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The San Francisco Call.

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AMUSEMENTS.

Orpheum—Vaudeville.
California—"Sporting Life."
Tivoli—"La Boheme."
Central—"The Great Northwest."
Grand Opera-house—"My Friend From India."
Alcazar—"Sweetness and Light," commencing November 11.
Alcazar—"Tennessee's Pardner."
Columbia—"The Rentrets."
Chutes, Zoo and Theater—Vaudeville every afternoon and evening.
Olympia—Vaudeville.
Recreation Park—Baseball.
Sutro Baths—Open nights.

AN UNFOUNDED CLAIM.

AMONG the few intelligible utterances made by Mr. Wells in this campaign is a claim that it is due to him that $223,000 has been saved to the city treasury. The claim has been repeated by Mr. Samuel Shortridge, who in a speech at Metropolitan Temple said: "We hear of a surplus of $223,000. * * * The Board of Supervisors sought in every way to secure the money, which had been set aside for the payment of interest and bonds, the final judgments against the city and of the outstanding bonded debt. Who saved this money to the city? It was Ata R. Wells. He, the watchdog of the treasury, saved that surplus."

In making that claim Mr. Wells and his orator are doing something very much like trying to obtain votes by false pretenses. Last year a tax was levied to meet an appropriation of $208,500 to meet sinking fund and interest account of six months on contemplated bonds for panhandle and other proposed improvements. From the statements made by Wells and Shortridge it appears the tax levy paid into the treasury the sum of $223,000, an amount much in excess of the appropriation. The money was collected by the Tax Collector, was paid by him to the Treasurer, and should now be in the possession of that official. The Auditor has had no opportunity nor occasion to save it. He is neither its collector nor its custodian. He is merely cognizant of its being in the treasury.

At present it is out of reach of the Auditor and will remain so unless by legislation or by an order of a court he be authorized and empowered to draw warrants upon the fund to which it stands accredited by force of the tax levy under which it was taken from the taxpayers. Until some legislation or court action be had it is more than likely that this money intended for a sinking fund will be found to be a sunken fund.

The law of the State empowering Boards of Supervisors to levy taxes for bonded indebtedness says that money obtained thus shall be applied to no other purpose. The charter denies the transfer of such funds to any other fund or use. The Supreme Court has decided that the elections and proceedings upon which the levy was based were illegal. Notwithstanding all of which law, Mr. Wells claims to have saved the fund and Mr. Shortridge supports him in the claim and with an oratorical flourish describes him as the watchdog of the treasury, who saved for us the $223,000.

Booker T. Washington's dinner with President Roosevelt has set the people of Washington to searching for precedents, with the result that we have stories of Lincoln inviting Frederick Douglass to lunch and of Jefferson inviting a negro mathematician named Bannecker to dine with him at the White House, which Bannecker did. The most curious story of all, however, is one to the effect that a year or so ago Representative Sprague of Massachusetts invited his colleagues of the District of Columbia Committee to dine with him, and the invitation included Mr. White, the negro Representative from North Carolina. When the invitation of the colored man became known every other member of the committee sent his regrets on account of a previous engagement, and the dinner didn't take place.

Yale claims to have contributed to public affairs more men in proportion to the whole number of her graduates than any other university in the country, to which boast Harvard retorts scornfully by directing attention to the fact that in the domain of letters Yale has given to the country only Fenimore Cooper, N. P. Willis and Clarence Stedman, and suggesting that it would have been better if Yale had graduated fewer politicians and more scholars.

Assistant Attorney General Beck has suggested that the secret service department of the Government employ men not only to hunt down counterfeiters, but to supply an adequate guard for the higher officials of the Government, and it is probable an appropriation may be made for that purpose.

From the kind of gang with which they have surrounded themselves it seems evident that it is the intention of Herrin and Burke to first fling the town wide open and then loot it.

THE CLASS TICKET.

AT the mass-meeting held by the candidates on the class ticket at Metropolitan Hall on Tuesday, all appearance of interest in the whole community was abandoned, and the ticket was put forward in the interest of a supposed distinct class, which has chosen to create itself and in politics to separate itself from the rest of the people.

None of the speakers understood or practiced the noble rhetoric of understatement. Those mistaken men selected the worst social conditions known to history and declared the conditions in this country to be worse than any heretofore known by man. Every speech was a distinct declaration of war upon society. This was done with a bitterness of invective and a surplus of vituperation seldom heard in a public meeting. It is true, of course, that the speeches were made by the defeated leaders in the recent strike, and were therefore naturally in the form of a demand for vengeance. The attacks made upon the officers of the law, for enforcing it, were savage to a degree that should teach all sensible and law-abiding people that government cannot be safely entrusted to men in whose behalf such things are said.

