The San Francisco Call

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Stimson Accepts San Francisco's Argument

SECRETARY STIMSON has extricated himself from an impossible position by the rescission of his order raising freight rates over the Panama railway. The argument against the order presented by William R. Wheeler, traffic manager for the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, was unanswerable and was wisely regarded as such by the secretary of war. Indeed, Mr. Stimson's published statement on the subject is chiefly a reproduction of Mr. Wheeler's argument, which is accepted as convincing and conclusive.

It is unfortunate, nevertheless, that the government finds itself so situated that the volume of traffic now offered to the isthmian railway must be cut down for lack of adequate facilities to handle it all. This is bad management, and it seems that the condition might have been foreseen and provided for in advance. This curtailment of trade must work serious injury to the intercoast trade, and if possible, steps should be taken at once to enlarge the transportation facilities to the point where the full volume of trade can be handled.

Mr. Stimson recognizes the material influence on overland freight rates exercised by the isthmian competition, and it is a grave misfortune that this influence should be minimized by cutting down the volume of trade.

Mr. Stimson announces that the present double track railway must be abandoned on the 15th instant and he proposes to substitute a single track, which will, of course, be inadequate to handle the business. Now, it seems as if the resources of the government should be sufficient to permit the installation of a double track.

Increasing Fame of Abraham Lincoln

ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S fame steadily grows, and will grow year by year as the world comes to understand more clearly his wisdom and his humanity. He has been called the modern "man of sorrows," and in truth he bore the burdens and sorrows of a great people on his shoulders. Great issues often seem to build high character, and Lincoln supplies the most striking example of this truth known to the history of the world.

The tragedy of Lincoln's life was Greek in its tense and sustained action and in its sorrowful and fatal climax when he died, a martyr to the national cause. He gave his life for his people in the hour of success after the long and heart rending conflict, and he presents the most heroic figure in American history.

Lincoln's untimely taking off lends emphasis to his value as the chief protagonist of the greatest republic in the world. His death came at the very moment when wise counsel and humane action were needed to heal the wounds made by the long conflict. Had Lincoln been spared, this nation would have escaped most of the errors of the reconstruction period. By his death the country lost its greatest man and its most valuable citizen.

First Constructive Work on the Fair Site

ON Thursday of this week contractors who desire to bid on the first actual work of construction for the Panama-Pacific exposition will be able to examine the specifications for filling in the ground on the north shore required for the site. It is estimated that 1,000,000 cubic yards of earth will be required to complete the fill, and this material will be taken from the bottom of the bay by means of suction dredgers.

This is the first step, and it will be followed immediately by the letting of contracts for building a seawall of broken rock to protect the grounds. Sealed tenders for the first contract will be received on the 27th instant, and thereafter the work will proceed continuously without pause.

Some delay in beginning construction work has been made necessary by the preparation of plans, which, perhaps, constituted the most important part of the whole undertaking. The governing board wanted to make sure it was right before going ahead. Now that most of the preliminaries have been settled, the job in all its details will go right along.

Beginning work in March allows three years to complete the exposition, and that should be ample time for all purposes, with every interest concerned working together.

Kowalsky's Speculation in Works of Art

COLONEL HENRY I. KOWALSKY and Uncle Sam have fallen out, and the colonel will sue his uncle, if he can find a court to listen to his tale of woe, which concerns sundry works of imported art, variously valued anywhere between $30,000 and $100,000. The colonel refused to pay the duties, and his uncle put the pictures up to auction, without very gratifying results on the first call.

The local market for Russian paintings was so slow and unresponsive that the treasury feared the results would not pay expenses and duties. So it was resolved to rescind the sale in job lots and put up the collection as a whole. Colonel Kowalsky bid up the lot to $40,000, but was unable or unwilling to produce real money sufficient to cover the 50 per cent deposit, and so the collection went to an Oakland millionaire for $39,000.

It is a singular commentary on the duties levied on works of art that they should be so high that they may easily exceed the sum the goods are likely to bring in open market. There is no real standard of value for articles whose market depends on the fancy of the moment or the caprice of buyers. Values are fictitious and variable in degrees that might seem preposterous.

