

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

Terms by Mail, for UNITED STATES, including Postage (Cash With Order):
DAILY CALL (including Sunday), 1 Year... \$3.00

Entered at the United States Postoffice as Second Class Matter
ALL POSTMASTERS ARE AUTHORIZED TO RECEIVE SUBSCRIPTIONS
Sample Copies Will Be Forwarded When Requested

THE people of Los Angeles and the great region south of the Tehachapi pass may be congratulated on their high public spirit and their freedom from sectional prejudices, as disclosed by the results of the recent primary, and at the same time acknowledgment should be made that, on a purely sectional basis, northern and central California got more than their due share of the good things in the way of nominations. The Call would have rejoiced in a more equitable division than that which gives southern California the nomination for only one important office.

Southern California's Part in the Primary

The liberal support given by Los Angeles and other southern cities to Hiram Johnson was unmistakably inspired by principle, with the fullest disregard for local prejudices. The issue in this shape was put flat footed before the voters of the south by means of appeals to support Stanton on the single ground that he was a citizen of that section. This was about the only argument which the Los Angeles Times was able to dig up in the way of ground for supporting Stanton. The results show how little these appeals were regarded.

While The Call admits that a more equitable division of prizes in a geographical way would be desirable, we are not blind to the fact that the figures are eloquent of an improved solidarity for the whole commonwealth, one and indivisible. It is true that certain busybodies have in the past labored to create some sectional feeling between north and south, but these have had their convincing answer in the figures of the first direct primary and the first free expression of republican sentiment in California.

We wish our southern friends better luck next time in the apportionment of political plums, and while the nomination for lieutenant governor is a quite inadequate recognition of their claims, they may be able to find some compensation in the fact that the great office of United States senator seems to be assured for some one or other of the candidates from that region. In the meantime northern California offers to southern California assurances of the highest consideration and respect inspired by the generous public spirit and self-denial demonstrated by the returns.

REPRESENTATIVE HUMPHREY of Washington calls attention to a remarkable report of a British royal commission disclosing the existence of foreign "shipping rings," which discriminate grossly against the products of American industry and create a condition which, as Mr. Humphrey says, "is costing our country, directly and indirectly, hundreds of millions of dollars every year. It is a drain on our vitality and our resources that is sooner or later going to result in the greatest injury to the nation."

A Bill Directed at Foreign "Shipping Rings"

Mr. Humphrey states the existing situation in these words: Today 90 per cent of our foreign trade, amounting to \$3,500,000,000 annually, is carried by foreign ships belonging to conferences, pools and combines. Between these ships there is no competition. They fix freight rates by agreement. They combine to destroy any line outside of the conference. They give special rates and other advantages to the Standard oil company, the steel trust and the harvester combine. The rate that every passenger must pay and the rate that every pound of freight must pay between here and Europe and between here and South America is fixed in advance in Jena, Germany. This foreign ship combine is the most gigantic trust in the world. The commerce of the United States is absolutely at its mercy.

Mr. Humphrey asks for the appointment of a joint committee to investigate this subject and report whether the action of these foreign combines is in violation of our treaties and our laws. He believes that the conditions are such as to call for legislation in the way of retaliation. In his opinion congress should impose discriminating duties on goods imported in foreign ships belonging to combines that grant rebates or special privileges.

Mr. Humphrey is the author of a bill to impose a discriminating duty of 10 per cent ad valorem on goods imported in ships belonging to such combinations, and it may be said that if some such measure can be adopted without violation of existing treaties it is right in line with the character of all modern legislation designed to regulate trusts and combinations in restraint of trade.

THE important fact developed by the census returns so far made public is that the relative gain in urban population has continued in a marked way during the last decade. It may be that some of this increase of city populations is in a sense fictitious because due to annexations of suburban territory, and we can not on the face of the partial returns decide how far this cause may have operated to swell figures. The urban percentage at each of the past censuses was as follows:

Cost of Living and the Census

Table with 2 columns: Year and Urban Percentage. Data points: 1790 (12.5%), 1800 (16.1%), 1810 (20.9%), 1820 (22.6%), 1830 (29.2%), 1840 (38.1%).

