THE DAILY RECORD-UNION.

THE FOLSOM PRISON.

THE REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STATE PRISON DIRECTORS.

Official History of the Branch Prison Construction and the Changes made in the Specifications.

The report of the Directors of the State Prison relative to the Branch Prison at Folsom was presented by Governor Perkins to the Senate yesterday. Except the opening paragraphs we present the report in full. It recites that the Act of April, 1878, directed the Board to commence the completion of the Branch at Folsom on or before the 1st of July, 1878, and to continue the work to the extent of the appropriation. The Act appropriated $120,000, and reappropriated $85,494 73, then in the Branch Prison Fund, making a total of $205,494 73. The Act provided that all provisions looking to the completion of the Branch Prison should be null and void and the appropriations should be returned to the General Fund unless the Board could make contracts before June 30, 1878, for the hire of not less than 350 convicts for five years, at not less than fifty cents a day for the labor of each. Accordingly, after notice for bids, June 29, 1878, the Board contracted with H. G. Livermore, who gave a bond, to hire 350 prisoners for five years at fifty cents per day each.

THE WORK.

The Board was given power to select one of two methods in which the work might be done. One was to employ the convicts in the construction of the prison; the other, the erection of the prison by contract, after plans and specifications submitted to the legislative committee by A. A. Bennett. The plan of Bennett was substantially the same as that originally adopted for the prison in 1874, and according to which certain modifications or changes in the mode of construction were made. No material variation from the plan originally adopted could be made which would not involve the less of the work already done.

The Board, after mature consideration, adopted the plan and specifications of Mr. Bennett, and concluded it would be of State interest to do the work by contract. On consultation with the Attorney-General the Board concluded that in letting the contract and supervising the erection it would be subject to the provisions of an Act entitled "An Act to regulate contracts on behalf of the State in relation to erections and buildings," approved March 23, 1876 (see Statutes 1875-76, page 427); in fact, to all the provisions of said Act, except to those which prescribe the mode in which the plans for public buildings shall be adopted. The Act which directed work on the Branch Prison to be resumed having authorized the Board to adopt the plan and specifications submitted to the Legislative Committees on State Prisons by Mr. Bennett, and the Board, in pursuance of such authority, having adopted such plan and specifications, it was unnecessary to advertise for plans as provided for in the Act of March 23, 1876.

THE BIDS.

In pursuance of Section 3 of the Act of March 23, 1876, the Board advertised for sealed proposals for furnishing all material and doing all work, mechanical or otherwise, necessary to the completion of the Branch Prison according to the plan and specifications which the Board had adopted. At the time appointed, July 13, 1878, the Board met in the Executive office, State Capitol, to open and consider the bids which had been received. The bids were: Hughes & Dudgins, $220,000; H. G. Livermore, $212,000; Dennis Jordan, $161,000. As the Board was not full—the Lieutenant-Governor not being present—they adjourned to meet in San Francisco on the 17th instant to further consider the bids and award the contract. At the adjourned meeting, on July 17, 1878, the Board awarded the contract to Dennis Jordan, his bid being the lowest and accompanied by a certified check of ten per cent. of its amount, as required by the advertisements soliciting bids. On the 25th of July ensuing Mr. Jordan entered into a contract, on the basis of his bid, for the completion of the Branch State Prison according to the plan and specifications adopted by the Board and now on file in the office of the Controller.

THE CONTRACT.

In such contract he stipulated to commence work on the said Branch State Prison within 30 days from the 17th day of July—the date on which the contract was awarded him—and to complete it within 15 months from such date. The contract is on file in the office of the Controller of State, and a copy of it will be found in the minutes of the Board.

A. A. Bennett was appointed architect, at a salary of $250 per month, his services and pay to commence on the 25th of July, 1878.

James W. Duncan was appointed Superintendent, on the part of the State, at a salary of $200 per month, his services and pay to commence on the 26th of July, 1878. The contractor commenced work on his contract at or about the time the terms of the contract required that he should.

Owing, however, to the lack of the necessary capital to push the work vigorously, or to some other cause, the progress made in its execution was very slow. The want of the necessary capital was, we think, the principal, if not the sole cause of the slow progress made with the work. The work was frequently interrupted by the creditors of the contractor, who placed attachments on the tools, machinery, etc., employed in prosecuting the work.

SERIOUS TROUBLE.

