

The San Francisco Call

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Mail subscribers in ordering change of address should be particular to give both NEW and OLD ADDRESS in order to secure a prompt and correct compliance with their request.

PENDING before the supervisors is a no seat, no fare ordinance which ought to become law, if only as a protest against the sordid greed of the United Railroads that appears to grow by what it feeds on. It seems as if the management of that corporation sat up nights inventing schemes to gather in nickels by starving the service more and more.

The new pay as you enter cars are the last, or at least the most recent, expression of corporate greed. The introduction of the new system, which is unobjectionable by itself, was made the occasion to install cars which are more like cattle pens than a means of transportation for human beings.

The motive inspiring the change is to huddle so many more passengers in the standing room. These passengers are worse off than the old fashioned strap hangers, who used to pay the dividends. In the new cars passengers in the standing room for the most part can not even get hold of a strap. They stand in a confused mass without any sort of support or anything to cling to when the car is jerked up for a stop.

There is absolutely no excuse for the installation of these dangerous and uncomfortable cars. Things were bad enough before in the way of seating accommodations. Now the corporation proposes to give the traveling public about half as many seats in order that the carrying capacity may be trebled.

San Francisco has been patient with this greedy and conscienceless corporation, but the time comes when patience ceases to be a virtue. If the United Railroads is permitted to get away with this latest form of imposition on the public, the next step will be to abolish seats altogether.

THE Mexican idea of an armistice is singular. As far as we were permitted to learn in the early stages of the rebellion, the disturbances were confined to the border states. The strict government censorship would not permit the escape of any information concerning southern, central or western Mexico. Now it appears that if the armistice obtains anywhere it is confined to the border states, while grave disturbances are reported in almost every other part of the republic.

The states of Sinaloa, Durango and Puebla are mostly in the hands of the insurgents. One thousand Americans are in Mazatlan, which is reported to be in the hands of the rebels, and it is intimated that the national capital is threatened. The tactics of the insurgents are thus described in a recent dispatch from the City of Mexico:

It is reported that the number of rebels operating in one section of the state of Puebla is not less than 5,000, and from a different part of the state comes the news that a band of 600 demanded the surrender of the town of Tehuacan, the resort where Vice President Corral spent so many weeks in an effort to improve his health. The town is garrisoned by 200 soldiers under General Juan B. Hernandez, who replied that he would not surrender, and his troops are now awaiting the attack.

That the revolutionists will attempt to take the town is not believed likely. The policy of the insurgents has never been to waste their energies, and probably there is not enough advantage in occupying Tehuacan to warrant the sacrifice of life. The larger force, that of 5,000, is in the neighborhood of Acatlan and Matamoros Izucar, where Colonel Blanquet of the federals routed a band of rebels some days ago.

The southern interior region is fairly typical of the campaign throughout the disaffected sections of the republic. The rebels appear in a town, the federals are sent to dislodge them, and a federal victory is reported. The report of the victory is true, but the invariable tactics followed by the rebels is to flee before they are forced to surrender, so that the sum total of rebels is not materially reduced and the defeated men reappear in a few days in some other region.

It is no light task to suppress a warfare carried on by such methods. The insurgents don't fight according to the rules of the military game, and this makes the situation awkward for Diaz and intolerable for people whose interests are at stake. In fine, it is obvious that circumstances are moving rapidly to compel the abdication of Diaz.

UNCLE GEORGE C. PERKINS writes for the Oroville Mercury, in connection with the movement to restore river navigation to that town, some account of the early days when he was himself a sailorman and before he had yielded to the beguiling spell of politics. It is the fact that the Feather river was at certain seasons of that early period navigable as far up as Oroville, but the deposit of mining debris in the bed of the stream long ago put an end to that commerce.

Senator Perkins tells how extensive was the trade done in those days on the Sacramento and Feather rivers, as follows: A town site was laid off at Vernon, at the junction of the Sacramento and the Feather, and in April, 1849, several ships from eastern ports discharged cargo there. Large sailing vessels, in the fall, went up to Nicolans, and a government vessel with supplies for Fort West ascended to the same place. But it is very typical of the campaign throughout the disaffected sections of the republic. The rebels appear in a town, the federals are sent to dislodge them, and a federal victory is reported.

