

The San Francisco Call. MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1903. JOHN D. SPRECKELS, Proprietor. TELEPHONE.

WOOD AS A CROP.

THE spread of a right conception of the purpose of scientific forestry is very gratifying to those who pioneered the cause in this country. The Eastern press has recently made quite a specialty of forestry, with the result that former timber lands not fit for agriculture are now considered of value for raising timber and are being planted for wood as a crop.

CONDITION OF TRADE.

GENERAL trade shows few new features. The volume of business appears smaller than at this time last year, but it was then abnormally large and nobody conversant with the drift of commerce expected it to continue at high pressure indefinitely.

There were several favorable features last week. Some sections of the country reported a better fall demand for goods than last year, and more favorable weather stimulated the retail trade in others.

The feeling in the iron and steel trades is still somewhat pessimistic and buyers are holding off, while some descriptions have declined still further.

Conditions on the Pacific Slope continue cheerful. Moderate crops, which are quoted above the normal prices, keep the farmers and merchants in good humor, credits excellent and the banks well supplied with funds.

It has been announced in the dispatches that Russia and Austria may take a hand in the quarrel between Bulgaria and Turkey.

The hill country and mountains of New England and the Middle States, once timbered but now bare, are being put into white and yellow pine, black walnut and even oak, the slowest growing of all. In the South it is probable that the eucalyptus will flourish and it is evident that we are not yet aware of the economic value of many of the varieties of that tree.

The Philadelphia Record is urging replanting of the slopes of the Alleghany Mountains in that State. Lumbering and fire have stripped them and the effect on moisture and the climate is disastrous.

Mr. Gifford Pinchot has been urging the replanting of our denuded forest lands in California. He is one of the foremost authorities on forestry in the world, and California will get much of value from his instruction.

True, it may be said that the crop is of slow growth and the man who plants may not harvest. But as soon as the growth of the crop is established the lands have value, and this will increase until the crop is ready to cut.

An American who killed his partner in Mexico was sentenced a few days ago by a Mexican court to serve an imprisonment of sixteen months for criminal carelessness. This ought to suggest itself as a valuable addition to the Penal Code of California to cover the cases of that extremely dangerous element known as deer hunters.

PROHIBITION IN THE SOUTH.

SINCE New Hampshire and Vermont have abandoned their ancient policy of total prohibition and have entered upon a trial of license and local option, the stalwart and stern prohibitionists have turned their hopes to the South.

According to a prohibition organ, "The New Voice," published in Chicago, there are now more saloons in the State of New York alone than in the entire eleven States of the South.

Various causes are assigned for the popular support given to prohibition in these States. In the first place there are in the South very few foreigners accustomed to the free use of wine or beer, and as the older elements of the American population are generally averse to the liquor traffic, it is natural there should be stronger sentiment of that kind in the South than in other sections where the foreign element is larger.

The results of the experiment with prohibition in the South will doubtless be similar to those that followed in New England. For a time the zeal of the reformers will enable the State and county officers to enforce the law, but gradually the weakening will come, and then there will be a repetition of the practices that made prohibition in New Hampshire and Vermont such a scandal that the people after fifty years of trial decided to get rid of it.

to keep whisky out of reach of her negroes and her reckless whites during this period of her development, and to that extent, therefore, the crusade for total abstinence is an encouraging symptom of Southern life.

It is seldom that we hear from old Tuolumne, but when we do the news is well worth the reading. She now is bubbling with excitement over a duel, a tragedy and a mystery all bunched in one.

THE GOOSE AND THE GOLD EGG.

THE only cloud above the financial horizon is the prospective withdrawal of capital from constructive enterprises. Construction of railroads and buildings is a form of production. It goes back to the raw material, the ore, flux and fuel to produce metal and the stone and the clay; to the lead and the flax plant that combine in paint, and to the various pigments used; to the silica and soda for glass, and to the timber in its various forms that enters into construction and to the skilled processes by which each is reduced to useful form.

