

The San Francisco Call

JOHN D. SPRECKELS... Proprietor
CHARLES W. HORNICK... General Manager
ERNEST S. SIMPSON... Managing Editor

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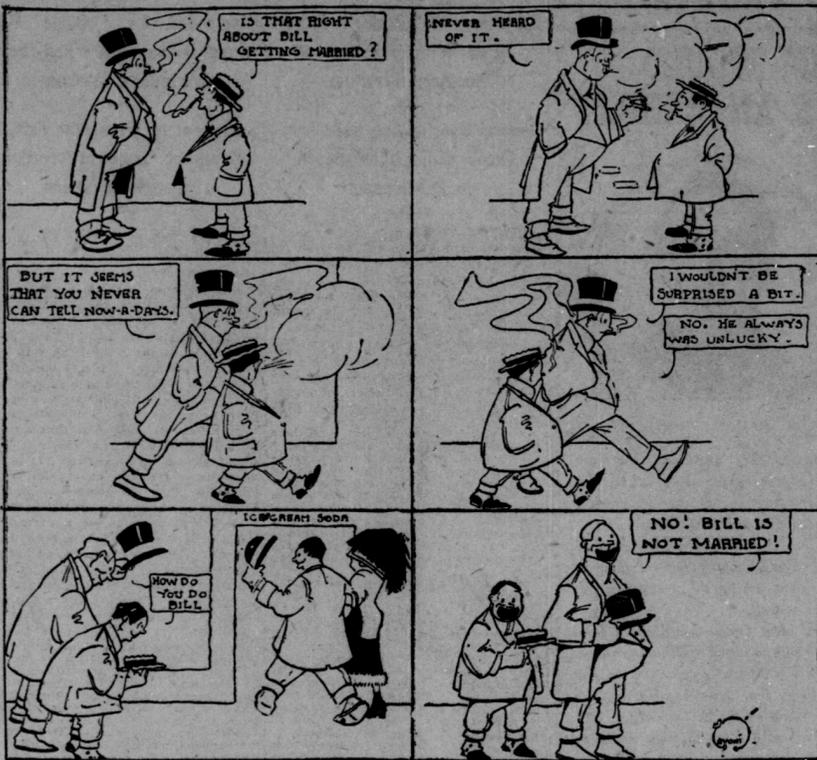
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Some People Believe in Signs



Uncle Walt THE POET PHILOSOPHER

One day we see him painting houses or nailing shingles on the roof; next day he's seen dehorning cows or herding turkeys on the hoof. A handy man, we always hire him when trifling jobs are to be done; but people do not oft desire him for work that costs a bunch of mon. He'll paint a fence or clean a furnace or shake the rugs and sweep the floors; he'll do his duty where the churn is, and tackle forty other chores. For willingness he is a dandy; he flies around on speedy feet. A man, you'd think, so mighty handy should have a shack in Easy street. And yet he's always on his uppers, his toil's so lightly reimbursed; while neighbors eat their gorgeous suppers he has to feed on wiennerwurst. To learn one trade and learn it fully, to master every small detail, that is the plan that makes life bully and brings in fifty kinds of kale.



WALT MASON

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How to Get a House and Lot Free by Solving 77 Pictures

In the Booklovers' Contest—the Most Entertaining Game Ever Conducted by a Newspaper

What you want is a straight talk about the Booklovers' Contest, now being conducted by this newspaper. Here it is:

First of all, the contest consists of a series of 77 pictures, each of which represents the title of a book. The pictures are published one each day.

They are solved by aid of a contest catalogue—a list of 4,500 book titles. Among these titles are actually the 77 correct titles to the 77 contest pictures, for the 77 titles are chosen from this very catalogue.

You look at a picture, figure out what titles it MAY represent, and then look into the catalogue to see if one of these possible titles or something similar to one of them, is not listed there. Some pictures, of course, you will name to your satisfaction right away. Others you will have to solve by means of the catalogue. But all the 77 correct titles are in this catalogue, remember.

And do not forget that each picture is drawn expressly to represent one certain title. Each picture represents one title, and only one.

That's all there is to this contest, except that some of the most remarkable prizes ever offered by an American newspaper will be awarded those most successful in solving the 77 pictures. A handsome new house, built on a large lot in the best residence section of Burlingame, is first prize, and there are many other startling awards. Look at the list of them, printed with today's contest picture.

The fact that the contest rules permit contestants to make as many as 10 different answers to each picture, if they so desire, has led to two ways of competing in the contest.