One of the speakers declared that "industrial absolutism," whatever that is, had led to "political absolutism," whatever that is, and "brought about conditions which rendered possible a Coxey's army, walking across alkali deserts to civilization."

All such stuff goes with the people to whom it is addressed. It is a gross and serious misstatement. The conditions that began in 1893 were not local to California. They were general throughout the Union. The panic of 1893 had ruined tens of thousands of employers and suspended the employment of labor. To say that this was a local condition only is untrue. Coxey's army was organized in Ohio, by a political charlatan, and did not march across alkali deserts; it lived on the country for awhile on its way to Washington and there evaporated. This speaker says it marched to civilization, implying that it started here under uncivilized conditions and crossed alkali deserts to better things.

But the absence of truth and logic made no difference to the men that listened, and who became enthusiastic when told that they are slaves. The candidate for Mayor declared specifically that the police would not be permitted to protect workingmen from violence on trucks and drays. If not on trucks and drays, where else?

Early in this campaign we called attention to the danger implied in the running of any class ticket. We again sound the warning. Of course that ticket can receive only a minority of the total vote, but if that minority be a plurality, a plurality elects, and let no one hope that the savage threats made by those infuriated leaders will be forgotten, or the vengeance for which they thirst be left unexecuted.

The Registrar estimates that the total vote will be about 56,000, a great reduction upon the registered vote. In that vote it is possible for 18,800 votes to elect a Mayor, and under the charter the Mayor is the government. He can dismiss without charges every governing board in the city. He can make over new the police, school, public works and civil service boards. He can thereby change the Chief of Police and the entire force. In fact under the charter system every officer and employe in this city practically holds office subject to the will of the Mayor. Even the civil service regulations are powerless to protect the classified service against the rapacity of a Mayor who demands that his "class" shall run the government of the city in its exclusive interest.

The expressions at the class meeting on Tuesday simply emphasize our advice given early in this campaign. It is evident to every observer that Mr. Tobin is the only regular candidate who can win, and he only by general support of the community. This is a time for entire frankness. We perfectly well understand what it means for us to openly give this advice against the infuriated leaders of the class movement, but we understand as clearly that our advice is as much for the protection and prosperity of the men led by those leaders as for any other members of the community. We have toward them no such malignant feeling as their leaders express toward us and the merchants, manufacturers and business men of this city. We realize clearly that in defeating their pernicious class ticket the city is saving them. We want them saved, and for that reason advise the plumping of votes. If a Mayor is elected to carry out the views and principles expressed by them on Tuesday night, San Francisco will not soon recover from the blow, and labor will be the first and longest sufferer.

With what light we have and guided only by a desire for the city's welfare and to further the interests of the whole community, we regard the support of Mr. Tobin as the only means of escape from the peril threatened by the savage agitators.

A WORD, MR. WELLS.

IN your speech Tuesday you assumed a heart to heart attitude. You said: "I take a glass of beer now and then and a drink of whisky, and I always keep the finest kind of liquors in my own house."

Nobody is curious about what you eat or drink, or what liquors you keep at home. When you take a glass of beer is not in issue. At your age, and it is an honorable age, an occasional glass of whisky may do you no harm. But the people don't care when you take a drink. What they want to know is where you take your orders. They want to know who ordered you to stay on the ticket when you said you would go off. Who was it, Mr. Wells? Don't confuse the issue by talking about swilling swipes or clinking the cannikin. We will admit that you take the occasional glass of beer and red liquor, and will not dispute that your domestic supply of liquor is no common stuff. We admit its high quality in order to dismiss your drinks and your alcoholic record from the campaign.

In the same speech you introduced another issue by boldly declaring: "One place downtown I was in business thirty-five years." We admit that. It is a geographical issue and you can prove it by the directory. But what has it to do with this campaign? There are gentlemen in this city who have done business in one place forty years. They also take an occasional glass of beer, even steam beer, and of whisky, and carry a little stock at home. So you are not the only man who has done business at the old stand for thirty-five years, nor the only one that drinks no longer water, but takes a little something rosy for his stomach's sake and his often infirmities. So these are not reasons why you should be elected.

After raising these issues of locality and refreshment, you said: "But after all, ladies and gentlemen, it depends upon the man largely, upon what we will do with these great public questions."

Now that is true, and the people want to know who the man is. If you will tell them the man who ordered you to stay on the ticket when you said you would get off, and who made you indorse a Supervisor ticket that you said was so bad that if it had been nominated first you would have declined to run, that is the man upon whom they must depend. Is it Mr. Herrin? If so they will be happier for knowing it. Is it Martin Kelly? Who is it?

