

THE VARIETY AND VOLUME OF THE THINGS THAT GO INTO SAN FRANCISCO'S CHRISTMAS PIE HAVE BEEN ACCURATELY ESTIMATED. READ ABOUT THEM IN THE SUNDAY CALL.

THE SUNDAY CALL

STATE WEATHER
YESTERDAY—Highest temperature, 66; lowest Sunday night, 47.
FORECAST FOR TODAY—Unsettled weather, with showers; light south wind.

VOLUME CIX.—NO. 20.

SAN FRANCISCO, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1910.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

10 KILLED BY EXPLOSION OF GAS

Heart of Manhattan Island Is Rocked, Cars Overturned and Windows Broken for Blocks

MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED PERSONS BADLY INJURED

Traffic on New York Central Demoralized by Accident in Auxiliary Power Station

RUINS BEING SEARCHED FOR BODIES OF MISSING

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—The heart of Manhattan island was shaken this morning by a terrific explosion of illuminating gas in the auxiliary power house of the Grand Central station. Ten persons, two of them women, were killed, 125 were injured and property was damaged to the extent of \$500,000.

Four workmen, who are missing, are believed to have perished, and of 125 injured 98 were removed to hospitals. Of those, eight may die. An investigation by the police is under way.

Traffic on the New York Central railroad ceased entirely for some hours, and was disorganized for the rest of the day, but the new station, under construction, was not damaged. The dead:

- Nicoll Galucci, laborer.
- Patrick Jordan, laborer.
- E. R. Livermore, Pullman car inspector.
- C. McMahon, laborer.
- Edith Opper, stenographer.
- Mary B. Pope of Boston, Mass.
- Charles Roberts, expressman.
- Frank Stagg, watchman.
- John Ryan, laborer.
- Geater Johnstone, electrician.

The injured include laborers and other employes of the railroad, pedestrians, bystanders and others who were in the vicinity of the accident.

Car Overturned

A passing surface car, carrying seven passengers, was lifted from its tracks and hurled against an automobile running alongside. Four of the seven passengers were killed outright, but the chauffeur of the motor car was only cut and bruised.

Of the nearly 100 in hospitals the following are the most seriously injured:

- Unidentified woman, fractured skull.
- Michael Ryan, fractured skull and internal injuries.
- Yetta Abrahamson, fractured skull and internal injuries.
- Theresa Lotta, fractured skull and shoulder.
- John Smith, injuries to the head.
- Francis Kelly, policeman, burned and bruised.
- John Cunningham, burned.

For some hours it was believed dynamite alone could have wrought such instantaneous and demolishing havoc, but late in the afternoon Fire Chief Croker said he was convinced the explosion was due to a mixture of air and illuminating gas, used in lighting railroad cars, being touched off by an electric spark. The gas had accumulated in the auxiliary power house from a broken pipe snapped off by a runaway passenger car.

The force of the explosion ran north and south from one to two miles along the rocky ridge that is the backbone of the island, and east and west laterally for a mile.

Foundations Jarred

Foundations were jarred, walls were shaken out of plumb, windows were blown in by the thousands, ceilings came crashing down on the heads of those beneath, and the pavements were littered with pulverized glass.

The full amount of the property damage is yet unavailable and may exceed \$500,000. The loss to the New York Central railroad company includes the physical damage done to the power house, which was wrecked, the delay to construction work and the damage done to cars standing near the power house.

As newly as can be determined this is how the accident occurred:

A train of empty passenger cars, hauled by an electric car, in charge of Albert Seagrout, got out of control, crashed into a steel and concrete buffer post, snapped it off and rammed a pile of lumber behind it into a gas main connecting with the taps from which the tanks of the passenger cars are charged.

By the testimony of the motorman and of John J. Quinn, a brick layer working on the main power house adjoining the auxiliary house, the time of the break in the pipe was about 8 o'clock. Two clocks stopped by the jar at the time of the explosion itself at 8:22.

In the interval the broken main had ample time to pour high pressure gas

Rich Men See Dance That Has Salome Beaten

[Special Dispatch to The Call]

CHICAGO, Dec. 19.—The Chicago police today began an investigation of a stag dance which, when the facts become known, may rival the Seeley affair in New York some years ago. Fifty-seven wealthy steelmen came to Chicago Saturday night to attend the dinner dance at the Stratford hotel, and much explaining is being done since the facts of the dance and the names of those present became known today.