This condition is illustrated by the wide variation in the market value of articles of women's dress, which may be regarded as first cousins to real works of art. The other day in New York the customs authorities put up to auction a woman's dress, with these results, as related by a newspaper historian:

> It was the stout woman in a black broadcloth suit and black and white toque turban bonnet, occupying juror No. 6's seat, who summed up the situation in a nutshell when William Henkel, United States marshal, complained that no one would bid more than $15 for a $247.04 chiffon robe of Alice blue over satin at Henkel's last sleeper trunk auction sale today in the vacant courtroom on the third floor of the federal building.
>
> "It's out of fashion," said she, and all the other women in the jury box, including the one who had brought her 3 year old little girl along to watch the bidding, nodded plumed hat approval.
>
> "Why, the buttonholes alone are worth that much," was Henkel's characteristic retort. Whereat the women in the jury box wigwagged a united plumed hat disapproval. And the chiffon robes of Alice blue over satin was knocked down for $15, indicating that the women and not the United States marshal knew what they were talking about.

The total receipts for the day's sale of women's gear in variety amounted to $303.86, not enough, as the auctioneer lamented, "to pay the cost of gaslight in the courtroom," and the customs appraisers had estimated the value of the lot at $3,078.62. Most of the goods went to Syracuse, where variations of fashion are not much taken into account.

Conflicting Decisions as to Automobile Drivers

JUDGE BLEDSOE of the San Bernardino superior court decided some time ago that the law requiring an automobile driver to stop and give his name and number in case of collision was unconstitutional because it was discriminating legislation. In the opinion of the court an automobile was in the same class with all other vehicles, and a law which applied to road machines and not to other wheeled conveyances was special legislation and void for discrimination. It may be added that similar decisions have been rendered in other states.

Now, Judge Austin of the Fresno superior court, in passing on another law affecting automobiles and their drivers, holds that these road machines are in a class all by themselves, and therefore in legislating specially for them there is no discrimination. Judge Austin points out the distinction in this wise:

> A horse has instinct to guide it, and street cars run on rails that keep them in a certain path, but an automobile's course depends altogether upon the driver.

The law under consideration by Judge Austin was the statute which makes it a felony for an automobile driver to be drunk while running his machine. According to Judge Bledsoe's reasoning, this law would be void for discrimination as much as the other, but the Fresno judge puts the automobile in a class by itself.

It is an interesting conflict of opinion which must sooner or later come up for settlement by the supreme court.

Discipline for the Marrying Undergraduate

HOW many universities are there in California? It seems that the tale is sadly incomplete, and the rear precincts are still to hear from. So much we may infer from a proclamation issued by the faculty of the University of Redlands, which is in San Bernardino county and has been hitherto unknown to fame. That defect is in the way to be corrected, for it seems that this budding institution of learning has engaged a competent press agent, who has inspired the faculty to do stunts of an attractive and entertaining character, designed to turn the limelight that way. Witness the following:

> Whereas, we, the faculty of the University of Redlands, feel a keen sense of responsibility for not only the intellectual, but moral, spiritual and social welfare of the students coming under our care, therefore be it
>
> Resolved, that we regard it very detrimental to their best interests for young people to marry while in the university. Be it further
>
> Resolved, that, as the necessity has now arisen, we do hereby declare ourselves opposed to such unwise action, and that hereafter cases of this kind will be disciplined.

The language is a little involved and the construction sloppy, but that may be because it was written by the press agent. Otherwise it is a work of advertising art and we may expect to hear more of this well trained performing faculty.

Perhaps we may be told what form of discipline is fit for the marrying undergraduate. He might, for example, be put in the stocks or ducked in a horse pond, or he may be driven forth from the Redlands seat of learning by a college professor brandishing a flaming sword. Would the faculty, for example, permit him to come back if he agreed to get a divorce in expiation of his offense?