Some time in the month of January, 1879, the workmen also refused to work more till the Board made an arrangement with the contractor by which he agreed to assign to a member of the Board a sufficient sum out of the award which should be made to him for the material furnished and labor done in any month, to pay the workmen their wages earned during such month. This arrangement was consummated about the 1st of February, and before the contractor had been paid for his work and material for the month of January. Mr. Beck was the member of the Board selected to receive the assignments from the contractor agreed upon, and to pay therefrom to the workmen, at the commencement of each month, their wages earned during the preceding month. The first assignment made to Mr. Beck by the contractor was out of his award for material furnished and work done during the month of January. It was sufficient not only to pay the laborers their wages for the month of January, but also to pay them all balances on their wages earned before January and remaining yet unpaid. Mr. Beck drew from the treasury the money thus assigned to him, and proceeding to the site of the Branch Prison, paid the laborers the wages due them for the month of January. He also paid all properly authenticated claims presented to him for wages earned prior to January, though the persons presenting such claims had previously signed receipts which released the Directors from all obligations to withhold from the contractor any sums due him, for the purpose of securing the payment to them of their wages. If any person did not receive at that time the wages due him, whether such wages had been earned in January or prior thereto, it was his own fault. All were notified that they had but to present their claims for wages, properly authenticated, to secure their payment.

A CONDITION.

It may be proper, at this point, to remark that the Board, in order to secure to the laborers the payment of their wages from the contractor, had taken the precaution to have inserted in the contract a stipulation that the contractor should not be entitled to receive any payment on account of material furnished or work done on his contract till he should furnish to the Directors satisfactory receipts, vouchers or releases, showing that he had paid to the mechanics and laborers employed by him all sums due them for labor performed on his contract. In pursuance of this clause in the contract, the Board had, in each instance, before paying the contractor any money due him on his contract, required him to bring receipts from the mechanics and laborers employed by him, acknowledging the receipt of their wages for the period in which his claim against the State had accrued. It seems, however, that many of these persons were induced to sign such receipts before actually receiving their wages, on the contractor giving them duebills for the amount of the wages, supplemented by his promise to pay such duebills as soon as he should receive from the State the amount due him, which he would be enabled to do by presenting to the Board their receipts for their wages during the month in which his claim had accrued. But as the contractor, after obtaining receipts from the laborers which enabled him to draw from the State the amounts due him, was slow to fulfill the promises on which such receipts had been obtained, a general discontent among the laborers sprang up, which culminated as above noted—in their refusal to continue longer at work, unless the Directors should in some way guarantee the payment to them of their wages at the end of each month without risk or trouble to themselves.

THE CONTRACTOR'S DELAY.

Hence the arrangement by which the contractor was to assign to Mr. Beck a sufficient sum out of the award for material furnished and labor performed in each month to pay the wages of the laborers during such month; also, the arrangement by which he was assigned a sufficient sum out of the moneys due the contractor for labor and material furnished in January to pay all claims for wages which had accrued during the month of January or prior thereto.

From February till June, both inclusive, the contractor, at the beginning of each month, assigned to Mr. Beck a sufficient sum out of his award for material and labor furnished during the preceding month to pay the wages of the laborers during such month; and Mr. Beck, within a few days after the beginning of each month during this period, went to the Branch Prison and paid the laborers thereon their wages for the preceding month.

The Board did everything in their power to induce the contractor to proceed more rapidly with his contract. Through the lack of capital, he was compelled to contract debts; and not being able to pay when the debts became due, his creditors were almost constantly harrassing him with suits, and interrupting the work by attaching his tools and machinery. Under assurances from the contractor, constantly repeated, that he was expecting financial aid from his friends, which would enable him to proceed with his contract and complete it within the prescribed time, and being most unwilling to embarrass him in the prosecution of the work, as long as there might be any ground for hope that he would eventually be able to proceed with, and complete it according to stipulation, and most anxious to avoid, if possible, the responsibilities which they must assume, if they should proceed to act in pursuance of the authority conferred on them by Section 12 of the Act of March 23, 1876, the Directors bore with the contractor till it became evident, beyond all peradventure, that he would not complete, or anywhere near complete, his contract within the time prescribed.

FAILURE OF THE CONTRACTOR.

Up to the 1st of April, 1879—more than seven months from the commencement of the work and half of the time in which the whole work was required to be done—the contractor had, according to the estimates of the architect, furnished material and labor only to the value of $19,037 11. The Board now fully satisfied, not merely that the work was not prosecuted with that energy and vigor which the contract required, but also that the contractor would not, if left to himself, prosecute it with such energy and vigor, resolved to assume and exercise the powers conferred on them by Section 12 of the Act, "concerning contracts on behalf of the State, in relation to the erection of buildings, etc.," approved March 23, 1875.

Accordingly, in pursuance of the provisions of the said Act, the Board made an order on April 1, 1879, requiring and directing the contractor, Dennis Jordan, to places not less than 150 men, including mechanics and laborers, in such proportions as the exigencies of the work might require, at work on the Branch State Prison, and keep not less than that number continuously at work thereon. This order was not complied with by the contractor for the reason, as we believe, that he lacked the necessary capital. He was again sued by his creditors; and all his tools, machinery and other property used in the construction of the prison were placed under attachment.

