THE CALL

"AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER—THE NEWSPAPER OF AUTHORITY"

Clearing the Way To Unite San Mateo And San Francisco

Between San Francisco and San Mateo county there has always existed a spirit of co-operation, due to juxtaposition, to community of interest and to neighborlike friendliness undisturbed by rivalry. These adjacent counties are mutually helpful and are not competitors in growth nor in aspiration.

That the union between the two counties may be made closer, that their interests shall not be divided by any political line, is the ultimate purpose of a constitutional amendment introduced by Senator Finn of San Francisco. This amendment, if adopted by the legislature and ratified by voters of the state, would permit San Francisco to extend her boundaries to the south and join with all or a part of San Mateo county, as the citizens of this city and of that county may determine. The amendment would be an enabling act, neither coercive nor obligatory. It would not apply to any other county than San Mateo, and so it should not meet the transbay opposition which was aroused by the "Greater San Francisco" amendment defeated by the voters at the last election.

Geographically, San Francisco and San Mateo are in close union, and with the completion of the Twin Peaks tunnel the union will be closer. In fact, in the matter of transportation, which is the criterion of suburban neighborliness, the ocean shore district of San Mateo county is more a part of San Francisco than it is of the bay shore district of its own county.

The Finn amendment proposes a union of San Francisco with all or part of San Mateo county when the majority of the voters of both San Francisco and the territory concerned declare themselves in favor of the annexation. Each town which may be included in the district is given a vote on its own proposition. If more than half of the territory of San Mateo is annexed it will be given the right to establish for itself the borough form of government. No annexed territory shall be burdened with the debts of the district with which it is consolidated. In that detail one of the objections to the "Greater San Francisco" amendment is removed.

San Mateo county has a charm for the home seeker which can not be surpassed in the vicinity of San Francisco bay. Now that it is favored by liberal commutation rates, in the fight for which it had the hearty support of San Francisco, the district south of San Francisco will grow and fill with San Francisco business men. San Mateo county is naturally part of San Francisco, and should be so politically. That county has desired annexation as much as San Francisco has desired it, and now consolidation should come speedily, for no real opposition can develop to the annulment of the law by which man put asunder districts that nature had joined together.

Our Welcome to the Cleveland Trains Us In Hospitality

The recurrent visits to this port of the great excursion liner Cleveland should be accepted by San Francisco as our novitiate for the task that awaits us in the immediate future of welcoming large bodies of tourists who will come through the Panama canal to see our city, state and exposition in 1915. If we consider the coming of the Cleveland in that aspect, then shall we doubly profit by its visit. Not only shall we make friends for our city among the visitors, but we shall learn how to greet other visitors to come. Four hundred passengers came on the Cleveland. More than three-fourths of them had journeyed to San Francisco for the first time, and approximately a third set foot on American soil for the first time.

But 400 is only a fraction of the thousands who will come in the next three years. We must learn to receive each succeeding vessel with increased consideration, with freer hospitality, with heartier entertainment. Much has been done and is being done for the Cleveland passengers; but not all that could be done.

An unfortunate ruling was made by the harbor commissioners in regard to the baggage men who met the steamer. Every passenger needed the services of a baggage handler; he did not have to be persuaded, coerced, mobbed, to have that want impressed upon his mind. The handling of the baggagemen by the police obviated much of the unpleasantness that might have been expected, but there should be an improvement of the system. The exorbitant water charge exacted of the Hamburg-American line by Spring Valley is an evil which can be completely cured only by municipal ownership of the water system.

It is not likely that passengers on the Cleveland will complain of the welcome extended by San Francisco to themselves and their ship. The best the city has to offer in sight seeing trips, in cordiality and in climate has been placed at their disposal. Our midsummer in February arrived to smile on the visitors, to clear the atmosphere so that the scenic beauties of our environs might be within the vision of our guests—nothing more in weather could have been asked for.

California has been rejoiced to welcome these tourist guests. They are people of means and influence, the sort of people we must interest in our city and in our state.

Strangers in City Would Find "Fixed Post" Police Helpful

Policemen have a more common function than chasing crooks; they are public information bureaus. They are guides and counselors to strangers in the city. That is, they fulfill that function when they can be found by the inquiring visitor. To make a policeman easy to find, it is suggested that uniformed men be detailed to "fixed posts" in congested centers, for the convenience of the public which may wish to consult with them.