One way, called the "old way," is for contestants to use only the pictures and their attached coupons on which to submit their answers. But the rules require that each answer made be submitted on a separate picture and coupon. This means that if you make four answers to picture No. 15 you must get four copies of picture No. 15, and if you make six answers to picture No. 30 you must get six copies of picture No. 30. And so if you make several answers to each picture, or several answers to a majority of the pictures, you have to get many extra copies of the pictures, on which to submit these answers.

But this newspaper, in order to provide a way by which contestants may submit as many as 10 answers to each picture, if they wish, and yet need only one copy of each picture, has issued what is called an Answer Book. In this book contestants paste one copy of each of the pictures, and below where each picture is pasted they write down the answer or answers they wish to submit to each picture. That is called the "new way" of competing in the contest.

You can compete in either way you please.

Look at today's contest picture. And get into the contest NOW.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES

The best way to get into the contest now is to secure the first 35 pictures free with the contest catalogue. Get the balance from neighbors or friends, or in any way you please. You can get all the pictures, or as many as you want, from The Call at 5 cents each. Address the Booklovers' Contest Editor. Picture No. 62 appears today, so if you get the first 35 pictures free you will have 26 pictures to get, in order to have all the back pictures.

His Debt

First Actor—Ah, my boy, I owe a great deal to that old lady.

Exception in Her Case

Kate—They say a woman is as old as she looks.

All in the Pronunciation

Hungry Englishman (who prides himself on his French)—J'ai une faim enorme.

Blind to It

The Beggar—Pity a poor blind man wiv a large family, lidy.

PERSONS IN THE NEWS

- C. M. SEBASTIAN, general manager of the Pacific Fruit Express company, an adjunct of the Southern Pacific, is at the Palace, having arrived from Chicago yesterday.
J. G. KIRKPATRICK, president and general manager of the National Polo company, is at the St. Francis, registered from Escanaba, Mich.
GEORGE F. CLAPP, head of the investment company that bears his name, arrived from Seattle last evening and took apartments at the Palace.
WELDON D. WHEELAN, special agent of the Fireman's Fund Insurance company, is at the Palace, registered from Los Angeles.
H. E. O'BRIEN, special agent of the Aetna Life Insurance company, is here from Los Angeles and is a guest at the Palace.
W. E. LUMMIS, for 20 years county surveyor of Tehama county, is a recent arrival at the Argonaut from Red Bluff.
ST. JOHN CLIFTON, a capitalist of Philadelphia, is at the Fairmont with his family.
T. J. MONTGOMERY, a civil engineer of Weaverville, is a guest at the Stewart.
WILLIAM S. BAYERS, a hotel man of Bolinas, is a guest at the Argonaut.

Answers to Queries

JENNY LIND—E. S. K., Tunkhannoc, Pa. In a recent issue of The Call you say that Jenny Lind never sang in San Francisco. I remember my father saying that he heard her sing in that city. If she did not sing there, where did she sing in America?

H. Sutherland in "The Prima Donna," says of Jenny Lind: "Her professional visits in the United States included New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, D. C., Charleston and Havana. The tour was but a limited one compared with those made 35 years later by Mme. Adalina Patti, but in Jenny Lind's days there was no railway through the Rocky mountains; nor was California west visiting at a time when San Francisco scarcely existed." P. T. Barnum, in his story of his life, tells of his engagement of the great singer, but in no part of his narrative does he mention San Francisco. In addition to the places above mentioned he says that she sang in Boston, Providence, Richmond, Charleston, New Orleans, Natchez, Memphis, St. Louis, Nashville, Louisville, Madison, Cincinnati, Wheeling and Pittsburg. Henry Scott Holland, in a life of Jenny Lind prepared from original papers, makes no mention of her singing in California and says that after her contract with Barnum "she sang on her own account in the New England states, Canada and Illinois, closing at Boston."

MONA LISA—C. H. L., Petaluma. Who was Mona Lisa? In what age and country did she live?

Her full name was Lisa di Aulon Maria di Noio Gherardini. She was married in 1495, as the third wife of Francesco di Bartolomeo de Zamboni del Giocondo. She lived in Italy, and Leonardo de Vinci, who was four years, 1500-1504, painting her picture, thought her the most beautiful woman in that country.

HOLIDAYS—C. C. H., Vallejo. What holidays are observed in all the states of the United States?

