

SPECIAL OFFER:

FIRST 60 CONTEST PICTURES FREE TO ALL COMERS

THE CALL



THE WEATHER YESTERDAY—Highest temperature, 54; lowest Monday night, 48. FORECAST FOR TODAY—Showers; brisk south wind.

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SAN FRANCISCO, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1912.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

FIRE DESTROYS HOME OF BIG CORPORATIONS

Equitable Life Building in New York Gutted; Six Lives Lost; Many Injured

Damage Set at \$6,000,000 May Reach \$300,000,000 if the Vaults Prove Worthless

Harriman Biography Destroyed, Priceless Libraries Consumed and Flames Still Rage

Fire's Toll of Life and Dollars in Brief

Seven lives were lost, six victims being identified.

Seven watchmen and special policemen are missing; 15 persons were injured.

Estimated property loss, including value of building, \$16,408,523.

Estimated aggregate amount of securities and money in vaults imperiled, \$1,150,000,000.

Three hundred and twenty-five tenants, including firms of international fame, homeless.

Fire discovered at 5:30 a. m. in storeroom of restaurant kitchen; exact cause unknown.

For first time in history of fire department Brooklyn apparatus was summoned to Manhattan.

Stock exchange compelled to suspend stock transfer.

Temporary home for Clearing House association established in Chamber of Commerce.

While fire rages above him, engineer draws fires under seven boilers to prevent disastrous explosions.

NEW YORK, Jan. 9.—The immense marble and granite home of the Equitable Life Assurance society, covering a block in lower Broadway, a historic landmark of New York's early period of skyscraper buildings and one of the city's important financial centers, was destroyed by fire today, with a loss of six lives and probably \$6,000,000 in property. A dozen persons were injured.

Valuable records, including the biography of E. H. Harriman and two priceless libraries which can not be replaced, went up in flames, and the fate of hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of securities, stored in safe deposit vaults, was in question tonight, although it is believed that the fireproof construction of the vaults will save them from danger.

Big Corporations Lose Homes The great structure, which, besides containing the main offices of the Equitable Life Assurance society, was the home of the Mercantile Trust company, the Equitable Trust company, the banking house of Kountze Brothers, August Belmont & Co., the Harriman railroad lines, the Mercantile Safe Deposit company, the Lawyers' club and many of the city's most prominent law firms, stands tonight a shell of ice-colded granite.

The intense cold caused a thick ice coating to form on the facades of skyscrapers adjacent and on the pavements for blocks around. The bulk of modern fireproof structures nearby, according to Fire Commissioner Johnson, protected the entire financial district. The damage, except by water, was confined to the Equitable structure.

Of those who lost their lives, three employees in the building were killed by jumping from the roof, to which they were driven by flames.

Firemen Whirled to Depths Battalion Chief William J. Walsh disappeared in a whirl of smoke and flame when a cavern occurred on the third floor. Two other men, William Campion, captain of the watchmen in the Mercantile Safe Deposit company vaults, and Frank J. Neider, a special officer, whose bodies have not been recovered, complete the list of dead, so far as known.

Several persons, watchmen and others, who were in the structure when the fire broke out, have not been accounted for, but are believed to have escaped. The death total may not be fixed until the fire, which still was burning tonight, has been extinguished and the ruins cool.

President Giblin in Trap Among the injured is President William J. Giblin of the Mercantile Safe Deposit company, whose rescue from the basement vaults, where he was imprisoned, after two hours' work by firemen, was one of the most sensational episodes of the fire. He had gone into a vault to save securities and accidentally locked himself in with an employe who had accompanied him. Their cries were heard by the firemen, who had to saw through the steel bars of a door leading to the street before they could rescue the imprisoned men. Giblin was

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Drapery Is Hellenic Art But Bare Legs Shocks the French

[Special Cable to The Call]

PARIS, Jan. 9.—The anti-scant drapery movement sweeping over France has struck Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Duncan, who are being prosecuted and will be evicted from their apartments. Raymond Duncan is a Californian and a brother of Isadora Duncan, of Greek dance fame. His wife is a beautiful Greek girl, whom he married in Athens six years ago. The tenants in the place in the Avenue Charles Floquet lodged a vigorous complaint with the landlord, who asked the court this afternoon to give an order for Duncan's immediate expulsion. The tenants also complained that they are kept awake by Doric music played on a lyre every night by Duncan.

