

The San Francisco Call

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1902

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PUBLICATION OFFICE... Market and Third, S. F. EDITORIAL ROOMS... 217 to 221 Stevenson St.

Delivered by Carriers, 15 Cents Per Week. Single Copies, 5 Cents. Terms by Mail, including Postage: DAILY CALL (including Sunday), one year, \$6.00

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MONEY AND BUSINESS.

THE two dominating features of trade last week were the monetary flurry in Wall street and the negotiations to terminate the coal strike.

It was supposed that the proposition of Secretary of the Treasury Shaw to release from the national banks the 25 per cent reserve which they are obliged to hold against Government deposits, and which would at once place some \$30,000,000 in actual coin at the disposal of the market, would ease the situation immediately, and it did, for call money in New York, from being flighty and irregular at all sorts of rates, varying from 10 to 40 per cent, subsided to 7 per cent, with more stability than it had exhibited for some days.

The settlement of the coal strike through the President's interference was so eagerly desired that it was practically discounted in some quarters, but the sanguine ones were disappointed in the failure of the operators and the union to agree, and this gave the market another element of weakness.

Rural delivery of mails is said to cost Uncle Sam more than \$1,000,000 a month, but Uncle is not kicking. He knows that the farmers are putting money in his pocket every day, and it is but right he should carry a letter round to them once in a while.

THE PARAMOUNT ISSUE.

POLITICAL contests when reduced to their last analysis are found to be no more than a struggle to get the people to turn out of office the existing administration and put into office the party of opposition.

Such being the nature of the contest the people have a right to ask of Democratic orators and organs what changes they purpose to make in the way of national or State policies, and what benefits they expect to flow from those changes.

The salient features of Republican policy affecting the issues of the time are the maintenance of sound money and the protective tariff. Will Democratic candidates for Congress announce an intention to change either of those things?

These questions are pertinent to the time. The country is prosperous. Work is plentiful and wages are better than ever before in this or any other land.

Under the blessings of protection and sound money these things have happened: The Dingley tariff has given more work and more wages to more men than any other act of legislation known to history;

Such are the facts, and the question recurs: "What change does Democracy purpose to make?" Are we to return to the Wilson tariff? Are the duties that protect California fruits, wines, sugar, oils, lumber, wool, hops and raisins to be repealed?

What change has Democracy to offer? What change does the people ask? Republican policies carried out by Republican statesmen have brought prosperity to the great masses of the people, and the opposition cannot give even so much as a promise of gain to follow any change they might make.

THE BALKAN PROBLEM

SECRETARY HAY'S circular note on the ill-treatment of the Roumanian Jews has had the effect of causing the powers of Europe to make something like a showdown on the whole Balkan problem.

Very naturally the diplomats of Europe who were quietly permitting the treaty to become obsolete and forgotten are not pleased with the position in which Secretary Hay has placed them.

The Jewish problem in Roumania is by no means the only thing in Eastern Europe that troubles the mighty powers of the west. The disturbances in Bulgaria and Macedonia are likely at any moment to break out into open war, and while the Czar is said to have tried to compel the Bulgarian Government to suppress the societies in that country that are exciting trouble in Macedonia his efforts have had no success.

lish peace, nor will the other powers permit the Czar to help him establish it.

Taken altogether, the situation is too perplexing for good easy gentlemen of the diplomatic colleges to solve. Certainly they will not complicate it by troubling Roumania.

Washington City has a policeman who is so firm a prohibitionist that he recently refused to go into a saloon even to make an arrest; and now they think of dismissing him for neglect of duty, and then giving him a medal in recognition of the firmness of his principles.

TRADE SCHOOLS.

GERMAN competition pressing upon them everywhere set British manufacturers and workmen long ago to considering how the competition grew up and what forces made it formidable.

Reports from American Consuls at various German trade centers have repeatedly reminded us of the excellence of these schools and the important part they play in the development and improvement of German industries.

The French battleship Republique, launched September 4, at Brest, is one of five ships of generally similar type which were authorized about two years ago, of which, however, only two have been begun.