One of the superintendents who recently went to Gary from Pittsburgh declared the exhibition was as peppy as anything of similar character ever held in the Duquesne club in the Smoky City. Some of the more prominent men who attended the banquet are: Harry Thomas, William Geseman, Cyrus Howell, John Kirk, W. B. Cogshell, W. P. Gleason, E. L. Bowser, J. Thorpe, Frank Moore, A. M. Roberts, L. W. McNamee, William Bigelow, James Conslidine, R. W. Douglas, Robert Gross, Doctor Miltmore and J. W. Wilson.

Others declared the affair full of spice and that the dance had the banished Salome beaten. Chief Steward and his censors were hot on the trail today and tonight.

BASSITY HAS EAR AT HEADQUARTERS

"Jerry's" Sister Supplants the Mother of Six Children Who Was Telephone Operator

To make way for a sister of Jerome Bassity at the strategic position of the telephone exchange board of the police department, the police commissioners have removed Mrs. Jennie P. Fitzgerald as an operator. Mrs. Margaret Alyward, sister of Bassity, has been appointed in Mrs. Fitzgerald's place, and Mrs. Fitzgerald has been reduced from the position of regular telephone operator at \$65 a month to that of a relief operator at \$30. The change was ordered December 2.

While no cause was assigned for Mrs. Fitzgerald's removal and no complaints were made against her for any neglect or errors, it is understood that the predecessor of Jerome Bassity's kinswoman was too conscientious in the performance of her confidential duties.

Bassity is closely knit with the ball bond exchange of McDonough Brothers. In fact, he is the Barbary coast representative of the Eddy street saloonmen. Bassity is the keeper of several notorious resorts on the "coast" and is closely affiliated with the interests of McDonough Brothers. McDonough Brothers are in the business of selling ball bonds, as well as selling liquors.

It is of particular interest to them to have a "leak" on the police department telephone, so that they may learn of the arrest of persons who might become their clients for ball bonds.

It is also of strategic importance to Bassity, McDonough Brothers and their allies in gambling and other vicious business to be informed of the movements of the police, of intended raids and arrests. Mrs. Fitzgerald always refused consistently to divulge any information of a confidential nature to any one. She recently refused to permit a policeman to listen on the wires at her telephone board. Since that time she has suffered annoyance both from officers and men in the police department and from men and women outside of the department.

Derated for Honesty

This conscientious performance of her duty marked Mrs. Fitzgerald for deprecation. She was appointed to the department in February, and when it became known that she intended to treat her position as a confidential one she immediately became open to the attacks of those who needed secret information in their business. Several efforts were previously made to have her removed from her position. Mayor McCarthy received letters and personal visits from persons who wanted Mrs. Fitzgerald removed. The position is not protected by civil service, and when the commissioners were ready to act they had no difficulty in derating the woman.

Is Mother of Six

Mrs. Fitzgerald is the mother of six children. She lives at 54 Linden avenue. One of her children is very ill. She can not afford to maintain them and meet the normal household expenses, let alone doctors' bills, on \$30 a month.

But it was important to Jerome Bassity and McDonough brothers that a woman who frustrated their plans to secure secret police information should be out of the way. Mrs. Margaret J. Alyward, sister of Bassity, was put in her place.

The police commissioners have been busy deciding women employes of the department. They sought to abolish the position held by Miss Conway, secretary of the police pension board, but Mayor McCarthy ordered her reinstated.

FAIR SMOKERS TO FIND SOLACE AT ST. FRANCIS

Quarters for Women Devotees of Milady Nicotine to Be Installed

Hotel Management Just Had to Come to It, Demand Was So Insistent

The St. Francis is to have a smoking room for women. While definite plans have not yet been prepared nor approved, the matter has been under consideration the past year and it is but a question of time, the management has decided, before the innovation will be adopted. The demand for such a room already has become pressing in this city, the more so as in nearly all the leading hotels and women's clubs in New York the old restrictions have been discarded and women are permitted to smoke with the same freedom as men.

In the Palace and other local hotels the objections against women smoking in the lobbies have been waived, and the privilege has been granted those of the fair sex who desire to embrace it. But no other local hotel has yet taken up the question of providing special accommodations for women smokers in satisfactory surroundings, with all the newest patented arrangements and up-to-date comforts in the smoking line.

The Francesca club has long had such a place, to which smoking is restricted—this so as not to offend the more straitlaced members of the organization, which see no similarity between the new fad and the fact that two generations ago many women smoked corncob pipes without attracting unpleasant criticism. The smoking habit here is daily growing. A cigarette is sandwiched in between stores on a busy shopping morning, and those who would never, never do it in public think nothing of taking a quiet smoke as a means of soothing their nerves privately between times in their strenuous lives.

