

## OUR SAN FRANCISCO LETTER

San Francisco, Cal., Sept 8, 1897.

The past week has been particularly bright and active for this time of the year. In San Francisco, which is generally a very dull and quiet season. The monotonous spell seems to have been broken and the city has assumed a hustle and bustle, that if nothing more will at least favorably impress our eastern visitors with an idea that San Francisco is still entitled to retain her position on the map. The presence in the city of the circus, Senator Morgan's party, a delegation of West Virginians and the six hundred mail carriers, all add strength to the picture and help to swell the crowds on the streets and give them a prosperous and business-like appearance.

Labor day was observed in this city though no elaborate demonstrations were remarkable. The banks and business houses, with but few exceptions, closed their doors and work on all sides ceased for the day. A few appropriate speeches were made by local labor advocates in which the sentiment seemed to be sympathy for the striking miners of West Virginia.

Thursday, September 9th, will make the forty-seventh anniversary of the admission of California to the Union and as is customary will be a legal holiday. The principal celebration will be held this year at Santa Rosa where the Native Sons of the Golden West will do honor to the day.

The state fair opened at Sacramento on the 6th inst. and will continue for two weeks. Of course the prize pig and the largest pumpkin will be in evidence to the delight of the rustic visitor. The principal attraction though seems to be the horse racing program, which is divided into running and trotting races, alternating from day to day. The best stock in the country has been entered and attempts will be made to smash some existing state records.

Walter Main's circus is in town and the joy of the irrepressible small boy knows no bounds. As an attraction it seems to be shutting out all other forms of amusement, and the lovers of daring athletic feats, wild animals, spectacular costumes and red lemonade are flocking to the tents in droves, for the circus, like Christmas, comes but once a year.

Uncle Sam's mail distributors in their natty gray uniforms and "roller towel" badges have taken possession of the town. They come nearly a thousand strong, accompanied by their wives, children, sisters, cousins, sweethearts, to attend the annual convention which will be in session here all week. The local carriers have made extensive preparations for the entertainment of their guests, and not a sight worth seeing will be overlooked. After the business of the organization has been attended to, the visiting delegates will pay their respects to the other attractions of California lying around San Francisco.

United States Senator John I. Morgan of Alabama is being royally entertained by the citizens of San Francisco as a mark of respect and appreciation for the manner in which he so bitterly opposed the funding bill of the Pacific railroads, the defeat of which was of vital importance to California and her interests. The senator addressed a large and enthusiastic gathering on this subject prior to his departure for Honolulu. Nothing was left undone to make the distinguished gentleman's visit a pleasant one, and the memory of his reception and entertainment he can always recall with pleasure and satisfaction.

San Francisco has another public fountain at the intersection of Market

park and Mason streets, the gift of Mayor James D. Phelan, and erected in honor of the Native Sons of the Golden West, to commemorate the admission of California into the Union. The unveiling and dedication exercises were very simple, according to the expressed wishes of the donor, though a more elaborate program had been arranged for the occasion. The monument consists of a column of California granite mounted on a pedestal of the same material. On the pedestal at the base of the column is a bronze figure of a young and vigorous miner, bearing aloft the National flag and carrying a pick and shovel over his shoulder. The column, thirty feet high, is mounted with the bronze figure of an angel with outstretched wings. The faucets, cups, and other trimmings are also of bronze. The material used is entirely Californian, and the sculptor, Douglas Hden, a deaf mute, is also a native product.

The gunboat *Wheeling*, recently launched at the Union Iron Works, and now at Mare Island navy yard, was presented with an elegant china glass and silver service last Thursday by a delegation of citizens from the town after which the gunboat takes its name. The fact that the *Wheeling* came all the way across the continent to make the presentation shows the kind of material they are made of, and demonstrates the interest and appreciation they feel for the honor that has been conferred. The boat was beautifully decorated and the scenes and festivities aboard ship will be indelibly impressed upon the memory of all who were fortunate enough to participate in the grand event.

