

The San Francisco Call

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The McEnerney Law Should Be Extended

AMONG other subjects urged on the consideration of the incoming legislature is the proposed extension of the McEnerney act for the restoration of titles to real property in San Francisco made necessary by the fire of 1906, which destroyed the records.

This is an emergency measure whose validity is not yet confirmed by the supreme court of the United States. If the fortunate outcome shall be that the act stands as good law, there appears to be little doubt that its operation should be made to cover the whole state.

One Way to Revive Shipping Industry
vessels on which the ad valorem duty exceeds 41 per cent there should be a reduction of duty of 5 per cent, and on all goods on which the ad valorem duty is 41 per cent or less, or which are nondutiable, the importer should receive an importer's certificate available only for the payment of duties at the custom house and equal in value to 2.05 per cent of the value of the goods so imported.

Assuming that Admiral Bowles has ascertained that his plan does not run counter to the treaty obligations of the nation concerning discriminating duties, it will not be disputed that in all other respects his proposition is in full accord with the well settled American policy of protection.

AN EXTRAORDINARY proposition carrying a certain grim humor is that now seriously mooted for diplomatic action to neutralize the aeroplane as far as offensive tactics are concerned.

Putting the Aeroplane on Its Good Behavior
attack as well as prevented from offending the enemy below, is the plan which has come to light and which will be proposed to the great powers at a very early date.

Clearly, a war conducted on humanitarian principles would be greatly superior to the other kind from the point of view of men on the firing line, but as it would last longer and cost more, some sordid people might object.

THE proposals for amendment of the constitution and laws relating to public service franchises submitted to the legislative conference in this city by City Attorney Long and Francis J. Heney deserve the most careful consideration and a full discussion.

Indeterminate Public Service Franchises
The subject is difficult and complicated, and it is not always easy to foresee what sort of twist may be put by lawyers on experimental legislation.

THE most important and radical of these proposals is that offered by Mr. Heney to empower the grant of indeterminate franchises, reserving the right of the municipal governing body or

Beat It, You 1910!



board of supervisors to take over the property at any time on payment of a price ascertained by the state public service commission, which it is proposed to create.

RAILROAD ROW MAKES NEW VOWS
The Usual New Year Resolution, However, Is Strangely Absent From List

A THOROUGH canvass of railroad row yesterday morning and afternoon in company with an expert stenographer brought out the following new year resolutions:
William F. Schmidt of the Missouri Pacific has resolved not to sing 'Wait Till the Sun Shines, Nellie' during 1911; Sam Booth of the Union Pacific will refrain from making any public speeches; Clyde Colby of the Erie will not try to write poetry during the year; Charley Miles of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul has resolved to have the front window of his office painted black for a height of eight feet; W. H. Sneadaker of the Illinois Central will try to learn how to write '1913'; R. R. Ritchie has made a resolution to smoke no more cigarettes; F. E. Batturs of the Southern Pacific will eat no jelly doughnuts during the year; the telephone operators of the Southern Pacific have made a similar resolution; Billy Webster and Harry Buck of the Pennsylvania will not tell how much the Pennsylvania has paid to its employees in pensions; Roy Holcomb of the Kansas City, Mexico and Orient will not become suspicious of any more pillows; Ray Higgins of the Southern says 'Never again.' Max Podlech of the Santa Fe has made an unusually good resolution—to get a new cane; A. C. Salter of the Southern Pacific will report no wrecks during the year; Joseph Harrison of the Washington Sunset will forget Florida; H. K. Gregory of the Santa Fe will not do any fishing next year; Jim Keller of Baker & Hamilton has promised to quit teaching C. Benjamin Condon, and Condon has promised to send his resolution from St. Louis in a few days; E. Black Ryan has promised to grow no younger during the new year; Moses Stern will take no more dinners on the 'City'; H. P. Answait of the Santa Fe promises to make an extra effort to learn the game of dominoes; E. H. Torpey, president of the Transportation club, has resolved to inspect carefully every item before he allows Editor T. H. Jacobs to insert it in the time card; There are many other resolutions that have been made, but they have not been publicly uttered; T. Augustus Smith and Harry Snyder of the National lines of Mexico will give no interviews during the year regarding the

Letters From the People

RECKLESS AUTO DRIVING
Editor Call: For months this club has called the attention of the police to the reckless speeding of automobile drivers at the junction of Baker and McAllister streets. Although it is an overcrowded corner and is in close proximity to a school, fully 50 per cent of the automobile drivers not only maintain a very high rate of speed, beyond the legal limit, but deliberately cross from the right to the left side of the street in order to save a few feet in their mad career, with the result that painful injuries and sometimes death have been inflicted on pedestrians.

