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City Court meets on the first and third Tuesday evenings of each month.

CALIFORNIA MIDWINTER INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION—DEPARTMENT OF PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION.

(Weekly Circular Letter—No. 2.)
With the single exception of the Administration building, which needs a full week's work before it will be completed, the five main buildings of the California Midwinter International Exposition are practically finished. Still, it has been found impossible to open the Exposition in all its departments on Jan. 1. When the projectors of this industrial enterprise took advantage of the glorious midwinter weather in California they did not expect that the wintry winds on the shore of Lake Michigan, and the mountains of snow between that point and this, would array themselves in opposition to their plans. This, however, has proven to be the case, and hundreds of carloads of exhibits which were to come from the Columbian Exposition to stand on dress parade in Golden Gate park have been seriously delayed by the weather. There has been great difficulty experienced in getting cars to load goods on at Chicago as fast as they were ready, and when they had once been started westward, a series of obstacles had to be overcome until, even though the buildings in San Francisco are practically ready for their reception, the bulk of the exhibits which are to be made by foreign nations have not yet arrived.

It has been found necessary, therefore, to postpone the formal ceremonies of opening the Exposition for a few days, or until everything is in place. On the first day of January, however, an informal opening occurs. The flags of all nations will fly from the flag poles on the Exposition buildings and in the grounds, there will be music and general gala day effects, but the "day of days," the day when San Francisco shall be a perfect sea of bunting, when her people shall turn out en masse, when an extra legal holiday shall be declared and when all California shall join in the great ceremony of the opening of this great midwinter festival—that day will come a little later on.

Quite a number of the concessional features of the Exposition are all in readiness and will be in full blast on Jan. 1. The great Firth wheel begins its revolutions with the New Year; the lions and tigers in the wild animal arena will roar to New Year audiences; the Santa Barbara sea lions will roll and roar in the great tanks that have been provided for them; the forty-niner mining camp will receive calls in true frontier fashion; beer and pleasure will flow at the Heidelberg castle; the Hawaiian cyclorama will be open to the public; the curious ones can do down into the Colorado gold mine; and even the great electric tower will be almost completed. But this word "almost" will be changed into "quite" in its application to everything projected in connection with the Exposition before the grand opening day comes on, and when that day comes there will be spread out before the visiting multitude the most complete and most picturesque exposition that the western sun has ever shone upon.

Speaking of the great Firth wheel suggests mention of a very interesting incident which took place in connection with its construction the other day. During a temporary lull in the work of putting up the spiderlike spokes of this wheel, a man was observed to clamber up in the mass of timbers surrounding the base of the superstructure. He was at first supposed to be a workman, and no special attention was paid him. Presently, however, he clambered out on one of the lower spokes. The superintendent of construction, catching sight of him, asked what he wanted up there. The adventurer made no response, but continued his ascent, working his way inside the periphery with catlike agility. The superintendent ordered him down. The only answer he got was an invitation to come and fetch him. He kept on climbing, and where the periphery has not been placed he had to slide down the big spokes until he reached the channel iron. Crossing on these to the next spoke, he worked out to the periphery, and proceeded as before.

By this time quite a crowd had gathered, watching the progress of this daring fellow, 150 feet from the ground. He was repeatedly warned to look out for himself, but showed himself abundantly able to do so. Finally he reached the highest point, and, standing at full length, gave an exulting yell, which was answered by a group of friends near the volcano building. Of course he came down the other way, and thus made the first revolution of the great Firth wheel. On reaching the ground he disclosed his identity, and was recognized as a sailor and rigger. He said he had made the trip to set a bet that he would make the first trip around this great structure.