JANITOR AROUSES GOVERNOR'S WRATH

Eager Laborer Raises Dust and Sweeps Self From Depot Job

When J. E. Barry, janitor in the state service, found himself Monday morning sweeping the Southern Pacific waiting room at the ferry depot it occurred to him that he might help in the task of "kicking the Southern Pacific out of politics" by hurrying the railroad company in a business way.

In his humble capacity Barry's power was limited, but he did the best he could with his broom, the only weapon with which the state had armed him. By sweeping vigorously he proceeded to make the waiting room an uncomfortable place for the company's patrons. He raised a storm of dust that started everybody sneezing and was having a perfectly beautiful time when a "voice reached him through the haze."

"Is it necessary," said the voice, "to do this while all these people are around?" The speaker was Hiram Johnson, governor of California, but Barry did not know this. The governor was returning to Sacramento and with him was Mrs. Johnson, who had accompanied her husband as far as the ferry. Mrs. Johnson's dress had suffered as the result of Barry's activity, and the governor was mad clear through.

Barry, however, instead of heeding the warning, told the governor not to interfere with state work and went on sweeping. He said other things as heedless as his sweeping and kept on saying them until the governor lost patience and, with an ominous "I'll see about it," rushed upstairs to find Pete Kelly, superintendent of the ferry building.

As a result of that interview Barry was "fired" without ceremony and the Southern Pacific went right on doing business.

While Barry was getting in wrong with the governor another little broom comedy was being enacted in the Key route waiting room, where M. J. McGranaghan, another of the state's janitors, was also wielding a broom. McGranaghan's broom became involved with the shins of Captain Rasmussen, marine superintendent of the Key route. McGranaghan apologized, but when Rasmussen, to whose shins the apology brought no balm, warned him to be more careful, McGranaghan talked back to such purpose that Rasmussen gave him into custody and asked that a charge of battery be preferred against him.

The case was dismissed yesterday for lack of prosecution and McGranaghan returned to his work.

BAY STATE NO PLACE FOR MARRIED-BEFORES

[Special Dispatch to The Call]

BOSTON, Mass., Jan. 9.—No more may a "Reno widow" or a "grass widow," embarking in Massachusetts for a second or subsequent voyage upon the matrimonial sea, be able to keep closed their pages of past marital experiences, if a bill introduced today in the Massachusetts legislature is enacted into a law.

The bill presented today is primarily intended as a first aid to conscientious ministers in determining the status of prospective brides and grooms applying to them for the tying of the marriage knot. It provides that certified copies of the divorce decrees of the contracting parties must be pasted on marriage licenses at the time they are issued.

The introduction of the new marriage license bill is the direct result of complaints made by many ministers that they have unwittingly been led into performing marriage ceremonies for divorced persons without being aware that a former marriage had taken place.

GUN MOLD BURSTS; EIGHT WORKMEN DEAD

RUEILLE-SUR-LOUVRE, France, Jan. 9.—Eight steel molders met a horrible death and 11 others were seriously injured today by the bursting of a gun mold at the government naval arsenal near Angouleme.

PACIFIC MAIL TO BUILD FOUR GIANT VESSELS

R. P. Schwerin on Way East With Specifications for Leviathan Liners

Ships to Compete for New York to Orient Trade Will Cost \$11,500,000

R. P. Schwerin, vice president and general manager of the Pacific Mail company, who left here last Monday for New York, took with him the plans and specifications for four leviathan liners which will cost \$11,500,000 and which will be operated between New York and the orient via the Panama canal, San Francisco and Honolulu.