It now became apparent to the Board that the contractor could not furnish the material and labor necessary to proceed with and perform his contract, and that it would be necessary for the Directors themselves to employ, in pursuance of law, such force of workmen and furnish such material as might be required to complete such contract. Accordingly on May 13, 1879, the Board passed another order, requiring and directing the contractor to place on the work such force of men, in addition to the one hundred and fifty which he had previously been ordered to place thereon, and also to procure such material in addition to what he already had, as the Board had determined, after making careful estimates, would be necessary to enable him to comply with his contract. [For particulars of this order see minutes of the Board.] It was not expected that he would obey this order, but it was necessary to make it, as, under the law, it is only on the refusal or failure of the contractor to comply with such order of the Board that the latter are authorized to do what the former was ordered, but failed, to do. As already stated, the contractor had not, up to May 13th, complied with the order made on April 1st, requiring him to employ and keep employed on the work a force of not less than 150 mechanics and laborers. On May 14th his machinery, tools and other property used in carrying on the work were attached, and all work on the building stopped; and thereafter he was wholly unable to comply with the requirements of the Directors, or to do any more work on his contract.

THE STATE TAKES HOLD OF THE WORK.

On May 23d the Board of Directors employed William Johnston as foreman of the stone work at the prison, and authorized him to employ and put to work, at the various kinds of labor necessary in the erection of the stone work of the building, a force of 150 men. He commenced work at once, but at first he employed only a small force, on account of not having sufficient machinery and tools to enable him to employ a larger force to advantage. On May 30th all the tools, machinery and other property belonging to the contractor, and used by him in doing work on his contract, were sold at Sheriff's sale. The Board of Directors purchased them.

Among the property, other than machinery and tools, which the Board purchased at such Sheriff's sale, was a boarding-house located on the prison grounds, which the contractor had erected so as to have the necessary facilities for boarding his workmen. The purchase of this house by the Board was made subject to a mechanic's lien, on which a judgment has since been obtained for $902 88, exclusive of interest and costs of suit. This judgment has not yet been satisfied. At this point a controversy arose between the Board of Directors and the contractor as to the rights of the contractor: first, in relation to the tools, machinery, etc., which the Directors had purchased at the Sheriff's sale. The contractor claimed that as he and his bondsmen would be charged with the amount paid for the tools, machinery, etc., the purchase of them must be held to have been made for his use. He accordingly demanded to be put in possession of them, that he might employ mechanics and laborers and proceed with the contracts. His demand was not acceded to by the Board; and second, in relation to the force placed on the work by the Board of Directors. The contractor claimed that such force must be subject to his commands, and must work under his directions. He claimed the right to discharge any person or persons whom the Directors or their agents might employ, if he should deem such persons or persons, for any cause, unfit or improper persons to be employed. The Board did not concede his right to any voice as to whom they should or should not employ, nor his right to exercise any control or direction of the men whom they should have in their employ. Third—In relation to the place from which the rock should be taken with which to complete the prison. The contractor claimed the right to forbid the Directors to take rock from quarries other than the one from which he had taken what rock he had used. This claim was also disregarded by the Board.

The contractor had, prior to his discontinuance of labor on the prison, made a contract with Guttenberger & Co. to do the iron-work required by his contract, and one with J. J. Gleason to do the plumbing. These contracts were permitted to stand, and have been carried out on the part of the State by the Board.

FURTHER DETAILS.

After the purchase of the tools, etc., at the Sheriff's sale mentioned above, and after the date at which the contractor was required to put on an additional force and purchase and procure additional material, in pursuance of the order of the Board of Directors, passed on May 13th, the Directors caused to be placed on the work a large force of men, with the view of completing it within the time prescribed in the contract with Dennis Jordan. It became necessary, in order that this additional force might be employed to advantage, to procure, at a very considerable expense, additional tools and machinery. It was believed also to be both necessary and in the interest of economy to take rock from other quarries than the one from which the contractor had taken rock; and to do this it was necessary to build a railroad for a very considerable distance, at quite a heavy expense. The rails used for such purpose were old ones, borrowed from the Sacramento and Placerville Railroad Company, the Directors paying the freight for transporting them from such places as they were used to the prison. They are still the property of the company. The Directors were also at the expense of procuring a stationary engine with which to haul the cars up an incline. This is still the property of the State, and is nearly as good as new.

After prosecuting the work with a larger force of men during the months of June and July, and with the utmost efforts at economy, the Board saw that it would be impossible to complete, or anywhere near complete, the prison with the appropriation made for the purpose.

MODIFICATIONS.

