The San Francisco Call

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MR. TAFT'S administration is preparing to deal with the express monopoly in a vigorous and decisive fashion. This is the most oppressive of all existing trusts, and its exactions are farthest removed from "the rule of reason." It is sufficient to say that the rates charged by the express companies in many instances pay something like 1,000 per cent on the investment.

Parcels Post and Express Companies

The express companies are simply another name for the railroads and have been used as a disguise to escape regulation of rates and service by the government. This endeavor has hitherto been successful because the interstate commerce commission was fully occupied with supervision of the general business of railroads. But now Mr. Taft is preparing to take up the express problem at both ends, so to speak.

That is to say, the interstate commerce commission will take up at once the matter of putting express rates on a reasonable basis, and at the same time congress will be urged to put the parcels post service on a competing status in accord with modern practice in other countries. It is the fact that the United States parcels post as at present conducted is quite half a century behind the practice of civilized nations. The department rates and other restrictions prohibit any large use of the service.

These exorbitant rates for the parcels post have been maintained through the influence of the express companies. When John Wanamaker was postmaster general he declared that "there are four great reasons against an improved parcels post," and these reasons then were and ever since have been the four big express companies.

The monopoly is not now as powerful in congress as it once was. For one thing, Senator Tom Platt of New York is no longer to the fore, but while this is true, the measure will not be carried without a fight. Mr. Taft has this advantage, that he is backed by an aroused public sentiment and a watchful people. In former years when efforts to reform these abuses were made the people as a whole seemed quite indifferent about them.

THE senate is charged with "loafing on the job," and the indictment is supported by ample specifications of fact. The body is engaged in doing mixed politics with the result that we see extraordinary and unexpected alliances. The "insurgents" in the senate, notwithstanding their loud protestations of last year in the tariff debate, are now fighting reciprocity with Canada although that measure is distinctly in line with their former demands for a reasonable downward revision of the tariff. They are politically jealous of Mr. Taft and seek to deprive him of the credit that must come to him as the originator of the reciprocity agreement. By consequence they find themselves in alliance with the so called "Joe Bailey democrats" and other reactionary interests. The senate record for the session shows:

"Nothing Doing" in the Senate But Politics

Between April 4, when this session convened, and June 28, both dates inclusive, the senate has been in session a total of 138 hours and 27 minutes. During that time 74 legislative days have passed, but on 31 of these days the senate held no session at all. On the 43 days it did meet, it was in session an average of a little more than three hours each day. When the senate is really at work, the average session begins at noon and closes at or about 6 o'clock, the daily sessions being six hours each. On this basis, the senate has really been in session 23 days of six hours each in approximately three months' time.

Carrying the indictment a step further, the senate has accomplished little in that time. It passed the proposed constitutional amendment for the direct election of senators and appointed a committee to reinvestigate the election of Senator William Lorimer of Illinois. It also passed a bill to correct mistakes in the enrollment of appropriation bills at the last session. Both proposals are in conference, the senate having amended them after they passed the house.

"Nothing doing except politics" is the rule in the senate. At the same time it is virtually certain that when reciprocity with Canada is finally forced to a vote on the floor it will be adopted by a substantial majority.

PRESIDENT TAFT in his speech to the old soldiers the other day dwelt on peace and good will among the nations. It is a great theme propounded by a man of commanding and impressive moral and intellectual stature. All the world, more or less, vaguely realizes the horrors of war, but in the course of ages we have come to regard human conflict as almost the natural order, so that it takes all the living force of a really great man to bring the world to a real sense of a situation which is in fact purely artificial as well as calamitous.

