THE DAILY RECORD-UNION.

THURSDAY..... FEBRUARY 12, 1880.

THE San Francisco office of the Daily RECORD-UNION and WEEKLY UNION is at 208 Montgomery street.

NEWS OF THE MORNING.

IN New York yesterday Government bonds were quoted at 106 for 4s of 1907; 103½ for 5s of 1881; 108⅝ for 4½s; sterling, $4 83½@4 86; silver bars, 113¾; silver coin, ¼ discount buying, par selling.

SILVER in London yesterday, 52¾; consols, 97 15-16; 5 per cent. United States bonds, 105¾; 4s, 109¼; 4½s, 111¾.

IN San Francisco half dollars are quoted at par; Mexican dollars, 90 buying, 91½ selling.

AT Liverpool yesterday wheat was quoted at 10s 3d@10s 9d for average California white, and 10s 9d to 11s 4d for club.

THERE was a fair business in mining stocks at San Francisco yesterday morning. A few of the north end Comstock shares were firmer. The advance in Sierra Nevada was quite sharp, amounting to $4. Union Consolidated also rose $1 50. There was an average advance of $1 per share in Belcher, Ophir and Utah. The changes in other Comstock shares were not material.

ANDREW SMITH, Treasurer of North Andover, Mass., has confessed to being a defaulter, and is in jail.

GENERAL SKOBELOFF is to be Commander-in-chief of the Russian Tekke expedition.

A GENERAL strike of weavers is imminent at Woonsocket, R. I.

A WOMAN'S EXCHANGE has been started at Chicago, for the purpose of trading in grain options.

THE cotton operatives of Burnley, Eng., threaten a general strike on the 25th, unless a compromise is effected.

HENRY HARTMAN suicided in San Francisco yesterday with carbolic acid.

AN officer at San Francisco, in making an arrest yesterday morning, fatally shot a hoodlum.

THE British Embassy at Constantinople was given a dinner yesterday by the Sultan.

THE Pope considers diplomatic relations with England unnecessary.

OTERO, the would-be assassin of the King of Spain, has been sentenced to suffer death by the garrote.

IT is reported in London that the Baroness Burdett Coutts intends to give £500,000 to the permanent relief of Ireland.

AT Leighton, Pa., a man named Goldberger shot and killed Edward Mulherin.

BUSINESS is unusually brisk at New Orleans.

AT Helena, Ark., snow is reported to be twelve inches deep.

EDWARD REINHART is to be hanged at New York April 24 for wife murder.

BURGLARS captured $3,500 from a bank vault at Westport, Conn.

A SQUAW lost her life at Chico yesterday by the bursting of a kerosene lamp.

THE steamship Gaelic arrived at San Francisco yesterday from China and Japan, bringing Hongkong advices to January 17th and Yokohama news to January 26th.

THE first train on the Nevada Central Railway from Austin to Battle Mountain arrived at the latter place yesterday afternoon.

A COLLISION on the Mississippi and Tennesse Railroad yesterday resulted in the death of a conductor and the wreck of both engines and several cars.

THE man who recently fired at a priest in a church in London has been sentenced to penal servitude for life.

ABOUT 3,000 Workingmen yesterday visited the Central Pacific offices in San Francisco with a request that the company discharge their Chinamen and give work to white men.

BOTH the Pacific Mail Steamship Company and Pacific Railroad Companies announce a reduction in passenger rates from New York to San Francisco.

R. D. WILMOT has been appointed Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, vice Chandler, deceased.

AT Deadwood, D. T., on Tuesday night, a heavy wind carried the entire front of the opera-house into the street, causing a scene of the wildest confusion among the audience.

THE five Sioux who recently committed a murder on Mespah creek, in Montana, were pursued and corralled, two being killed and the other three taken prisoners.

GENERAL GRANT and party leave Havana to-morrow for Vera Cruz.

IN the State Senate yesterday the entire regular order of business was gone through and the Senate adjourned at 1:40 P. M.

QUITE a number of bills were disposed of yesterday in the Assembly. Tyler's libel bill was thrown into unfinished business by a motion to adjourn.

THE STATE NORMAL SCHOOL.

It is to be hoped that the destruction of the State Normal School by fire will be made the subject of a searching inquiry. Our dispatches yesterday morning intimated that the fact of incendiarism had been put beyond doubt, though if, as stated, the building was entirely consumed, it is difficult to see how this evidence could be forthcoming. There seems, however, to be more than a natural coincidence between the recent studied attack upon the school, and its destruction by an incendiary fire. The latter event has occurred almost too opportunely for the enemies of the institution to put it beyond suspicion, and for this and other equally obvious reasons an investigation ought to be had. The loss of the building, moreover, should not affect the Legislature in its course upon the destiny of the school. A great many evidently loose statements have been made of late in this connection. Before it is decided to do anything the past history of the institution should be carefully examined, and its capacities for training a corps of State teachers. It seems to us that the complaints made thus far, as for example that the students of the Normal School do not as a rule become teachers after the State has educated them for the work, are, if true, rather impeachments of the educational system than of the school chiefly concerned. For it surely must be possible to obtain from those who seek to avail themselves of the advantages of such an institution some guarantee that they will devote a certain time to the exercise of the knowledge of teaching they have attained. No doubt it is very difficult to devise any plan which would hold good against the matrimonial tendencies of young women, but in the absence of statistics the discussion of this question is evidently unprofitable, since it may be the case that a majority of the Normal School graduates have become teachers. The need of such an institution as an auxiliary to any well-ordered educational system appears incontestable, nor do we think that a Chair of Education at the State University could be made to supply its place.