Cupid: "Now or Never"



the prosecution of all people who permanently kept boats and vessels at the landings, so great was the need for all available space for the regular river traffic. In December a regular packet line was established to San Francisco. Rival lines operated to Sacramento, and in a short time there was a lively war between the different transportation companies.

It is not likely that the river trade will ever again attain such proportions, but its maintenance and extension to the fullest development is good public policy, not only for its own sake, but indirectly because of its effect in the automatic regulation of railroad rates by competition.

The people of Oroville believe, and Senator Perkins concurs in the belief, that dredging the Feather would pay by reason of the gold deposited therein, and in this way the restoration of navigation might be made to defray its own cost. If this theory is well founded, the fact should be easily demonstrable by borings and assays.

The Way to Join The Call's Booklovers' Game Is to Join

There are several very good reasons why you should be a contestant in the Booklovers' Contest now being conducted by The Call. There is not one good reason—not one—why you should not be a contestant in the Booklovers' Contest.

Send to The Call for information about the contest. IT IS A FAIR SQUARE CONTEST, FREE FOR ALL, FASCINATING, AND FUN. Today's picture is shown in the full page announcement in this issue. What book does this picture represent? Makes you scratch your head a bit, eh? Well, some are easier than others.

BUT EACH PICTURE IS DRAWN TO REPRESENT THE TITLE OF ONE WELL KNOWN BOOK—AND ONLY ONE. There are no catches, no deceptions, no subterfuges in this contest. Join it. START NOW. Get in under the free picture plan, or, if you don't understand it fully, send to the Booklovers' Contest editor for full information.

Have you seen the big Velie five passenger touring car, value \$2,100, first prize in the Booklovers' Contest? It is on exhibition in the showrooms of the Standard motor car company, Van Ness and Golden Gate avenues, where the Ford five passenger touring car, second prize, and the Ford open runabout, fourth prize, may be seen also.

The three magnificent Kohler & Chase player pianos, third, fifth and sixth prizes, can be viewed at the showrooms of Kohler & Chase at 26 O'Farrell street, San Francisco, or 1015 Broadway, Oakland. Every man's library editions of the world's best books are a prominent part of the stock of every first class book store. Why not write to the publishers, E. P. Dutton & Co., for an illustrated booklet describing these incomparable volumes?

There are 150 Mercantile self-filling fountain pens, the standard 14 karat gold pens, among the honorable mention prizes. The Mercantile self-filling fountain pens are made by the Aiken-Lambert company of New York. Prominent among the honorable mention prizes also are 250 five pound boxes of Pign Whistle candies. These candies are noted for their subtle and distinctive flavoring. The Pign Whistle is at 130 Post street.

QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY THE CONTEST EDITOR. It is impossible to give a definite answer to those asking whether coupons filled in by typewriter will be judged nearer than those filled in by hand. The five prominent citizens who will act as judges of the contest may decide this question one way or the other, but it is very probable that the question of neatness will not be considered in connection with the sort of writing contestants use—the way they get their answers down on the coupons. Neatness involves cleanliness. When considering the relative neatness of different sets of pictures and coupons, they will be examined for smudges and wrinkles. From the general appearance of the sets it will be determined whether or not the contestant filled out his coupons carelessly or not. But it would hardly be fair to penalize those who do not possess typewriters merely because they fill in their coupons by hand.

The Fun of Vacation. "He said he could teach me to swim in three lessons." "Are you going to let him?" "I should say not. Most of my summer vacation fun is learning to swim." -Detroit Free Press. Mothers. Mothers are the queerest things. Member when John went away. All but mother cried and wined. When they said goodbye that day. She just talked, and seemed to be Not the slightest bit upset. Was the only one who smiled. Other's eyes were streaming wet! But when John came back again In a furlough, safe and sound, With a medal for his deeds, While the rest of us hurried, Laughed and joked and danced about, Mother kissed him, she she cried— Cried and cried like all girls out! -Edwin L. Sabin, in National Magazine.

The Only Fortune Teller. "I wish I knew which one of those young men to marry. I believe I shall consult a fortune teller." "That's a good idea. Consult Bradstreet." -Houston Post. A Comparatively Good Ending. "Did the play have a happy ending?" "It might have been worse. My wife only lost her handkerchief and one glove." -Louisville Courier-Journal.