Taft's Work in the Cause of Peace

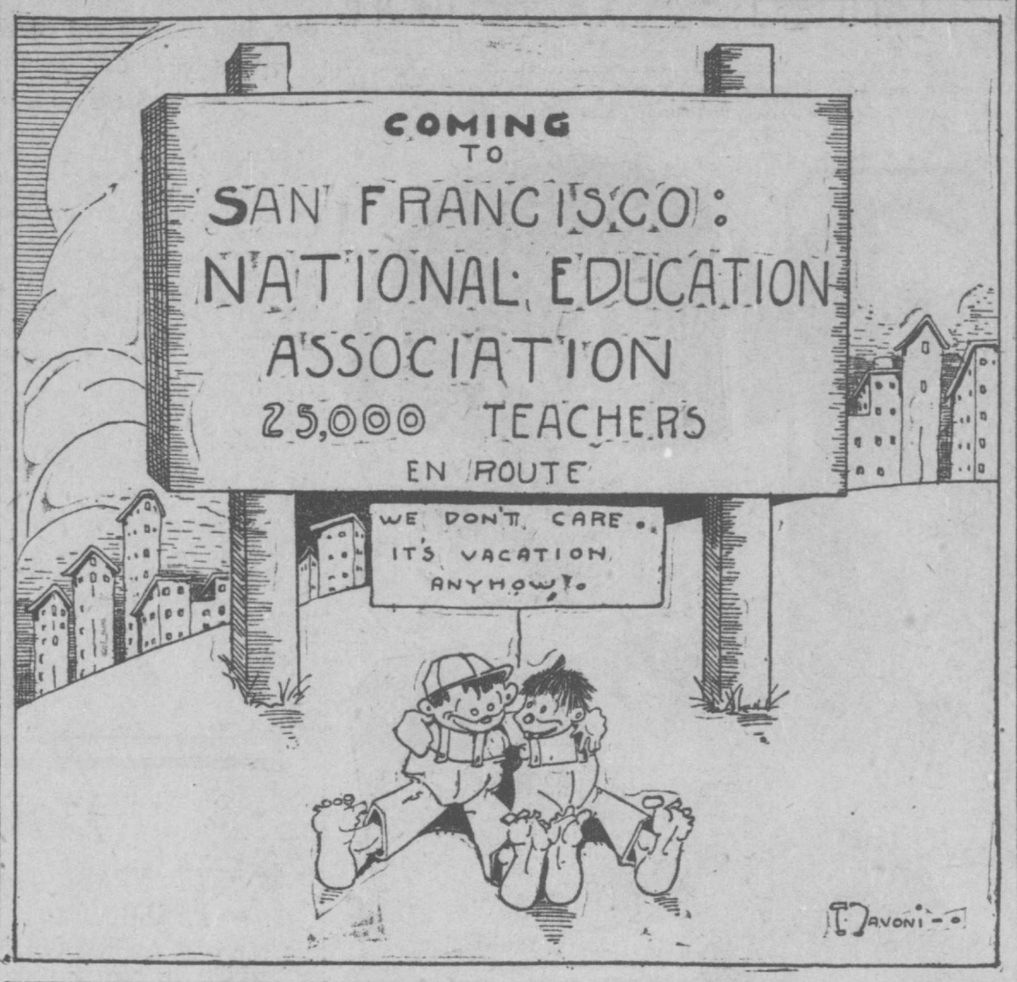
When we are told that all wars are unnecessary as well as unprofitable we may acquiesce, but it needs a lot of hammering to impel positive action designed to bring wars to an end.

Mr. Taft took occasion to illustrate how the United States had intervened in the cause of peace in numerous cases where war would otherwise have ensued among the republics of Central America. The results of intervention in these matters have inured to the highest advantage of all the countries concerned and have saved their people from bloody and devastating conflicts from which no possible good could spring.

The example set in Central America may be followed on a much greater and more important scale by a coalition among the great powers to impose peace on unruly nations, or rather, on their rulers. Civilization has advanced to that point where no nation worth considering desires war. The danger arises from personal ambitions and what used to be called statesmanship, but was really a great illusion, persuading men that nations became rich, powerful and illustrious by means of war.

The people on whom the burden of fighting was imposed have decided that war is intolerable, but they require the force of an earnest and sincere man like Taft, backed by a great nation, to give solidity to the moral movement. The president is engaged on the greatest work for humanity ever undertaken by a statesman in any country.

No Immediate Danger



NAT GOODWIN does not show to good advantage in the recital of his relations with the fair Maxine. The man who carries his heart upon his sleeve and invites the daws to peck thereat is like to find the process painful. He is telling tales out of school, and his lacerated feelings chiefly serve to provoke a more or less tolerant derision. At best we might be disposed to accept the judgment of the English lord—or was it the English butler?—that the multifariously bereaved Goodwin is "a comical little person."

The Sorrows of a Crushed Comedian

If Maxine was in truth a "climber," eager to invade the altitudes of British upper circles, regardless of expense, it might seem that her contemporaneous husband of the period was a cad. No doubt the process was not altogether comfortable for the man behind the bank roll. It is not true that the eel gets used to skinning, even by constant practice, and it appears that Comedian Goodwin in the course of a persevering series of matrimonial adventures has been skinned for keeps. But when he seeks to get the soreness "out of his system," with the help of printer's ink by way of salve, he presents himself as a joke that even an English lord can understand.

Stay in America, Mr. Goodwin. We understand you here, and you will not be driven to the distressing alternative of pouring out your sorrows on the bosom of an English butler for lack of a more appreciative audience.