Whatever change may be contemplated in the management of the steamship company will not affect, it is said, the plan to build these ships. To build them it will be necessary to float a special bond issue, the details of which are said to have been arranged. Whoever, in the final struggle, gets control of the Pacific Mail company will need such ships as these to compete in the battle for business that will follow the opening of the canal. It was this fact that made it possible to finance this addition to the fleet, which also will mean a vast increase of strength to the American merchant marine.

Finest Ever Launched

The shore engineering staff of the Pacific Mail company worked night and day for more than a week prior to Schwerin's departure completing the plans and specifications, which call, it is said, for four of the finest ships ever launched from American yards.

The new ships are to be 680 feet long and 75 feet in beam. As they will be used through the canal, their draft loaded will be only 20 feet. This comparatively light draft is made possible by the great beam. The ships will have accommodations for 300 first class passengers, 200 second class and 300 third class or steerage. There will be 30 staterooms de luxe in the first cabin, each provided with a bathroom, and the steerage passengers will be housed in staterooms instead of large dormitories, as is now the custom.

All Four Oil Burners

They will be twin screw ships of 16,000 horsepower and will be able to make 17 knots an hour. Each ship will be able to carry about 17,000 tons of freight, and they will all be oil burners.

They will carry oil in the double bottoms and in two big tanks, one forward of the engine room and the other aft. They will take their main supply of fuel at this port, but an auxiliary oiling station will be established at Honolulu. The ships will make the run from New York to this port in 17 days.

From New York to Honolulu they will operate under the protection of the coastwise shipping laws. In the direct trade between here and the orient, they will compete at a disadvantage as regards cost of operation, with foreign competitors, but it is believed that the superior size and equipment of the new ships will insure them a big share of the open business.

COMMERCE BODY TIGHTENS ITS GRIP

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—The grip of the interstate commerce commission over the commerce of the country was tightened today by a series of decisions by the supreme court.

The principle was laid down that shippers suffering from civil injuries from railroads must go to the commission before rushing to the courts for relief.

The paramount authority of the commission in reasonable rate making was upheld by the court's decision that the federal district court of Minnesota was wrong in preventing the enforcement of the commission's reduced rates of lumber from the Pacific coast, Oregon and Montana points to St. Paul, Omaha and Chicago.

The legislative field, touching the acceptance of goods by railroads for interstate shipment, was marked forever as federal territory and states were warned to keep off.

The supremacy over state laws of similar import of the federal "hours of service law," the enforcement of which is confided to the commission, was upheld.

The court laid down the principle that railroad dividends were not to be a sole basis for judging the reasonableness of rates, but that conditions as a whole were to be taken into consideration.

SAILOR CONFESSES HE ROBBED A PAWN SHOP

[Special Dispatch to The Call] VALLEJO, Jan. 9.—Stephen Morehead, a sailor attached to the destroyer Perry, was arrested here this morning by Officers Frazer and Shay for robbing N. Epstein's pawn shop Monday. Morehead confessed the crime shortly after his arrest. He was arraigned today and his bail bonds were set at \$5,000.

LOVE'S ARGOSY WRECKED AS GREENE SAILS

He Made Snug Harbor, Backed, Filled and Hit Damage Suit Reef

Pursued by Lawyer, He Mounts Bridge and Speeds Away From Former Charmer

When an old sea dog dabbles in "puppy love" there are breakers ahead, which fact is being brought home to Captain W. W. Greene, commander of the liner Chiyo Maru and commodore of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha fleet. Since the sensational breaking off of his engagement to Miss Gertrude Macfarlane, a belle of San Francisco and Honolulu society, more than two months ago and the subsequent breaking of the news in print, they have been rolling high, but the top mark was reached yesterday, when Miss Macfarlane brought suit for \$51,000, giving shattered promises as her grounds.