The holidays observed in all of the states are: New Year's day, Washington's birthday, fourth of July, Labor day and Thanksgiving day. The president proclaims Thanksgiving day as a legal holiday. He may proclaim others.

SCOTTY—A. S., City. What has become of "Scotty," the death valley miser? Is he "broke"?

He was alive in the southern part of the state about three months ago. At that time he declared that he had made a new "strike."

"ST. PETER AT THE GATE"—Subscriber, City. This department is informed that a copy of the verses asked for may be obtained from Mortimer Campbell at 1832 Tenth avenue, Sunset district.

LONG AND SHORT—G. W., San Mateo. Which is the longest and the shortest day in the United States?

Generally speaking, June 23 is the longest, and December 22 the shortest.

COMPOUND—A. M., Malibu. P. I. What is "cadomene compound"?

A patent medicine.

THE PROFLIGATE—E. J. C., Mare Island. Who wrote the book, entitled "The Profligate," A. W. Piner.



COMPLETION of miles of improved highways in San Joaquin county is matter of congratulation as well as example. We understand that this part of the project has been finished within the appropriation from the total bond issue of \$1,800,000 voted by the county for building 238 miles of highways. It is a record of which the San Joaquin highway commission may be proud.

The commission understands fully that while its function as to this part of the project has been fulfilled, it will not do to let the investment fall into neglect for want of the necessary care in the way of repairs. The fact is that six months' neglect would leave new roads in bad shape, and a regular system of patrols has been instituted, so that repairs may be made on the instant.

It is eminently true of well made highways that a stitch in time saves nine. The committee of maintenance makes these recommendations:

The needs of maintenance on the roads will probably be of three kinds. The first need which must be met is the deterioration of the road from ordinary traffic or wear. Small abrasions will develop, which, if repaired promptly, will not become serious, and which can be repaired at small expense. Then there is a more extensive style of maintenance which will consist of replacing the sealing coat on roads where it has worn off to such a degree that it can not be replaced except by means of an outfit especially equipped for handling large quantities of material. A third need for maintenance on the improved roads will probably be damage caused by floods, or by excessive traffic of an especially heavy and destructive nature.

It is calculated that the labor of patrols and maintenance will cost \$108 a mile per annum, and other expenses will bring up this cost to \$200.

It is urged that the work of repairs should be done by the county as a whole, without regard for the road districts. This recommendation seems especially important because the road district system has always been subject to abuse by reason of politics. It is notorious that all over California road district funds have been used chiefly to trench courthouse rings.

SAN FRANCISCO is deeply interested in the development of Alaska, and the Chamber of Commerce, recognizing this fact, has appointed a delegation to act with other representatives of Pacific coast commercial bodies in pushing the necessary legislation in Washington. A concerted movement on behalf of the coast states in this regard has been planned in the expectation that congress will turn its attention to this much neglected matter. The chamber has drawn up the following specifications to indicate some of the more important subjects for legislation:

First—Aids to navigation in the form of lights along the coast to put an end to the terrible marine losses of the last few years.

Second—The extension of land surveys, so that settlers might be able to locate their homesteads and immigrants coming by way of the Panama canal could find cheap homes there.

Third—A reduction in the government cable tolls, a matter of importance to business men who have to depend on cable communication during part of the year.

Fourth—Aids to internal transportation in the form of good wagon roads.

Fifth—Salmon hatcheries along the coast for the perpetuation of the fish supply, which is in danger of depletion.

Sixth—More adequate means for the administration of justice, for the better protection of life and property.

Seventh—Speed in putting a good development plan into effect.

Of these the last is the most important. In the absence of anything of the sort, the development of the territory is at a standstill, while congress wrangles over policies and politics, chiefly the latter. This has been the main trouble that has postponed any sort of action in relation to Alaska. Rival schools of doctrinaires engage in endless disputes, and the politicians are afraid of burning their fingers.

In the meantime the trade and industry of the Pacific coast suffers, and it is the purpose of the commercial bodies to bring these eternally wrangling factions to a sense of their responsibilities.

JUDGE W. C. VAN FLEET of the federal district court does not live by law alone, but wisely casts a modicum of sociological bread upon the waters in the shape of good advice to future Americans by adoption. He bids them go forth and marry, increase and multiply.

This is not exactly a condition of citizenship laid down by law, but it is safely founded in recognition of the principle that the family is the unit of the state and the solid base on which American institutions rest and from which they derive their stability.