These questions have been asked of you, and you answer them by telling what you drink, where you did business and where you were born. Remember now we admit you were born, that you did business in one place thirty-five years, and that you are not skinbound in the matter of good tipple. We admit it all, Mr. Wells, to save you the trouble of repeating, and to economize your breath for answering what the people want to know.

Who is the man, upon whom they must largely depend? He has a big finger in your little political pie, Mr. Wells, and has missed it up so that the people don't want to eat it.

It is stated that the conservative officials of the Chinese Government have determined to recall from this country Wu Ting-fang because they look upon his popularity here as a proof that he is not loyal to China. In this country Wu's popularity with certain influential circles in the East is looked upon as evidence that he is doing a good deal more for China than this country can stand, and, accordingly, his retirement will suit us as well as it suits the Chinese conservatives.

The British income tax gatherers could find in the United Kingdom last year only twelve persons and eighty firms with incomes in excess of $250,000. In this country it is probable that New York alone could make a bigger showing.

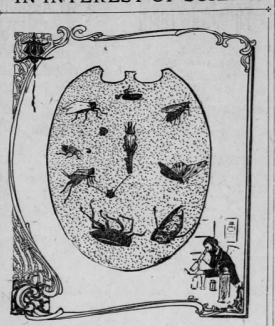
It is to be hoped that Buller will imitate Schley and ask for a court of inquiry. We are not hogs enough to wish to keep things of that kind all to ourselves.

Down in Missouri there is said to be a city Marshal who has drawn on the station-house floor a chalk mark sixty feet long, and any person arrested for drunkenness is required to try to walk it. If he makes the line straight and clear he goes free, but if not he is held to answer. The community is said to be satisfied with the method, and, in fact, some of them say it beats Solomon.

The woman who went over Niagara in a barrel has now admitted that she performed the feat not as an adventure but for the sake of getting employment as a freak at a dime museum; and consequently those who called her a fool will please retract and do justice to her enterprise as an aspirant for celebrity.

Congressman Cannon says he hasn't got $50,000 to put into the fight for the Illinois Senatorship, and we may infer from the statement that he is out of the race.

BEHEADING OF INSECTS IN INTEREST OF SCIENCE



EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE BY A SCIENTIST IN THE DECAPITATION OF INSECTS, GRASSHOPPERS, BUTTERFLIES AND OTHERS, SHOWING WONDERFUL VITALITY AFTER LOSING HEADS.

KNOWING that the Academy of Medicine in Paris usually obtains the bodies of decapitated criminals for the purpose of experimenting on them and especially with the object of ascertaining how long after death motions are seen by a body after the head has been separated from it, Signor Canestrini, an Italian scientist, thought that it would be worth while to make similar experiments on insects, and for several months he has been devoting his attention to this work.

Collecting a number of insects, he cut off their heads and noted the time at which what took place in each case. Some of the insects made no voluntary motion after being decapitated, but when touched or pinched gave every sign of life. The crickets remained on their feet in a natural position, even when headless, but the moment they were touched they sprang once on their backs. Lively insects, like bees and ants, remained almost completely motionless after they had been decapitated, and not until some time had elapsed did they seem to "realize" that they had lost their heads.

Butterflies, however, behaved in a way that Canestrini saw butterflies for eighteen days and a few crickets jump thirteen days after decapitation and he even says that the insect known as mantis religiosa moved quite freely fourteen days after its head had been removed.

The movements made by the decapitated various insects determined by him continued as a rule—for a few crickets showed much greater vitality than is here indicated—to move their heads and their bodies after decapitation:

DURATION OF THE MOVEMENTS.

	Movements of the Body	Movements of the Head
Gastropus stercorarius	4 days	16 hours
Blatta orientalis	7 days	12 hours
Blatta orientalis	7 days	12 hours
Harpalus	10 hours	10 hours
Harpalus	10 hours	10 hours
Ants	12 hours	10 hours
Wasps	1 days	12 hours
Wasps	1 days	12 hours
Bombyx	10 hours	3 hours
Flies	16 hours	4 hours
Crickets	3 days	15 hours
Forficulas	11 days	4 days
Mantis religiosa	14 days	1 hour
Forficula auricularia	4 days	Several hours

From this table it appears that the movements of the head are always of shorter duration than those of the body.