Already the railroads of the United States have announced their abandonment of construction planned for next year that called for the payment of \$180,000,000, giving as a reason the burdens laid upon such production by the labor situation.

The proceedings of Murphy, Parks and the other walking delegates who have been sentenced to the penitentiary in New York for bribery and extortion have revealed a labor situation in which no investor is safe. The calling of strikes to extort money for the pocket of the walking delegate has inflicted enormous losses upon contractors and property owners.

It is not only the planned \$310,000,000 of railroad construction and building in New York and Chicago that will be exterminated, but the blight will fall upon construction everywhere and in every city. In Chicago the owner of a building under construction was notified by the labor unions concerned to change contractors and take one that the unions dictated when the work was half finished.

Investors in business buildings in cities arrange their leases in advance. Their prospective tenants in turn arrange to give up their present quarters and the landlord in his turn arranges for new lessees. In countless cases these erratic interruptions of construction so drag out the completion of buildings that the time limit of the leases expires, but the prospective lessees have agreed to give up their present quarters and their successors are waiting to take them; so it occurs that men are thrown out of business and have to sacrifice their stock and suffer great loss and in some cases ruin, all by reason of the interference of the walking delegate with construction.

It was hoped that union labor would be admonished by the exposure of Murphy, Parks and other walking delegates. But instead of that the unions have voted to them the same confidence and leadership in convict stripes that they enjoyed in plain clothes, and this has been the determining cause of the canceling of \$310,000,000 in contracts for constructive production.

Local dealers in live Chinese stock have discovered in the substitution of old, decrepit men for young men a new and profitable scheme with which to cheat the exclusion law. It has been very apparent for some time that there should be a few more lawyers in San Quentin. The profession is not adequately represented in the penitentiary.

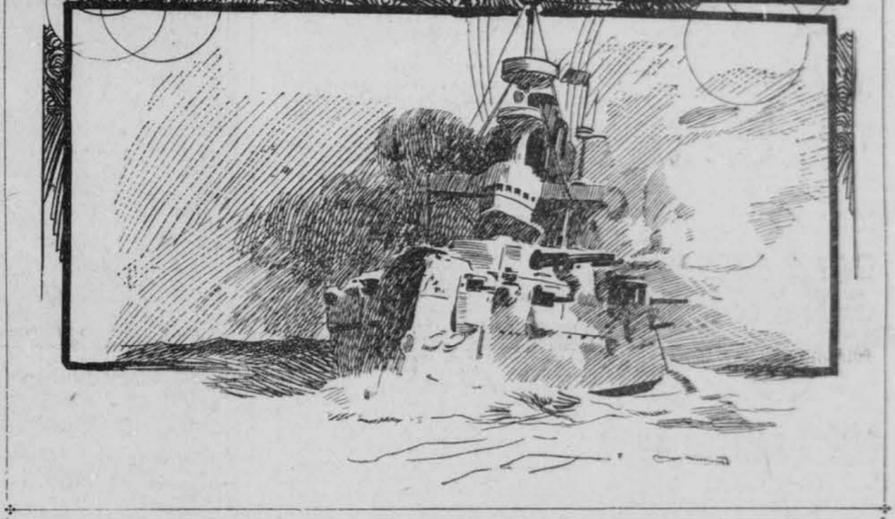
If nothing else laudatory may be said of the schemers who have precipitated the postal scandal upon the nation they may be commended for the thoroughness with which they operated and the wide range within which they worked. It is to be hoped that the Federal authorities will pursue the affair implacably to its inevitable conclusion—to the punishment of the offenders.

California has done much to demonstrate its ability in the development of abnormalities in children, but it must present something worse than anything yet offered or yield the badge of disgrace to Colorado. In the latter State a few days ago two children who had been arrested confessed that they are painstaking and successful train-wreckers.

A young man bearing the unusual but significant name of Crutches is a candidate for a place on the Stanford football eleven. If the boys can now only secure somebody named Stretcher to enter the lists the team ought to go upon the gridiron formidably and most appropriately named for the November contest.