A stranger, particularly a woman, hesitates to ask directions of another stranger; but a policeman is hired and uniformed for the purpose of being courteous, obliging, intelligent and amiable—to law abiding folks, that is. A certain men of the force, selected for their qualifications, could be stationed at congested corners, say at every Market street intersection between Sixth street on the west and Sansome on the east, they would be of great service to the people. The traffic squad usually has its hands full with the street currents. It is not wise to divert its attention from the traffic to answer the questions of the pedestrian.

The "fixed post" man could be stationed close to a police telephone, and thus be in constant communication with headquarters and subject to reserve duty call. He could also be an efficient aid to the traffic squad man, but his greatest service would be to give accurate information to strangers in the city. The "fixed post" man would be a streetcar guide, a railroad station directory, a post of light and information for our visitors. He would be the reception committee for the honest visitor as well as—as the policeman now is—for the dishonest visitor.

$2.50 Graduating Frock An Addition to the Schoolgirl's Charm

Los Angeles has followed the precedent of the San Francisco girls' high school. The 1,500 girl graduates of the grammar schools of the southern city appeared in gowns none of which cost more than $5 and most of which cost only $2.50. This is the "recipe" for the $2.50 gown, as announced by Superintendent of Schools Francis:

Five yards of dimity at 25 cents, $1.25.
Two yards of silk ribbon at 20c, 40 cents.
Five yards of lace at 15c, 75 cents.
Thread, notions, 10 cents.
Total, $2.50.

The girls made their own pretty frocks, working after school hours for four or five weeks before the close of the term.

Uniform clothing for school children is an abomination, but uniform cost of material, with variety in design as the taste of the girl dictates, is wholesome, delightful, encouraging.

So great a naturalist as John Burroughs says in one of his charming essays: "The American schoolgirl is the most bewitching creature in the world."

And when to this native witchery is added simplicity, the craftsmanship of the needle daintily plied, the sweetness of dimity and the individual touch of a ribbon and a bow and a bit of lace, the American schoolgirl is the most charming—and economical—creation on the planet.

Aimed Shots

ON ASH WEDNESDAY

You may devise my penance,
Set me my Lenten task;
Make prohibition to 'rouse my contrition—
I'll do anything you ask.

Tell me no sweets must I nibble,
And candy goes off my list;
But I'll feast on the excellent memory
Of your very sweet lips I've kissed.

Tell me I must quit drinking,
And never a glass for mine;
But still I'll be drunk, I'm thinking,
With your smile that bewitches like wine.

Tell me I must quit smoking,
And smoking is ended, here;
But I'll get the effect from your joking,
From the "smoke" of your promises, dear.

* * *

The American invasion of Europe now includes the exportation of statesmen. The new president of the diet of Finland worked for 10 years as a miner in the United States.

* * *

Mary Garden's final appearance in the dance of the seven veils is said to give the stage the atmosphere of the merry garden of Eden.

* * *

The San Francisco police cost us $3.48 per capita. In New York the tax ranges all the way from 20 per cent to 50 per cent of your income, according to what kind of a game you are running.

* * *

DEFEAT AND FEET

The poor girl in the great university has had perfect feet all the time, but no one knew it.

She was poor, but she kept her shoes and stockings on and none noticed her.

Rich girls were invited to join the sororities; rich girls were feasted and feted and made much of, but the poor girl with the beautiful feet kept her stockings on and turned up her pretty nose in the face of the supercilious sorority girls who noticed her not because she continued to wear her shoes and stockings.

One bright day this girl had occasion to take off her shoes and stockings. An expert in feet gave one glance at those beautiful ankles and dainty toes and went into ecstacies.

Ah, here was the girl with the most beautiful feet since Trilby.

Her fame was heralded far and wide.

Then the sorority girls of the great university hastened to the neglected maiden and proferred her membership. She had not gold, but she had feet.

But the girl with the beautiful feet said: "Begone, false sisters."

That is all there is to the incident.

Sororities in the future will not only look up the standing of new coeds in Bradstreets, but will look up their standing in their shoes.

* * *

A Minneapolis man has been convicted of conspiracy to raise the price of milk. But just as long as the government does not interfere with any conspiracy that would raise the cream on milk the consumer may rest easy.

* * *

The oldest Yale graduate has given the following rules as conducive to a long life:

"Get to bed early every night."

"Take your meals regularly."

"Eat only plain and well cooked foods."

"Don't gad around all over creation, attending balls and parties and things."