Grave Problems Arise

The St. Francis smoking room, if it ever becomes an accomplished fact, will be joyfully welcomed by many of the social elect. The chief obstacle encountered by the management in working out the plan is the fear that the room would become too popular and that many out of the pale of the real exclusives might learn to seek its peace and rest for their little smoke on the side. There are many, however, who would not smoke in the lobby, under any consideration, and who now seek refuge in the privacy of their friends' apartments or the women's dressing room to satisfy their craving for the weed, and it is for these that the smoking room will become a real boon.

"We've simply got to come to it," declared Assistant Manager E. O. Childs of the St. Francis yesterday. "The demand has become so great that we must respond."

Mrs. Robert Louis Stevenson set the style three or more years ago at the Potter in Santa Barbara, a style which other society women were not slow in emulating. Her daughter, Mrs. Isabel Strong, is a smoker, as is also her greatest friend, Mrs. Frank Preston.

Smoke Adds to Charms

Mrs. Vesta Shortridge Bruggler is another smoker among the members of the local smart set. She looks her cutest with her head tilted back amidst a cloud of cigarette smoke and with an Egyptian between her lips. Mrs. C. O. Alexander likes an occasional cigarette, but only in the privacy of her own or her friends' homes. And in this she is the opposite of Mrs. Jimmy Robson, who smokes for the sake of smoking. Countess de Lande, the former Miss May Parrott, was one of the first of the local aristocracy to introduce the habit in California. She picked up the fad in Paris shortly after her marriage and has been a prominent smoker since. Many of her girlhood friends in this city and Burlingame were at first horrified at the idea, but many of these have since learned to follow her example and revel in it.

Burlingame, Too

Mrs. Gertrude Atherton is another of the smokers who hail from California, and a number of the Burlingame set are said to have a brand of their own that is delicious. In the list of those who would find a woman's smoking room in a first class hotel a convenience is a host of other matrons and maids in the inner circle of circles. Of late the habit has been spreading from the ranks of the wealthy to those of the merely comfortable.

So firm a foothold has tobacco already obtained among women that the jewelry houses of this city are experiencing a run on cigarette cases of a convenient size to carry with the chateleine bag. The biggest demand of the season on any one line of goods is on such cases, as they make attractive Christmas gifts.

UPRISING IN CHINA IS NOT FEARED BY BISHOP

People Are Impoverished, but Show No Signs of Violence

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—The Catholic missionaries in Shantung province are confident there is no danger of an uprising against foreigners in that part of China. The American consul at Tsing Tau reports to the state department that Bishop Henningsbus, whose jurisdiction covers all of Shantung, says his missionaries find no evidence of growing enmity toward foreigners. These same priests were informed in advance of the great Boxer uprising in 1900. The natives are impoverished, but they are quiet and industrious.

CIGARETTE ROOM PROMISED SOCIETY WOMEN ARE HAPPY

Two well known women who are among the devotees of My Lady Nicotine.



RAILROAD IS ASKED TO DIVIDE PROFITS

Basis for Renewal of Seventh Street Franchise Is Proposed

OAKLAND, Dec. 19.—Division of the profits on the Seventh street Southern Pacific line between the city and the railroad was proposed this evening by President B. H. Pendleton of the city council on a basis for renewing the franchise for the Seventh street line between Fallon street and the bay shore. The company is applying for a 25 year renewal of the franchise for an electric line.

Pendleton's purpose is to establish in this city a precedent for adequate payment for all franchises for the use of streets. Street car franchises are now subject, under the state law, to a rental of 2 per cent of the gross receipts annually. Pendleton seeks to make the principle more broadly applicable in Oakland by procuring from the Seventh street franchise a greater percentage of profit to the municipality.

His proposal contemplates a modification of the Chicago plan, where profits are divided between the city and the companies on a basis of 55 per cent to the city and 45 per cent to the companies.

The decision of net receipts on the street line of the city and the company was discussed by the council at an adjourned meeting Wednesday evening, December 28. Pendleton was requested tonight to suggest terms of agreement to be written into the franchise.

Into the calculations he will take the \$200,000 which the Southern Pacific has promised the city for the Seventh street property owners to spend in the pavement of the street. This expenditure will be deducted from the receipts, as will the operating expenses. The net receipts will then be divided between the city and the company on a percentage to be agreed upon.

To prepare the details of this arrangement Pendleton has obtained from the Southern Pacific the necessary data relating to the expenses and earnings from the line. The company has submitted all such information demanded. This data includes the investment in the ferry steamers, given with depreciation computed, at \$310,933; total cost of operation of ferry steamers, \$184,826 for one year; gross receipts of all ticket sales to and from San Francisco, \$1,258,646.