Uncle Walt THE POET PHILOSOPHER

Put seven dollars (\$7) in the bank as soon as you can do it; prepare for seasons lean and lank, and you will never rue it. I used to blow my wages in as fast as I could earn them; when I had some scads of tin, I made a rush to burn them. I bought all kinds of raiment gay, and shinning ties and collars; and then one happy, fateful day, I pickled seven dollars (\$7). I put those roubles down in brine—an impulse led me to it. And now just take this hunch of mine: Go though likewise and do it. Those seven bones soon called for more, and aftsoons I had twenty; each week I put in three or four and soon I'll roll in plenty. Since I began this banking graft my self respect increases; I feel that I'm as big as Taft, and just as slick as grease is. I am the young man unafraid, the youth with glad kyoodle; the whole town wants to get my trade, because I have the boodle. I do not fear the rainy day whereon the broke man hollers; so take my plan—go right away and salt down seven dollars (\$7).

SALTING THEM DOWN. Copyright, 1910, by George Millham Adams. Over Moore.

The Morning Chit-Chat

WILL you please write and tell me whether it is customary to acknowledge Valentine postcards? I do not know, and I am so anxious to do the courteous thing.

So a young person wrote to me a few weeks ago. I answered her to the best of my ability, but I confess I could not help smiling at that last sentence. You see it didn't seem possible to me that any one who was really "so anxious to do the courteous thing" could have written asking a favor without inclosing a stamp, to say nothing of a self-addressed stamped envelope.

She has many brothers and sisters in this lack of courtesy. Almost daily some epistle comes to me asking help or information or advice, and omitting to do the decent thing by supplying me with the vehicle in which to send what is wanted. It seems to me rather like going over to borrow something of a neighbor, and not only expecting her to supply the molasses and milk, but nonchalantly announcing that you didn't see fit to bring a cup and that she will have to supply that, too.

Only in the case of a stamp, it is a gift, not a loan, that's asked. Yes, I know 2 cents is a very little matter. But 100 2 cents is more, and 1,000 2 cents means a good deal to most of us. Incidentally you might be interested to know that I do not supply the stamps, so that my protest is quite an impersonal one. And now, while I'm talking to my correspondents, I might as well say one or two things which have been on my mind for some time.

I wish you people who write and ask me questions, the answer to which could only be of very limited interest, would sign your names, thus giving me a chance to answer you by private letter, instead of expecting the answer in this column. You see my column is my open letter to many thousands of people, and I do not feel that I ought to take up the space with matters that will only interest one person, or at best, a very few people. Please do not be afraid to sign your names, whatever you write. I have never published a name, and I never will without the owner's express permission.

I can not close any talk with my letter friends and acquaintances without once more expressing my thanks to the dear good folks who have sent me words of appreciation and cheer and constructive criticism. Dear friends, do you know my heart just aches with happiness sometimes to think there are such kind people in the world, and that fate should have brought me in touch with them, when I so little deserve that wonderful good fortune? That you should think such kind things to yourselves would be sweet enough of you, but that you should actually take the time and make the effort to put them on paper and send them to me—it is wonderful. I thank you.

I often say from the bottom of my heart, "God bless you and prosper you as you deserve." May others gladden your lives with the word of appreciation and encouragement spoken at the right moment, as you have mine. Ruth Cameron.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES

CORONERS—Subscriber, City. What is the salary of the coroner of this city and that of the coroners in greater New York? San Francisco, \$4,000 a year. In New York for Manhattan, Bronx and Brooklyn, \$6,000 each, and for Queens and Richmond, \$4,000 each. CENTER OF EARTH—W. T. K. City. If there was a square hole in the center of the earth and a man could be in it, would he know if he was standing up or lying down, or whether his head was up or down? Probably not. All directions would be the same. FOR BOYS—Subscriber, Stockton. Where can I get the "Jack Knell" series of things for boys to make, which was published in the magazine section of The Call in 1907? You will have to look over the file of the paper of that year. MORTGAGES—E. H. Pineda. Where can I obtain the California law on mortgages? In the codes. Your other questions call for legal opinions, for which you should consult a lawyer. LAW—A Subscriber, City. You have declared that San Francisco was not under martial law during the fire of April, 1906. If it was not, why did the soldiers assume so much authority? By general consent the soldiers assumed the authority that the occasion demanded to preserve the peace. It was an extraordinary occasion that called for extraordinary measures. STAMPS—Mrs. M. J. San Mateo. What is the language of stamps as expressed by placing such on envelopes sent through the mail? It is a sort of cryptograph used by two persons in corresponding, by placing stamps in certain positions to convey very certain ideas understood only by the writer and recipient of a letter. SALAD—Mrs. M. J. San Mateo. At an ordinary home dinner, when should the salad be served, before or after the soup? If it is shrimp, crab, potato or combination salad, it is served before the soup. If it is plain lettuce, it is served with the principal meat or roast. BY LAND AND SEA—G. C. Watsonville. What is the distance by land and by sea from San Francisco to Eureka, Humboldt county? By land 152 miles by rail and then about 130 by stage or automobile. By steamer route, 216 miles. A BILL—Sub. Reader. What is the life of a bill in California before it is outlawed? Action on an open account must be commenced within four years, else it is barred by the statute of limitation.