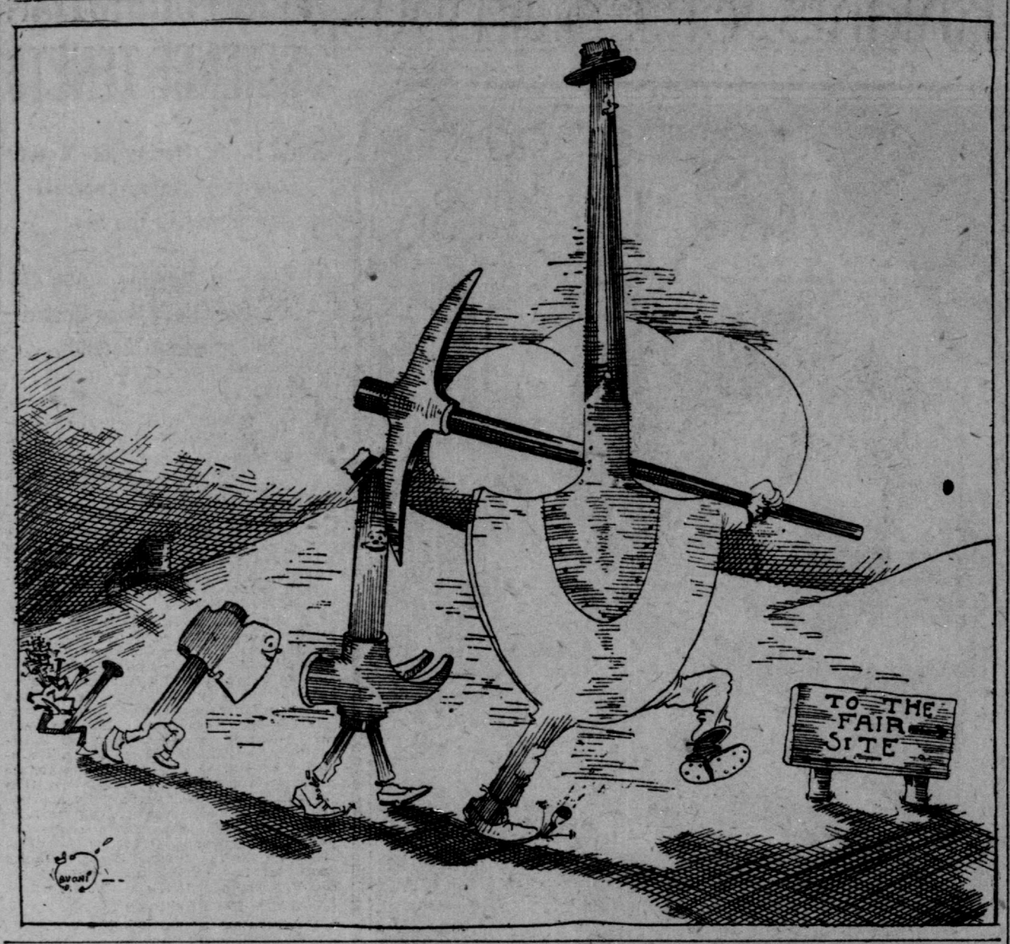
NOTE AND COMMENT

It's funny, but not many of us are worrying about how to spend the extra day's pay coming to us in February.

After the scare he had in Belfast, Winston Spencer Churchill can talk lightly of such an academic struggle as a war between England and Germany.

Five million words have been uttered in the effort to prove that Senator Lorimer's seat was bought for him. The general public believes that one word would have answered the purpo-

THE REAL THING



Persons in the News

H. H. HART, one of the pioneers of the Nome gold seekers, left yesterday for a trip through New Orleans, the West Indies and the Panama canal. Hart was recently elected president of the newly organized Alaska club. He is an enthusiastic believer in keeping alive the memories of the early rush to Alaska.

* * *

G. P. LANGDON, a merchant of Suisun; Mrs. Langdon, W. F. Scott, an oil operator of Moran, Cal., and Robert Stuart, a shoe dealer of San Jose, make up a group of recent arrivals at the Argonaut.

