

HONK YOUR OWN HORN

Player Pianos, Libraries and Autos, are among the 530 prizes in The Call's great free Booklovers' Contest. See full page announcement.

ISSUE INCOMPLETE

THE CALL



THE WEATHER
YESTERDAY—Highest temperature, 56; lowest Thursday night, 48.
FORECAST FOR TODAY—Fair; moderate north wind changing to brisk west.

VOLUME CIX.—NO. 129.

SAN FRANCISCO, SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1911.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

BATTLESHIP FLEET FOR PACIFIC

Sixteen Great War Vessels Will Be Sent to This Coast Within Year

DEPARTMENT REFUSES TO DIVULGE INTENTIONS

Members of Congress Certain Naval Force Will Be Divided When Total Is 32

VESSELS WILL REMAIN UNTIL CANAL IS OPENED

[Special Dispatch to The Call]

WASHINGTON, April 7.—That half of the American battleship fleet will be sent to the Pacific ocean within the next year and will remain there until the opening of the Panama canal in 1915 is the prediction of members of congress as a result of information which is said to have leaked from the navy department.

Senator Perkins of California, chairman of the naval affairs committee, said tonight that while nothing definite had been decided, he and the other members of the California delegation have been urging the navy department to send 16 battleships to the Pacific coast and had understood that Secretary Meyer would issue such an order when the fleet numbered 32 battleships.

Thirty-one Battleships Now

There are 31 battleships in active service now, and the Arkansas and Wyoming will soon be added to the list. By the time the fleet reaches its full strength it is predicted that 16 heavily armored craft will be stationed in the Pacific.

Secretary Meyer of the navy department denied tonight that half of the fleet had been ordered to the Pacific coast. He did not deny that no such orders would be given.

"All that I need say is that there is no truth in the story," he asserted.

Announcement was made, however, that the second division of the American Atlantic fleet will make a cruise in the Baltic either this spring or summer. The itinerary of the vessels has not yet been definitely determined.

The question is being considered by the state department, which has been consulting with foreign nations. Formal announcement is made that the warships will in all probability make stops at ports of Germany.

Germany Felt Slighted

Last summer, when the Atlantic fleet visited English and French ports in the English channel, some criticism developed in Germany because the ships did not include that country in their itinerary.

Naval officials said, however, that no slight was intended to Germany and the department's action in dispatching the second division to Europe is generally believed to be intended as reinforcing that statement.

The vessels will sail about May 10, returning to Cape Cod by July 15. The second division is composed of the first class battleships Louisiana, Kansas, New Hampshire and South Carolina. The squadron probably will be commanded by Rear Admiral Charles J. Badger. This trip of the second division has no reference to the sending of the 16 battleships to the Pacific coast. The division includes only four ships, while the expectation is that 16 will be sent to the Pacific coast and that this will be done some time after July 15, when the second division is expected to return.

Intimated by Perkins

The first intimation that half of the fleet might be sent to the Pacific coast came from Senator Perkins, who is said to have assured other members of the California delegation that it would not be long before half of the fleet would be in the Pacific.

"No definite promise has been made," said the senator, "but from the time the navy made its famous world's circling tour in 1908 we have been urging that half the fleet remain there and we have been urging it ever since, and Secretary Meyer intimated that it might be advisable to divide the fleet in that way."

While the denials of officials of the navy department are positive, there is reason to believe that the project has received consideration in high sources, but that it has been inadvisable to make any announcement at this time lest any misunderstanding arise as to the relations between this country and Japan.

Canal May Be at Stake

Predictions have been made that Japan never will consent to the opening of the Panama canal and that the only recourse for this country would be to send part of the fleet to the Pacific ocean to ward off inevitable attack. These predictions have been declared baseless and foolish by the authorities at Washington, and it is un-

Right to Give Son \$1,700,000 Granted To American Wife

[Special Dispatch to The Call]

NEW YORK, April 7.—The Hon. Mrs. Edith Kip McCreery Coventry, wife of the third son of the earl of Coventry, won the right to dispose of \$1,700,000 worth of property she inherited from the estate of her grandfather, Pierre Lorillard, in the appellate division of the supreme court today.

A unanimous opinion reversed a judgment by James W. Butler, the referee, holding that the Hon. Mrs. Coventry could not cancel a deed giving the property to her son by a former marriage, and also granted her a retrial.

The Honorable Mrs. Coventry is a daughter of Colonel Lawrence Kip of New York. Her first husband was Richard McCreery, son of Bishop Andrew McCreery of California. She divorced McCreery in 1904. Her 8 year old son by this marriage was given into her custody, with an allowance of \$3,000 a year for his education.

About six weeks before her marriage to the Hon. Henry Thomas Coventry, she executed a deed for \$1,700,000 of her New York property, providing that she should have the income from the estate for life and that after her death young McCreery, her son, should become its possessor.

