclosed, but it is supposed to be to shorten the haul on fruit and other southern California products to the east and other freight from the east to the coast district mentioned, thus escaping the Truckee summit. The distance from Ogden to Los Angeles via Hazen, Nev., and Keeler will be 965 miles, while the line via Sacramento is several hundred miles longer and includes the climb over the Truckee summit. The Keeler cutoff is susceptible of a further reduction to 950 miles by additional shortening of the lines.

This new development has been kept very quiet and public knowledge for the work avoided. Now that it is approaching completion it attracts much attention in railroad circles and the opinion obtained that some new and sharp competition will follow.

Colonel George R. Thompson, city passenger and ticket agent for the Pennsylvania lines at Houston and Galveston, has been appointed to a similar position with the Vandalia line at East St. Louis. The territory of which he has had charge has been added to that of C. A. Baird of San Antonio.



THERE have been periodical rumors of the engagement of the charming Stockton belle who is a frequent visitor to this city. The list of her admirers includes dashing officers of both army and navy, a turned down real estate man and a son of wealthy parents. The last report came from her home town, where she completely captivated a man who spent several weeks in Stockton producing a most successful and enjoyable kirmess.

He was a dashing youth, with innumerable parlor tricks, suave, magnetic, polished and handsome, and seemed to possess every attribute dear to the susceptible feminine heart.

As Prince Daniel in the kirmess version of "The Merry Widow" he was most graceful and danced "divinely." One night an exclusive party of eight planned to have supper at Madden's cafe and declined a cordial invitation extended by the kirmess leader.

His orders were promptly filled and the repast finished. After exchanging some few pleasantries he and his guests bade the others good night and left the cafe. The group of congenial friends lingered a while longer, during which time the man of the hour was more generously discussed than he was a few moments later, when the check for 18 suppers was presented to and paid by the party that was not only exclusive but "stung."

The entertainments at the summer homes form the most important part of the social program these days. The parties given in the country have a delightful informality about them. Mrs. Charles Crocker has been entertaining in an impromptu way at her Belvedere home during the week for her cousin, Miss Steadman, who is a visitor from the east. Miss Steadman will be entertained in town at some of the later parties of the season.

The first meeting of the directors of the St. Francis musical art society was held this week and plans are being made for a series of master concerts. The announcements for the various entertainments will be made at a later date. Those who are guiding the organization to social and artistic success are Templeton Crocker, William Lewis Gerstle, J. Downey Harvey, Robert M. Eyre and George A. Newhall.

Rev. Bradford Leavitt and his family are in the southern part of the state. They are enjoying an outing at the Catalina islands, where they will remain for a few weeks longer before returning to their home in this city.

The officers at the Presidio will entertain at an informal hop Friday evening in the clubrooms. The hop will probably be the last for several weeks, as the officers of the post will be away for the maneuvers at Atascadero in October. Those who will have the direction of the party Friday are Captain John Burke Murphy, Lieutenant G. E. Goodrich and Lieutenant Harry Pfeil.

Miss Laura Bates is going east next month, and her friends are entertaining for her at a series of informal parties in San Rafael. Miss Bates will be a visitor in New York and Boston during the greater part of her stay. While in the latter city she will be entertained by Mrs. Philip Young, who was Miss Ella Bender.

Miss Dora Winn is at Roswell with her grandmother, Mrs. George C. Boardman. She has been entertaining her young friends at a series of house parties since her return from abroad. Miss Winn will be one of the winter buds. Among the visitors at her home this week has been Miss Isabel Beaver.

Miss Elizabeth Symms Rowan, the charming daughter of Major and Mrs. A. S. Rowan, has returned from the Yosemite, and is again at her home in Vallejo street.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. Young have been enjoying a series of brief trips out of town, but are at their home in Vallejo street this month. Lieutenant Geo. Ruhlen Jr. and his bride, who was Miss Emma Turner, are passing their honeymoon in the southern part of the state. They will be away from the Presidio for several weeks, as Lieutenant Ruhlen will be engaged next month in mapping duty in the south. They will return, however, to make their home at the Presidio.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES
TROUSERS—D. W. N. City. What will prevent trousers from bagging at the knee? A tailor to whom the question was submitted said: "Turn the trousers wrong side out and attach to the edge of the leg seams just above the knee a silk patch eight inches long and as wide as the width of the garment's leg. This should be sewn along the outer edge of the seams. Turn up again at the right side and press the crease firmly from the top to the bottom of the leg. The silk aids in retaining the crease, permitting the heavy weight to slide freely over the knee when sitting or stooping, thus avoiding the unsightly 'bagging' at the knee."