WEST END BETTERMENT CLUB, C. Zwieler, President, L. F. Brown, Secretary, San Francisco, Dec. 30, 1910.

Answers to Queries

MANNA—S. City. What is 'manna,' the food that was supplied the Israelites during their 40 years in the wilderness?
There is the natural and the supernatural manna. The natural is the sweet juice of the tarfa, a kind of sweet tamarisk. It exudes in May from the trunk and branches in hot weather, and forms small white, round grains. It retains its consistency in cold, but melts in warm weather. The Arabs, after boiling and straining it, use it as honey with bread. The color is grayish yellow, and the taste sweet and aromatic. Then there is the supernatural manna from Exodus, from which it appears that it was found not under the tamarisk, but on the surface of the wilderness after the morning dew had disappeared. The quantity gathered in a single day exceeded the present product of a year. It ceased on the Sabbath. Its properties were distinct, it could be ground as meal, it was not a mere condiment, but nutritious as bread.

HIGH EXPLOSIVES—A. I. O. City. What is the power by explosion of what are known as high explosives, such as dynamite, nitroglycerin and others?
From experiments made for the measurement of the force of explosives it was ascertained that the explosion of a ton of dynamite is equal to 48,675, nitroglycerin 54,452, and blasting gelatin 71,050 foot tons. Seventy-one thousand tons of ordinary building stone, if arranged in the form of a cube, would measure only 90 feet on the side, and if it were possible to concentrate the whole force of a ton of blasting gelatin at the moment of explosion on such a mass, the only effect would be to lift it to a height of one foot.

DUES AND TAXES—C. B. F. City. Is it necessary for a civil service employe of the municipality of San Francisco to pay dues in a labor union and pay taxes for other matters?
If he maintains his membership in the union he must pay his dues. If he has any property that is taxable he is not exempt from such taxation.

Persons in the News

- W. M. SHAW, a capitalist of Pasadena, is at the Palace. Shaw was formerly in the lumber business in Maine, but disposed of his interests to make his home in California.
FRANK SHAW of Los Angeles, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Reed of Everett and M. S. Davis of Spokane make up a group of recent arrivals at the Manx.
H. A. RUSSELL, a jeweler of Los Angeles, who makes a specialty of abalone shells, is registered at the Stewart.
JAMES D. HOGE, president of the Savings and Trust company of Seattle, is at the Palace with his family.
M. SCHEELINE, a banker of Reno, is at the Palace with Mrs. Scheeline and Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Clemmons.
JOHN E. BELLAIN, a railroad contractor of Seattle, is at the Palace, registered from Seattle.
S. TATE, general passenger agent of the Western Pacific railroad, of Sacramento is at the Turpin.
GUS LARM, manager of the Hotel Manx, was around yesterday after a sickness of three weeks.
J. W. GODWIN, a commission merchant of Seattle, is among the recent arrivals at the Palace.
W. W. SHANNON, state printer, is down from Sacramento and is staying at the Palace.
H. G. TURNER, a hardware merchant of Modesto, is a guest at the Argonaut.
J. G. ROBERTS, a banker of Madera, is at the Palace with A. W. Heaverlich.
K. KOONS, a capitalist of Seattle, is at the Von Dora.

Uncle Walt The Poet Philosopher

In olden times the bill collector was masculine and loud of tongue, and he would bullyrag and hector until our nerves were all unstrung. His impudence was often ghastly, and when we kicked him from our door, he worried us, and bored us vastly, the way he stood around and swore. Collection day was then a terror, and when it came we'd groan and sigh, and walk the floor, or tear our hair or go looking for a place to die. But times have changed; the world grows better! For now a maiden, fair and bright, comes down upon the smiling debtor, and he coughs up with great delight! The girl collector doesn't bluster or threaten suits by lawyer folk; no man's so cheap that he'd disgust her by telling her that he is broke. So paying bills becomes a pleasure; I like to see the girls come in; I hand them, in a bushel measure, the good old scads that make them grin. Oh, woman—some old bard hath said it—she fills with happiness man's cup! I stand off clerks and strain my credit, just for the joy of paying up!