The company reported the gross receipts from the six stations on the Seventh street line for one year, from November 1, 1909, to October 31, 1910, at \$182,188.

The ticket sale in San Francisco for points on the Seventh street line is estimated at \$158,350, which will be credited to the gross income of the line.

METAL WORKERS LOSE STRIKE AGAINST ROAD

Missouri-Pacific Gains Victory Over Union Labor

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 19.—The striking machinists, blacksmiths, boiler makers and sheet metal workers of the Missouri Pacific-Iron Mountain system will return to work Wednesday morning, December 21.

A settlement was agreed on tonight between the officials of the company and representatives of the striking employes. According to the statement of General Manager A. W. Sullivan to the Associated Press, the settlement is a complete victory for the company.



BULLOCK INQUEST DEVELOPS CLEW

Witness Will Be Taken Over Ground Where Santa Clara Met His Death

[Special Dispatch to The Call]
SANTA CLARA, Dec. 19.—A sensation was caused at the inquest tonight into the death of Frank Bullock, city engineer of Santa Clara, by the curious action of Mike Fenell, a farmer of Santa Clara. Fenell, who testified through an interpreter, contradicted himself on material points regarding his movements Saturday, the day Bullock met his death. At 11 o'clock tonight the coroner's jury took a recess to enable the authorities to take Fenell over the ground he is said to have covered Saturday and in the vicinity of which Bullock met his death.

Bullock, who was a brother of District Attorney Joseph Bullock of San Mateo county, was found in a dying condition Saturday afternoon at 1 o'clock near the Meridian farmers road. He had been struck with terrible force over the left ear with a blunt instrument. He died at 11 o'clock Saturday night.

The case has been a complete mystery, but the perturbation of the witness Fenell is considered by the authorities to indicate that a solution might soon present itself. District Attorney Bullock is assisting the Santa Clara county officials in the case.

MINER IS SHOT DEAD BY TRAP GUN WHEN HE PUSHES OPEN CABIN DOOR

WEAVERVILLE, Dec. 19.—"Death to anybody who enters this door" was the notice posted on Harry W. Luckock's cabin door at Don Juan point, 65 miles down Trinity river, six weeks ago when Luckock left for parts unknown.

Frank Smith, a miner living near Burnt Ranch postoffice, with two companions, went to Luckock's cabin yesterday to examine a stove. The door was unlocked. As Smith opened it a spring gun, set as a trap, was discharged. The bullet hit Smith in the breast and he dropped dead.

The warning notice was blown down some time ago and, in fact, no one had placed any particular credence in the warning, for Luckock, who was a miner, was a queer character and a recluse. He came to Trinity county a year ago from San Luis Obispo.

Sheriff Boyce left for Don Juan point this morning and will arrest Luckock if he can find him. It is presumed, however, that he has gone to San Luis Obispo. Coroner Wallace is on the way to hold the inquest. Smith was single and 35 years old.

SUPREME PRESIDENT TO BE HONORED GUEST

Young Mens' Institute Will Give Banquet

OAKLAND, Dec. 19.—W. J. Hennessey, superintendent of the Young Men's Institute, will be the guest of honor at a banquet to be given by the Alameda chapter of the order at the Hotel St. Mark Wednesday evening, December 21. Hennessey was elected at the last meeting of the grand council in San Francisco two months ago. He is a member of West Oakland council No. 8.

Among the speakers will be District Attorney Donahue, Rev. J. B. McNally, pastor of St. Patrick's church, and Stanislaus Reilly. A loving cup will be presented by Rev. Father T. J. O'Connell of St. Joseph's church, Alameda, chaplain of the order.



OPERA HERALDED AS MASTERPIECE

Composer Mascagni Plays and Sings "Isabeau" for Gathering of Critics

ROME, Dec. 19.—Pietro Mascagni today gave a presentation of his new opera, "Isabeau," before many musical celebrities, critics and newspaper representatives. Mascagni sat at the piano and sang the entire opera. The spectacle of the maestro thundering over the keyboard, gesticulating, singing all the parts, including the choruses, at times stopping to make explanations, aroused the unbounded enthusiasm of his audience.

The first act lasted 1 hour and 15 minutes and the second act 20 minutes, and the third act 35 minutes. "Isabeau" as judged by its auditors today is Mascagni's masterpiece. The composer was embraced by his admirers and congratulated by every one present.