LONG, TAFT AND FISHER CONFER

Hetch Hetchy Discussed With President and the Interior Secretary

[Special Dispatch to The Call]

WASHINGTON, April 7.—City Attorney Percy V. Long of San Francisco had an interview today with President Taft and Secretary Fisher of the interior department in regard to the Hetch Hetchy hearings. He reiterated the position of San Francisco and asked that full consideration be given to the future needs of the city as a reason why the rights to Hetch Hetchy granted by Secretary Garfield should be unimpaired.

He found both the president and Secretary Fisher very friendly to the interests of San Francisco and apparently there is no longer any adverse influence at work.

The army appointed to investigate the subject will hold hearing at San Francisco during the summer and the following will be decided December 1 by Secretary Fisher.

WIRELESS KITE BRINGS JAPAN TO TWIN PEAKS

Two Local Amateurs With New Apparatus Break Long Distance Record Set by Marconi

By an experiment on the west slope of the hills back to Twin peaks last night two box kites and a half mile of wire, Richard Fontana and Leone Cadenasso, local experts of wireless telegraphy, marked a new epoch in receiving wireless messages with detached aeriels. At the completion of their test, Fontana and Cadenasso had received flashes sent from over 5,000 miles of sea, which were caught by two slender drifting antennae attached to their kites a half mile in the air.

The object of the experiments was to prove the theory that the tail poles used at the present time at wireless stations are superfluous in receiving messages from a great distance, and that an aerial with only one end attached to the grounding medium is better in long distance telegraphy than the wires strung from a pole.

Fontana and Cadenasso first sent up

ELECTRIC LINES BOUGHT BY S. P. FROM HANCHETT

Santa Clara Valley System of Fifty Miles Is Sold for \$4,000,000

Railway Corporation Secures Control of Situation in the Peninsula

The San Jose and Santa Clara county railroad company, the San Jose railway and the San Jose traction company, three electric lines that traverse the Santa Clara valley and which are the only electric lines in the city of San Jose, passed into the possession of the Southern Pacific company yesterday. L. E. Hanchett, president of these corporations, who owned nearly all the stock, said that he had received more than \$4,000,000 for his interest.

"The Southern Pacific has purchased these lines and they have paid me in cash more than the \$4,000,000 you mention. That tells the story briefly," Hanchett said last night at his office in the Merchants' Exchange building.

Control of Situation
Yesterday's deal is one of the largest of its kind for many months. It gives the Southern Pacific, in conjunction with its peninsular railways, absolute control of the electric line situation on the San Mateo peninsula and in the Santa Clara valley. The property sold by Hanchett consists of a little more than 50 miles of improved electric lines.

Other electric railway corporations have been after Hanchett to sell. Two years ago he named his price, he said last night, and he had not changed the figure one penny either way. He will leave this morning on the San Francisco overland limited for New York, for what purpose he would not say.

"Yes, I am going to New York in the morning. I can not say for what. I'll leave that to you to figure out."

Sudden Decision to Buy

That the Southern Pacific suddenly decided to acquire the holdings of Hanchett appears to be the general theory in electric railway circles. The Oakland traction company is working slowly on its line into San Jose and the Harriman road is said to be anxious to secure a complete monopoly of that territory. The Southern Pacific's electric lines now extend from Palo Alto to Santa Clara with nearly 100 branch lines to different sections of that county.

Hanchett, who is a former mayor of San Jose, has been gradually acquiring the traction lines in the Santa Clara valley for several years. The lines that

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YOUTH'S MIND IS SEIZED BY UNSEEN FORCE

Robert Nicholls of Los Gatos Says He Can Not Control Brain Working

Itinerant Mesmerist Experimented on Child With Bad Results

[Special Dispatch to The Call]

SAN JOSE, April 7.—That 11 year old Robert Nicholls, who declares he poisoned his pet dog and foster parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Bazus, owners of the Olympia hotel in Los Gatos, is the victim of an itinerant hypnotist who visited that city more than two years ago, was the impression gained by officers of the juvenile court and spectators during the hearing of his case today.

After the boy had been examined and cross examined and his foster mother had been subjected to a searching inquisition, Juvenile Judge P. F. Gosbey declared that he believed that the boy was still under a "spell" of some sort and committed him into the custody of Probation Officer G. W. Lee, with instructions to place him in the home of Dr. A. E. Osborne of Santa Clara, an alienist who has made a special study of causes contributory to juvenile delinquency and crime. Doctor Osborne will make a report within a week.

His Mind Mastered

The clew to the theory that the boy had been under a hypnotic spell was obtained early in the hearing. Asked why he had administered poison to his foster parents he said, "Something takes hold of my mind that is stronger than I."

"Can you see this something?" he was asked.

"No, but I can feel it," he said.

Later he admitted that he had attended an exhibition of hypnotism in Los Gatos. When Mrs. Bazus was placed on the stand she was questioned in regard to her experience with hypnotism and hypnotists.