The disposition of the guns, armor, speed and coal endurance are factors the relative merits of which affecting the ship as a whole are difficult to determine and on which the most able naval experts are unable to agree.

Contracts for nine improved torpedo-boat destroyers have been placed by the Admiralty with the most successful builders in England of such vessels.

SENSATION IN THE PULPIT.

ONLY a short time ago there was a little ripple of excitement in New York caused by the appearance at one of the churches of a gifted young lady who entertained the congregation by whistling "Robin Adair" while the contribution box was passing round.

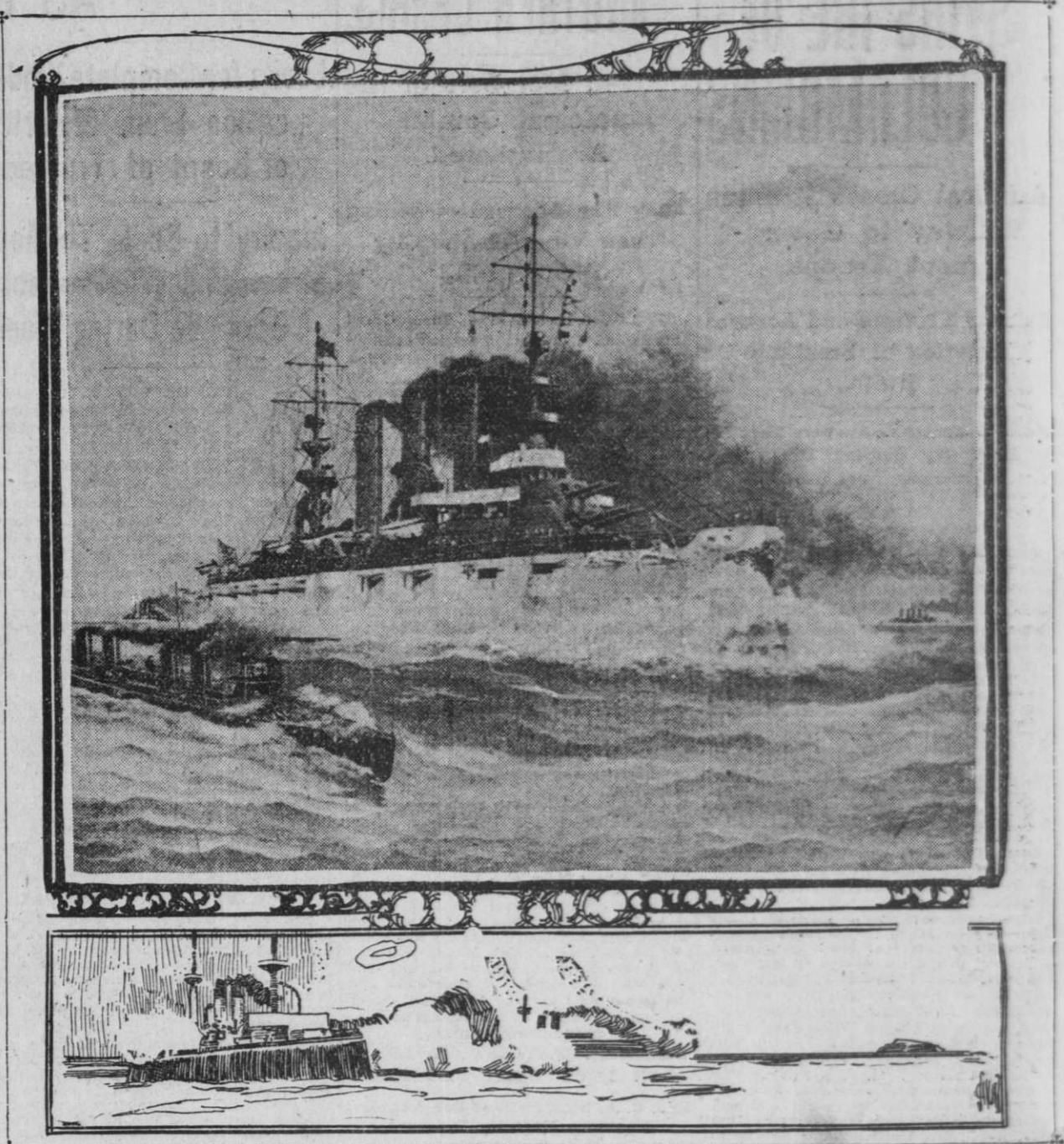
While that controversy was waxing warm as the summer itself in the East, reports came from London of a movement started in that city to get the use of rural churches for theatrical entertainments during the week, the argument being that country people have not a fair share of the joys of life and since they cannot afford theaters they should be permitted to make joyous use of the venerable edifices of the church.