* * *

WARING THOMAS, a Seattle capitalist; Mrs. Thomas, C. D. Bender, a Reno banker, and Mr. and Mrs. D. T. Rose of Illinois make up a group of recent arrivals at the Fairmont.

* * *

R. E. BALDRY, formerly associated with the Palace hotel, is spending a few days in this city. He is engaged in mercantile pursuits and makes his home in New York.

* * *

B. F. WHITE, a Montana pioneer, is spending a few days at the Palace. He was territorial governor before Montana was admitted to statehood.

* * *

W. A. TILLEY, who has large interests in Marin county, is at the Manx. He has just returned from a business trip to the east.

* * *

W. H. WORKMAN, one of the early mayors of Los Angeles, is at the Palace. He is engaged in the real estate business.

* * *

HERBERT B. WHITTEN, court reporter of the counties of Napa and Sonoma, is registered at the Manx.

* * *

W. J. FOGARTY, manager of the Thomas Cook & Sons office at Los Angeles, is a guest at the Stewart.

* * *

W. B. MARBLE, a jewelry manufacturer of Chicago, is among the recent arrivals at the Stewart.

* * *

JAMES A. McCALLUM, a Chicago business man, is at the Palace on one of his regular visits.

* * *

CARL F. HENRICH, a wealthy brewer of Seattle, is at the St. Francis with his family.

* * *

SAMUEL A. BLYTHE, an oil operator of Bakersfield, is staying at the St. Francis.

* * *

J. H. HEWITT, a Seattle timber man, is at the St. Francis with Mrs. Hewitt.

* * *

T. G. JANNEY, a Redding mining man, is a guest at the St. Francis.

* * *

BRIGADIER GENERAL F. A. SMITH, U. S. A., is staying at the Palace.

* * *

GEORGE COX, a banker of Bozeman, Mont., is staying at the Palace.

* * *

E. M. MACKEY, a manufacturers' agent of Pasadena, is at the Palace.

* * *

MAXWELL BROWN, a Salinas attorney, is staying at the Manx.

Coral Reefs' Origin

The origin of coral reefs and islands is still a debated question, the difficulty being to explain how it is that they are found in such deep seas, although the coral building polyp can not live at a greater depth than 20 fathoms.

Darwin suggested that the sites of these reefs were originally shallow water and that the sea bottom subsided slowly, while the reef builders worked fast enough to keep the upper portion of the reef near the surface.

Murray's theory is that these reefs are built on platforms raised from the ocean bed by volcanic agency.

Abe Martin

Most homely women make 'emselves homelier by tryin' t' hide it. Jack Craw, who broke away from Constable Plum Saturday night, returned t'day an' give himself up as he wuzn' makin' runnin' expenses.

Uncle Walt THE POET PHILOSOPHER

WALT MASON

REAL WINTER

The backbone of winter is often decried by people who huddle around the fireside; whenever old Boreas kicks up his heels they send up a package of lachrymose spiels and sigh for a country where snow isn't found, where roses and lilies will bloom the year round. But I love a country with all kinds of snows, where winter has whiskers clear down to his toes, where blizzards cavort and the icicles cling all over your features till thawed in the spring. For cold is a tonic that braces you up and makes you as gay as an unlicensed pup; it fills you with ardor to do hefty things; the healthy man likes it and dances and sings. A wind whooping down from the white Greenland hills is better than any one's cottonwood pills, while languorous zephyrs will fill you with bile and make it hard labor to burble and smile. There's energy, health and a solace in cold! The backbone of winter is better than gold!

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WOULDST HARNESS THE WIND? NAY, FOR IT IS MOST VARIABLE

A recent suggestion that the windmill may be made profitable in the production of electric power to do many things now matters of drudgery about the house gives especial interest to an article in the London Globe about windmills. Essentially creations of nature, says the Globe, useful only at the pleasure and through the power of natural forces, it is fitting that their dwelling places should be above the ordinary world. In England on the south and east coast, around the isle of Thanet and on the Sussex downs these huge, dumb sentinels stand, sturdy and impassive. On windy days their great arms wave like giant semaphores, sending a message to travelers on sea and land. Windmills are almost awesome; there is something arresting, even terrifying, in their silent dignity, their sleeping strength. With their sails at rest they are wholly picturesque. But when those arms whirl madly in a rushing gale they become possessed of magic power, sinister and terribly significant.