A GRATIFYING victory has been achieved in Missouri at the end of a six years' litigation to uphold the state's power to regulate and even suppress altogether the billboard nuisance. The supreme court of that state holds that this form of advertising "may not only be regulated and controlled, but may be entirely suppressed for the public good under the police power of the state." As to this decision, the New York Tribune says:

Law for the Suppression of Billboards

That seems to be good law, and we are sure that it is sound common sense. There can be no question that these advertising boards and boardings are often sources of danger to property, limb and life, in storms, in fires and at other times. It is indisputable that they often seriously obstruct air, light and vision. They are frequently, we might say generally, offensive to good taste, and therefore to the appearance of the place, which has judicially been declared to be a valuable asset, entitled to legal consideration. In not a few cases they violate the rules of decency and morals. It will be well to have this Missouri precedent studied and emulated for the relief of places which suffer even more than St. Louis ever suffered.

In the same vein the Louisville Courier Journal writes:

Billboard advertising in the country as well as in cities should be regulated so that disfigurement of the landscape and damage to property may not be done. It is likely that if state laws should be enacted, the courts in other states would agree with the decision of the court of last resort in Missouri.

Testimony of the same sort might be multiplied indefinitely. Other cities than St. Louis, where this matter started six years ago, are greater sufferers from the nuisance. In San Francisco, since the fire it has become especially offensive and obtrusive. It is a matter about which the city should take serious thought in view of the efforts to make San Francisco attractive for visitors. If we can not suppress these eyesores altogether, they should be made to yield a substantial revenue to the city treasury.

CALIFORNIA sympathizes with the sufferings of the heat stricken people of ultramontane America. From Iowa to the Atlantic the tale of deaths due to the heat wave is multiplied with searching uniformity. All business is practically suspended and industry stands still except for the performance of functions that are absolutely necessary. The sufferings of the poor are appalling. It is a sorrowful story.

A Lesson in Climatic Contrasts

While the east swelters under humid temperatures ranging around the 100 mark, San Francisco enjoys cool and agreeable weather with plenty of sea breezes and a modicum of welcome fog, while the thermometer ranges somewhere between 50 and 60 degrees. On July 4th, the highest register for the day in San Francisco was 58 degrees.

Weather conditions like these will supply an agreeable contrast for our visitors from the east who are coming to attend the national conventions shortly to be held in this city. The city's guests will be given an object lesson demonstrating that San Francisco has the best working climate in America. It is a climate where you can wear the same moderate weight of clothing every day in the year without discomfort, and where at no season is work obstructed, or hindered, either by heat or cold.

RAILWAYS OFFER EXCURSION RATES

Eastern Lines Make Special Tariffs for Visits to Summer Resorts

THE large railroads east of the Mississippi river have completed preparations for the handling of half a billion passengers during the months of July, August and September. A well defined policy has been established by which every locality in the eastern states will be afforded special excursion rates to mountain or seashore.

The idea is purely a commercial one and the railroads feel assured of satisfactory results. It is expected that during the three months the travel will be more than 50 per cent as great as during the entire 12 months of last year.

The Pennsylvania railroad is preparing for the largest passenger business in its history. It has scheduled excursions for Thursday of each week during the summer. In this way it will distribute the business and relieve the pressure generally occasioned by the weekend travel.

The rates are made unusually low to stimulate traffic and to create travel from points which heretofore have not yielded their natural proportion.

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E. E. Calvin, general manager of the Southern Pacific, returned yesterday from a trip to Ashland and Klamath Falls.

* * *

The Transportation club will spend Sunday at Halfmoon Bay. A big picnic has been arranged for the members and their friends.

* * *

James E. Birchfield, cashier of the Union Pacific office in Denver, is a visitor in San Francisco.

* * *

F. W. Hoover, industrial agent of the Southern Pacific, has gone to the Harriman lodge at Pelican bay, where he will spend his vacation.

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The special train of the Mystic Shriners will leave this morning over the Southern Pacific for the conclave at Rochester. It will be a train de luxe. A piano has been installed in the observation car and the best chef on the line in the diner.

* * *

Miss Grace Sorensen of the general passenger office of the Union Pacific in Omaha has come to San Francisco on a visit.

Answers to Queries

THE PASSION PLAY—A. C., City. Was the "Passion Play," written by Saimi Morse, ever presented at the Grand opera house in this city? If so, when?

It was presented at that house by the Baldwin theater company March 3, 1879.

* * *

GUN BARRELS—J. A., City. Give the formula for bluing gun barrels.

For bluing gun barrels by staining: "Dissolve 4½ ounces of hyposulphate of soda in a quart of water, also 1¾ ounces of acetate of lead in a quart of water. Mix the two solutions and bring to a boil in a porcelain dish or stone pot. Clean the barrel free from grease, oil or varnish, warm the barrel and smear it with the hot solution, using a piece of sponge tied to a stick. When color develops, wash and wipe dry. Finish with boiled linseed oil."