The extra \$1,000 over and above the round figure is demanded as reimbursement for a trousseau that never walked up the aisle, while the remainder is for damaged affections and the acute embarrassment that followed the published accounts of the affair. So much for the suit. Back of it, according to Miss Macfarlane's own statement made last night, is the demand that Captain Greene retract some of the unkind things he has said about her, for she admits that her affections haven't been damaged in the least.

The captain, with whom the tide of romance is now at its ebb, is inclined to brand the court action as an effort to relieve him of still more dollars, and declares he will fight it out in spite of the fact that his ship sails today. He has left the whole matter in the hands of his attorney, A. A. Moore, who will represent him during his absence in the orient.

"DECEIVED AND HARASSED"

Captain Greene says he was deceived and harassed by his bride that was to have been and her mother until he could stand it no more, whereupon he slipped the hawser and steamed away. To the dollars it cost him he says he has bidden farewell, and the worry he has survived. As for Miss Macfarlane's thousand dollar trousseau, he says most of it was imported silk, on which he paid the duty himself.

Miss Macfarlane, who is the daughter of Commodore Clarence Macfarlane of the Hawaiian Yacht club, consented to discuss the suit against her former fiancé at the home of her mother, Mrs. E. M. Grimes, 1907 Pierce street, last night, but denied that she sought money from the errant captain.

"Of this world's goods I have had fair share," said Miss Macfarlane, "but there seems to be no other way to reach Captain Greene and force him to make retraction of the utter lies he has put in circulation about me. I have been patient and I have tried to appeal to his manly side, but apparently he hasn't one."

"The engagement was never really broken off with any understanding between us. We were to have been married on October 14, and I went ahead with my preparations. The day before the wedding date we went down to get the license, and I took along my decree of divorce. I had been married before and Captain Greene knew it, and there was nothing said at the time."

"When we came home we found that my father, Mr. Grimes, had received a special delivery anonymous letter during my absence, in which the writer made certain charges against the captain. I didn't put much faith in an anonymous letter, but I asked him about the facts recited there. He denied everything fully, and I believed him."

NAUTICAL HOUR IS LONG

"A few minutes later he said he wanted to go down to the Fairmont to see a friend, saying he would back in an hour. I have never seen him since that moment."

"He has tried to force me with threats to let him have his way in the matter. By that I suppose he means he wants the marriage to take place. But that is impossible; it is all over now. I don't want him and I don't want his money. All I ask is that he retract what he said about giving me \$4,200 and promising to give me \$10,000 more. The most he ever gave me was a couple of rings which belonged to his former wife, and I have returned those today."

"My attorney, J. C. Campbell, talked to Captain Greene Friday and explained that I wanted the retraction. The captain promised to come to Mr. Campbell's office Monday, but he failed to show up, so I caused the suit to be filed."

Captain Greene is defiant to the last and promises to fight the case with the same splendid abandon he displayed as a lover.

"I gave them every reason to suppose that I was a 'good thing,' but he said yesterday, 'But they have overlooked the fact that I am an Irishman.' For the sake of the girl and in the interest of peace and quiet I was willing to let the matter drop. It cost me a good many dollars and more than a little worry. I said goodbye to

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SEA CAPTAIN SUED \$51,000 Balm Asked



Miss Gertrude Macfarlane, a belle of San Francisco and Honolulu, who has filed suit against the captain of the Chiyo Maru.

DESTROYER TERRY LIMPS INTO PORT

Commander Fremont Took the Wheel and Wrenched Vessel From Neptune's Grip

NORFOLK, Va., Jan. 9.—Battered and crippled as the result of its severe experience at sea, the torpedo boat destroyer Terry limped into port today with one engine working.

The Terry had been assigned to scout about three hundred miles to the northeast of New York in the war game maneuvers and was off Cape Sable on the Nova Scotia coast when the storm struck it last Saturday. The wind blew a hurricane, washing clean the decks of the destroyer, and carrying away every lifeboat.