The term windmill, used in its widest sense, means a machine by which the energy of the wind is applied to useful purposes. Windmills were certainly in use as early as the twelfth century, but their exact origin is lost in the oblivion of the past. Their introduction into Europe is generally ascribed to the Saracens, through the crusaders. Flashing their crimson crossed banners, homeward, through Europe the knights of Richard Coeur de Lion brought many strange customs and innovations with them. The earliest written record of windmills in England, dated the twelfth century, deals with certain disputes in reference to tithes connected with "windmills." Since those faraway times windmills have been in constant use in Europe, America and other continents. But modern science has provided us with more efficient and reliable means of grinding corn or driving engines than the somewhat intermittent power of the wind. So, in this country, windmills have become objects of ornament rather than use.

In Holland they are still largely employed in draining the polders and grinding trass. No picture of the quaint Dutch country—whether actual or imaginary—would be complete without its windmill. The sturdy mills, with their revolving vanes, form as great a part of Dutch character as the golden pins and dainty lace caps of the women, the baggy trousers and wooden clogs of the men. Windmills are somewhat extensively used in America for pumping and driving agricultural machinery. It seems strange that the use of such very old fashioned "machinery" should be encouraged in such a very go ahead country as America. But it has been discovered that wind moved machines are useful where fuel is scarce and labor can proceed leisurely, if need be. A windmill is never a powerful or efficient motor, and its work is variable. But in favorable positions a windmill will run, on an average, eight hours out of 24.

Since crusading days there have been many radical changes in the make and shape of the windmills. The oldest type was called the postmill, the whole structure being carried on a post. In order to bring the sails facing the wind the structure was turned on its base by a long lever. The postmill was succeeded by the tower, smock or frock mill, in which the mill proper was a stationary tower, the sails being attached to a revolving cap rotating on the top of the tower. In all older types of mill the wind shaft carried four or six arms or whips, on which long rectangular sails were stretched, a triangular leading sail being sometimes added. Later the sails were made of sail cloth spread on a wooden framework, and at times boards were utilized. The American windmills of today are gigantic, carrying 18 or more sails fixed round a large disk. They consist of narrow boards or slats, arranged radially, each board moving with the wind's impetus. Nowadays these windmills are fitted with automatic featherings and steering machinery, and are largely used in the United States for pumping water.

It is interesting to consider that at the beginning of the nineteenth century the whole of England's grinding, sawing, stamping and the draining of the eastern counties was performed by windpower. At the beginning of the twentieth century science has rendered windmills a veritable thing of the past. As far as such work is concerned, they stand idle, the revolution of their giant sails no longer a thing of use and necessity.

To authors and poets windmills have offered and provided a rich harvest. There is a vague quality, akin to awe, in the simple mention of nature's machines. Perhaps the very invisibility of the wind, the intangible strength of natural forces, invests windmills with an eerie supernatural fascination.

Bridal Market

Attention has been called from time to time to strange marriage customs which exist. In some parts of Roumania the marriage fair obtains. The girl in search of a husband proceeds to the village where the fair is held in a cart, or maybe a railway wagon. She takes with her her lares and penates, which of course constitute her dot—articles of household furniture, her trousseau, and her cooking utensils. She is accompanied by her family in good numbers. When the marriageable girl and her belongings reach the fair field the wagon is placed in line with the chariots of other daughters of Eve, who have come on the same errand. The parents stand in the wagon behind their daughter.

Next comes the young men's turn. They pass up and down and judge and scrutinise the girls. As soon as one of the young men has found the girl that he likes he falls out of the rank and betakes himself to the wagon in which stands the maiden who has found favor in his eyes. Then a little chaffering begins, and if this is brought to a satisfactory conclusion the couple are married on the spot.