WELL DISPOSED OF.

The Senate did itself credit in postponing indefinitely the monstrous bill to discard the evidence of Chinese in the Courts. It is very much to be regretted that such a bill should have been introduced, and still more so that any member of a California Senate should have been so insensible to shame as to advocate the naked brutality and barbarism of the proposition. But though there is no difference of opinion in the community as to the desirability of getting rid of the Chinese in a constitutional and honorable way, it is well that there should be manifested, as in this case, an equally firm determination to protect the honor of the American name by according fair play to all who live under the flag, no matter how distasteful their presence may be. Such a bill of course could have had but one effect, namely, to encourage outrages upon the Chinese, and thus to rouse the rest of the country against the demands of California. It would in fact have been a suicidal as well as an infamous step to take.

The will of the late David Ballentine, an old settler of Illinois, by which he gave Henry A. Ballentine and other of his children a life interest only in his estate of $500,000, has been declared void by Judge Upton, in the Circuit Court at Waukegan, on the ground of the mental incapacity of the testator.

THE INSURANCE QUESTION.

The provision of Senate Bill No. 188, compelling all foreign insurance companies to deposit a certain amount of capital in the State before they are allowed to do business, is one for which no rational justification can be found. The undoubted purpose of it is to drive out of business the fifty-two or three Eastern companies which now have agencies in California. It does not affect the foreign companies, the majority of which would probably be willing to meet the requirement, but it is aimed at, and would strike, the Eastern companies, which now constitute the majority of the insurance corporations doing business here, and to the extent that it expelled them it would be a public disaster. Last year seven local companies carried risks amounting to $59,000,000, and fifty-eight Eastern companies carried risks amounting to $58,000,000. The result of the proposed law would therefore be to compel the redistribution of the $58,000,000 carried by these Eastern companies, among the seven local companies, giving them about $110,000,000 of risks, on a total capital of $2,200,000. These local companies are now carrying risks 38 times greater in proportion to their capital than those borne by the Eastern and foreign companies. It is now proposed that this already dangerous excess of risks over assets shall be doubled, and this demand is made of the representatives of the people—that is to say, of the insurers. The fact is, that the business of the local companies is not now upon a safe basis. They carrying far heavier risks than their capital justifies. They ought not only to be estopped from taking more risks, but they ought to be compelled either to increase their capital or to cancel a large percentage of their present risks. What they require of the Legislature, through Senate Bill No. 188, is practically the destruction of all security for the insurers in this State. It is proposed that of 85 companies now represented here, 60 or more should be driven out, and that the property of every insurer should be placed at the mercy of seven local companies, who would every one be bankrupt if a great fire should ever occur in San Francisco. We have no hesitation in asserting that this bill is against public policy; that it embodies one of the most mischievous and unjustifiable propositions ever brought before a legislative body.

The other provision, that every company doing business in the State shall have $500,000 capital, is also aimed at the Eastern companies, a large number of which would be excluded by it. The impolicy of such a provision is shown in the fact that in the greatest commercial center of the country, New York, the capital required from insurance companies is only $200,000. Again, there are many of these Eastern companies which possess assets largely in excess of their nominal capital, and whose surplus is sometimes greater than that of all the local companies put together. These are obviously the most sound and safe of corporations, but they would be ruled out under this bill. In fact the bill is a measure the only effect of which could be to decrease security, and at the same time increase the cost of insurance; for it is very certain that the first result of the expulsion of the Eastern companies would be to put up local rates. Nothing more emphatically hostile to the interests of the public could therefore have been devised, and its enactment would argue a studied contempt for the needs of their constituents fatal to the prospects of any Legislature. The safety of insurance depends upon the wide distribution of risks. The more companies there are, and the more distant are their main reserves of capital from the location of their risks, the greater the security afforded by them. If we were dependent solely or mainly upon local companies we should practically be deprived of insurance altogether. In this case, however, it is impudently proposed that the people shall pay higher rates for less security. We confess our inability to perceive upon what ground of public policy the bill can be defended. Local insurance companies have no doubt the best possible reasons for advocating it, for it is unmistakably in their interest. But local insurance companies are not the people of California, and it is the first duty of the Legislature to protect the latter. Senate Bill No. 188 is directly against the public interest. It is a most impolitic, dangerous and unjustifiable bill. Its adoption would literally destroy the security of all property insured in the local companies, and at the same time prevent recourse to safer methods. The discussion it has elicited has, however, brought to the front some defects in the status of the local companies of so grave a character that we think it will be necessary to demand remedial legislation against them during the present session.