There is a woeful lack of concurrence on the part of the young Yale undergraduate.

Names From the Bible

In tracing the origin and significance of names it is interesting to note how some surnames have been derived. Bible names are responsible for many of the family names in common use today. For instance:

Elijah gives Ellis, Elliott, Ellison, Elkins, Elcock, Elliot, Alison and Alcock.

Peter gives Parr, Pierce, Pears, Pearse, Pearson, Pierson, Peterson, Perrett, Peterkin, Perkins, Parkin, Parkinson, Perks. From Petronilla, the feminine form of Peter, comes Parnell.

Isaac gives Hicks, Hickson, Higgs, Higgins, Higginson.

David gives Davis, Dawes, Dawkins, Dayes, Dayson, Dakin, Dyson.

Jonas gives Jones, Johnson, Jenkins, also in Welsh, Evans and Bevan, the Welsh name for John being Evan.

Simon gives Sims, Simpson, Simcox, Simmons, Simkins.

Philip gives Phelps, Phipps, Philcox, Philpott.

Bartholomew gives Bartle, Bartlett, Batty, Bates, Badcock.

Thomas gives Tompkins, Tomlinson, Thomas, Thompson.

Paul gives Polson, Pawson, Powlson, Powlett, Pollitt.

Stephen gives Stevens, Stevenson, Sinson, Simpson.

Michael gives Mitchell.

And there are many others.—Kansas City Star.

The Little Big Man

There are people we all of us know
Who give us a personal pain,
There are people who worry us so—
The silly, the solemn, the vain;
But of all the folks I detest,
Since meeting with mortals began,
The one that is worse than the rest
Is the Little Big Man.

You know him: He's made a success,
A little success, understand—
Some money perhaps may possess,
Is given a little command.
But never a king on a throne,
A president, sultan or khan,
One-half the importance has shown
Of the Little Big Man.

You have business perhaps to transact,
transact,
Some matter concerning the two;
He makes you aware of the fact
That he is some bigger than you.
His person an office conceals;
A door labeled "Private" you scan;
He keeps you there cooling your heels—
Does the Little Big Man

And, when you get into the place,
Each porter and portal have passed,
Yes, when you may look on the face
Of this marvelous person at last,
The manner he gazes you o'er,
The way that your card he will scan,
Inform you you're standing before
Just a Little Big Man.

But here is the funniest thing:
I don't understand it, do you?—
I have shaken the fist of a king,
And have dined with a president, too,
And the bigger they happen to be
The easier see them you can,
While the man who is hardest to see
Is the Little Big Man.

—American Lumberman.

ABE MARTIN

Speakin' o' th' free fer all pace, have you seen th' Frisco Squirm? It didn't take th' whiskey trust long t' find out that th' feller that drinks 'll drink anything.

WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT!

Everybody's Forum

LETTERS FROM READERS OF THE CALL

THE CITY'S GROWTH

Editor Call: Permit me to express my great appreciation of your editorial in Sunday's Call on the growth of San Francisco toward the west. This is by far the best editorial recognition that our work beyond Twin peaks has received. It is naturally a project in which we all take a great deal of interest and, as the work progresses, a great deal of pride.

The situation is, so far as we know, absolutely unique. There is probably no city in the United States with the population of San Francisco that has not a large restricted residence area, and I feel certain that the lack of such a district has lost to San Francisco the major portion of the population gained by the outlying cities since the fire. Probably 150,000 people of the sort that appreciate good influences and right living—you might say the cream of San Francisco's citizenship—have been attracted to Oakland and Berkeley by the advantages offered by Claremont, Piedmont, Thousand Oaks, etc.

It is remarkable how few people it takes to fill a tract which, before it is built upon, looks immense. For example, the combined acreage of Forest Hill, Ingleside Terrace, St. Francis Wood and Parkside is about 700 acres. If we figure six lots to the acre, this makes 4,200 lots. If a house is built on every second lot—and there are many houses that will occupy much more space than this—there will only be 2,100 houses. With five people to each house, you have only 10,500 people taken care of.

The entire Spring Valley property, amounting to 1,850 acres, would only accommodate a little more than twice as many people, so I should say 100,000 people would fill the entire western portion of the city, including all the sand dunes.

If present indications can be believed, this will hardly take care of the increase in San Francisco's population in the next five years; but, naturally, we must have water. In our own case, we have arranged to put in our own water system, and are now laying a complete system of mains, large enough for fire fighting purposes.