French Recruits

French recruits from lonely villages are often simple youths, so the following story in the Matin, guaranteed by that newspaper as authentic, may be accepted without question. The Fifty-fourth regiment of infantry at Compiegne occupies the Jeanne d'Arc quarter, and, naturally enough, the guard station at the entrance to this quarter of the barracks has written over its door: "Poste Jeanne d'Arc."

One of the recruits who was "de corvee" for the first time, was told to carry some bowls of soup at dinner time to "Jeanne d'Arc."

"Orders is orders," thought the recruit, and forthwith he made his way with the soup to the Place de l'Hotel de Ville, which is ornamented in its center by a statue of Jeanne d'Arc. At the base of the pedestal of the Maid of Orleans, therefore, the soldier sat down and contentedly allowed the soup in the bowls beside him to grow cold. No doubt, says the Matin, he might be sitting there still, if his comrades, overcome by the gnawing pangs of hunger, had not been driven to seeking their lost dinner.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES

QUEEN WILHELMINA—C. R., City. Did Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands have any children?

She has a daughter born April 30, 1909. The child's title is Princess of Orange.

* * *

SALESMEN—F. H., Pleasanton. Are there any periodicals published in the interest of salesmen? If so, where are they published?

The Commercial Traveler and the National Traveler, New Orleans; Commercial Traveler, Boston; Sample Case, Columbus, O., and The Salesman, San Francisco.

* * *

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS—Subscriber, Redding. When was the law exempting educational institutions from taxation enacted, and what is it?

The constitution of the state, which became effective January 1, 1880, says: "Property used exclusively for public schools, and such as may belong to the United States, to this state, or to any county or municipal corporation within this state, shall be exempt from taxation."

* * *

LIBRARIES—P. H. B., Fruitvale. How many libraries are there in California, how are they classified and where are they located?

There were, according to the "New Notes of California," in April of last year, 946, classified as follows: 123 supported by taxation, 66 law libraries, 55 county teachers' libraries, 306 educational libraries, 217 public high school libraries, 42 miscellaneous libraries, 68 society libraries and 66 subscription libraries. You will find the location of these in volume 6, No. 2, of the publication named.

* * *

IF I WERE YOU—Anxious, City. Which is correct, "If I was you" or "If I were you"?

The latter.

* * *

COCKSURE—S. T. A., San Jose. What is the origin of "cocksure"?

This appears to be a corruption of the French phrase, "a coup sur," which means: certainly, indubitably, to be sure.

MINISTRY—S. T. A., San Jose. Is there a distinction between the British ministry and the British cabinet?

Ministry in executive government, is the body of ministers of state, or of heads of departments in the government, to whom the chief magistrate or sovereign of a country commits the superintendence of executive administration. In Great Britain, the cabinet is composed of a limited number of privy councilors holding the more important offices in the ministry and the individuals who thus form the cabinet are selected by the prime minister, who presides at its meetings.

* * *

COCKNEY—S. T. A., San Jose. Is the word "cockney" applied to any one by the English? Whence is the word derived?

This word is now exclusively applied to a resident of London. Originally it signified a milksop, or one who has been overpetted or spoiled. Wedgewood's "Dictionary of Etymology" says that the original meaning of cockney is a child, too delicately nurtured—one kept in the house and not hardened by out door life; hence applied to citizens as opposed to the hardier inhabitants of the country and in modern times confined to the citizens of London.

* * *

THE TEN LARGEST—G. H. C., Santa Cruz. Which are the 10 largest cities in the United States?

If, by largest you mean most populous, they are the following in order: New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Boston, Cleveland, Baltimore, Pittsburg, Detroit and San Francisco.

* * *

CONFEDERATE HOME—M. M. H., Oakland. Is there a home for confederate soldiers in San Francisco or in California?

No.

* * *

METRE—F. H., Oakland. What was the original standard of the metre as now used in the metric system?

The original standard agreed upon was that the length of the metre was 443.296 Parisian lines, or 39.307904 English inches.