THE ANSWER TO THE PRO-CHINESE MEMORIAL.

We are sorry to be compelled to say that the answer to the pro-Chinese memorial recently addressed to the Legislature is quite as unsound and reprehensible as the document against which it is directed. It is in fact simply an extravagant tirade against the Chinese, so wild and reckless as to be almost Pantagruelian in character. The framers of this very undignified and intemperate answer have created an impossible monster and called it a Chinaman; and having done this they have pelted the grotesque and fantastic creation of their heated imagination with all the opprobrious terms they could gather together. It is needless to say that the result is not in any true sense an answer to the memorial. It is merely an expression of strong dislike toward the Chinese, and an expression so distorted by prejudice as to be entirely without value. It is not true, for example, as this answer affirms, that the Chinese are the most wicked and depraved and vicious and false and ungrateful people on the face of the earth. They are in almost all respects strongly akin to their fellow human beings in other countries. They possess a different civilization from the Anglo-Saxon. They cultivate some vices which white men are not so much addicted to. But it is not at all because of their viciousness that they are objectionable, and if there were no better arguments against them than such kind of stuff as this preposterous "answer" contains, it would be perfectly hopeless to expect that intelligent and enlightened people would do anything to help their removal. The Chinese will compare favorably enough with any other people as regards morality. They are no more prone to perjury and falsehood than white men, and this every Judge knows. They are a temperate, industrious, orderly, peaceable people, and it is because they possess all these essential qualifications of a progressive race, and because the struggle for existence has with them been so severe as to give them great advantage, in power of endurance and toleration of squalor, over white men, that they are so formidable. Add to this the lack of affinity between their civilization and ours, and everything is said that can be with any seriousness urged against them. But such abusive and opera bouffe presentations of the case as that embodied in the answer of the legislative committee to the pro-Chinese memorial are calculated to excite the disgust of well-informed men, and to give a handle to the friends of Chinese immigration.

A PLEA FOR THE CHILDREN.

Ordinances fall so thick and fast about the ears of the children in these days that the poor things will soon be deprived of the last of their toys and games. For between the rigor of schoolmasters and the zeal of municipal authorities, the boy of the period has a somewhat hard time of it. He must not play ball, or spin his top, or shoot his marbles, or fly his kite, any more. His playthings are taken away from him, his customary playgrounds are tabooed, and yet nobody seems to think that playthings and playgrounds are necessities of juvenile life. No doubt it is annoying when boisterous boys frighten horses and cause accidents, and no doubt there are toys, such as the sling, too dangerous to be tolerated. But it is none the less necessary to inquire what the children are to do when all their spontaneous methods of amusement are prohibited. Nor is the question a trivial one, for the tendency in such cases must invariably be towards something less innocent than the old vetoed games. When boys are left to themselves they establish regularly recurring seasons of games. There is the top season, and the marble season, and the kite season, and the ball season, and each is as sedulously observed as are the fashions of grown-up people. We never knew how these seasons are established, or how their limits are recognized, but every boy knows when tops are "out" and when marbles are "in," and no self-respecting boy will knowingly violate the close season for any game. The boy republic thus administers its pastimes in a sufficiently regular way, and provides a series of changes well calculated to sustain interest and afford the requisite variety. But when the stern hand of the adult government is laid upon all these innocent and healthy recreations, the boy is thwarted and thrown out of his natural groove, and at such times his restrained energies are very apt to carry him towards hoodlumism. The truth is—and it is a truth parents and teachers must take into careful consideration—the opportunities for wholesome play are far too few in our California cities. In San Francisco, and also in Sacramento, the boy is treated very much as a nuisance to be abated. No provision for play-grounds is made in his behalf. He is driven from the streets with his games. There is no back country for him to retire upon. What is he to do? The too frequent answer to this question appears in the increase of hoodlumism. The matter deserves anxious thought, and we commend it to whom it may concern.

NOT FAIRLY REPRESENTED.

Some of our contemporaries are misleading the public, or are themselves misled, as to the nature of the ruling made by Speaker Cowdery on Monday, in denying to Assemblyman Corcoran a question of privilege. The Speaker is charged with having ruled that a statement in a newspaper concerning the conduct of a member was not ground for a question of privilege. The fact is that no such ruling was made. The rule of the Assembly covering questions of privilege reads: "A member may "rise and explain a matter personal to "himself, with leave of the Chair." Two things are here set forth. First, the explanation sought to be made under a question of privilege must be of "a matter personal" to the member desiring to explain, and, second, "leave of the Chair" must be obtained. In the case under consideration Mr. Corcoran arose and said: "There "have been allusions made in this hall, "and also published in the daily papers, "reflecting upon certain other gentlemen—"gentlemen on this floor who have delegated me to represent them in this matter." In all questions of privilege, the first duty of the member claiming to exercise the right is to state the ground upon which he claims the privilege of explanation. Mr. Corcoran did this by plainly declaring that he arose as the delegate of others. He did not state a single fact which would have entitled him to the privileges of the rule, and the only issue raised by the ruling of the Chair is one involving an interpretation of the words "personal to himself," as used in the rule above quoted. By his decision the Speaker merely assumed the ground that to arise by the authority of a number of gentlemen—possibly a class, or a whole party—was not a question of privilege within the meaning of the rule. That Mr. Corcoran did not, in the statement of fact made by him, present a good ground for a question of personal privilege, will be apparent to any one in the slightest degree familiar with common parliamentary usage.