For two days the 52 members of the crew lived on canned goods and worked incessantly at the pumps. The Terry's steering gear was washed away Sunday night and it looked as though the end was near. By heroic effort this was repaired, and the destroyer's commander, Lieutenant Commander John C. Fremont, held the vessel's head to the storm, and kept her afloat.

Commander Fremont, upon arrival at Norfolk, gave shore liberty to his crew so that they might have a rest.

S. P. LAND GRANT ATTACKED IN SUIT

[Special Dispatch to The Call]

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 9.—Another suit attacking the validity of land holdings of the Southern Pacific company in California was filed in the United States district court yesterday and kept secret until today.

The federal government seeks the cancellation of patent to 550 acres in Kern county, obtained, it is alleged, by fraud, and valued at \$1,900 an acre.

Simultaneously with the filing of the suit a telegram from Fred Dennet, commissioner of the general land office at Washington, reached the local land office. It read:

It is believed that this data is asked for to supply a basis for additional suits. The suit filed yesterday was kept secret until today, when it was necessary to make the action public because of the fact that the statute of limitations provides that the suit to cancel a patent can not be started more than six years after it is granted. The patent attacked was granted January 9, 1906.

WEBSTER WILL SAY HE MURDERED WIFE

Counsel for Chicago Man Announces This Intention

OREGON, Ill., Jan. 9.—Dr. Harry Elgin Webster of Chicago, facing trial for the murder of his wife, Bessie Kent Webster, will plead guilty Friday.

This announcement was made today by counsel for Webster. The body of Webster's wife was found in the woods between Dixon and Oregon October 1, with the head almost severed from the body. Webster was arrested. Then it was learned that Webster had married Bessie Kent after he had left another bride, Mrs. Zoe Varney Webster, in her Iowa home.

HEARTS, NOT YEARS HIS ALTAR TRUMPS

Alameda Youth Wins Hand and Love of a Fascinating Grandmother

[Special Dispatch to The Call]

ALAMEDA, Jan. 9.—George L. Becker, a graduate of Alameda high school, and Mrs. Fredrika Park Smith, a grandmother, were married last evening at the Smith home, 1216 Chestnut street. The bride, who is said to be nearly 40 years the senior of the bridegroom, who is 22, was attended by her 16 year old granddaughter, Miss Fredrika Tower, as maid of honor. The bridegroom was supported by his brother, Stewart Becker. The ceremony was read by Rev. Everett W. Couper of Christ Episcopal church.

The Smith home was decorated with pink and white roses and a bouquet of the same flowers was carried by the bride. Becker is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin L. Becker of Central avenue and Willow street. His family is well known here, a brother being connected with the Citizens' bank. Becker is employed as an accountant in the offices of the Southern Pacific company in San Francisco, and his bride said today that because of her husband's duties they would not go away on a honeymoon.

Mrs. Becker was the widow of Walter H. Smith, who was killed in Santa Rosa in the earthquake of 1906. She has a daughter, Mrs. Tower, living in Eureka, Humboldt county. Mrs. Becker is an attractive woman and is proud of being a grandmother.

MARRIAGE FREE WHERE THE GIRL PROPOSES

Justice Makes Offer and Is Ready for the Rush

[Special Dispatch to The Call]

BAKERSFIELD, Jan. 9.—Justice of the Peace A. W. Marlon today boomed the leap year wedding business by making public announcement that he would marry free of charge any couples, the bride having made the proposal of marriage. He said he would be at his office earlier tomorrow, prepared for an extra rush of business.

INCOME TAX LAW OF WISCONSIN TO STAND

State Supreme Court Upholds Constitutionality

MADISON, Wis., Jan. 9.—Wisconsin's income tax law, enacted by the last legislature, was held to be constitutional in a decision of the state supreme court today. The opinion was written by Chief Justice Winslow, and the court was unanimous in the decision.