In some insects, says Signor Canestrini, the head is so much more sensitive to stimulus than the body. Instead of life. A cricket, if lightly touched, will raise itself immediately, and, if touched more than once, will jump about. That the head is still alive is shown by the movements of the antennæ. A moist and comfortable environment, he says, favors the vitality of the head and body, whereas a dry and warm temperature soon makes them rigid. Fragile insects are the case of crickets and grasshoppers, for, if these insects are decapitated in a place where there is a dry and sandy soil, they will live much longer than if they had been decapitated in warm weather and had then placed in dry ground.

PERSONAL MENTION.

Dr. E. M. Gardner of Napa is spending a few days at the California.

Ex-Congressman A. Cuthbert of Jackson was registered at the Lick yesterday.

E. J. Markel, proprietor of the Millard Hotel of Omaha, is staying at the Palace.

A. H. Schaubel, a mining man of Newcastle, registered at the Grand yesterday.

Clara Shortridge Foltz returned yesterday from a flying business trip to New York.

F. B. Mestrit, a railroad man of New York, is at the Palace, accompanied by his wife.

J. H. Simpson, the well-known banker of Los Angeles, is among the arrivals at the Palace.

Frank A. Cressy, a banker of Modesto, is in the city on business, and has made the Lick his headquarters.

J. N. Paul, a prominent attorney of Portland, Or., is staying at the Occidental. He is accompanied by his wife.

Samuel Parker, the well-known Hawaiian planter, returned from Washington yesterday, and is a guest at the Occidental.

W. A. Prendergast, secretary of the Credit Men's Association, arrived from New York yesterday. He is staying at the Palace.

Californians in New York.

NEW YORK, Oct. 30.—The following Californians are registered here: From San Francisco—W. W. Chapin, at the Hoffman; J. Lick, at the Imperial; W. H. Albrecht, F. C. Hotaling, at the Hoffman; L. McMillan, at the Imperial; R. M. Meyer, at the Plaza; W. Roberts, at the Cosmopolitan.

Los Angeles—N. Gr Douglass, at the Victoria; C. H. Stone and wife at the Grand.

WRITES WHILE ASLEEP.

One of the most remarkable and puzzling stories of somnambulism is that which recently came to light in connection with a young clergyman at a training college in New York, who was found to be in the habit of writing his sermons while fast asleep. The young man would get out of bed, secure paper, and compose and write his sermons. On finishing a page he would read it out, when a word displeased him, he would erase it and substitute a more great exactness. These extemporaneous sermons were well composed and correctly written. Curious to ascertain whether the young man made use of his eyes, the principal of the college put a card under his chin to prevent him seeing the paper, but he still continued to write.

Not yet satisfied whether or not 4- could distinguish different objects placed before him, the principal took away the paper and placed in his hand a pencil and substituted several other kinds, at different times, of various colors. He always perceived the change, because the photo of paper were of different sizes. When a piece exactly the his own was substituted he used it, and wrote his corrections on the pieces corresponding to those of his own paper. It was by this means that portions of the nocturnal composition were obtained.

The most astonishing production was a piece of music, written with great exactitude. He used a case for a ruler. The clefs, the flats and the sharps were all in their right places. The notes were all made as circles, and those requiring it were afterward blackened with ink. The words were all written below, but sometimes they were in such very large characters that they had to be written below the other paper lines, and, considering they he erased them all and wrote them over again.

SOME ANSWERS TO QUERIES BY CALL READERS

RICE—W., City. Rice thrown after a bride is a relic of the "pants factress" in dail. a honorable form of marriage called "confarreatio."

ONION CULTURE—A. O. A., Saratoga, Cal. Under the most improved method of cultivation it is claimed that 1000 bushels of onions can be grown to an acre of ground.

OLD PEOPLE'S HOME—H., Oroville, Cal. The Crocker Old People's Home is located in San Francisco, corner of Pierce and Fine streets. For admission thereto address the superintendent.

SUN EATERS—A., City. "Sun Eaters" was a name applied to individuals hired in ancient times to take upon themselves the sins of the deceased, that the soul might be delivered from purgatory.

BACK NUMBERS—J. S., City. The cost of back numbers of The Call is 10 cents for a copy one month old, increasing 5 cents per month for the preceding three months, then increasing 10 cents per month after that.

OLD-TIME HOTEL—Old-timer, City. The old-time International Hotel in which David C. Broderick uttered the words which formed the basis of the challenge to mortal combat by Judge Terry was opened April, 1854, by Fuck & Fisher.

POLICEMAN NICHOLSON—Subscriber, City. It was on the morning of February 8, 1894, that John Nicholson, a member of the San Francisco police force, was stabbed to death by a burglar he had caught in the act on Pacific street, near Jones.