POLITICAL PLEDGES.

A bill was introduced at the beginning of the session, making it a misdemeanor or a felony, we forget which, for any successful candidate to violate the pledges taken during a canvass. If we do not err this bill has already been rejected, but as the theory of it seems a favorite one in certain quarters it may be of some use to recall the fact that at least one man in this State has already been hanged for keeping a campaign pledge. We refer to Troy Dye, who, while stumping this county for the office of Public Administrator, announced wherever he went that if elected he would send out "a killer;" and who, having undertaken to redeem this pledge after his election, was forthwith arrested, tried, convicted of murder, and executed. This case would seem to indicate that the fulfillment of political pledges is not always compatible with the enjoyment of long life, and it may therefore suggest some new ideas to the advocates of the measure above referred to.

A STRANGE MISSION.

A dispatch from Leavenworth, Kansas, states that Charles De Young is in that place, endeavoring to obtain evidence against Kalloch, for use in his forthcoming trial. If this statement is true, the mission of De Young is certainly a strange one, and forecasts a singular, and it may be thought an infelicitous, line of defense. To defend a charge of attempt to murder by raking up accusations against the intended victim, referring to his career years previously, is a circuitous course to adopt, and sufficiently unpromising to a dispassionate observer. The public, however, will probably be most chagrined by the indication thus afforded of the intention on the part of the defense to make the trial a scandalous one.

CHINA AND JAPAN.

Arrival of the Steamship Gaelic at San Francisco.

HONGKONG AND YOKAHAMA NEWS.

Official Presentation of the Portuguese Claim to Macao.

ANTI-FOREIGN POLICY OF THE CHINESE.

The Emperor of China Displeased with His Embassador to Russia.

PROGRESS OF EDUCATION IN JAPAN.

Evidences of the Influence Established by Grant.

[TELEGRAPHED FROM SAN FRANCISCO.]

SAN FRANCISCO, February 11th.

The steamship Gaelic arrived at this port this afternoon from China and Japan, bringing advices to January 17th from Hongkong, and news from Yokahama to January 26th.

China.

HONGKONG, January 17th.—The Governor of Macao is preparing for an official visit to Peking in his subsidiary character of Envoy to that capital, for the purpose of urging Chinese recognition of

THE PORTUGUESE CLAIM TO MACAO,

Which, notwithstanding its occupation during three centuries, is still declared a Chinese possession. In fact, no formal cession, like that of Hongkong to England, has ever been conceded. The Peking Government is determined to resist the application, although the Portuguese express confident hopes of success.

Doctor Elmore, Peruvian Envoy to China and Japan, is now in Shanghai, preparing for immediate departure home.

ANTI-FOREIGN POLICY.

The signs at Peking increase of a determination to inaugurate a strong anti-foreign policy. Viceroy Shen, who died recently at Nanking, left an urgent memorial, now said to be secretly circulating, advocating unbending resistance to an extension of intercourse, and pleading for the exclusion of all material improvement, such as railways or telegraphs, of foreign origin. This manifesto produces great effect, Shen having been an official of powerful influence and a man of high personal character, unusually free from suspicion of corrupt motives or practices. It has double weight, coming together with the final successes of the Chinese army in Central Asia and the diplomatic triumph, as here considered, of Chung How at St. Petersburg, in securing the restitution of the Ili territory. Li Hung Chang, Viceroy of Chilhi, although still the most influential subject in the Empire, is understood to feel it necessary to yield to the new sentiment kindled by these combinations, and in fact Li is not really favorable to foreign affiliation, sanctioning Western ideas and improvements only to the extent of making them serve his purpose of acquiring a knowledge of them and then dispensing with those who bring them. Unless the growth of the present feeling is checked by some unforeseen event, it will shape the Chinese policy entirely within the next year or two; but the development will be gradual and extremely cautious, and no person must expect to see any sudden manifestation. The whole movement will be so regulated as to disarm suspicion, if possible, both here and elsewhere.

THE CATTLE PLAGUE

Prevails in the neighborhood of Shanghai. Its existence has been known for two years, but no steps were taken to eradicate it, and now the meat and milk supply of Shanghai is threatened. The Japanese Consul-General announces that exportations of cattle to Japan is prohibited.

IMPERIAL DISPLEASURE.