WALT MASON

The Morning Chit-Chat

THE lady who's always right somehow was explaining to us why a certain acquaintance of ours who is thoroughly moral, a good provider and most kind hearted at bottom, should be a source of much unhappiness in his family circle.

"It's simply because he loves grievances," she pointed out. "He just enjoys getting hold of a good grievance and nursing it. He's always on the lookout for some way in which he has been neglected or overlooked and he's never so happy as when he finds it or thinks he does."

Which came pretty near being a very accurate statement of the case. And not only of his case either but of the case of many good (?) people who cause infinite unhappiness in just that way.

Dora Melegari, the lady who wrote the remarkable book I told you of which judges all men as "Makers of Joy or Sorrow," has a very clever chapter on grievances.

"There are certain characters," she says, "who need grievances as they do some indispensable article of food in order to maintain the attitude of discontent with which they torture their family and friends."

Evidently people in Russia, where Miss Melegari lives, and people in our city aren't so very different, for all the thousands of miles that separate them.

Grievances are such foolish, cruel things. They do no one any good and they would both those who harbor them and those who have begun the oftentimes unwitting cause of them.

A grievance, you know, is an injury or slight or more likely a fancied injury or slight tucked away in a cupboard in our heart especially kept for this kind of treasure, to develop and ripen. When it's ripe, it's a grievance. There are two or three ways to avoid grievances—that is if you really want to. I'm taking it for granted that you aren't the kind of person the lady who always knows somehow described.

One is to be too busy being happy and useful to have time either to find or to stow away any injuries or slights. Another is to air out that cupboard every once in awhile with a draught of frankness. Go and tell the friend who has hurt you how you feel and ask him if he can't explain things, and 10 to 1 when you go back to your grievance cupboard you'll find it empty, for nine out of ten grievances shrivel up at once under this treatment.

Another way is to do something kind for the person who caused the grievance. This is said to have a quite magic effect on emptying that cupboard.

Today is the day before New Year. Wouldn't it be a grand idea to visit that cupboard in your heart where the slights and injuries and fancied slights and injuries are stored away ripening into grievances and just clean it all out thoroughly?

And then, lest being empty, it should get filled up again with even worse rubbish—like the house of the seven devils—why wouldn't it be an even more splendid idea to fill it right up tomorrow with New Year resolutions?

revolution in Mexico. George Nave of the Northwestern will refrain from introducing his friend, Captain Roughneck, to the unsuspecting trafficman, Jack Inglis of the Union Pacific declined to make any new year resolution. The city ticket office force of the Western Pacific resolved to do nothing but saw wood. There is another batch of them that will undoubtedly be made public today, this evening and Sunday morning.

The Sunset lines are exhibiting in the Powell street window two enlarged photographs of the Southern Pacific Atlantic steamers, Momus and Comus, which ply between New York and New Orleans.

L. H. Nutting, general passenger agent of the Southern Pacific steamship lines at New York; J. H. E. Parsons, general passenger agent of the Southern Pacific lines in Louisiana, and Colonel T. J. Anderson, general passenger agent of the Sunset lines, with office at Houston, are expected on the Pacific coast early next month to inspect the new offices of the Sunset route in this city and in Los Angeles.

W. D. Stubbs, general agent of the Wabash, with headquarters at Portland, is in the city for a few days. He is on his way home after a visit in Los Angeles.

The final meeting of the present board of railroad commissioners was held yesterday afternoon in the ferry building. An additional 10 days to file

new complaint was granted to the complainants in the case of the citizens of Belvedere and Tiburon against the Northwestern Pacific, in which it is sought to secure a reduction in the passenger fares and an improved ferry service between this city and those points. All old business was cleaned up and everything made ready for the new commission, which is scheduled to meet next Tuesday.

C. W. Durbrow, interstate commerce attorney for the Southern Pacific, whose resignation to enter private law practice was announced a month ago, will sever his connections with the railroad company today.

The friends of Joseph N. Harrison of the Washington Sunset route in Florida, have been converted to the wonderful climate of San Francisco, judging from the following little verse received from that state yesterday:

I'd like to be stringing this morning with you in some Bohemian cafe, Where the lobsters cavort and the thoroughbred sports

Open house is to be held at the Transportation club this evening and tomorrow for the members and their guests. Refreshments will be served during the evening, and music will be furnished by a string orchestra.

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Abe Martin



Miss Gern Williams has been offered a job as 'wart' an 'mole' editor of a woman's magazine. Miss Fawn Lippincott says that just as soon as she gets a little money saved up she gets a 'wedding' invitation.