In the census of this year, as far as reported, Atlanta shows an increased percentage of 72.3 and Detroit 63. These are the highest figures in a report covering fifteen cities, ranging from St. Louis with 687,029 population to Syracuse with 137,249. These fifteen cities show an average percentage of increase amounting to 34.5, which exceeds any past record. It appears that the tendency is uniform. The population of the whole country is estimated at 93,000,000, a notable increase in ten years, and as a very large part of this gain has gone to the cities it means that the home market for farm products has enormously increased. It is a fact that may serve in some degree to explain the high cost of living in urban communities. It is certain that the notably enhanced prices of food must eventually drive people back to the farm.



It's Here WELCOME!

A PAINFUL solicitude concerning the position that Roosevelt will assume in the course of the coming campaign finds expression in many quarters. It is assumed that he will take an active part, and this seems to be an unavoidable inference from the character of the man. He will always be a partisan in the very forefront of the fray. His present attitude of apparent neutrality as between the warring factions of the republican party must be rather painful to a man of his temperament.

Roosevelt's Declaration for the Progressives

Probably this neutrality is more apparent than real. It seems probable from the known facts that he is acting in concert with the president. It would be difficult otherwise to explain Mr. Taft's radical change of front. The recent semiofficial intimations from Beverly that Mr. Taft had decided to break with the standpaters represented in the persons of Aldrich, Cannon and Ballinger was highly significant and might indicate that this sudden and unexpected change of front was inspired by some powerful outside influence. It is a reasonable theory to attribute this change of policy to Roosevelt's advice.

For the information of the people who have been speculating concerning the colonel's frame of mind we may quote the brief statement issued by himself to explain the use of his name as a candidate for temporary chairman of the New York republican state convention as follows:

To the various persons who asked me whether I would accept the position of temporary chairman of the state convention I said that I would do so only if they were sure, after knowing my attitude, that they desired me, because my speech would be of such a character that it might help if the convention nominated the right kind of man on a clean cut progressive platform; but that it would hurt if neither the right kind of a man were nominated nor the right kind of a platform adopted.

This is the most explicit statement issued by Roosevelt since his return and it puts him in the ranks of the progressives as far as his own state is concerned. The fact that the "old guard," the survivors of Tom Platt's machine, turned him down as far as they were able for the chairmanship of the convention counts for nothing.

It is indicated that the recommendation of the state committee in this regard will be made the occasion of a stiff fight on the floor of the convention, which will take place September 27. In the meantime Roosevelt is coming west and will speak for himself at a number of important public functions.

STRANGE epidemic of threatening letters has broken out immediately following the shooting of Mayor Gaynor in New York, and these missives are mostly directed at public officials.

The other day the district attorney of San Diego got four of these letters in one mail, threatening him with death if he proceeded in an arson case set for trial in that county. In a similar way a New York newspaper gives these particulars:

Since the shooting of Mayor Gaynor more than the usual number of threatening letters have been received by men in public life, and today several judges and members of the district attorney's staff were warned that a death sentence had been passed upon them; while at Albany the secretary of state, Samuel S. Koenig, had a similar communication. The day after the attempt on Gaynor's life William H. Edwards, commissioner of street cleaning, who was wounded while struggling with the assailant, Gallagher, was notified that he would soon be the victim of an attack.

It is an old saying that "threatened men live long," and it may easily be that letters of this character carry slight significance except as evidence that the writers are unbalanced or merely spiteful. They are comparatively safe because of the difficulty of detection, and the mere fact that they are sent is proof of a cowardly spirit, not at all likely to take shape in positive action.

It is a curious fact that the San Diego threatening letters were mailed at four different points in the state. They have been placed in the hands of the postoffice department for investigation under the federal laws, which provide severe penalties for such offenses.

Non-Conservation A traveler on the country roads of central Vermont is impressed by the large number of signs which prohibit hunting and fishing on the premises. One farmer, however, introduced a pleasing variety by the following notice:

HUNT, FISH, AND BE D— IF YOU GET ANYTHING YOU WILL DO BETTER THAN I CAN. JOHN SMITH.