Notwithstanding the rejoicing over Chung How's achievements in Russia, that official has incurred Imperial displeasure for leaving Europe prematurely, and without pursuing still further his supposed diplomatic advantages. He is temporarily suspended from his functions, and ordered to give explanations.

VICEROY OF LIANG KIANG.

Lien Kwang Yi has been appointed successor to Shen Pao Chen, just dead, as Viceroy of the Liang Kiang provinces, a post of great importance and power, which may be made to yield the possessor $2,000,000 yearly. Chen took nothing. His integrity was proverbial. Lien has hitherto been one of the sternest and cruelist of rulers, having ordered the decapitation of 4,000 persons during the four years of his term of office. The Viceroy of the Kwang provinces has no such high reputation.

SENTENCE COMMUTED.

The sentence of Li Yung Choi, leader of the Annam rebellion, has been commuted to decapitation only, the former decree being torture and mutilation before execution.

Japan.

YOKOHAMA, January 26th.—A new and unexpected trade is developed between Hongkong and the Japanese port of Hiego, in consequence of the establishment of a branch line of steamships by the principal company of Japan. This route is the result of suggestions offered by Governor Hennessy when visiting Japan. A strong commercial connection is anticipated.

EDUCATIONAL MATTERS.

The latest report of the Ministry of Education shows a steady increase of public instruction throughout the Empire. The school attendants now number nearly 6,000,000, males, however, unduly preponderating. Universal interest in education is proved by the fact that in five years there have been private voluntary donations to schools and colleges of nearly $9,000,000 and upwards of 700,000 acres of land.

JAPANESE IN COREA.

The Japanese residents in Corea now number 1,500. A hospital and school has been established at the Fusan settlement. The hospital is largely resorted to by the natives, and the relations are friendly.

ILL FEELING INCREASED.

The displeasure of the Japanese Government with the German Envoy, caused by the quarantine violation ordered last year by that official during the cholera epidemic, is now increased by the discovery of the publication by him, in a Yokohama newspaper, of a private document submitted confidentially to the diplomatic corps on treaty revision.

AN ORNAMENTAL POSITION.

The Spanish Envoy has left for home, his term of service having expired. His successor has not yet arrived. The position is merely ornamental, and there is considerable wonder why it is maintained. There are no Spanish residents in Japan except officials, and no trade.

GRANT'S INFLUENCE.

There are constant evidences of the influence established by Grant in all public matters on which he was consulted. More than one change of policy is attributable to his friendly representations. There are obvious efforts, on the other hand, to weaken the associations which he created by agencies opposed to closer relations between Japan and the United States.

THE JAPANESE ENVOY TO ENGLAND.

But for the well-known fact that the Japanese diplomatic representatives are intrusted with very little independent power, certain recent appointments would excite astonishment. Some few Envoys enjoy considerable confidence of the Government, others partial, others none at all. It is well known that Mori, newly commissioned to England, was dispatched simply to relieve the administration of his presence here without appearing to disgrace him. Since Mori's return from America, he has been a constant source of annoyance to his superiors, and the indiscretions and insubordination of the youth, instead of disappearing, have increased. Powerful personal influence prevents his downfall, but the expediency of removing him from Japan continually reasserts itself. It is important to understand that although sent to a post of nominal magnitude, he acts only under the strictest instructions, and is virtually a political exile.

LETTER OF THANKS.

In consequence of the marked change in the attitude of the British Legation since the departure of Minister Parkes, the Mikado's second Minister, Iwakura, has written a letter of thanks to Kennedy, Charge d'Affaires.

A COMPLETE EXCULPATION.

The trial of the two merchants—Fujita and Hakana—charged with complicity in a vast scheme for the circulation of counterfeit Government paper money, resulted in the complete exculpation of the accused. The case has excited great attention for five months. Extraordinary rumors of gigantic frauds were circulated, involving high Government officers. It is now demonstrated that there is no foundation for suspicion of any kind. There has been no issue of counterfeits, except in a limited and not unusual degree, and the alleged conspiracy which agitated the whole country turns out to be a petty combination of private malice. Instead of three million of counterfeit money, as first proclaimed, there are not three thousand in existence, and the Government credit remains unimpaired. It appears probable that the mischievous ingenuity of a single individual has succeeded in disturbing the currency for nearly half a year.

THE THREATENED RUPTURE BETWEEN CHINA AND JAPAN.

Notwithstanding the plain proofs of the impossibility of a serious difficulty between Japan and China, efforts to provoke rupture continue. These are conducted by interested European agents, some holding high stations, others concerned only in the trading interests. The former hope for opportunities of diplomatic distinction, the latter count upon large sales of war material. It appears evident that public opinion in America is misled on this point. There never has been any real ground for apprehending active hostilities, although outside efforts produced a state of things resembling danger.

POSTAL MATTERS.

A portion of the American attaches of the Japan Postoffice are about to return home, their term of office having expired. It is generally felt by foreigners that their dismissal is premature. The Japan Postoffice stands pre-eminent in working, but this is owing to the devoted and extraordinary endeavors of the American employes. It is doubtful whether the same perfect management is possible without the aid of these exceptionally able and untiring superintendents.