There is no question that San Francisco should buy the Spring Valley company, and buy it at once. I hope The Call can see its way clear to boost that important project to a satisfactory termination.

Thanking you again for your interest in the western section and the masterly way in which you have set forth its possibilities, I beg to remain yours very sincerely,

R. C. NEWELL.

San Francisco, Feb. 4.

AN APPLE SUGGESTION

Editor Call: Speaking of the "high cost of living," it sems a great pity to me that when such a delicacy as apples are cheaper than they have been in years so few people know how to take advantage of them because they do not know how to prepare them. Now, a roasted sour apple is the greatest delicacy and the most healthful one known, and yet I venture to say that few of your readers know how simply and easily it may be prepared. This is the way: Without paring, remove the core from any sort of sour apple. Use a tin core punch if you have one, if not, four overlapping stabs with an ordinary table knife lengthwise through the apple and you can push the core out. Now cut one-quarter inch off the "blossom" end of this core and stick it back as a plug and you have a cup. Fill these cups with any sort of sugar, set them in a dish that has a little boiling water in the bottom and bake in a quick oven. The sugar will go all through the apple and what mingles with the water makes the most delicious syrup to pour over. You can use cream, too, if you have it, but it isn't necessary. Talk about the high cost of living! A millionaire couldn't buy anything better. PLAIN COOK.

Medina, Orleans county, New York.

WATER SUPPLY SUGGESTION

Editor Call: Negotiations with the Spring Valley are again interrupted, and with neither party apparently willing to grant any concessions it looks like a permanent deadlock. With an inadequate water supply and an obsolete distributing system, the capitalists that own the company, assisted by a few high government officials in sympathy with their game, are trying to compel the city to pay an exorbitant sum for their enormously overcapitalized plant. With $37,000,000 the price offered, the city is being robbed, for with that amount a modern distributing system can be installed and a supply sufficient to meet all demands for the present and future growth of our city can be brought to our doors. If the present national administration were in sympathy with the people, it would not be placing omstacles in the way of the acquisition by our city of a desirable water supply. The condition that the city purchase the Spring Valley is an imposition and an injustice; but as something must be done, and as a basis for further negotiations, let a proposition be made to purchase the distributing system and rent or lease the other holdings, such as watersheds, pumping stations, storage reservoirs and lake, until the connection between the city and its source of supply can be completed. Then the water company would have what it considers its most valuable holding, and the city could renew the distributing system in an orderly and systematic manner; or, as a last resort, go ahead as rapidly as possible with the new plant, and in a few years, besides saving several million dollars, it would have an abundant supply and a perfect distribution.

C. K.

San Francisco, January 29, 1913.

REMEMBER THE RETAILERS

Editor Call: Apropos of the coming Portola celebration scheduled for next October, I heartily approve of it. Anything that will attract people to the city and anything that will furnish amusement for those in it deserves encouragement; but I sincerely trust that the committee, in its wisdom, will remember the retail merchants in making its plans and program. A Saturday night street parade completely kills shopping, and may retailers depend on their Saturday night trade for a large part of their business.

Any unusual demostration or event on a Saturday night detracts the public from their usual Saturday night buying, and retailers should discourage anything that will bring about such a condition.

F. W. AMMANN.

San Francisco, Feb. 4.

NOT AFTER TEARS

Counsel for the defendant in a criminal case had made an eloquent speech, bringing tears to the eyes of many present in court; but the jury, composed of hardheaded old countrymen on whose ears oratory and sentiment fell like snowflakes on a warm chimney, were unmoved. Counsel for the prosecution, rising to reply, took their measure at a glance. "Gentlemen," he said, "let it be understood to begin with that I am not boring for water!"

FLYING DAYS

By THE POET PHILOSOPHER

Our overcoats soon we may pawn,
the grass soon will grow on the lawn;
for the days rustle past, and the winter
can't last, and the spring will be with
us anon. The spring, with its sunshine and showers! The spring, with
its green shady bowers! With its
thrushes and wrens and its fat clucking hens, and its long legged calves
and its flowers! Oh, gee! but the seasons whiz by! They come and are gone
like a sigh; they knock at our door
and come back never more, and leave
us gray hairs as they fly. As older we
grow and more sere, the swifter the
seasons appear; like fugitives chased
they're increasing their haste, so anxious to score a new year. They come
with a whoop and a bound, we lose
them as soon as they're found; they
circle and rip, and go zippety-zip, like
kids on a merry go round. This life
is so woundily brief! We reap, and are
binding the sheaf, when old Death
comes along with his quitting time
gong, and hands us a package of grief.
We sow and we reap and we spin and
toil with a scowl or a grin; our oats
and our rye may be ripe when we die,
and the lawyers will gather them in.
But, hoots! It is all for the best, the
world is a bully old jest; we'll gambol
and joke till the time comes to croak,
and go like good sports to our rest.

