

THE NEWS.

A SOCIAL AND COMMERCIAL WEEKLY NEWSPAPER.

The only newspaper in the Republic printed in the English language.

Editor and Proprietor, **R. J. DUFFY.**

VOL. I.

SAN JOSE, MONDAY 30, AUGUST, 1897.

Nº 7.

THE NEWS.

NOTES.

There are rumours of impending changes in the Cabinet.

A cable from New Orleans says that the gentlemen having charge of the construction of the new Pacific Railroad, have left that port en route for this city.

The United States consul, Mr. H. R. Williams, Mr. G. H. Seigler and friends, breakfasted at the new American Boarding House nº 231 Nineteenth street on last Thursday. They paid a well merited compliment to Mrs. Oswald on the excellence both of the repast and service.

A microbe whose motuh is the biggest part of it has been discovered and the only thing that prevents the animal being a first-class politician is that it is n't all mouth.

Mr. J. B. Richards has been exerting himself with the view to the formation of an athletic club in the city. In the hands of Mr. Richards this club is as good as formed.

A letter from Jimenez, dated the 24 th. instant states: "Quite a storm swept over this place last night. Almost one inch of rain fell in a little while. About 4 o'clock in the evening the clouds gathered in the south and it poured down. The wind pulled down telegraph lines. The

loss of banana trees that broke off at the ground is calculated to be about three thousand dollars. It is feared that much injury has been done to the coffee crops by the wind, and large trees that have fallen."

There has been a big "wash out" in the Parque Central. Owing to the continuous afternoon rains the band has been obliged to deprive us of their excellent performances which are always a big-attractive feature, awaited for so eagerly. Probably, a change to a forenoon hour could be arranged.

"Hallo, old man, you are back from your vacation early."
"Yes; you see I wanted to rest up a few days before going back to work."

A complaint comes from Cartago of the number of absent minded gentlemen who have made a descent on the territory, and, returning to the city, forget to pay their board, and other bills. No doubt they will be presenting their harrowing petitions to their various consuls, in the near future. Cartagoans, beware of visitors who come to you as *highly recommended* — by themselves. They answer Punch's definition of a gentleman, which is: "A person without any visible means of support."

We are sorry to hear of the continued illness of Mrs. Frank. P. Smith. Her indisposition is rheumatism, which occurs at a very awkward season. We hope for her speedy recovery.

In our last issue we offered a *Twenty Dollars Prize* for the best *Original Story* on the following conditions: That we should have six competitors from which to select a winner, that the Editor's decision is to be final; that all stories sent in become the property of this journal; and that contributions (which are to be written plainly and, on one side of the paper only), are not to exceed about one thousand words, and will not be received after the 12th September next. Already we have been favored with two stories, which indicates that our offer is meeting with attention.

We have a sufficiency of musical talent in the city to warrant the establishment of an Amateur Choral Union which could be made more than self supporting by giving, occasionally, low priced amateur concerts. Some kind of an amusement club is certainly needed, particularly for the younger members of the community. At present a perfect pall of monotony and gloom hangs over the city, which can be removed by a little energetic action on the part of a few respectable persons. To this end, why not try a small amateur concert with one or two recitations introduced into the programme?

The British Consul, Mr. Percy G. Harrison, is receiving many contributions towards the fund being raised for the enlargement and general improvement of the English church.

Quite a sensation has been caused in railroad circles in England by the inauguration of the new aquatic railroad between Brighton and Rotheringdean ports. It is an electric road, and is without wheels, a kind of skate shaped arrangement taking their place. The road is built on a thick iron bed laid on the bottom of the sea, and the first run was made in a rough sea, and was a

perfect success. There was an immense gathering at both ports to witness the trial, and, already, the stock of the company has doubled in value. As a result of its successful working, the plans of the railroad tunnel proposed between Ireland and Scotland will be considerably modified. Already companies are being floated to introduce the system generally at ports where at present, lighters are used.

We are constantly receiving letters asking for our subscription rates. Our paper is free. You have but to send us your name and address, when we shall mail you a copy regularly each week.

Send your "ads" as early in the week as possible, to ensure its proper placing.

There is some talk of establishing a Merchants Exchange in the city.