THE RAVAGES OF CHOLERA.

Cholera was completely subdued at the close of last year. The final report, just issued by the National Sanitary Board, shows 168,000 cases, and 101,000 deaths. The proportion of cases to the entire population is reckoned at one to every 500. In certain southern districts the ravages were frightful. In Loo Choo 723 of every 10,000 inhabitants were attacked. The conviction of the Government is unalterable, that the disease gained admission through the opposition of a few foreign Envoys, led by Sir Harry Parkes, to the establishment of a rigid quarantine.

COURTESIES EXCHANGED.

Courtesies continue liberally exchanged between the Duke of Genoa and the Japanese nobles and officials. Italian decorations have been conferred on nearly a score of Japanese of various ranks, from Prime Minister down. Japanese decorations have been awarded to the Italian officers in attendance upon the Duke.

THE BURNED DISTRICT OF TOKIO.

The rebuilding of the vast burned district in Tokio proceeds slowly, the Government proposing to introduce precautionary improvements in laying out the streets, construction of houses, etc., to guard if possible against a similar devastation hereafter. The public loan is to be raised by the city authorities to aid in erecting dividing walls in the thickest parts of the Capital. None of these measures will be effective so long as the present corrupt and defective fire department exists. It is a powerful organization, and the Government hesitates to overthrow it, although it is well known that it is not only useless, but often increases the spread of fires to secure pecuniary advantages which can easily be managed, and is regarded as a natural order of things by the community. Previous attempts to introduce steam fire-engines created riots, and caused a hasty retirement of the projectors of reform. The popular suffering by the last fire was much less than ever before, owing to the prompt and extensive relief from the Government and other sources. Ten thousand dollars' worth of rice and blankets were distributed within twenty-four hours. The foreigners in Tokio, Yokohama and Kobe contributed upwards of $5,000 more. The Emperor and Empress gave $3,000.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Government contemplates opening to foreign trade the port of Dairi, in the Buzen province, opposite Simonozski, on the strait of that name, but the matter is not yet decided.

It is highly improbable that the United States' offer of mediation in the Loo Choo business will be accepted. The quarrel never reached such a point as to render mediation necessary or desirable.

The Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs is entirely opposed to the ridiculous claim put forward by an English newspaper organ in Yokohama, that it the Simonozski indemnity fund be not given up England must demand it, that nation having lost money while the United States gained by the combined attack on Simonozski eighteen years ago.

THE COURTS.

SUPREME COURT.

Department No. 1.

TUESDAY, February 10th.

6107—Byrnes vs. Claffy—Argued by O'Connor for appellant and Fox for respondent, and judgment and order reversed and cause remanded for a new trial.

10,484—Ex parte S. J. Robertson, on habeas corpus—On reading and filing the petition herein, it is ordered that a writ of habeas corpus issue, directed to P. Crowley, Chief of Police of the city and county of San Francisco, returnable before Hon. Robert Ferral, Judge of the Superior Court, Department No. 12, of the city and county of San Francisco, at the Court-room of said Court, in the city of San Francisco, on the 12th day of February, 1880, at 10 o'clock A. M.

10,485—Ex parte Maggie Brewer on habeas corpus—On reading and filing the petition herein, it is ordered that a writ of habeas corpus issue, directed to P. Crowley, Chief of Police of the city and county of San Francisco, returnable before Hon. Robert Ferral, Judge of the Superior Court, Department No. 12, of the city and county of San Francisco, at the Court-room of said Court, in the city of San Francisco, on the 12th day of February, 1880, at 10 o'clock A. M.

Department No. 2.

6058—Estate of Edmund Brooks, deceased—Argued by Townsend for appellant and Rogers for respondent, and cause submitted.

6079—Chamberlain vs. Pacific Wool Growing Co.—Argued by Bates for appellant and Sawyer for respondent, and cause submitted, with two days to each to file briefs.

6082—Smith vs. East Branch Mining Company—Argued by Nourse for appellant and Crittenden for respondent, and cause submitted.

Department No. 2.

WEDNESDAY, February 11th.

6104—Olney vs. Sawyer et al.—Argued by Olney and Cope for appellant and Lawrence for respondent, and cause submitted.

Department No. 1.

George F. Sharp vs. Thomas S. Miller—On motion of Carson, respondent is allowed two days additional time in which to file brief.

6817—In the matter of Fifteenth-avenue Extension—On motion of Crittenden for respondent, it is ordered that the appeal herein be and the same is hereby dismissed.

6665—In the matter of Fifteenth-avenue Extension—It is ordered that counsel for appellant be allowed five days additional time in which to insert in their transcript such additional matter as they may deem necessary, certified by the Clerk of the County Court, and that the cause be set for hearing on Wednesday, February 18th, instant.

5971—Richardson vs. Musser—Argued by Sawyer and Harrison for respondent and Buckley for appellant, and cause submitted.