The Board, after full consultation with Mr. Bennett, the Architect, Mr. Duncan, the Superintendent of Construction on the part of the State, and Mr. Johnston, the Directors' Foreman of stonework, determined to modify very materially the character of some portions of the work required by the specifications of the Architect. The changes determined on by the Board did not alter or in any way affect the plan of the building, but went only to the way in which that portion of the work to which they related should be done. The plan of the building embraced 328 cells. Of these only about 100 were built. The Architect's specifications required that the partition walls between the cells should be of dimension stone peen-hammered. The first change ordered was that the partition walls should be built of rubble rock instead of dressed dimension stone. The specifications of the architect required that the floors of the cells—both of the lower and upper tiers—should be of dressed granite slabs, extending the whole length of the cell. The second change ordered was, that instead of granite slabs for floors in the lower tier of cells composition stone should be used, and instead of granite slabs for the floors in the upper tier of cells quarter-inch plate iron, properly stayed and braced, should be used. The specifications of the architect required that the floor of the prisoners' kitchen, dining-room, laundry, etc., should be of dressed granite slabs. The third change ordered was that these floors should be made of asphaltum, properly prepared, instead of such granite slabs. The specifications of the architect required that the rooms intended for the use of the officers should be finished with cornices, center-pieces, etc. The fourth change ordered was that such cornices, center-pieces, etc., should be dispensed with. It was believed by the Board, at the time they ordered these changes in the character of the work, that the prison could be completed with the appropriation already made for the purpose. The contractor not having let the contract to any one for doing the carpenter-work, the Board advertised for bids for doing such work and furnishing the material therefor. In response to advertisements, bids were received as follows:

Carle & Croly's bid was	$17,167
E. M. Chatterton's bid was	16,750
James M. Kelly's bid was	19,000
F. Crowley's bid was	17,250
W. F. Knox's bid was	17,500
E. Pearson & Co.'s bid was	15,800
M. W. Finnell's bid was	16,484
Terrill & Slaven's bid was	12,275

The contract was awarded to Terrill & Slaven, who gave the necessary bond for the faithful performance thereof, and who are in good faith performing it. The plate-iron floors of the cells of the upper tier were put in by James McGuire at $44 a floor. The bids for this work were as follows:

Jonathan Kittridge's bid was	$14 75 per cell
James L. Cook's bid was	46 60 per cell
C. M. Leavitt's bid was	45 00 per cell
James McGuire's bid was	44 00 per cell

The glazing, including all materials, has been let to Whittier, Fuller & Co. for $613. The Board received and opened bids on November 5th for the plastering required by the specifications, but did not award a contract. Upon making an estimate of the

PROBABLE COST

Of the stone work yet to be done, of what would become due on contracts already let, and of other expenses which could not be arrived at, the Board became satisfied that such contract, if made, would create a liability, in conjunction with those already created and those which must be created, in excess of the appropriation.

After the completion of the iron work, the carpenter work and the plumbing, which are now being done under contracts already let, as hereinbefore stated, and for the payment of all sums which will become due on such contracts, there will be an unexpended balance in the appropriation already made. There will still remain unperformed on Jordan's contract the plastering, the floors of certain cells, the floors of the corridors and the floors of the kitchen, dining-room, etc. For the completion of this latter work a further appropriation will be required. The rights of the State and the liabilities of the contractor and his bondsmen, growing out of the failure of the contractor to comply with the requirements of his contract, are questions which we are compelled to leave for judgment to our successors.

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS.

The receipts and disbursements of the Board have been as follows:

RECEIPTS.

From appropriations	$205,494 73
From rent of house	315 00
From sale of granite	82 12
	$205,891 85

DISBURSEMENTS.

Warrants on the Treasurer have been drawn in favor of A. A. Bennett, architect, for	$5,300 00
J. W. Duncan, Superintendent	3,245 00
R. R. Provines, drawing contract	150 00
John Odell, for sundries	1,792 00
D. Jordan, on contract	28,246 79
D. Jordan, for work and material other than contract	3,786 44
John Liness, surveying	20 00
W. C. Hawkins, surveying and map	150 00
Ed. Christy, for hoisting engine	850 00
F. R. Hogeboom, Clerk of Board	375 00
F. R. Hogeboom, cash expended for sundries	50 47
Turner, Kennedy & Shaw, lumber	598 60
H. G. Livermore, for merchandise purchased	1,363 71
T. P. H. Whitelaw, for derricks, etc	1,225 20
Neubourg & Lages, for oatmeal, etc.	212 50
Marcus C. Hawley & Co., hardware	1,455 77
Huntington, Hopkins & Co., hardware	3,527 29
M. M. Drew, tools bought at Sheriff's sale	5,350 00
Sacramento and Placerville Railroad Company, for freight, railroad ties, etc.	1,770 09
Wm. Guttenberger & Co., on contract for iron work	15,891 71
John Ryan, for brick	480 00
H. T. Holmes & Co., for cement and lime	2,912 02
Burch, Ayall & Co., for engine, boiler, etc.	4,941 10
A. Doble, for merchandise	1,610 55
N. L. Drew & Co., for lumber	733 03
Root, Neilson & Co., for derrick-gearing, etc.	282 61
James McGuire, iron cell floors	5,280 00
J. J. Gleason, on contract for plumbing	2,128 50
San Francisco *Chronicle*, for advertising	3 00
Davis & Crowell, for cement	522 50
Terrill & Slaven, on contract	10,710 82
Whittier, Fuller & Co., paints, oils, etc.	44 00
Natoma Water and M. Co., for tools, etc.	767 68
R. S. Carey, for yoke of cattle	166 75
Joseph Cook, for buggy	100 00
Spaulding & Fluwick, for iron pipe	468 50
	$106,511 64