QUICKSILVER—Subscriber, City. What is the annual product of quicksilver in the United States and its value? According to the Engineering and Mining Journal the latest reports show for 12 months 17,849 flasks, valued at \$805,690, as against 20,932 flasks of the value of \$868,878 during the preceding 12 months.

GOLD—Subscriber, Cal. What was the approximate distribution of the product of gold in California and Colorado in 1909, 1907 and 1905? California—\$18,832,900; \$16,853,500; \$13,229,700. Colorado—\$22,934,400; \$20,897,600; \$22,871,000.

CHOPIN—S. City. Chopin, the name of the composer of the well known funeral march, sounds French. Was he a Frenchman? He was of French descent. He was born in Jellaszovay-Voll, a village near Warsaw, Poland. His father was a native of Nancy, France; his mother was Justine Kryzanowska, a native of Poland.

JURISPRUDENCE—P. F. City. From what country have we taken our general principles of jurisprudence, and why? From continental Europe. Because the science of law was known there long before the days of the United States.

LIND—W. K. O. City. When and where was Henry Lind, the singer, born, and when and where did she die? She was born in Stockholm, Sweden, February 3, 1820. She died November 2, 1887, at Malvern, Eng.

MINES—H. F. City. Who can furnish me data on the output of the different mines on the Comstock and the aggregate of dividends up to January 1, 1907? Communicate with the secretary of the San Francisco stock exchange.

EXCHANGE—J. X. Alameda. Want to exchange an Alameda home for a well stocked chicken ranch near Petaluma. Which is the best way to go about it? Advertise in The Call.

GREATEST GOLD—Subscriber, City. Which is the greatest gold climate on record? Yakoutsk, Siberia, where the thermometer went to 73 below zero.

PULLMANS—Sub. City. What is the weight of a 60 ton Pullman car? About 60 tons, without passengers.

PERSONS IN THE NEWS

A. M. MACKAY and J. H. Halley of Dundee, Scotland, and Mando MacKenzie of Trinidad, Colo., are guests at the Fairmont.

W. H. F. HILL, who is interested in an electric light and power company at Monterey, is registered at the Stewart.

CHARLES E. GREGG, an oil operator whose home is in Portland, is at the St. Francis with Mrs. Gregg.

GIFFORD PINCHOT, former chief forester of the United States, is staying at the St. Francis.

FENTRESS HILL, who is interested in an irrigation project at Willows, is a guest at the Palace.

COURTLAND BROWN, a real estate operator of Los Angeles, is at the Palace with Mrs. Brown.

H. F. ROSE of New York, who is interested in farming in the west, is at the Manx with Mrs. Rose.

R. H. CHANNING JR., a mining engineer of New York, is at the Fairmont with Mrs. Channing.

F. S. MURPHY, a lumberman of Salt Lake, is among the recent arrivals at the St. Francis.

RALPH KEINS, a banker of Santa Cruz, is among the recent arrivals at the St. Francis.

THOMAS BERRY, an attorney of Los Angeles, is among the recent arrivals at the Palace.

DONALD BARKER, an attorney of Los Angeles, is staying at the Palace for a few days.

DR. J. W. JANCK and Mrs. Janck of Los Angeles are guests at the St. Francis.

LOUIS BREUNER, a furnitureman of Sacramento, is a guest at the St. Francis.

L. P. ST. CLAIR, an oil operator of Bakersfield, is registered at the Stewart.

HAROLD A. WORCESTER of Los Angeles, a businessman, is staying at the Manx.

J. M. McLEOD, a businessman of Los Angeles, is staying at the Palace.

C. K. KIRBY JR., an architect of Fresno, is staying at the Palace.

C. T. BOYNTON of Chicago is at the Fairmont with his son.

CHESTER ROWELL of Fresno is a guest at the Palace.