O'Neill vs. O'Neill—On motion of McElrath, ordered that counsel for respondent be allowed five days additional time in which to file brief.

Hughes vs. Bray—Ordered that this cause be continued to the foot of the calendar.

5928—Shay vs. Lady Bryan Mining Company—Opinion filed.

SUPERIOR COURT.

DENSON and CLARK, Judges.

WEDNESDAY, February 11th.

Cox & Clarke vs. Ellen Murdock, administratrix—Decree as prayed for.

Robert Wittenbrook vs. John Bellmer—Motion for new trial argued and submitted.

John Reel vs. His Creditors—Decree of final discharge entered.

Peter McGraw vs. His Creditors—Same order.

BETTER TIMES AHEAD.—Everything indicates that the present year will be a prosperous one for Lake county, and that with proper economy for a short time longer the day of better times will break and the darkness of financial troubles disappear. The wool interests of this county are quite large, and at present prices, which in all human probability will be maintained for a year or more, the spring and fall clips will bring a considerable sum into the pockets of our sheep men. There will also be a full average breadth of land sown in wheat, with the same probability that it will again bring remunerative prices and put another large amount of money in circulation in the county. There is also every reason to believe that the visitors to Lake county this summer in search of health and pleasure, will run high up in the thousands, and this will place in circulation in our midst many thousands of dollars. And to crown all, the probabilities are strong that by fall a railroad will penetrate our county, and if it be so, new life and activity will be infused into every branch of business. We may be mistaken, but we feel quite confident that a tidal wave of prosperity, that shall continue for years, is about to sweep over our delightful little county.—[Lake County Bee.

SAN FRANCISCO MONEY MARKET.—Coin continues plentiful at all the banks. The large amounts recently absorbed for taxes are gradually flowing back into the channels of circulation, through disbursements for public needs. The dearth of local enterprises and the almost complete absence of speculation render matters very dull at the banks. Commercial paper is discounted at 9 per cent. The Savings Banks take mortgages on city real estate at 9@11 per cent. and assume the mortgage tax. Call loans against United States bonds are obtainable at 4@5 per cent. Fine Silver is dull at 11@11½ per cent. discount. Drafts on New York are drawn at 30c. for mail and 37½c. premium for $100 for telegraphic. Bankers are selling Exchange on London at 49½d., and buying grain bills at 50d. Mexican Dollars are nominal at 91@91½c. apiece.—[San Francisco Bulletin, February 10th.

PACIFIC SLOPE NEWS.

DISPATCHES OF LAST NIGHT.

WORKINGMEN'S DEMONSTRATION.

Three Thousand of Them March to the Central Pacific Railroad Offices.

PASSENGERS FROM THE EAST BY RAIL.

The First Train on the Nevada Central Railway.

CALIFORNIA.

Suicide with Carbolic Acid—Fatally Shot by an Officer.

SAN FRANCISCO, February 11th.—Henry Hartman, a Swedish sailor on the British ship Pleione, committed suicide this morning by drinking carbolic acid. He swallowed the poison while lying in his bunk, and was observed in the act by his shipmates, who summoned assistance, but to no purpose.

Shortly after midnight officer Dwyer, while attempting to arrest a suspicious character on West Mission street, near Twelfth, was set upon by a crowd of hoodlums, knocked down and badly beaten. In the melee the officer drew a pistol and fired, bringing down Michael Wynne with a bullet in his side. He was taken to the city hospital, where he died this morning.

The Workingmen of San Francisco and Chinese Employes.

SAN FRANCISCO, February 11th.—The Workingmen are assembling at the sand lots, with a view of marching in procession to the headquarters of the principal corporations, to demand the discharge of Chinese employes, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

Demonstration of Unemployed Workingmen.

SAN FRANCISCO, February 11th.—Some 3,000 unemployed workingmen assembled at the sand lots this afternoon, and after listening to a number of speakers about half of the crowd formed in line and marched to the office of the Central Pacific Railroad Company, and a committee appointed for the purpose sought an interview with President Stanford and Vice-President Crocker. Both were absent, and the committee was received by General Superintendent Towne, to whom they stated that the object of the movement was to ask the company to comply with the provision of the new Constitution forbidding corporations to employ Chinamen, and give work to unemployed whites, and intimating that if the request was not complied with and the distress continued, it would be difficult to foretell the result. Mr. Towne replied that he would refer the matter to the Directors, and return an answer on Monday next. The procession then returned to the sand lots, and subsequently dispersed. Other corporations will be called upon to-morrow. The proceedings were quiet and orderly.

State Prison Commissioners—Probable Appointments.

SAN QUENTIN, February 11th.—The Commissioners are in session here to-day. The probable appointments are: Captain of the Guard, Perkins, of Solano; Commissary, Fulton G. Berry, of Marin; Commissary's Clerk, Gillson, of Butte; Prison Clerk, Joe Ellis, of San Francisco.

Relief for the Irish.