It may be that the learned jurist spoke in jest, but his advice had its serious and important side. The bachelor unattached belongs more or less to what we describe as floating population. He does not, as the French say, "range himself." He may be here today and gone tomorrow. When he marries he gives hostages to fortune which he engages to redeem. Get thee a wife, says the court. What the commonwealth desires is the thoroughly domesticated citizen.

San Francisco is fortunate in its judiciary. Judge Van Fleet gets them married and Judge Graham keeps them married. They are our judicial friends of the family.

Judicial Friends of the Family

WASHINGTON dispatches tell us that Secretary Stimson and the directors of the Panama railway have held up the order made by General Manager Drake for an advance in rates for freight crossing the isthmus. An investigation will be held, at which Traffic Manager Wheeler will appear as the representative of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce.

Probably the annals of American railroading supply no parallel for the extraordinary plea or excuse put forward by Drake in support of his order. In substance he contends that the isthmian railway has more business than it can handle, and therefore something should be done to check the volume of trade.

Possibly the general manager is suffering from insomnia brought on by overwork. It may be suggested that he take a vacation or resign his job to more competent hands. If he and his railway are overworked, that is no reason why the big and growing interests engaged in intercoast commerce should be punished. The Panama railway at present rates has been making large profits and accumulating a comfortable surplus. There is not the slightest reason why increased facilities to handle the trade should not be provided from funds in hand. No other traffic manager in the country would dream of putting forward such an absurd excuse for an increase of rates.

The isthmian trade is one of the highest importance to the Pacific coast, not only by reason of its increasing volume, but chiefly because it serves by competition to regulate and keep down the overland freight rates. The big railroads would be immensely pleased to see Drake's order go into effect, no matter how much they might be amused by the plea under which he seeks to justify the advance.

NO little talk has been indulged since the abrogation of the treaty with Russia concerning retaliation to assume the shape of a tariff war, but a glance at the figures of imports and exports might indicate that Russia would be far more inconvenienced by a policy of that sort than the United States. A recent report made by the department of commerce and labor serves to show where a break in trade relations would pinch Russian manufacturing industry. The following table gives the record of exports from the United States to Russia in the fiscal year 1911:

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Value. Includes Agricultural implements, Cotton, Iron and steel, Twine, Copper pigs, etc., Leather and manufactures, Rosin, Meat and dairy products, Lubricating oil, Cars and carriages.

The important item in this statement is that of cotton exports. Russian manufacturers must have our cotton, notwithstanding the strenuous effort that has been made to increase the production of that staple in Turkestan. The situation in this regard is indicated by a statement in the St. Petersburg Commercial and Industrial Gazette, which is the mouthpiece of the minister of finance. After explaining the position as regards Russian production of cotton, the article concludes: "A tariff war schedule on imported cotton under the circumstances would place our whole industry in a very embarrassing condition without doing good to Russian cotton culture." In other words, a tariff war, like other forms of warfare, is unprofitable for both parties.

Our total trade, exports and imports, with Russia is not large, but it has about doubled in the last 10 years. The trade in cotton is larger than the figures indicate, because considerable quantities are exported indirectly through English and German consignees.

MRS. ELLA FLAGG YOUNG, distinguished in education circles and superintendent of Chicago's schools, has invented a sexless pronoun, and may be said to have eliminated gender from the appalling array of difficulties that confront aspiring youth pursuing the thorny paths of knowledge.

Most of us in early days have come out second best in conflict with this treacherous part of speech, which ever lies in wait to trap the unwary footsteps of the young grammarian. The pronoun is the rebellious and disobedient bronco of language, buckjumping rules and demoralizing the orderly procession of the well conducted parts of speech.

Mrs. Young, with a touch of genius, has compassed the insubordinate pronoun's discomfiture by making a sort of grammatical mince pie of compounded genders mixed with apostrophes for spice. "Her" means he or she, "his'er" means his or her and "him'er" is mince meat of him or her. Miss Young illustrates:

A principal should so conduct his'er school that all pupils are engaged in something that is profitable to him'er and where the pupil is required to use knowledge in accomplishing his'er task.

Lovely language. Mrs. Young's simplified and subdued pronoun will be a sister to Doctor Jordan's simplified spelling. It is a wise mother tongue that knows her own children.

No Likelihood of a Tariff War

WASHINGTON dispatches tell us that Secretary Stimson and the directors of the Panama railway have held up the order made by General Manager Drake for an advance in rates for freight crossing the isthmus. An investigation will be held, at which Traffic Manager Wheeler will appear as the representative of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce.

The New Grammatical Mince Pie

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