PERSONS IN THE NEWS

ALEXANDER McCABE, private secretary to Governor Johnson, came from Sacramento yesterday with Mrs. McCabe and registered at the Stewart. JACOB MORTENSON of Oak Park, Ill., who has large timber interests in California and Oregon, is at the Palace. WILEY O. COX JR., of St. Joseph, Mo., is at the Union Square. He is connected with a publishing house. D. de LANCEY, a watch manufacturer of Waterbury, Conn., is at the Fairmont with Mrs. de Lancey. F. H. THATCHER, a mining man of Nome, is among the recent arrivals at the St. Francis. A. J. ORAN, a businessman of Honolulu, is among the recent arrivals at the Argosuit. EUGENE FAVRE, a banker and broker of Spokane, is at the Palace with Mrs. Favre. P. L. FLANIGAN, formerly state senator, of Reno, is at the Palace with his family. MRS. RUTH ST. DENIS and Miss St. Denis are guests at the Bellevue from New York. F. W. DUCKWORTH, grand master I. O. O. F., of San Bernardino is at the Turpin. C. H. BAKER, a fruit grower of Watsonville, and Mrs. Baker are at the Cadillac. DR. M. A. HUGHES and Miss Marie Dorothy Hughes of Marin are at the Manx. H. M. PEYTON, a wholesale grocer of Duluth, is at the Palace with his family. G. R. ECKART, a banker of Marysville, is at the St. Francis with Mrs. Eckart. GEORGE A. WHITNEY, a lumberman of Newcastle, Wis., is at the St. Francis. L. GREEN, a wholesale stationer of Los Angeles, is a guest at the Turpin. E. H. THURSTON of London is among the recent arrivals at the Fairmont. MR. AND MRS. FRANK WOOD of Boston have apartments at the Fairmont. W. H. MCKITTRICK, D. M. Speed and Samuel Schenck, oil operators of Bakersfield, are at the Palace. CAPTAIN JAMES C. RHEA of the Seventh United States cavalry is at the Stewart with Mrs. Rhea. FLORENCE J. O'BRIEN, trustee of the Chico normal school, is at the St. Francis with Mrs. O'Brien. E. M. BOYD, a merchant of Yuba City, is at the Manx with Mrs. Boyd. THOMAS WILSON and Joseph Durfee of Marysville are at the Stewart. CARL B. BRIGGS, a businessman of Redding, is at the Union Square. H. B. MUIR, a lumberman of Willits, is stopping at the Colonial. F. W. EASTERMAN, a mining man of Oroville, is at the Argosuit. F. E. SUMMERS, a real estate man of Seattle, is at the Stanford. J. A. ADAMS, an attorney from Santa Barbara, is at the Colonial. DR. J. H. BARR of Marysville is at the Palace with Mrs. Barr. R. A. FOSTER, a real estate man of Corning, is at the Stanford. O. C. HARPER of Indianapolis is a guest at the Cadillac. DR. JAMES R. HIGG of Springfield is at the St. Francis. W. S. MOORE, a capitalist of Santa Cruz, is at the Turpin. C. L. PERKINS of Pittsburg is stopping at the Arlington. DR. L. B. STRATTON of Paso Robles is at the Argosuit. B. BOYDEN and family of Baltimore are at the recent arrivals at the Fairmont. J. P. FRANKS of Bakersfield is at the Arlington.

Abbe Martin