

SAN FRANCISCO LETTER

Unaccustomed Rain Inconveniences Californians—College Students Do Remarkable Athletic Stunts—Romance of Santos Dumont

SAN FRANCISCO, March 24.—(Special correspondence.)—Not for 50 years has California experienced so many days of rainy weather in March. While it has proved an inconvenience to the people of the larger cities, it has proved a boon to the rural districts, and has assured bounteous harvests, which were seriously threatened by the prolonged drought. Up to the present time the San Francisco has been drenched more heavily than Southern Oregon than ever before for its better supply. During the past week, however, the districts south of the metropolis have begun to supply their own needs. The rain, the tourist travel is heavier than in previous years. During the present week an average of 60 guests has been received at the five leading hotels daily. This includes the new San Francisco, which opened this week.

Representative Metcalf's Ambition. "A new political story has been in circulation in San Francisco this week which connects the name of Congressman Victor H. Metcalf with the Postmaster-Generalship. Postmaster-General Payne's physicians have warned him that his health will not permit of his continuing much longer in public office. He is even now in a precarious state of health, and is expected to assume the leadership over the California Representatives. He is very close to President Roosevelt and his advice is generally sought by the President on the Pacific Coast. What gave rise to the rumor was a series of inquiries as to Metcalf's fitness for such a post, and his knowledge of postal affairs. These inquiries have since been traced to the White House. It was thought up to a few months ago that ex-Congressman Eugene F. Loud, of San Francisco, was in line for a high position in the Postoffice Department. Loud was chairman of the House committee on postoffice for a number of years and came to be looked upon as an authority on matters relating to the department. However, the postal investigation did not reveal him in a pleasant light, although he was not shown to have been concerned in any of the wrongdoing. Any chance he may have previously had of rising to the head of the department is believed to have been shattered by the facts brought out during the investigation. It is well known, moreover, that Metcalf has other ambitions. He has for some time been casting eager eyes at the Senate chamber, but knowing the peculiarities and vagaries of the situation in California, he kept his eyes to himself. He has of late, however, developed the letter-writing habit in a way to disclose what he has long kept to himself. Letters sent broadcast to his friends in California have urged upon them the necessity of keeping Bard's following intact. "Keep it intact for whom?" has been asked, and the reply has been "Metcalf." Bard says he will take the place again if offered it, adding that he will not seek it, Metcalf is aware that this "sit-down-and-wait" political strategy is not the one which he has taken what is considered by some a wise step. If he can preserve Bard's following, it is argued, he can, at the proper time, transfer his allegiance to the Senate chamber, and it is this that Metcalf fears more than anything else. He covers the ground quickly and leaves an impression wherever he travels.

Flight of Orangeflowers. Much of the prosperity in California has been attributed by writers in Eastern magazines to the apert co-operation which exists among those engaged in the various industries here. There is the Orangeflowers Association, the Prunegr Growers' Association, the Raisin Growers' Association, the Almond Growers' Association, and now a Grapewinners' Association is to be organized, distinct from the Wine Association, which is to be organized to secure better terms from the wineries and better prices for their product from the fruitmen. The Prune Association has, better than any of the other organizations, illustrated the advantages to be gained by joining interests. The orangeflowers have the railroads to contend with and the fruitmen are making the hardest fight they have yet undertaken for lower freight rates. The association asked for a reduction from \$1.25 per 100 pounds to Eastern points to \$1.00. A conference which ended yesterday resulted in the defeat of the growers. They put the proposition before the railroad committee in this morning, and they intend to carry our oranges to New York and Chicago at \$1 per 100 pounds, and here are figures to prove it. Unless you agree to this show the market for oranges is a crop, thus giving you less to carry, but bringing us better prices. The request was denied, and now the growers are talking of planting in California, and are still on the trees, in order to send up the prices.

Great Athletic Feats. Two remarkable performances were made this week by college athletes. Norman Dole, of Stanford, in practice broke the world's record for the 100 yard dash, running the bar at 12 feet 5 inches. He is a nephew of ex-Governor Dole, of Hawaii, and one of five brothers who have been famous as athletes. Washington and Southern California field day held at Berkeley yesterday, Sperry, a freshman, broke the Coast record in the shot-put with a thrust of 42 feet 3 inches. The performance of Fio, Berkeley's great athlete, by almost a foot. The world's record in this event is now held by Ralph Ross, a California boy, who left this state a few months ago to enter the University of Michigan. One of the most remarkable of the college athletes is Emil Abadie, of Berkeley, who claims to be the American champion, and who has repeatedly run the 100 yards in ten seconds. Measurements taken this week show that, small as he is, he starts his race with a nine-foot stride and works up gradually until his finishing strides measure 12 feet. It is assumed that Abadie, Sperry and Dole will be among the California athletes sent to meet the world's champion, the quarter-mile of Stanford, will probably join them. He has run the distance in 16 seconds. A feature of the intercollegiate contest this Spring will be a brace between Stanford and Berkeley and Stanford. This will be the first meeting on the water of representatives of the two universities. On Sunday will take place on the courts of the Olympic Club a contest for the handball championship of the world. It will be between Michael J. Egan, of Jersey City, and James P. Fitzgerald, of San Francisco. Fifteen games will be played in all, eight on Sunday and seven a week later. Egan recently defeated Krogan of Chicago, who claims to be the world's champion. Egan is a strong, aggressive player, who uses one hand as well as the other. In addition, he depends largely upon his natural strength and speed. Fitzgerald is a "heavy" player and uses his own judgment. He is not Egan's equal physically.

Famous Man Dies in Penury. Early this week there died in a cheap lodging-house in San Francisco, without friends and with a broken heart, William Campbell, in his 86th year. On the day of his death there arrived from his relatives in the East a check for a good sum and a letter saying he should never again want for anything. Campbell was the brother of ex-Congressman Lewis D. Campbell of Ohio, an uncle of ex-Governor James H. Campbell, of the same name, and a grandchild of Andrew Small, a Revolutionary patriot. Campbell was a California pioneer, an author and a wit with a natural reputation. He had been the associate of Webster, Clay, Calhoun and Tom Corwin, and years ago made a record for himself as editor of the Commercial Tribune. For a number of

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EDUCATIONAL. AUCTION SALES TODAY. By the Ford Auction Company, at 182 1st St., at 10 A. M. H. Ford, Auctioneer. MEETING NOTICES. IVANHOE LODGE NO. 10, K. OF P. Regular convention this (Monday) evening at 7:30 o'clock, in P. M. O. R. at the Marquam building. Visiting Knights cordially invited. C. H. METTSORFFER, Jr., C. C. FRED P. HOLM, K. of R. and R.

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