Are fights immoral? That is the question that is agitating religious athletic and theatrical circles in San Francisco at the present moment. The matter was opened by one minister declaring that the wearing of tights, either in the gymnasium or upon the stage, was immodest and immoral. The public has taken it up and the public sense seems to be about equally divided on the subject. While there is hardly any possibility of the custom being changed to please the clergymen, before the question is finally dropped somebody will have gained some cheap advertising. While the church is loud in its denunciation of tights, so immodest, immoral, and productive of evil, they fail to even suggest a suitable substitute, so this like all other questions of like origin is destined to end up in smoke.

A recent ruling of Judge Ellsworth of the Alameda county superior court is of interest to bicyclists, as it places the bicycle in the list of personal property exempt from execution, in as much as it is a necessary and useful conveyance to and from work.

A fire broke out in the Orpheum Theater Sunday night and had it not been for the presence of mind of some of the attaches it might have proved as horrifying and disastrous as the charity bazaar affair in Paris. The blaze started in a small enclosure built in front of the gallery to protect the cinematograph, an electrical apparatus for projecting pictures upon the stage. The sides of this closet are of muslin and it was this that caught fire, either from an electric spark from the wires, or as the management maintains, from a cigar or cigarette stump carelessly thrown away by someone in the audience. As soon as the flames shot up someone in the audience yelled "fire!" and the excitement broke out and for a moment it looked as though a panic could not be averted. Under the influence of momentary terror people made a mad rush showing no consideration for age or sex. Everybody rushed headlong,

pell-mell for the exits, men tramped upon women, women upon children and all shrieked. Brute terror reigned supreme in a panic-stricken mob. Fortunately no one was seriously injured and after the fire was extinguished and the excitement had subsided, people returned to their seats and continued watching the performers who had gone on with their act during the excitement in hopes of helping to quiet the frightened audience.

This is to be a prosperous year for the farmer, but he alone will not be allowed to monopolize all the prosperity, since indications appear so bright and encouraging for the stock raiser. There promises to be a scarcity of beef for local consumption this winter and already the price of this article has started to advance. The wholesale dealers have been late in discovering that their usual source of supply has been absorbed by eastern concerns, and now they are beginning to wonder where the supply for the home trade is to come from, and they are buying all that is available at any price. The price of pork and mutton will probably follow the example of beef, affording the stock raiser a handsome return for this year's business.

The members of the board of supervisors of San Francisco City and county, or more particularly the "solid eight" of that body, are on trial in Judge Wallace's department of the superior court for malfeasance in office. The last legislature passed a law directing the board of supervisors of San Francisco to fix and adjust reasonable water rates, as it was asserted the then existing rates were too high. The board failed to do this and thereby laid themselves liable to removal. Should the charges be sustained and the "solid eight" removed, the mayor as president of the board will have several appointments to make to fill the chairs made vacant.

The police department of this city is jubilant over the capture of a titled swindler who styles himself Sir Henry Westwood Cooper, or any old thing, as his string of aliases appears to be as numerous as his crimes. His principal operations seem to have been confined to bogus bank dealings, though several instances have come to light where women were his easy victims. The chain of evidence is being wound tighter and tighter every day and it will probably be some time before he resumes operations, as the police are leaving no stone unturned to make his stay along one.

The following Utah people are registered at the Baldwin hotel: R. C. Taylor and wife, Ogden; C. M. Hutchinson and S. E. Sprague, Salt Lake.

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## BANQUET TO SISTER WEET.

A beautiful tribute of love and respect was paid to Sister Josephine West, president of the Weber Stake Primary association. A surprise banquet was given to her by the presidents and officers of the Primary associations of the different wards and the Stake, to show their appreciation of her untiring labor for eighteen years.

The semi-annual conference of the Primary association convened in the Ogden Tabernacle on Saturday, September 11, at 11 a.m. On the stand were a number of Salt Lake visitors, who, by their presence, were aiding in the success of the day. There were the following members of the general board: Louie Felt, president; Libby Freeze, counselor; Mary Anderson, secretary and treasurer; Bell Salmon, aid. Also Sister Amelia Rogers, first promoter of Primary associations; Sister Emily Richards, one of the di-