It seems strange and wonderfully encouraging to witness the strenuous efforts with which our fellow citizens of Hawaii are striving to show that they deserve to shine as a great and sympathetic unit in the United States. At their recent primary election they did everything except commit murder.

ADMIRAL DEWEY THINKS THE NORTH ATLANTIC FLEET IS NOT FORMIDABLE



ADMIRAL GEORGE DEWEY OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY, WHO WAS NOT FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC FLEET THAT RECENTLY ENGAGED IN SUMMER MANEUVERS OFF THE COAST OF MAINE.

ADMIRAL DEWEY, in a letter published in the Navy League Journal, calls attention to the list of American naval vessels "which with some difficulty have been assembled on the coast of Maine for the summer maneuvers of this year."

Table with columns: NAME, Class, Tonnage, Speed, Main Battery. Lists ships like Alabama, Illinois, Kearsarge, Indiana, Massachusetts, Texas, Olympia, Panther, Mayflower, Prairie, Topeka, Scorpion, Vixen, Dolphin, Hartford, Essex, Monongahela.

In addition to the above vessels there were also five destroyers, three tugs, eight colliers and supply vessels, making a total of thirty-six craft of all kinds.

The above fleet is remarkable only because of its non-homogeneity. Only three of the battleships could be depended upon to set the pace at fifteen knots. The five battleships and two protected cruisers constituted the sole fighting force, as the four cruisers are converted merchant steamers, any one of which may be sunk by a fourteen-pound shell fired at a distance of one mile.

William Mackabee, an inmate of the Naval Home in Philadelphia, celebrated his 100th birthday September 5 last. He was born in Baltimore in 1803 and entered the navy at the age of 14 years, serving as an apprentice on the Constitution.

There are 126 officers in the navy eligible for retirement as rear admirals during the ten years up to 1914. Of this number twenty-four are rear admirals, seventy-four captains, thirty-one commanders, one medical director and six pay directors.

with the rank and three-fourths of the sea pay of the next higher grade." Nineteen officers who entered the Naval Academy during 1864 will be eligible for retirement as rear admirals even if the last one of them—J. A. H. Nickles, who retired January 12, 1901—does not reach the higher grade prior to his retirement.

The sailors and marines on the battleship Maine are not desirous of serving on that ship and resort to all sorts of methods to get out of "Old Helms," as they have nicknamed it. More than 200 sailors are reported to have deserted since the ship came to Philadelphia five months ago for repairs, and not one answered to the call for volunteers posted up at League Island.

The cigarette habit among the youngsters on board the training ships at Portland, England, has spread to such an extent as to cause the officer in charge to resort to drastic measures. He has closed up a number of tobacco shops and threatened other stores with similar method of stopping the supply of cigarettes to the boys of the six training ships located in the harbor, besides three other making Portland their headquarters at the end of their cruises.

The British Admiralty recently sent a circular letter to the several dockyards and shore stations, requesting the views of those in authority as to the practicability of employing women as copyists, flagmakers, upholsterers, etc.

The tactical exercises of the British fleet off Lagos Bay began August 18 and continued six days. The fleet, consisting of twenty-five battleships, thirty-eight cruisers and all of the Mediterranean torpedo flotilla, was divided in divisions under the command of one admiral, two vice admirals and five rear admirals.

The annual naval maneuvers of the German navy began August 15 and were to terminate September 15. Fifty-four vessels of all types are participating in the exercises, which include sham battles and a long distance run from Wilhelmshafen around Skagerak into the Baltic and terminating at Kiel.

The French armored cruiser Jules Ferry, building in dock at Cherbourg, was to be floated on August 25. Five vessels of this type, identical in all particulars, are being built in dockyards and are making good progress. Each of these cruisers is to be 822 1/2 feet in length, 72 1/2 feet beam and 12,600 tons displacement on a draught of 24 1/2 feet, on which the normal coal carried is 1200 tons.