* * *

NOTABLE EVENTS—R., Roseville. What notable events occurred in 1655?

In May the English and French united in an attack on Dunkirk; a relief force of Spaniards was routed at the battle of Dunes on June 4; this was followed by the capitulation of the city June 17. Oliver Cromwell died September 3, and his son Richard became lord protector.

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POSTAGE STAMPS—A. B. G., City. Does the United States postoffice department purchase uncanceled postage stamps?

No.

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STEVENSON—H. K., Oakland. When and where did Robert Louis Stevenson die? Where were his remains buried?

He died in Samoa, December 3, 1894. His remains were buried on the peak of Mount Vaea, above Vailima, his Samoan home.

Abe Martin

No feller ever got over his wife's new hat without a relapse. A feller kinder gives up when he sees his grocer put two quarts o' strawberries in a quart bucket.

Uncle Walt THE POET PHILOSOPHER

WALT MASON

THE UNTIDY STORE

The grocer chased me up and down, in sunshine and in shade; he knew I always paid my bills, and yearned to get my trade. He hounded me and pestered me by every human means, until at last I sought his store to buy some boneless beans. He had some moldy looking clerks, who loafed around the store, and combed their whiskers with their hands and watched the clock and swore. The floor was littered up with jugs and boxes, crates and kegs, containing uninviting fruit, and prehistoric eggs. The floor itself had not been swept since Noah bossed the ark; the windows of the dreary joint with grime and dirt were dark. I took the grocer by the hand and led him to the street, and said: "Some friend should push you down and pat you with his feet. A man who runs a grimy store that's full of grimy clerks some day will see the sheriff come to close the whole blamed works. Go, turn the hose on all those clerks, and clean your dismal joint, and when you ask me for my trade I will not say 'Aroint!'"

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Walt Mason

The Morning Chit-Chat

RUTH CAMERON

"PRETTY—yes, I suppose she is. But, do you know, I never can bear to look at her long enough to find out. She's always squirming around so."

So a businessman commented on a young girl in his office when I asked him if he didn't think she was pretty.

I quote the comment to show how some unpleasant little mannerism can counteract great charm. For the girl really is a very pretty girl.

And the reason I mention the matter at all is that it seems to me a good many of our young girls have unpleasant little mannerisms like this.

I know another girl who has a disagreeable trick of perpetually lifting her hands to her face. Now she rubs her eyes, now she puts her hand to her mouth or passes it across her cheek. This girl is a brilliant girl, an unusually interesting conversationist and yet I know that her hearer's pleasure is often dissipated by this habit.

Just recently I heard of another girl who was discharged by a rather punctilious businessman from her position as his stenographer because she was always taking out her combs and combing up her hair. "She's a good stenographer," he said, "but I want a girl who will arrange her toilet in the privacy of her home and not in my office."

Now, if any one of these girls should chance to read this article I have no fear that she would recognize herself, for the habit in each case had become, I am sure, almost unconscious.

But the part that puzzles me, the point I want to bring out is this:

The families of those girls could not possibly have been unconscious of these unpleasant little mannersims, could they?

And what were they thinking of to let them go on?

What were they doing that they hadn't time to attend to such vital matters?

You think "vital" is a pretty strong word for the occasion.

I don't.

Just think. Beauty and brains and efficiency were each nullified by one foolish unnecessary little habit that might have been so easily nipped in the bud by a little plain speaking.

Of course no outsider can criticize a habit like this without risk of being considered rude and intrusive.

But, equally of course, no family can afford not to speak out on such a matter.

One of the most important functions of the family, I think, is to give us, when we particularly need it, a chance to "see ourselves as others see us."

Nip the unpleasant little mannerism right in the bud. Nip it as gently as possible, but even if you cause a little temporary bitterness, nip it thoroughly, and in the end you will win lasting gratitude—or would I be safer in saying, deserve it?

Ruth Cameron

PERSONS IN THE NEWS

W. T. CHIPMAN of this city and Mrs. Chipman, formerly Miss B. Harrell of Bakersfield, were guests at the Bellevue on their return from their honeymoon through the south. Mr. and Mrs. Chipman left this morning on the steamer Wilhelmina for Honolulu.

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L. H. LONG, chief engineer of the southern division of the Southern Pacific, and his daughter, Miss Olivia Long of Bakersfield, stayed at the Bellevue before leaving this morning on the steamer Wilhelmina for Honolulu.