The Magazine Ads "Why, Auntie, have the magazines upset you?" "Well, I've got through the advertisements, and I feel exactly as if I had been to a party where all the men came in their underclothes and the ladies wore only corsets."—Life.

A Gentle Hint Pass on, young man, if the girl keeps her fingers between the pages of the book when you stop to tell her about yourself.—Chicago Record-Herald.

The Insider

Tells How a Well Known Novelist and Playwright While Visiting the Ruins of His Childhood Home in This City Was Mistaken for a Lunatic.

Human Interest Drama Witnessed A LITTLE "human interest" drama was enacted on a vacant lot in Pine street between Jones and Leavenworth a day or two ago. A man whose graying hair suggested that he might not be altogether as young as his sprightly step would indicate climbed up the embankment and crawled about the ruins of the home known for so many years before the 1906 disaster as "the old Rice house."

Each nook that remained brought a flood of memories. At length he turned from the site of the house and carefully followed the broken cement walk that once ran through the garden. The neighbors saw him retrace his steps back and forth many times. Finally he laid off his coat and went down upon his knees. With a penknife he dug at the broken cement feverishly. He noted that he was being watched from neighboring windows, but he paid no heed. At length a man climbed up the embankment and asked him what he was looking for.

"Looking for a nickel," replied the man who wrote "In the Forest." "All right," said the new comer, soothingly. "Here's a nickel. Now run along and root somewhere else. My wife is keeping the children in the house because she thinks you may be crazy."

In the interests of neighborhood peace Foster got up, dusted his knees and departed. But he was not crazy and he was not facetious in his reply to the questioner. He was merely hunting with all the zest of a man who would bring back his boyhood for a 5 cent piece which he and Charlie Fair planted in the soft cement of that garden walk when it was freshly laid 36 years ago.

Maximilian Foster is the son of William Hammond Foster, the first president of the Pacific Union club. It was the Union club in those days, patterned after the rich and exclusive Union club in New York. Foster pere, who died in 1876, was a partner in the old time firm of Russell & Co. For a long time after it opened the family lived at the Palace hotel. Then they moved to the Rice house in Pine street, and had for next door neighbors the family of James G. Fair. The children of the neighborhood were Charlie Fair and his sisters, Tessie and Birdie, now Mrs. Oelrichs and Mrs. Vanderbilt; Katherine Best, now Katherine Gray, the actress; Bruce Palmer, Milton Jones, Latham MacMullen and others. Max Foster and his brother, Reginald, shared inventive honors with Charlie Fair in constructing the first "shoot the chutes" the city ever saw. Jones street between California and Pine was too steep for any sort of traffic. The wooden sidewalk was too hard a climb for any but the athletic and its little used boards remained smooth and even.

The Foster boys and young Fair obtained great quantities of axle grease and coated that wooden sidewalk with the stuff. Then they hauled their sleds up to California street, got astride them and cast off for the wildest ride ever known. They often swept across Pine street and half way down the ungreased next block. One day a gentleman, wearing the tall straight brimmed silk hat of the time, and a lady in a wonderful balloonlike silk dress emerged from one of the mansions in California street and thoughtlessly started down the Jones street sidewalk. They stepped upon the greased boards, and in an instant the man was echoing the woman's cries as they slid, shot and rolled all the way down into Pine street. The wonderful clothes were ruined, but that was nothing compared to the damage to the tempers of the victims. "That unfortunate accident cost our fathers dear," said Max Foster, as he stood looking at the place the other day, "and it put the best slide in the world out of business."

Playmates to Star in Foster's New Play Maximilian Foster ranks among the strongest of the progressive writers of the east. His two novels, "In the Forest" and "Corrie Who?" have circulated widely. He is the author of several successful plays, and, by a pretty coincidence, Katherine Gray, the playfellow of his childhood, is now preparing to star in his new play, "The Whirlpool."