The Duke and Duchess of York are at present on a visit to Ireland, and are receiving everywhere a great ovation. They are to hold a Levee at Dublin Castle on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen.

We published in our issue of the 9th instant what we were assured was a complete list of the exhibits of Costa Rica at the Guatemalan Exposition. We notice two notable omissions, namely, the eminent houses of Paynter Brothers, photographs and photographic views; and Messrs Wentworth, the well known taxidermists, whose display is a big feature of the Exhibition. We owe these gentlemen a sincere apology.

Mr. Max Schaps is not any longer connected with this paper.

"Railroader" sends us a long list of queries on the Pacific Railroad. As General Casement and Senator Lynn

are due to arrive at San José in a day or two our correspondent had better wait and have his questions answered from an unerring source.

Mr. L. E. Allen, in charge of the electric light at Heredia and Alajuela, is expecting his wife and children from San Francisco this week. They will reside near the station at Río Segundo.

Merchants, and all those interested in the welfare and development of Costa Rica, would greatly serve their interests by establishing a Bureau of Information. Since the advent of "The News" we have been favored with letters, both from the States and Europe, asking as to the opportunities for the investment of capital in this Republic. When consuls write us it is high time to take action to this end, so that they may receive full and reliable data, and from an authoritative source. As yet, but a few copies of our paper have found their way abroad and, when "The News" becomes enlarged and improved, and its circulation extended, we shall be wholly unable to cope with correspondence of this nature. So little is known of this Republic, that when Costa Rica is mentioned, even educated men seek for its position on the map. We are perfecting our plans for the enlargement of the paper, and we shall commence by issuing it at double its present size. We shall establish exchanges in the business centres of the United States, Europe and other points. It is to be printed on much better paper, to enable us give high class illustrated pictures both of the cities and country generally. The series of articles on "Costa Rica and its Resources" open with our enlarged edition, and, as they will be written with due care and by competent writers, they are bound to meet with wide attention. The unbounded resources of the Republic, coupled with its ideal climate must when explained, result in attracting a large number of enquiries, hence the necessity for the formation of a Bureau of Information, as we suggest. Costa Rica is on the high road of progress and prosperity, its people are well ahead of the other republics in point of education, intelligence and business capacity, and they are likewise both peaceable and industrious, and yet, this beautiful and fertile country is scarcely known outside its own borders. Surely there should be an end put to this state of affairs. The mode we suggest seems to be the simplest and most effective, and, we feel confident, it will meet with general approval.

THE NATIONAL THEATRE.

Hearing that an edict has been issued, closing the Theatre against all visitors, pending its completion, we paid a hurried visit on Saturday morning, and we at once saw that, until it is ready for opening, it will be quite impossible to give a detailed and necessarily lengthy description. Comparing the population of San José with that of

any other city on the American continent, it certainly ranks first with its magnificent National Theatre, which is a revelation of art in decoration and construction, in fact, perfection throughout. The marble pillars and staircase are, as it were, an invitation to enter and enjoy the even more beautiful interior, where, neither money or talent have been spared to make a structure worthy of the nation, as well as a monument of that success and peace which Costa Rica has enjoyed for so many years. A large staff of Italian artists are engaged in decorating the theatre proper, and one has but to visit the different parlors and private apartments to see a miniature fairy land, and observe Italian art in its perfection. The electric system which is being put in place, is both complete and extensive, and sufficient to supply an ordinary sized town with good light. Señor C. Molinari, the contractor, is throwing all his energy and world known genius into this great work, the crowning effort of his life. He has been for close upon thirty years engaged in the construction and decoration of our principal European opera houses and famous theatres, and he feels that he has earned, in both body and mind, rest from labor, on the completion of the National Theatre of Costa Rica.

THE DE SALAS CONCERT.