One of the sensations of the Exposition will be the famous diver, Kohana Maka, whose record as a long-distance swimmer, deep diver and shark hunter surpasses that of all aquatic wonders of the great Pacific. It is Kohana Maka who has kept alive the old shark-hunting custom of the early kings of Hawaii. In former days it was the custom of royal sportsmen to go to sea in their war canoes or catamaran, taking along a large bowl of chopped enemies. This bowl was placed over the water, and fragments of hashed Kanaka were thrust through a hole in the bottom of the bowl, thus attracting schools of man-eating sharks. When the sharks became thick around the boats a native king would dive in among them, knife in hand, and, coming up under the school, would stab one as he arose. This is one of the things that Kohana Maka does in these days. There will be no sharks in the little lake within the Hawaiian enclosure at the Midwinter Exposition, but there will be ample room for diving and for Kohana and other great swimmers to exercise. Four women and three men, all experts, form the little company of swimmers, headed by Kohana Maka. They will not only illustrate the wonderful aquatic feats for which the islanders are famous, but they announce themselves as ready to meet all comers in any form of aquatic sports.

Mistakes About Alcohol.

There is a common belief that alcohol gives new strength and energy after fatigue sets in. The sensation of fatigue is one of the safety valves of our machine. To stifle the feeling of fatigue, in order to do more work, is like closing the safety valve so that the boiler may be overheated and explosion result. It is commonly thought that alcoholic drinks aid digestion, but in reality the contrary would appear to be the case, for it has been proved that a meal without alcohol is more quickly followed by hunger than a meal with alcohol. In connection with the sanitation of armies thousands of experiments upon large bodies of men have been made and have led to the result that, in peace or war, in every climate—in heat, cold or rain—soldiers are better able to endure the fatigue of the most exhausting marches when they are not allowed any alcohol at all. That mental exertions of all kinds are better undergone without alcohol is generally admitted by most people who have made the trial.—Westminster Review.

The Servant Problem Not New.

Students of household management will learn with satisfaction that in 1560 many of the evils now to be complained of were distinctly recognized. Some of the more curious fines which were imposed by a country gentleman upon offending servants were a penny for leaving a door open, missing prayers, leaving beds unmade after 8 (presumably a. m.), and cooks could only have followers at the rate of a penny fine for each one. A curious custom seems to have then existed that entree to the house was denied during the family meals, and as the fine for allowing a breach of this custom was heavy it may be presumed that the sin was esteemed great.—Lady's Pictorial.

No Use Wasting It.

He—Why do you always wear a smaller hat when we take a box than you do when we sit down in the chairs?
She—There is no one behind me when I sit in a box.—Truth.

Liquid Oxygen.

Liquid oxygen when first formed is milky in appearance, owing to the presence of some impurity which may be removed by passing it through ordinary filter paper. When pure, it is of a pale blue color, which, however, is not due, as some have thought, to the presence of liquid ozone, which is of a dark blue color. Liquid oxygen is a nonconductor of electricity, but is strongly magnetic. It may be lifted from a cup by presenting the poles of a strong electro-magnet. It seems to have very slight chemical activity, since it will extinguish a lighted match and has no action on a piece of phosphorus dropped into it. It is well known that the A and B lines of the solar spectrum are due to oxygen, and from recent experiments on the top of Mount Blanc it is thought they are largely if not wholly due to the oxygen in the earth's atmosphere. Professor Dewar showed that these lines come out very strong when liquid oxygen is interposed in the path of the rays from an electric lamp.—Science.

A French Epitaph.

In a French churchyard is a monument having an epitaph of which the following is a translation: "Here lies Jean Pinto, the Spanish vocalist. When he reached heaven, he united his voice with the voices of the archangels. As soon as he heard him, the Deity cried, 'Keep quiet, all you fellows, and let us hear alone the illustrious singer, Jean Pinto!'"

What Chauncey M. Depew Reads.

The sun of the whole matter is that the railroad man as a rule takes all the newspapers, reads about everything there is in each of them, acquires a faculty for doing it very rapidly, and then peruses the leading editorial in the paper of opposite political faith to tone him up and the one in the journal of his own faith to tone him down. No practical journalist knows more of what is in a newspaper than a practical railroad man.—New York World.

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