Naturally these innovations on the old fashions of worship have provoked something more than criticism. There have been heard really virulent denunciations of the novelties.

Warming up to his theme the sturdy advocate of live tactics added: "My plea is for more sensationalism. Let each preacher study his field and determine in what way he can best startle, attract and impress the indifferent about him."

LET ME KISS HIM—H. E. City. "Let me kiss him for his mother, let me kiss his youthful brow," is from a song that was very popular during the Civil War.

AMERICAN BATTLESHIPS THE MOST FORMIDABLE OF NEW WAR VESSELS



BATTLESHIP NEW JERSEY, UNDER CONSTRUCTION FOR THE UNITED STATES. IT IS ONE OF A NUMBER OF WAR CRAFT SUPERIOR IN ARMAMENT TO VESSELS OF THE SAME CLASS BEING BUILT FOR OLD WORLD NAVIES.

THE French battleship Republique, launched September 4, at Brest, is one of five ships of generally similar type which were authorized about two years ago, of which, however, only two have been begun.

Table comparing specifications of King Edward VII, New Jersey, and Republique.

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Contracts for nine improved torpedo-boat destroyers have been placed by the Admiralty with the most successful builders in England of such vessels.

months served 17 years and 1 month at sea and was unemployed only 1 year and 4 months. The Treasury Department holds from \$12,000 to \$15,000 unclaimed prize money, due to sailors in the navy who took part in the fights at Manila and Santiago.

Table comparing specifications of H. J., Vittorio Emanuele, and other ships.

A "General Mess Manual and Cookbook" for the United States Navy has been prepared under the direction of the paymaster general and published by the Navy Department.

Louis J. Connelly, a gunner in the navy, has reported to the Navy Department for advancement to the grade of ensign.

Whether he has already been examined or that he has yet to pass through the ordeal is not stated. Thus far only two gunners have been fortunate enough to be promoted to ensign.

SOME ANSWERS TO QUERIES BY CALL READERS

A LITTLE NONSENSE—H. E. City. The oft used lines, A little nonsense now and then is relished by the best of men.

FRENCH QUOTATION—H. E. City. A correspondent, wants to know where he can find the following French lines: La maison est misérable et mechante

APPENDICITIS—M. L. F. City. The records attainable by this department do not give the percentage of deaths following operations for appendicitis.

COUNTIES—C. R. M. San Rafael, Cal. There are fifty-seven counties in the State of California. Orange County was created March 11, 1883.

LET ME KISS HIM—H. E. City. "Let me kiss him for his mother, let me kiss his youthful brow," is from a song that was very popular during the Civil War.

CONCERNING THE LAW AS TO SALE OF POISON

To the Editor of The Call: In view of so many shocking suicides by carbolic acid, one of the most deadly and painful poisons, I am led to ask why the law against the sale of this horrible drug is not enforced.

The statute regulating its sale requires the seller to keep a book in which he shall enter the name and address of the purchaser, the date of sale, quantity sold, the purpose for which it is required, etc.

And yet, notwithstanding these wise safeguards of the law, reports has that any man, woman or child for 30 cents can obtain without trouble enough of the awful drug to destroy life. Why is this? Is the law a dead letter? Will the proper authorities not do their duty? Will not the District Attorney and the Police Judges, for the sake of poor, suffering humanity, who should be safeguarded in their moments of heartbroken depression and saved from the agony of death in the most horrible form, enforce the statute and make an example of the heartless wretches who for a few dimes violate the laws of God and man? I sincerely hope The Call will give this matter attention. Respectfully, B. F.