TRAINING SHIP—E. Stockton, Cal. A man who has reached the age of 22 cannot be placed on board of a United States training ship. Having attained his majority he is a free agent and could not be placed in the United States navy against his will.

HIGH SCHOOL—C., Butter Creek, Cal. A boy who has graduated from a grammar school in California may enter a high school, in San Francisco there is the Lowell High School on Sutter street, near Gough, and the Polytechnic High School, corner of Bush and Stockton streets.

ANARCHISM AND SOCIALISM—L. B., East Oakland, Cal. The difference between anarchism and socialism is that the former favors the abolition of all forms of government and the latter advocates a community of property so that such shall have an equal share and favors the abolition of rank. Anarchists and socialists are anarchists and socialists the world over.

SEPARATE PROPERTY—Homestead, City. Not knowing all the circumstances that led up to your wife declaring a homestead on certain property it is impossible to give a positive answer to the question asked; but generally the wife has no right to declare a homestead on the separate property of the husband, no more than the husband has on the separate property of the wife.

THE OLD CLIFF HOUSE—Old-timer, City. Captain James O. Foster was in 1865 a member at the firm of Foster, Pulver & Tirrey, owners of the Immigrant Hotel, on the north side of Jackson street, between Montgomery and Kearny. On June 1, 1865, Captain Foster took a lease of the old Cliff House and continued in charge until January 1, 1884.

DOGS ON BRIDGE—F. S. Yerba Buena Island, Cal. The reason that dogs are not allowed to cross the Niagara Falls suspension bridge unless carried is that they are a nuisance on a bridge and those in charge of the bridge have a right to prohibit a nuisance. A dog crossing a bridge, at least, is an irresponsible creature and is a nuisance. Being such, a dog might be the cause of an accident that might result seriously. To prevent such accidents from such a cause that dogs are barred.

"UNCLE SAM"—H. L., City. Uncle Sam is a personification of the United States. He is, or other name, during the last days of the Revolution there was a contractor named Samuel Wilson, who received the stores for the army and navy of the United States and when such were sent to him they bore the letters "U. S." for United States. Some one asked the meaning of those letters and an individual responded that as the goods all came from Wilson they stood for Uncle Sam. From that time the term was applied to the United States.

TATTOO MARKS—E., Sailor, City. Tattoo marks on the human body are designed, as has been proved by an investigation made at Mount Washington Hospital, Baltimore, a few years ago. An individual who died there, shortly before his death, willed his body to one of the surgeons in the hospital for the benefit of science. One of the surgeons, curious to learn the depth of tattooing, experimented on the arm and found that the design of what on the surface of the arm was a coat of arms was marked through the flesh as far as the bone. There he also discovered the trace of the figure on the bone, but it did not penetrate the bone structure.

THROWING SHOES—W., City. The custom of throwing one or more old shoes after the bride and groom either when they go to the church or when they start on their wedding tour is so old that the memory of man stretches not back to the beginning. Some claim it represents an assault and is a lingering trace of the custom among savage nations of throwing away the bride by violence. Others think it is a relic of the ancient law of exchange or purchase and that it formerly implied the surrender by the parents of the daughter—or authority over the daughter—to the new a Jewish custom, thus in Deuteronomy xxv. 5-10, we find that the widow refused by the surviving brother asserted "Then shall my husband's brother go in unto her, and in the study of Ruth it is told that it was the custom in ancient times to place the husband's shoe at the head of the nuptial couch in assertion of his domination, and that he assumed the government of the household.

LONG HAIR AND SHORT HAIR—A. A. W., Alameda, Cal. The custom of men cutting or having their hair cut is believed to have been inspired by the following from I. Corinthians xi.14: "Doth not even nature itself teach you that if a man have long hair it is a shame unto him?" Homer speaks of the long-haired Greeks by way of distinction from the Romans. Subsequently the Athenian cavalry and all Lacedæmonian soldiers were long hair. The Parthians and ancient Persians were long flowing hair. The Franks and ancient Teutons considered long hair a mark of high birth. The Goths looked upon it as a mark of honor and on short hair as a mark of thralldom; so did the Saxons. When William the Conqueror, when he subdued them, obliged them to cut their hair short in token of submission. In England Pelgar, the Speaker of the House of Commons and at one time the Bishops, wore long hair, while criminals and paupers wore short hair. On the other hand Jewish priests during their time of service had their hair cut short and the ancient Roman slaves wore their hair and beard long, but shaved their heads when they obtained their freedom, who escaped from shipwreck shaved their heads as if manumitted from the sea. In Ezekiel xl.i there is mention of a "barber's razor," with instructions to "then son of man to cause it to pass upon nine head and upon thy beard."

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