GEORGETOWN (El Dorado county), February 11th.—One hundred and thirty-five dollars have been subscribed in Georgetown and vicinity, which will be forwarded to the Irish relief fund to-morrow.

Squaw Burned to Death.

CHICO, February 11th.—The squaw who was married to a Chinaman in Red Bluff three or four weeks ago, and came to live in Chico, was this morning burned to death by the bursting of a kerosene lamp in her room, the burning oil going all over her clothes.

Weather Reports.

CHICO, February 11th.—Yesterday morning we had a few showers of rain. To-day it is blowing strong and cold from the north, with a prospect of a heavy frost this evening.

GONZALES, February 11th.—Last night's rain yielded .30 of an inch, making for the last three days .40 of an inch.

GEORGETOWN (El Dorado county), February 11th—Rain fell here all day yesterday, and this morning snow to a depth of about three inches lay upon the ground. Total rainfall for the season, 28 inches.

NEVADA.

Passengers Passing Carlin.

CARLIN, February 11th.—The following passengers passed Carlin to-day, to arrive in Sacramento to-morrow: J. H. Leighton and wife, San Jose; S. Broonberger, D. Bloom, San Francisco; Edward Suhr, Germany; Isaac Reynolds, New York; S. W. Richards, London; Geo. C. Beckwith and wife, Denver, Col.; T. G. Nichols, Boston, Mass.; E. Jeffers, Loversville, N. Y.; 40 emigrants, including 33 males, to arrive in Sacramento February 13th.

Comstock Mining Matters.

VIRGINIA, February 11th.—The following appears in the evening paper: It became known on the street this morning that an important strike was made last night in the winze on the 2,400-foot level (old 2,300 level) of the Sierra Nevada mine. This winze is sunk on the east side of the north drift, at a point about 135 feet north of the incline. It is down about 35 feet. The ore is rich, one of the assays being reported at $600. A reporter applied to Director Drexler for information, but found that Director Drexler is now apparently as anxious to reserve all information as plain Mr. Drexler was anxious to obtain information before he became Director Drexler, all of which goes to show how circumstances sometimes alter cases. Superintendent James was found and interrogated. He said, "I can tell you nothing. Go to Mr. Drexler."

Superintendent Kelly, of the Lady Bryan, says his mine will shut down in a few days. He says they have no money to pay the expenses of running.

The pumps at the Forman shaft started up this afternoon, and will be running regularly in a day or two.

The improvement recently reported in the Hardy vein, in the Ophir mine, is on the 2,100-foot level. The main drift along the vein north of the stopes has been turned into an east cross-cut, and is encountering bunches and strikes of good ore.

Nevada Central Railway—The First Train.

BATTLE MOUNTAIN, February 11th.—The first Nevada Central railway train from Austin to Battle Mountain arrived here today, with Vice-President Hall, Chief Engineer Bridges and Contractor-General Jas. H. Ledlie, and thirty passengers. The train arrived here at 5 P. M., having run forty miles an hour. Conductor Lovejoy and engineer Goff were in charge.

OREGON.

Work Crowded Forward—Wheat Market—Indictments—Smelt Dying—Salmon Run—Navigation Obstructed.

PORTLAND, February 11th.—Work on the locks and canal at the Cascades is being crowded forward. Over 250 men are employed.

Wheat is a little firmer to-day, quotable at $1 90.

The Grand Jury in the State Circuit Court are in session, and have returned a number of indictments.

From some unknown cause millions of smelt in the lower Columbia are dying. In many places the shore of the river is lined with these dead fish.

From present indications it is thought there will be an unusually heavy run of salmon the coming fishing season in the lower Columbia. Extensive preparations will be made by the canneries to accommodate the run.

Navigation on the upper Willamette is obstructed in many places by fallen timber, prostrated by the recent heavy wind storm. By order of Colonel Gillespie, United States Engineer, these impediments are being removed.

A SUCCESSFUL HUNT.—A large party of Indians yesterday returned from a hunting expedition about Sierra and Long valleys, and Honey lake. They had on their ponies the carcasses of over twenty-five deer, and seemed to have the skins of a good many more. Besides deer, they had a large lot of rabbits. There were no squaws with the party. The Indians had a grand feast and dance last night in their permanent camp over the river.—[Reno Gazette, February 9th.

MARRIED.

Ukiah, January 28—J. G. Phillips to Delia Haskett.
Anderson Valley, January 8—F. M. Looney to May Tobias.

BORN.

Sacramento, February 9—Wife of A. A. Krull, of Clarksburg, a son.
Marysville, February 4—Wife of J. K. Hare, a son.
Grass Valley, February 1—Wife of J. Michell, a son.
Grass Valley, February 8—Wife of Joseph Glasson, a son.
Near Napa, February 2—Wife of George M. Stowell, a son.

DIED.

Sacramento, February 11—Judge Thomas Conger, a native of New Jersey, 77 years, 1 month and 24 days.
[Funeral notice hereafter.]
Near Sacramento, February 10—Catherine Hargrave