The concert given by Mr. Brindis de Salas on last Friday evening was very largely attended. The programme assured us that Mr. de Salas is a "Chevalier" and, also, "Violin Virtuoso to the Court of His Majesty the Emperor of Germany," so, in writing of the concert, we must judge of Mr. de Salas, Violin Virtuoso, from his own high standard. If the German Emperor really did create Mr. de Salas Violin Virtuoso to his Court, we can only say it is additional evidence of His Majesty's many eccentricities. The items chosen by the "Chevalier" were, for the high class artist he would have us believe him to be, very common place, and his own "Paraphrase," entirely out of place. His playing was expressionless, and at times, flat. He sought to improve his selections by the introduction of some "tricks" so effective in a variety hall, and, he several times went up so high as to make us wonder if he would ever come down again. He played carelessly, which was wholly inexcusable when one reflects that his bow was well "resined" with the dollars of a crowded house. The "Chevalier" is not the great Violin Virtuoso which he, and a portion of the press, would have us consider him. He is just a very good fiddle player, and, no more. Those who have never heard Von Bulow, De Pachmann, Rubinstein, or the Abé Litz, hold that the piano is a very imperfect instrument. Certainly Piano Street will bear testimony to the fact that it is well punished for its supposed defects. Quite a pleasing variety was the playing of the Misses O'Leary. They received hearty and spontaneous applause, and acknowledged the accolades with that charming modesty which is a peculiar characteristic of the daughters of the "Land of Song." We hope to see these young ladies oftener on the concert platform. Miss de Bolandi, although slightly nervous, sang her solos most pleasingly, as testified by the well merited applause she received. Señor Monestel was a most capable accompanist. More care might have been observed in the selection of a piano. It certainly was not a "Chevalier" instrument.

GUATEMALA LETTER.

At the southeast end of the main building, on the second floor, is located Costa Rica's contribution to the Central American Exposition, and a better situation could not have been chosen, as that part of the edifice is brightened by the first gleams of dawn and enlivened by the early morning breezes fresh from la patria. A spacious balcony overlooks a prospect seldom equalled, except in the dreams of painters. I shall not attempt to give even skeletal description of it. Some time ago I entered this sanctum, but immediately retired, as I felt that I had involuntarily committed an unpardonable intrusion, because it was occupied by a group of Costaricans of both sexes engaged in admiring the scene and in looking wistfully towards their native land, as if even a temporary exile in a sister Republic were unbearable. With a true sense of the "eternal fitness of things," commencing at the southern end of the space occupied, there is placed a neat display of educational objects. On satin pennants, beneath the coat arms of the Republic, are two legends:

Se llega a ser todo o nada según la educación (one becomes everything or nothing, in accordance with one's education), and

El porvenir del niño es siempre obra de la madre (the future of the child is always the work of its mother).

These mottoes deserve to be inculcated; there is no denying their general truth, but we have seen many notable exceptions. On shelves, on the same wall is a fine terrestrial globe, the means used by teachers to dispel one of our most cherished optical illusions, as he demonstrates the rotundity of the earth, which every child thinks an immense plain, bounded by a horizon—the limit of infantile vision. Close by are grouped school benches of the most modern type, and in the immediate proximity a sewing machine, indicative of early training and housewifery; on the walls are placed anatomical charts, showing that the schools of Costa Rica act in obedience to the behest, "Know yourself." There are numerous maps, nautical instruments, and, in a word, the general paraphernalia of a well appointed school. I must not forget, however, to refer a little in detail to the pictures, those delightful instructors of youth. I gazed upon that of the donkey, the long eared emblem of patience, the king of brayers, an animal that is made the ideal of stupidity by men much more stupid, who never could master the task of mounting an unbroken burro. There was that of the giraffe, whose length of sore throat excited our youthful commiseration. The eye rested on that of the elephant, and the thoughts of our juvenile days, long prior to the commencement of the battle of life, came uppermost—how we pondered over the inutility of his exaggerated nose, some years anterior to having an opportunity of admiring the dexte-