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H. L. HUNT, a commission merchant of Chicago, and Mrs. Hunt registered yesterday at the Union Square.

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GEORGE N. BRIGGS, superintendent of the normal school in the Philippines, is staying at the St. Francis.

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J. C. JOHNSON of New York and A. L. King of Alaska are among the recent arrivals at the Colonial.

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DR. AND MRS. M. P. RAVENEL of Madison, Wis., are among the recent arrivals at the Stewart.

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S. B. McCRACKEN, a banker of Elkhart, Nev., is staying at the Turpin with Mrs. McCracken.

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DR. M. E. DAILEY, president of the state normal school at San Jose, is staying at the Palace.

* * *

W. H. WELCH, professor of pathology at Johns Hopkins university, is a guest at the St. Francis.

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R. N. GREENE and J. B. Ryder of Philadelphia are among the recent arrivals at the Fairmont.

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W. P. THOMAS, a banker of Ukiah, and Mrs. Thomas and daughter are staying at the Von Dorn.

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W. G. GREATHOUSE, a merchant of Elko, and Mrs. Greathouse are registered at the Stanford.

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DON LEE, an automobile dealer of Los Angeles, is among recent arrivals at the St. Francis.

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GEORGE A. BARTLETT, former congressman of Nevada, is at the Palace with Mrs. Bartlett.

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HARRY F. BULLEN and John Cameron of Victoria are among recent arrivals at the Palace.

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B. R. KITTREDGE, president of the California wine company, is a guest at the Fairmont.

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E. W. DUNCAN, an apple grower of Medford, Ore., registered yesterday at the Baldwin.

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LEE BLAKEMORE, an insurance operator of Chicago, is staying at the St. Francis.

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DR. A. G. ALLEN and family of Deadwood, S. D., are guests at the Union Square.

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E. J. MORRISEY and H. Kimbrow, real estate men of Sacramento, are at the Turpin.

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S. T. KELSEY, a broker of Los Angeles, is among recent arrivals at the Palace.

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F. R. HAYWARD, a businessman of San Jose, is among recent arrivals at the Manx.

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DR. AND MRS. L. MONTGOMERY of Chicago are registered at the Argonaut.

MR. AND MRS. TALBOT C. WALKER, Mrs. B. Becker, Adolph Obry and Mrs. W. Wise were among the passengers from this city sailing Tuesday on the Kronprinz Wilhelm from New York to Bremen.

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HUGH L. THOMAS, superintendent of the Salt Lake telephone company, is registered at the Palace with W. C. Orem, a mining man of the same place.

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M. S. ABRAMS, county superintendent of schools of Butte, is here from Oroville to attend the convention of the National Education association.

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CHARLES W. CADMAN of Pittsburg is here to attend the music teachers' convention of California and is registered at the Manx.

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STANLEY G. BROWN, head of the Illinois delegation attending the school teachers' convention, is staying at the St. Francis.

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DR. ALEXANDER LAMBERT, a writer on medical subjects, is a guest at the St. Francis, registered from New York.

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CHARLES H. KEYES, president of the council of the National Education association, is a guest at the St. Francis.

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EDWARD HYATT, state superintendent of public instruction, is here from Sacramento and is staying at the Palace.

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A. S. McPHERRON, county superintendent of schools from San Bernardino county, is registered at the Palace.

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E. M. BROWN and F. G. Ellis of Los Angeles are staying at the Stewart.

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G. J. BOIS and Mrs. Bois of Seattle registered yesterday at the Von Dorn.

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O. F. SPENCER, a businessman of Sacramento, is registered at the Argonaut.

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J. D. DAVIS, a mining man of Reno, is at the Turpin with Mrs. Davis.

* * *

J. G. TAYLOR, a land owner of Lovelock, is a guest at the Victoria.

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J. H. HAYES, a lumberman of Seattle, is registered at the Bellevue.

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DR. AND MRS. E. B. PICKEL of Medford are guests at the Palace.

* * *

J. D. MARTIN, an oilman of Visalia, is staying at the Stanford.

* * *

MISS J. L. JELMISH of Los Angeles is a guest at the Bellevue.

* * *

MRS. A. FRAEGER of Milwaukee is a guest at the Arlington.

* * *

DR. S. H. SHELDON of Portland is a guest at the Cadillac.

* * *

EUGENE ELY, the aviator, is at the Palace with Mrs. Ely.

* * *

FRANK H. BOWEN of Washington, D. C., is at the Manx.

* * *

W. R. GROOM of Sacramento is at the Arlington.

* * *

C. F. SCOTT of Los Angeles is at the Victoria.

* * *

R. RAISIN of Pittsburg is at the Cadillac.