Warrants were drawn on the Treasurer in favor of Board of Directors for	$89,837 77
Board received for rent	315 00
Board received for granite	82 12
	$90,234 89
By cash paid wages	$85,394 07
By cash paid Guttenberger & Co.	736 25
By cash paid Thomas Beck (expenses)	135 75
By cash paid Wm. Irwin (expenses)	48 00
By cash paid F. R. Hogeboom (expenses)	6 00
By cash paid for sundries at Folsom	3,914 82
	$90,234 89

SUMMARY.

By warrants	$106,511 64
By cash	90,234 89
By balance in fund	9,145 32
	$205,891 85

WILLIAM IRWIN, Governor,
THOS. BECK, Secretary of State,
Board of Prison Directors.

A LESSON IN MYTHOLOGY.

I read to her, one summer day,
A little mythologic story
About the maid who laughed at love,
And ran a race for love and glory.

I closed the book. She raised her eyes,
And hushed the song she had been humming;
Glancing across the shady lawn,
I saw my wealthy rival coming.

"These ancient tales," I gravely said,
"With meaning wise are often laden,
And Atalanta well may stand
As type of many a modern maiden.

"Minus, of course, the classic sandal,
But with no less of nimble grace,
How many dainty-slippered feet
Are running now that self-same race!

"And when Hippomenes casts down
His golden apples, is there ever
A chance for love to reach the goal?"
With saucy smile, she answered, "Never!"

I rose to go—she took my hand—
(O Fate! you ne'er that clasp can sever),
And, "Stay," she said, with sudden blush,
"You *know* that I meant—'*hardly* ever.'"
—[Eliza C. Hall.

THE HOUSEHOLD.

HOME ADORNMENT AND DOMESTIC ECONOMY—ALL AROUND THE HOUSE.

[Correspondents of this department will not be limited in their epistles, but conciseness is preferable, and but one side of a page must be written upon. Questions pertinent to this department will be answered in this column.]

Receipts for the Table.

GERMAN MILK SOUP.—One quart milk, one pint water, one-half teaspoonful salt, one-half teaspoonful sugar, six slices of a five-cent wheat loaf.

OAT-MEAL FOR SUPPER.—One quart water, one and one-half cups oat-meal, one-half teaspoonful salt; let boil for one hour over a brisk fire, but do not burn; set back on the stove, and let it cook gently for another hour; serve in soup-plates, with sugar and plenty of fresh milk.

WHEAT CAKES.—Three cups flour, two cups Indian meal, white; dissolve one small cake compressed yeast in a cup of water, pour into a jar, add flour and meal, mix with lukewarm water to a stiff batter, set in warm place to rise over night; next morning add a teaspoonful of syrup, one teaspoonful salt, one teaspoonful soda; bake on a hot griddle. I always save a cup of batter to start the next day with, using fresh yeast once a week.—[Micawber, in N. Y. Times.

CRANBERRY DUMPLING.—One quart of flour, one teaspoonful of soda and two teaspoonfuls of cream of tartar, sifted together; mix into a soft dough with sweet milk; roll the dough out very thin in oblong shapes, and spread over it one quart of cranberries, picked, and washed clean; add half a pound of sugar, sprinkled evenly; fold over and over, then tie in a pudding-cloth and put into a steamer, where let it cook over a steady fire for one hour, with faith, never looking into the pot. Serve with sweet wine sauce.—[Harper's Bazar.

MUTTON SOUP.—Take a shoulder of good, heavy mutton, weighing about four pounds; remove the skin and fat, then put it in about four quarts of cold water and let it simmer for two hours; boil one yellow turnip, one medium-sized carrot, four potatoes, two bulbs of soup celery. The turnip and carrot will require one hour to cook, the potatoes and celery half an hour; when cooked put them in cold water and peel and chop fine; remove the meat; then add the vegetables and one cup of boiled rice or barley; then let the soup simmer ten minutes more; then add one tablespoonful of chopped onion, and one of parsley; then let it cook ten minutes more, as cooking onion or parsley too much takes from it the desired flavor; cooking the vegetables separately will add much to the flavor of the soup.

PORK AND BEANS.—One quart of white beans; wash and pick them. Some good housekeepers soak their beans over night, but I find it less trouble to boil them at once, putting them in three quarts of cold water, and letting them come slowly to the boil. Cook fully three hours, and do not boil too rapidly or they will be cooked unevenly. Season with a tablespoonful of salt, half a teaspoonful of white ground pepper, and as much red pepper as the end of a penknife blade will take up. Put them in a deep baking pan. If the beans have not absorbed all the water, keep some of the water they were boiled in, as they will require it when baking, if too dry. Take one and a half pounds of bacon, it is nicer than salt pork. Skin and score it. After the beans have been baking in a slow oven for four hours, put on top of the beans the bacon, and let it all bake two hours longer. If it gets too dry, add the water, which should be boiling.