city with which he handled nuts and crackers. Space does not admit of going into details, and I must ask the pardon of the News readers for inflicting these few thoughts on them, my only excuse being that I have been carried away by a species of repetition of childhood's dreams. I feel that I lack the technical knowledge to describe the different productions of Costa Rica's industry and art; it is well known that she stands among the foremost in all branches. There is a nice exhibit of flour, neatly gunned, equal in quality, I have been told, to any that is produced by the best mills of the United States; there are various qualities of sugar, coffee, etc; billiard tables, with their necessary outfits; productions of tailoring and millinery of which any nation would be proud. But it is unnecessary to go further into detail, as no doubt a list of the exhibits has already appeared. There is one part of the exhibit that has attracted the attention of most visitors—the specimens from Costa Rica's museums, Birds and other animals have been preserved in such a manner as to display not only an intimate knowledge of the taxidermist's art, but also an artistic conception, as the poses are most natural. This is a somewhat new branch of industry, in its present form, having made immense strides of late years. I might mention that Gerald Griffin, author of the "Coleen Bawn," applied for work in London, in answer to the announcement that a man was wanted to "stuff birds." On being questioned as to his mode of preparation the unsophisticated novelist replied that birds were generally "stuffed" with potatoes, oatmeal and flour, preparation for the oven being the only one within his knowledge. What strikes the visitor most forcibly is the skill displayed in the arrangement of the objects, as well as the size of the exhibit; if a small nation with about 300,000 inhabitants can make such a display, what should not be expected from countries whose population amount to many millions?

FAILURES IN GUATEMALA.

Advices just received by us say that the house of the widely known firm of Victor Matheu and Co. has failed for the sum of five millions.—Other lesser failures have also occurred, and a financial panic prevails. The gloomy forebodings in last week's letter from Guatemala have been literally verified.

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ITINERARIO que observarán los vapores durante los meses de Septiembre y Octubre de 1897.

ALTAI.....	6 Septiembre
ADIRONDACK.....	13 "
ALLEGHANY.....	20 "
ALENE.....	27 "
ALTAI.....	4 Octubre
ADIRONDACK.....	11 "

NOTA.—No se comprometerán pasajes para el vapor ALTAI antes de su llegada a Limón.

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DE LIMÓN Á ALAJUELA								DE ALAJUELA Á LIMÓN							
SALE DE	B	A	B	A	C	D	E	SALE DE	B	A	B	A	C	D	D
Limón	A.M.						A.M.	Alajuela							P.M.
Moin Hill	6:25						8:30	San Joaquín							4:50
Swamp Mouth	6:45						8:45	Heredia							5:15
Mama	6:47						9:05	Santo Domingo							5:35
Madre de Dios	7:27						10:25	San José	Llega	A.M.					6:05
Siquirres	8:07						11:05	San José	Sale	A.M.					9:00
La Junta	8:25						12:25	Tres Ríos							9:35
Las Lomas	8:38						P.M.	El Alto							10:00
Pasena	8:55							Cartago							10:20
Peralta	9:15							Pasaje							10:40
Torito	9:25							Santiago							11:05
Turrialba	10:25						A.M.	Juan Viñas							11:35
Las Pavas	10:50						P.M.	Las Pavas							12:10
Juan Viñas	11:20							Turrialba							12:40
Santiago	11:55							Torito							1:10
Pasaje	12:30	A.M.						Peralta							1:40
Cartago	12:55	6:55					P.M.	Pasena							2:10
El Alto	1:07	7:30						La Junta							2:40
Tres Ríos	1:25	7:50						Siquirres							3:10
San José	Llega	7:55	A.M.				P.M.	Madre de Dios							3:40
San José	Sale	11:15	8:05	3:00			A.M.	Marina							4:10
Santo Domingo		11:35	8:25	3:20			P.M.	Swamp Mouth							4:40
Heredia		11:45	8:35	3:30				Moin Hill							5:10
San Joaquín		11:55	8:45	3:40				Llega a Limón							5:40
Llega a Alajuela		12:20	9:10	6:05											6:10

SALE DE	E	
La Junta	P.M.	
Germania	12:35	
East Destierro	1:20	
West Destierro	1:31	
Guácimo	1:34	
Jiménez	2:10	
Llega a Guápiles	2:50	
	3:15	
SALE DE	F	
Guápiles	A.M.	
Jiménez	6:00	
Guácimo	6:20	
West Destierro	6:45	
East Destierro	7:18	
Germania	7:21	
Llega a La Junta	7:32	
	7:55	

NOTA. A Todos los días
 B Idem excepto domingos
 C Solamente los sábados
 D Solamente los domingos
 E Martes, jueves y sábado
 F Lunes, miércoles, viernes.

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