"A hypnotist came to Los Gatos more than two years ago," she said. "I heard that he could cure rheumatism. My husband suffered from rheumatism, and we invited him to come to our house. He passed his hands over us and told us we were asleep. No cure was effected. Robert had been stealing things ever since he was a baby, and the hypnotist thought he could cure him by hypnotizing him. He passed his hands over the boy. My husband paid the man, but I don't know how much."

Boy Wears Kid Gloves

The courtroom was crowded with people when the Nicholls case was called and the boy was the cynosure of all eyes as he advanced from the rear of the apartment between his foster father and mother. The father was on crutches because of rheumatism and the mother appeared to be in good health. The boy carried a bag of candy, was dressed nattily and wore kid gloves. The strange "far away" expression in the lad's eyes excited much comment.

Robert was placed on the stand immediately. He said that he was the son of Theodore Nicholls and that he was born in Los Gatos. He lived on a farm until he was 7 years old. His parents, then separated and he was adopted by Mrs. Bazus, just prior to her marriage to her present husband. The boy was subjected to an unusually close examination.

Clings to His Story

He clung tenaciously to his original story as he outlined it in his confession to a Call correspondent Wednesday evening in spite of the fact that Doctor Osborne, Assistant District Attorney James P. Sex, Juvenile Judge P. F. Gosbey and newspapermen employed every artifice and subterfuge to entrap him into contradictory statements. He was on the stand for an hour and a half and was led back and forth over the same ground.

A 15 cent box of rat poison and a glass of water were introduced by Judge Gosbey. The boy was asked to remove his gloves and show how much poison he had administered each time to his mother. He did as requested and, taking a tiny pinch of the stuff between his thumb and forefinger, dropped it into the glass. The poison floated on top of the water, forming a sort of scum.

He said that he brought the water to his mother in a darkened room, and that she could not detect it. He administered it every three or four days from January until the latter part of March, when a drug bill from Watkins' pharmacy in Los Gatos apprised Mrs. Bazus of the boy's purchase of "Rough on Rats."

The boy said that he had given poison to his father upon one occasion, probably some time in January. He poisoned the pet dog about two years ago, just after he had been hypnotized as a cure for the stealing habit. The unknown something gripped him by the head and made him do it. He said that he loved his father and mother and that he had a comfortable home. He was treated well and would not like to leave it.

The boy was questioned in regard to

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Hypnotist Put Spell on Boy Alienist to Study Poisoner

Robert Nicholls, who confessed giving foster parents poison in water to hide his thefts.



TRAIN SEVERS BODY OF FORMER GRIDIRON STAR

George W. McMillan, Who Played Tackle for Stanford, Meets Tragic Death in Portland

PORTLAND, April 7.—George W. McMillan, one of the best known football players on the Pacific coast, was run over and almost instantly killed by a freight train late today in front of his grain warehouse at Thirteenth and Irving streets, in this city.

McMillan's body was severed just above the hips. He was 38 years old.

In crossing the track McMillan was forced to pass within a few inches of the end car. At this instant a locomotive, in coupling to the cars, shoved

them along several feet. McMillan was knocked down and ground under the car trucks.

In 1892 and 1894 McMillan played tackle on the Stanford football team; in 1895, with the Reliance club, in San Francisco, and in 1896, with Butte, Mont. In 1898 he came to Portland, and until 1909 played almost continuously on the Multnomah athletic club team.

McMillan was president of the Multnomah club two terms and has been prominent in local politics.

JULIA MARLOWE WILL PLAY MACBETH IN GREEK THEATER

[Special Dispatch to The Call]

BERKELEY, April 7.—The month of May will be a banner one in the Greek theater on the campus of the University of California. The Sarah Bernhardt production of Racine's "Phedre" will be staged May 8, and the Russian symphony orchestra will be heard in concert May 4 and 6.

Now the music and dramatic committee has completed arrangements for the staging of the classic "Macbeth" for several weeks, the deal being completed by telegraph today.

WOMAN GOT PRESENTIMENT FOUR YEARS AGO AS SON DIED

[Special Dispatch to The Call]

OAKLAND, April 7.—With the feeling that her missing son was dead, Mrs. M. Jensen of Los Angeles came to Oakland yesterday and searched the records of the health office, only to find that her presentiment was true.

Secretary George Parker, of the health board, produced the certificate of the death dated March 26, 1907, of H. Jensen, a tinner, 27 years old, who succumbed to pneumonia.

Mrs. Jensen has returned to Los Angeles.

CAT ADOPTS 3 BABY RATS MADE ORPHANS BY HERSELF

LOS ANGELES, April 7.—After killing purrs contentedly over them and showing a large rat, Polly, a striped cat, no disposition to kill the rats. Scores given a home in a laundry in this city, have seen them and they have been adopted by three baby rats and photographed to substantiate the raising them with the one kitten which remains of the four recently born to her. Rats and kitten are nestled together in one box with the cat, which

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