WALT MASON.

GOVERNMENT'S COST

The national government is costing more than a thousand millions a year, which Nelson W. Aldrich two years ago said was $300,000,000 more than was necessary. It costs the value of our wheat and oats crops combined. It costs two-thirds of the value of our corn crop. It costs 10 times our gold output. It costs more than $10 a year for every man, woman and child in the United States.—New York Herald.

NEWS FROM THE HOTELS

N. Lincoln Green, an official of the United States Rubber company of Boston, who is registered at the St. Francis with Mrs. Green, says he is surprised at the excellent business conditions in California. Mr. Green said:

"We in the rubber business can tell when the weather is good and when it is bad in almost any state in the union. That may sound strange to you, but it is a fact. I don't say that we sell as much goods of a certain kind in the pleasant weather as we do in the winter time, but we can tell what the weather is by the character of goods we sell. In California, not only do we know you have much good weather, but we also know you have thousands of miles of good roads. Our sale of automobile tire material proves this. The manufacturers of the east are watching California. It is a wonderful country out here."

* * *

George W. Hibbard, general passenger agent of the Puget Sound system of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul line, is in California looking over transportation conditions. He is at the St. Francis. Others who registered at the same hotel were: J. M. McGee, an attorney of Oroville; Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Kayser of Coronado, and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Wernick of Portland.

* * *

Fred Hall of Bakersfield, a former member of the assembly, and one of the leading democratic politicians of the state, is at the Palace. Mr. Hall, in explanation of his visit to San Francisco, says:

"I am here to look after the interests of several oil men, and from here I am going to Washington, D. C., on the same business. The details of the purpose of my trip to the capital can not be given out yet."

Asked if it were true that he had been approached by labor leaders who sought him as a gubernatorial candidate, Mr. Hall said:

"Yes, certain labor leaders have visited me and asked me to be the next democratic candidate for governor of California. I have not decided the matter."

* * *

Major C. G. Kizer, chief of police of Norfolk, Va., is a guest at the Union Square. His pleasant, drawling voice would make an excellent phonographic record. He says:

"Believe me, sir, I think this is a grand city. Robert Lee Grant, manager of this establishment, and a fine young man of attainments he is, too, sir, has made my visit here a most pleasant one. I had a pleasant ride about the city and along the beach, and through your wonderful park, with Chief White and Mr. Grant.

"I admit I feel rather pert today, for this morning I was served with a regular Virginia breakfast. Oh yes, I was in the confederate army, but let's not talk of that. I am on my way to Los Angeles to take an unfortunate young man back to Norfolk who is accused of passing spurious checks for about $2,000. I want to come out here again, and when I get home I will tell my friends there of San Francisco and the big fair you are to have here in 1915."

George M. Myers, president of the Kansas City Aero club, is visiting San Francisco and talking balloons to everybody he meets. On the subject he says:

"San Francisco ought to have a balloon in the national race next June. Three winners of this race will take part in the international balloon race in Paris next October. If an American balloon wins, the 1914 international race will be held in America. So, if San Francisco wins, they will have the race for the exposition. I know Kansas City, if it wins, would give the race to San Francisco anyway.

"The 1910 race in Kansas City attracted 100,000 persons. It was the biggest piece of advertising Kansas City ever got. San Francisco ought to get busy."

* * *

Judge and Mrs. Joseph Sabbath, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Schweitzer, Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Lederer and Julius Kramm of Chicago are guests at the Palace. They are here on a pleasure trip, and will visit the many places of interest in California. M. F. Tarpey, democratic politician and banker of Fresno; Arthur L. Levinsky, an attorney of Stockton, and G. A. Babcock of Los Angeles also are at the Palace.

J. Harvey McCarthy, banker and promoter, and Mrs. McCarthy of Los Angeles; A. W. Johnson, San Jose, and F. M. Chittenden, vineyardist of Fresno are at the Sutter.

Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Floyd of Seattle; E. L. Sisson, railroad official of Portland; William Grecht, retired capitalist of Bolt, and Mr. and Mrs. James Ogden of Coronado are at the Manx.

C. B. Potter, a mining expert who has just returned from China; C. F. Peterson, a Honolulu attorney; L. T. St. Clair, one of the largest oil land owners of California, and Major T. H. Barnard and Mrs. Barnard of Chico are staying at the Stewart.

Mr. and Mrs. John L. Helm and Miss Emily Helm of Louisville, Ky., and S. S. B. Morse and family of Merced took apartments at the Fairmont yesterday.

T. F. Dunaway, president and principal owner of the Nevada-California-Oregon railroad, arrived at the Bellevue yesterday from Reno. Mr. Dunaway is here looking after the interest of his company. Josiah W. Stanford and wife of Warm Springs are also at the Bellevue. Mr. Stanford is a large land owner in California and one of the pioneers of the state.

A. C. Scott, a fruit grower and packer of Clovis; R. B. Pate, a mining expert from Rochester, Nev., and C. B. Anderson, a newspaper publisher of Roseville, Cal., are at the Argonaut.

William Palmtag, a wealthy vineyardist of Hollister, and Mrs. Palmtag, are at the Union Square. They will depart today for a ten months' trip through Europe.

J. A. Linscott and wife of Watsonville are guests at the Golden West.

F. A. Clark of Santa Cruz is at the Dale.

Frank Sargent, a merchant of Detroit, is registered at the Washington.

Thomas F. Griffin of Modesto is at the Sutter.

C. C. Hinkel and wife of San Diego are registered at the Turpin.

Ferry Tales

THE subject under discussion was clean streets and why they are not so, as Hashimura Togo might have said. It was an illuminating discussion, and if the Berkeley had been a bit slower in reaching the Alameda shore the vexed problem might have been solved.

Several interesting conclusions were reached, however, and a suggestion or two thrown out that seemed to be worth recording. It was unanimously and definitely agreed that a city could have no better asset than clean streets and that the only way to clean streets is to clean 'em. It was also conceded that if physical conditions or lack of funds prevented that grateful corner to corner cleanliness which is possible only where the streets present an unbroken surface, it were best to concentrate the broom work on the crossings. This would keep the pedestrian citizens of both sexes, who represent the majority, in a fairly tolerant frame of mind.

It was also agreed that while it was up to the city to keep the mud in subjection, the citizens themselves were responsible for the untidy appearance of a city's streets.

* * *

"I was in Washington, D. C., a few weeks ago," said one of the contributors, "and I received a lesson that'll last me for quite a while. Somebody had handed me a card and it was still in my hand when I left my hotel. It was a little bit of a visiting card. Without thinking anything about it, I tore it into little pieces and then flung the scraps out into the street.

"A hand was laid on my shoulders.

"'Pick those up.'

"I turned and discovered a policeman with one hand on my shoulder and the other pointing at the scraps I had thrown down. I'm not accustomed to taking orders, but when I looked up and down the street and saw not another scrap of any kind in sight, I did as I was told.

"That wasn't all. That policeman took me before a magistrate and he fined me $5.

"The other morning, on Market street, I saw a man who should have known better drop a newspaper into the gutter. I looked up and down the street. The paper was not lonesome, like my scraps were in Washington. There and then I freely forgave the policeman who had pinched me and the magistrate who had fined me. They had taught me half the sceret of clean streets."

* * *

One day, the last in each month, the members of the commuter army are responsible for a litter on lower Market and East streets of which some day we will be ashamed, and which now should bar every careless one of us from the blessed privilege of criticizing any street cleaning department.

When the commutation book gets down to the last coupon the cover is no longer of value. These covers are preserved until the commuter approaches the ferry for the last trip. The coupon is torn out and the cover thrown away. The throwing away begins at the lower end of Market street and extends up to the ticket gate in the ferry depot, and by the time the first 10,000 commuters have gone home those following are walking for several blocks on a carpet of discarded commutation book covers.

* * *

If a basket were provided at each ticket gate it might help, but if it was in Washington, D. C., all the covers that were not thrown in the bay would be carried home and cremated on the family hearth.

* * *

When the commuters read that item in the paper the other day about the monument the Mormons were going to erect to the seagull, they took it almost as a personal complaint. Every commuter feels a sort of proprietary interest in the seagull. The seagulls, the dispatch said, saved the early Mormons from starvation by eating up the locusts that were destroying the crops. The seagulls that escort the ferry boats back and forth are the same birds that saved the Mormons. They can be recognized by their appetites.