ANSWERS TO QUERIES

- PRESIDENT—Subscriber, City. May the president of the United States go outside of the jurisdiction of the union during the time that he is in office?
There is nothing in the laws that prevents him from so doing. While on his recent tour President Taft called on President Diaz in Mexico and President Diaz met President Taft in Texas.
CONDOLENCE—Mourner. When should cards or notes of condolence be acknowledged? Should the receipt of flowers sent for a funeral be acknowledged?
Cards or notes of condolence should be acknowledged in all cases by sending your visiting card in mourning and on the face of which should be written "With grateful appreciation of your sympathy." Courtesy requires notes to friends who send flowers.
LODINE STAINS—A. Fort Bragg. What will remove lodine stains from crochec lace?
It is said that rectified spirits will remove such stains.
CROWD—B. E. F. City. What is the record attendance at any base ball game in the United States?
Forty thousand, Philadelphia, October 1, 1858.
CEMENT WALK—W. H. Y. Centerville. How should a first class cement sidewalk be laid? What proportion of cement, gravel or broken rock and sand should be used?
The School of Mines lays down the following rule: "After the ground has been graded, a frame is made of 2x4 or 1x4, held in place by stakes driven outside, the distance between these being the width of the walk. The material

PERSONS IN THE NEWS

- JOHN H. MARBLE, an attorney connected with the interstate commerce commission, arrived yesterday to investigate the work of the special accountants of the commission who are going over the books of the Southern Pacific to see what effect the passing of new rates would have on the tonnage of the road during October of 1909 and January, April and June of this year.
E. F. BLAINE, an attorney of Seattle, and William Platt, a merchant of the same city, are guests at the Palace. They will be members of the associated chambers of commerce party that will visit the orient.
HARRY I. MILLER, John D. Thompson and Alexander H. Rutherford of New York make up a party staying at the St. Francis. Rutherford is a stock broker and is the stepson of the late George Crocker.
L. K. PASSMORE, vice president of the William Penn mutual insurance company, is at the St. Francis with Mrs. Passmore. They are registered from Philadelphia.
J. J. HAYRAHAN of Los Angeles, George F. Howell of Pasadena and Morley M. Maddox of Visalia are among the recent arrivals at the Manx.
W. C. de LANOY of Short Hills, N. J., Mrs. de Lanoy and Mrs. John Hussey of Santa Barbara have apartments at the St. Francis.
GEORGE PFAFF of Coalinga and N. Redman of Oil Point, oil operators are among the recent arrivals at the Argonaut.
E. P. BOBSYHELL, a manufacturer of farming implements at Los Angeles, is staying at the Palace with Mrs. Bobsyshell.
GEORGE AVERILL, president of the Coos Bay railroad company, Coos bay, is at the Dale.
CAPTAIN S. SANBERG of the steamship Korea is among the recent arrivals at the Manx.
R. C. BIRD, a cattleman from Merced, is at the Stanford.

L. N. BOND, prosecuting attorney of Chico, arrived in the city yesterday and registered at the Palace. He has recently been made colonel of the second regiment of the national guard.
DR. ROBERT JOHNSON, proprietor of a large paper and pulp factory at Eureka, is staying at the Argonaut.
DR. AND MRS. J. M. FLINT of New Haven are touring the state, the guests of Mrs. Photo Hearst. They have apartments at the Fairmont.
CAPTAIN S. M. BREWSTER of the U. S. marine corps is a guest at the Stewart.
T. WHEELER, a banker from Butte, Mont., is at the Turpin with Mrs. Wheeler.
A. H. BRAUER, a businessman of New York, is registered at the Fairmont.
A. L. PEARSE, a mining engineer of London, is registered at the Palace.
O. M. CLARK, a lumberman of Portland, is at the Palace with Mrs. Clark.
G. FISHER, a tourist from Europe, and Mrs. Fisher are at the Colonial.
P. RODRIGUE and Mrs. Rodrigue are at the Colonial from New York.
C. D. HENRY, a banker of Monterey, is registered at the Palace.
D. C. WOOD, a real estate man from Modesto, is at the Stanford.
H. STANLEY, an automobile man from Denver, is at the Belmont.
S. C. WEDERMANN, a capitalist from Gonzales, is at the Turpin.
E. C. WILLIAMS from Los Angeles is at the Belmont.