FISH CROQUETTES.—What fish remains over from dinner one day will make croquettes for breakfast. Pick the fish carefully, removing skin and bone. Make a sauce or *liant* with an ounce of butter, and the same of sifted flour; put this in the saucepan, with a pint of boiling water, a saltspoonful of salt, a very little white pepper and a dust of nutmeg. Stir this thoroughly so that it is smooth. Cook the fish slightly in this *liant*, and then put it aside in a dish to cool. When cold, flour a board and lay the fish paste on it; dust with pounded cracker and roll out the paste. It ought not to stick, providing you have put enough pounded cracker. Have the yolks of two eggs well beaten; cut the paste in strips about two inches long and an inch wide; roll them over on themselves; dip in egg and fry in hot fat. Of course, the fat must be at a high heat. The art is to let them just brown, and not break the croquettes. If they are greasy, put them on paper to absorb the excess of fat. Sprinkle a little well-chopped parsley over them.

KOLDCANNON.—It was a good while before I knew just how to spell this dish, and used to think it was cold-cannon. I saw it in a cook-book once, and it was printed kol-cannon, and kol, or call, I think, is Dutch or Scotch; but it was a queer old sea Captain, when I was a lad, as taught it me. He eat cabbage all the year through; he said cabbage kept a man alive, which was true as far as he went, as he was lost at sea when past 65. I used to make it with what cabbage was left over. You chop it fine—say a whole cold boiled cabbage—and you mix it up thorough with a quart of well-boiled potatoes. Have a pan right hot, and put in that a tablespoonful of butter, or good drippings will do, and put your mashed potato and cabbage in that; salt it light, and put a saltspoon of black pepper in it and a light pinch of cayenne. You can eat it hot just that way, or, if you want to be real handy, put it in a buttered mold and let it brown a half hour. It's cheap and good.—[Bob, the Sea-cook.

Useful Information.

HARD VERSUS SOFT WATER.—Dr. Tidy, an eminent English chemist, gives, in the London *Medical Examiner*, the results of his observations on the use of hard water for culinary and domestic purposes: 1. Hard water is the best dietetically, because of the lime. 2. It makes better tea, although not so dark colored, owing to the fact that soft water dissolves the bitter extractive matters which color the tea, but ruins the aroma. 3. It relieves thirst, which soft water does not. 4. It does not dissolve lead or organic matter, which soft water does. 5. It is generally good colored, soft water being, as a rule, dark colored and unpleasant looking; hence, in places like Manchester, supplied with soft water, they always put it (in hotels) in dark bottles, to hide the color. A soft water, however, is a better detergent, and requires less soap. For a residential town a water which has over 10° of hardness would be best. For a manufacturing town a soft water would be most advisable, for commercial considerations only.

FRITTERS.—Peel and core three large apples; then cut them across in slices rather less than half an inch thick; put them in a flat dish with half a tumbler of brandy or sherry and strew plenty of powdered sugar over them. Let them remain covered for a couple of hours, then take each piece separately, dip it in batter so that it is well covered with it, and fry a golden color in plenty of hot lard. Lay the fritters in front of the fire, and when all are done pile them up on a napkin, shake plenty of powdered loaf sugar over them and serve. A very delicate batter is made thus: Beat up one tablespoonful of brandy, one of pure fresh olive oil and a little cold water, with the yolk of one egg; add a pinch of salt, then work in sufficient flour to make with the addition of more water as much batter as will be wanted. It should be of the consistency of thick cream. Just before using whisk the whites of two eggs to a froth and mix them lightly but effectually with the batter.

GIRL'S MITTEN.—Two ounces brown, gray or red Cashmere wool, a steel crochet-hook of medium size. Make a chain of 52 stitches (this will fit a lady who wears No. 6½ kid gloves), join the ends of the chain and crochet 2 rows around, S. C. (single crochet.) On the 3d row, exactly opposite the starting point, widen, by crocheting 2 stitches in 1, then 1 plain, and widen again; rest of row plain. Fourth row plain; 5th row, widen opposite the 1st widening in 3d row, crochet 3 plain and widen again; rest plain. Sixth row plain. Seventh row, widen as before, opposite the starting point, and crochet 5 plain between the widenings. Thus continue, every other row plain and every other row widening twice, increasing the number of plain stitches between by 2 every time, until the number of rows is 25, when the number of stitches between the widenings will be 23; join the mitten where the last two widenings occur by drawing the wool once through on the hook. Crochet the rest of the mitten plain until it reaches the end of the little finger in length, narrow at each side by skipping one stitch and draw the wool tightly so as not to leave a hole. Narrow only twice in the first row, then one row plain, twice in the next row, and after that shape it to the hand by narrowing more frequently in a row until it is almost completed. Then narrow every few stitches. When reduced to an opening not longer than the end of the finger, take a large needle, turn the mitten, and finish off neatly by drawing up the remaining stitches and fastening firmly. Join on the wool again at the opening left for the thumb, and shape it to the size of the thumb, fastening off as before. This makes a very warm, strong mitten which will wear for several seasons. For a smaller mitten, start with shorter chain, which may be measured around the wrist, and crochet only 23, 21 or 19 rows before joining for the thumb, according to the age of the child. The wrist may be finished off with a crocheted ruffle or two, or the mitten may be commenced with a knitted wristlet, two plain and two purl, two or three inches long, casting off and then crocheting the first row into the wristlet.