He and his wife will depart for New York January 5 by way of Cherbourg. The opera will be produced in New York this season.

Crumpacker for San Francisco

Representative Crumpacker of Indiana is one of the congressmen to come out for San Francisco. He said he thought Indiana and Illinois would vote practically a unit for San Francisco.

SCHOOL FRATERNITIES BRANDED UNDEMOCRATIC

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Dec. 19.—The board of education today formally abolished the five fraternities and five societies in the high schools on the ground that "they permit exclusive and undemocratic" class distinctions, fix premature and artificial social standards, detract seriously from the regular work of the school, stimulate extravagant habits and involve a burdensome expense." Fraternities have existed in the Rochester high schools since 1875.

SHERMAN ENTERTAINS AT OFFICIAL DINNER

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—The first of the official dinners of the season to the president and Mrs. Taft was given tonight by the vice president and Mrs. Sherman. Besides the members of the cabinet and Speaker Cannon there were present several out of town guests.

Local Brevities

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE—Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 19.—Booker T. Washington, head of the negro industrial school here, has issued invitations for an international conference to be held at Tuskegee of all persons in America and Europe interested in the education and improvement of the negro race. It is planned to hold this conference in January, 1912.

NO STORK OVER PALACE—London, Dec. 19.—The Chronicle has published an apology for the statement published yesterday that the stork is expected to visit the royal family in March next. The Chronicle says the report is untrue.

BANK CLOSURE—Toronto, Ont., Dec. 19.—The Farmers' bank will head offices in Toronto and 31 branches in various towns and villages throughout Ontario, has suspended payment and the doors will not open tomorrow morning.

CALIFORNIA DECLINES AID FOR FAIR

Exposition Committee Plans a Coup to Take Wind Out of the New Orleans Boosters

KAHN WILL WITHDRAW APPROPRIATION BILL

House Will Be Told That San Francisco Does Not Want One Cent of United States Money

SOUTHERN CITY LIKELY TO SEEK COMPROMISE

[Special Dispatch to The Call]
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 19.—A conference of the exposition committee was held at the Holland House in New York today, attended by President Hale, Governor Gillett, Leon Sloss, Frank L. Brown and Theodore A. Bell. It was decided to ask Representative Kahn to ask unanimous consent in the house tomorrow to withdraw his bill introduced last year, providing for an appropriation of \$5,000,000 for the Panama canal exposition at San Francisco. New Orleans interests have been harping upon this bill, pretending that San Francisco was not in earnest in declaring that it did not want government assistance.

Kahn Will Comply

Benn returned from New York today and had a talk with Kahn. The latter will carry out the program outlined in New York. He will ask the house for permission to withdraw the bill, and will make the statement officially to the house that San Francisco does not ask for nor expect a cent of government money. He will tell congress the financial situation in San Francisco—how the people, the city and state have raised \$17,500,000 and are ready to raise more if necessary to finance the exposition without any appropriation from the government.

This statement will completely take the wind from New Orleans' sails and leave that city in the position of asking for \$1,000,000 from the government as a starter, while its competitor asks for nothing. San Francisco has made great headway in the last few days through publicity and in interviews with congressmen and senators. The New Orleans people are losing heart in the face of the tremendous activity of the Californians and their allies in every state.

"Money talks," said Crumpacker, sentimentally. "San Francisco is ready anxious to hold the fair and pay for it. New Orleans is asking for government assistance. There is a mighty big difference in these positions. I am in favor of San Francisco."

There is some amusement over the attitude of a few congressmen of lesser note who have confidentially advised both San Francisco and New Orleans that they are "for them." These congressmen have committed themselves to both sides, so as to be free to jump upon the winning band wagon. It is not probable that their vote will be decisive in any event, as San Francisco appears to have a large majority. However, at the proper time, these votes will be cast for San Francisco and the congressmen in question will blossom out as the "original San Francisco boosters."

Votes Without Balance

It goes without saying that such men are destitute of influence in the house, since they are hardly able to control their own votes.

The senate has been carefully canvassed by the Californians and their friends, and there is no doubt whatever that San Francisco will have a big majority, when the matter is reached. The senate is ready to vote now, but will not act until the house has voted.

The decision of the rules committee to bring about a vote in the middle of January has greatly disheartened New Orleans. The gulf people hoped to postpone action until next December. Now that they must face the music they are looking about for a soft place to fall, and may try to bring about a compromise so that New Orleans will gain support for a waterways exposition in 1915.

Heretofore the New Orleans boosters have persisted in denying that such a compromise was on foot, but telegrams passing between New Orleans and Washington have been seen and they tell another story.