The publication of the news that a $40,000 monument was to be erected in their honor caused no undue excitement among the seagulls. The building of the monument may make the Latter Day Saints feel that they have paid a debt of gratitude, but the seagulls would have shown more appreciation for $4 worth of herrings or a chance at another army of locusts.

* * *

Here is a chance, girls, to help two helpless bachelors with a few pointers on domestic science. It is one of the few subjects on which I do not feel that I could qualify as an expert. As a means of defying the high cost of living without coming down to a simpler standard of diet, they have taken a housekeeping apartment, have laid in a stock of provisions and are going to do their own cooking.

"Going to do," I say, because their first attempt was not successful, and they want advice before resuming the experiment.

"We had been given to understand," one of them writes, "that the longer anything cooked the better it was. We wanted the best. Our first experiment was with potatoes. We planed off the skins and, as we had plenty of time, boiled the spuds for an hour and a quarter. It was the mushiest looking mess you ever saw. We tried to get them hard again by putting the pulp in cold water, but it wouldn't work. Where was our mistake?"

Will somebody tell them? I suppose they should have baked them in the oven for an hour or two first, or something like that, but, as I said before, my advice in a matter of this kind may be worse than their cooking.

LINDSAY CAMPBELL.

Queries Answered

ORANGE BLOSSOM—A. Y. W., City. How orange blossoms came to be used for the bride's wedding wreath was explained by the New Orleans Picayune many years ago as follows: "It is a legend current among the Spanish-Creoles of this city. An African once presented a Spanish king a magnificent orange tree, whose creamy, waxen blossoms and wonderful fragrance excited the admiration of the whole court. In vain did courtiers plead for a branch, and a foreign ambassador, in particular, was tormented by the desire to introduce so great a curiosity into his native land. He had used every possible means, fair and foul, to accomplish his purpose, but all his efforts coming to naught, he gave up in despair. The fair daughter of the court gardener was loved by a young artisan, but lacked the dot which the family considered necessary in a bride. One day, chancing to break off a spray of the orange blossom, the gardener thoughtlessly gave it to his daughter. Seeing the coveted prize in the girl's hair, the wily ambassador promptly gave her a sum sufficient for the desired dowry, provided she gave him the branch and said nothing about it. Her marriage was soon celebrated, and on the way to the altar, in grateful remembrance of the source of all her happiness, the girl secretly broke off another bit of the lucky tree to adorn her hair. Whether the poor court gardener lost his head in consequence of the daughter's treachery the legend does not state, but the beautiful tree is now known in many lands, and ever since that wedding day orange blossoms have been considered a fitting adornment for a bride."

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SALUTING THE FLAG—A. A. C., City. The idea of saluting the American flag in the public schools of San Francisco originated with Eliza D. Keith, a teacher in the school department at this time. In an article written in 1891 over the name of "Di Vernon" and published in a weekly paper, she suggested that children be taught patriotism in the schools by having them salute the flag. In an address before the Women's Press association of San Francisco in September of the same year she said: "Let the flag be over the door of every schoolroom, let each class drawn up in line for dismissal face that flag, give the military salute with the watchword, 'Our flag is there.'"

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FIG TREES—Subscriber, Oakland. The fig tree does bloom. Different varieties have different colored flowers. The early violet kind has a blue bloom. The flowers are unisexual and are produced in great quantities inside of a fleshy receptacle that is closely united and almost closed at the top, so that the flower is not easily seen. It is this peculiarity that has given rise to the popular notion that fig trees do not bloom.

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MASTICATION—F. C., Alameda. Medical authorities assert that a small quantity of food, slowly eaten and carefully masticated, is far more nourishing than a larger quantity eaten fast. The reason that hurried mastication, even with good teeth, is bad, is because it does not give time for a proper supply of saliva to mix with the food, and without this indigestion is sure to follow.

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TICKS—G. F. G., Sutter Creek. For information as to the best method to relieve cattle of ticks good teeth, is bad, is because it does not give time for a proper supply of saliva to mix with the food, and without this indigestion is sure to follow.

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BUSK TUNNEL—Subscriber, City. The length of the Busk tunnel at Hagerman pass, Colorado, completed in December, 1893, is 9,394 feet.