AFGHAN STITCH (CROCHET TRICOTEE).—For the benefit of those who may no happen to know the usual Afghan stitch a few simple directions may be presented. It is a very easy stitch, and one agreeable to the fingers. The crochet needle must be a rather long one of bone, wood or steel, and the same size from end to end. Holding the wool in the left hand you make with the needle held in the right a running loop or noose; through this loop draw the wool with the needle making a third loop, and go on thus until your chain has the required number of loops—say seventeen. At the end turn and work back on the chain thus: Put your needle through the fifteenth loop—the one next but one to the last of the chain—and drawing the wool through, leave the stitch on the needle; with this and the seventeenth stitch of the chain you will have two stitches on the needle. Put the needle through the next stitch of the chain, and drawing the wool through, leave that loop also on the needle. Go to the end of the chain thus and you will find 16 stitches on your needle, as in knitting; in making a chain for crochet tricotee, you must always make one more stitch than the number which the work is to have, as this permits the neat turn at the end. At the end of the first row (all the stitches being on the needle), take up the wool with the hook and draw it through the first stitch only, then catching the wool up again, draw it through the stitch just made and the next stitch on the needle; then through the stitch just made and the next stitch, and so on to the end of the row, when only one stitch is left on the needle. Then put the hook through the first perpendicular stitch of the preceding row (not the edge stitch), and draw the wool through, leaving the stitch thus made on the needle. Go to the end of the row thus, drawing the wool through each perpendicular stitch of the preceding row, and leaving all the stitches thus made on the needle; then work back as in the second row. This is crochet tricotee, called so because it resembles knitting.—[New York Tribune.

SAN FRANCISCO MARKET REVIEW.

[REPORTED FOR THE SACRAMENTO DAILY RECORD-UNION.

SAN FRANCISCO, January 29, 1880.

The month just closing has been a very dull one here. The outlook for February is better, but it is largely based on hope, for in truth there is little of reality in sight upon which to found expectation. The *Herald* of to-day says: "The decline in Wheat at Liverpool and elsewhere seems to have demoralized markets all over the United States. Wheat freights here have tumbled down £1 and more, while Wheat has fallen in like proportions; 45s is the latest Wheat charter to a direct port, and the freight market shows a decided weakness, and the same remarks apply to Wheat and other grains." In freights the engagements for the week have been: Br ship Lightning, 1,697, Wheat to Cork, U. K., £2 12s; bark Cassandra Adams, 1,127, Coal from Departure Bay to this port, $3; Br. ship Bulwark, 1,332, Lumber from Burrard Inlet to Sydney; bark Laura R. Burnham, 673, Lumber from Burrard Inlet to Yokohama, $20, Mexican; ship Ocean King, 2,616, Wheat to Liverpool, Havre or Antwerp, £2 5s; bark Amelia, 397, Lumber from Burrard Inlet to Sydney, £1 10s; Br. ship Mitredale, 1,286, Wheat, etc., to Liverpool; Br. ship Julia, 1,110, Lumber from Puget Sound to South America; Br. ship Magdala, 1,210, Wheat to Cork, U. K., prior to arrival; Boln bark Don Nicolas, 1,085, Coal from Departure Bay to this port.

In domestic produce we have to still note the decline of Wheat, Flour, Barley, Beans, Oats and Corn. No. 2 shipping Wheat rates at only $1 90 per cental.

The Money Market is in the same state as last reported—plenty of coin and no great number of takers.

MEAT MARKET.

Following are rates for whole carcasses from slaughterers to dealers:

BEEF—Prime, 6½@8c; medium grades, 5@6c; inferior, 4@4½c ₱ lb.

VEAL—Large Calves, 6½@7½c; small ones, 7½@8c ₱ lb.

MUTTON—Wethers are quotable at 5c; ewes at 4@4½c ₱ lb.

LAMB—Quotable at 6@7c ₱ lb for good to choice.

PORK—Live Hogs, 3½@3¾c; dressed do, 4½@5c ₱ lb.

GENERAL MERCHANDISE.