SERVICE HOURS LAW IS NOT ENFORCEABLE

Supreme Court Puts Crimp in Washington Statute

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—The supreme court today held that the Washington state "hours of service law" of 1907 for railroad employes, carried no power of enforcement as to interstate commerce after congress passed an "hours of service law" in the same year. An attempt was made to penalize the Northern Pacific railway under the state law.

U. S. TROOPS TO GO TO CHINA

American Forces Will Keep Open Railroad From Peking to the Sea

MOVEMENT RESULT OF MATURE DELIBERATION

Five Hundred Infantrymen to Land at Little Port of Chinwangtao

PARTITION OF ANCIENT NATION ALREADY BEGUN

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—After a lapse of more than 10 years American troops again are to invade China. They are to aid in keeping open the railroad from Peking to the sea.

In the course of eight or nine days 500 regular infantrymen will be disembarked at the little Chinese port of Chinwangtao.

The movement was ordered after mature consideration of the policy involved in landing American troops in a foreign country under the peculiar conditions now existing in China.

Troops Go From Manila It is understood the Fifteenth infantry at Manila will be called upon to supply the troops. These will be embarked on the transport Thomas.

Reports that an armistice had been arranged to prevent a renewal of the fighting between the republicans and the imperialists in China was welcomed at the state department as indicating that there still was hope for the conclusion of peace.

When attention was directed to the action of Russia in asserting an individual interest in the future of Mongolia—a fact reported to the state department by Minister Calhoun through the delivery of the notice to that effect from the Chinese foreign office—it was pointed out that the virtual dismemberment of China already had begun.

Agreement Breaking Down

Though no official notice has been taken of this latest development, it is taken to mean that the course adopted by Russia has given rise to grave forebodings as indicating the breaking down of the agreement between the six powers to refrain from the pursuit of any individual advantage, which was brought about through the overtures of the state department here.

It is admitted that the suzerainty of the Manchu court has been lightly maintained in Mongolia, and that the throne was never able to hold a tight rein over its subjects in that quarter of China.

Aside from Russian influence, which had much to do with this condition, the religious proclivities of the Mongols tended to divorce them from their Chinese rulers.

NAVAL CONSTRUCTOR TO LEAVE SERVICE

H. A. Evans Will Manage Ship-building Plant

[Special Dispatch to The Call] MARE ISLAND, Jan. 9.—From advice received at the yard, Naval Constructor H. A. Evans, former manager of Mare island, will leave the government service next Friday. He is at present at Bath, Me. He will become manager of the Moran ship building plant at Seattle.

Marine Private Letts, who secured a diamond ring from M. K. Grant, a Yaljeo jeweler, under false pretenses several weeks ago, was taken to San Quentin this afternoon on the tug Active, where he will spend two and a half years. Marine Private Love accompanied Letts to prison today. Love was arrested in San Francisco last year on the charge of embezzling funds at Honolulu. He will serve four years at the state prison.

That the receiving ship Independence will be condemned by the navy department before the end of April is the opinion of the yard officials. The vessel is said to be leaking badly. It is believed that a small ship will be assigned to the duties as receiving vessel. The Independence will be sold.

BARGAINS

In Special Lots of Active Local Securities: 25 Calif. State Life Ins. Co. \$22.50 50 Western States Life Ins. Co. 15.00 150 Massey Copper. 24.00 60 Ocean Shore Ry. Co. (new) 19.00 5 La Escalpa Rubber. 107.50 100 Foulson (Federal Telegraph Co.) 11.50 We Have Orders for and Will Buy: Oak Realty Syndicate, Cal. State Life, Robbitt Rubber, Amer. Auto Press, Oro, Electric Chicago Rubber, Foulson Wireless, Calif. Cons. Oil, Airline, Franchise Proof Auto Wheel, Keystone Bonds, Owl Drug Co., Hidalgo Rubber, Western States Life, etc.

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