BAGS AND BAGGING—The market for Wheat Bags is unchanged. The Evelyn arrived Tuesday from Calcutta with 2,169,000 Wheat Bags and 3,000 bales Jute. Most of the Bags were sold prior to arrival. The Cannonore is 65 days out with another cargo. The quotations for Wheat Bags remain at 10¼@10½c; Wool Bags, 44@48c; Gunnies, 14c apiece.

BREAD—The price list of the California Cracker Company has just been revised, and shows a reduction in several descriptions. The rate for loaf cakes containing 25, 50 and 80 lbs each are as follows: Macaroons, 35c; Crackenell, 28c; Congress Cake and Dots, 15c; Bananas, Cocoanut Cakes, and Egg Jumbles, 14c; Nic-Nacs, 12½c; Alphabet, Assorted Extra, Excelsiors, Ginger Nuts, Medallions, and Nurenals, 12c; Assorted Fruit, Ginger Cakes, Jenny Lind, La Grande, Lemon, Milk Fancy, Overland and Seed Cakes, 10c; Pearl, 9c; Santa Clara Extra, 8½c; Boston, Butter, Cracker Meal, Cream, Graham, Lunch, Oyster, Picnic Extra, Santa Clara, Wafers, Water and Wine, 8c; Galetta Picnic and Saloon Pilot, 7c; Soda Extra, 6c; Soda, 5c; Pilot Extra, 4½c; Pilot, 4c; Ship Bread, 3½c ₱ lb.

BRICK—English Bath, 40c ₱ dozen; English Fire, $35@37 50; California building descriptions, $7@10 ₱ thousand.

BROOMS—Common long-handled descriptions vary from $1 50 to $3, while other kinds run from $1 75 to $6 50 ₱ dozen.

CANDLES—The product of the local Candle factories is quoted as follows: San Francisco Crystal Wax 14-oz, 17c; Stearic Acid, 14-oz, 14½c; Star, 14-oz, 14c; Eagle, 12-oz, 12c; Hoffman's 12-oz, 11½c; Mission Chemical Wax, 14-oz, 16½@18c; Solar Sperm, 14-oz, 14@14½c; Adamantine, 11½-oz, 11@11½c; Globe, 10½-oz, 9½@10c; Bay Improved Wax, full weight, 16@16½c; Stearic Acid, full weight, 14@14½c; Solar, light weight, 11½@11½c. Eastern brands vary from 10c to 20c; Sperm, 25@3c ₱ lb.

CASE GOODS—Rates for 25 case lots, so far as advised, run as follows: Peaches, $2 50@2 75; Raspberries, $3; Bartlett Pears, Plums, Quinces, Apples, Apricots, Nectarines and Muscat Grapes, $2 50@2 75; Blackberries, Strawberries, Red Currants, Gooseberries and Cherries, $3; Assorted Table Fruits, $2 75@3; Assorted Pie Fruits, $1 75@2 ₱ dozen 2½-lb tins; Jams and Jellies of all kinds, $3 25@3 50; Green Peas and Green Corn, $1 75@2; String Beans, $1 50@1 75; Lima Beans, $1 75@2; Succotash, $2 25 ₱ dozen 2-lb tins; Asparagus, $3; Tomatoes, $1 25@1 50 ₱ dozen 2½-lb tins.

CEMENT—Eastern, $2@2 25; Portland (foreign), $4@4 25; Santa Cruz Lime, $1 25@1 50 ₱ bbl.

COAL—The yards are bare of Seattle, and are likely to be for another month, on account non-arrival of cargoes, the railroad absorbing all that comes under previous contract. Probably by the 1st of March, if not before, the movement will be as free as formerly. Preparations are also being made to renew work at the Renton mine, in the same vicinity, when the supply of domestic will be increased. The Coos Bay mines are yielding the usual quantities, but, owing to stress of weather, arrivals have been small. We quote as follows: Mount Diablo, $8@8 50; Coos Bay, $6 50@7; Seattle, $6 50@7 50; Vancouver, $6@8; Wellington, $8@8 50; Anthracite, $8@10; Cumberland, $12@13; foreign Steam Coals, $6 50@8 ₱ ton.

COFFEE—The City of Panama is at hand from Panama, the first arrival this month or since the raising of the Isthmus blockade. She brings 5,200 bags of Central American, which is quoted at 17@18c, and 1,100 bags Rio, which is quoted at 16 to 17c. The arrivals of Central America will hereafter be free. Prices are nominal, but easy.

CORDAGE—Since November 19th the price list of the San Francisco Cordage Factory has been as follows, with a discount of 1c ₱ lb on all purchases of 10,000 lbs or upwards: Manila, 1¼-inch and upward, 15½c; 12 thread, 16c; 6 and 9-thread, 16½c; Bale Rope, 15½c; Tarred, 15½c; extra lengths and sizes, 15½@17½c; Sisal Rope, 13½@14½c.

CHINA NUTS—California is easy at 4½@6c; German, 6½@7c ₱ lb.

DRUGS—Alum, 3½@4c; refined Borax,