

Daily Meteorological Record—Signal Service—United States Army.

Table with columns for location, temperature, wind, and other weather data for various cities.

NEWS OF THE MORNING.

In New York yesterday Government bonds were quoted at 112 1/2 for 4 1/2% of 1907 for Feb. 1931; 112 1/2 for 4 1/2% of 1907 for Feb. 1931; 111 1/2 for 4 1/2% of 1907 for Feb. 1931.

In San Francisco gold dollars are quoted at 14 1/2 cents for 100 dollars of gold.

The variations in value of mining stocks at San Francisco yesterday were: The market yesterday morning was decidedly soft, and lower figures were reported in nearly every instance.

Hon. John W. Dwinelle, a prominent lawyer at San Francisco, was arrested at Port Costa Friday evening, the accused not being known until yesterday.

In N. Robinson, owner of a mine in Nevada county, was charged yesterday with the death of a miner.

Eighty miners were discharged from the Bonanza mine yesterday.

At Pueblo, Colo., Sunday night, City Marshal Billie was shot and wounded by a man named...

The two fatal elevator accidents occurred at Chicago yesterday.

Snow greatly interfered with traffic of all kinds yesterday in Chicago and other points.

A shock of earthquake was felt at Santa Cruz and Salinas yesterday afternoon.

The new iron steamship Willamette, built at Beach, Calif., is scheduled to sail for the Oregon Steamship Company, was launched yesterday.

During a blizzard snow storm yesterday a steamer went ashore at Ocean Beach, near New York.

In a quarrel over a bale of cotton at Galena, La., Saturday, J. L. Schroeder killed E. C. Osterhout.

The decrease in the public debt during January was \$7,828,107.71.

An attack occurred at Nevada City yesterday to hang the body of the 8th March.

At Dallas, Tex., yesterday, August Klapp shot and killed Antonio Goodrich.

The Nevada Senate yesterday passed the bill to remove the seat of the State from Carson to Reno.

Southern, the actor, left his property to his sister, Mrs. Cowan.

The report of an insurrection in Armenia is unconfirmed.

Citizens of Southern California are moving in the matter of dividing the State.

A fire at Matanzas, Cuba, in the Exhibition buildings, did great damage.

Plymouth, N. C., was almost entirely destroyed by fire on Monday night.

The Chinese treaties were reported in the United States Senate yesterday, with a recommendation for ratification.

A disastrous fire occurred at Hamburg, Germany, yesterday.

A fire caused by the explosion of a kerosene lamp, burned three children to death in Sumner county, S. C., Sunday night.

FALSE ECONOMY IN LEVEE BUILDING.

There is an old and pithy saying that "it is no use crying over spilled milk," and this applies to broken levees as well.

But it may be of some use to point out that in nine cases out of ten these disasters are brought about by false economy, and that this is especially the case in regard to the breaks in the levee below this city, on the Riverside road.

And this false economy has also prevented Sacramento from having that wisely planned levee system which was proposed to the people two years ago, and the adoption of which would have protected us against the extensive injury to which we are liable now through the leakage of our only drainage outlet.

The fact is that when it is the public which will never rain again, and so they refuse to tax themselves for necessary improvements. And when the rain comes and they find themselves in danger it is too late to do anything, or if anything can be done it costs them three or four times as much as it would have done if undertaken at the proper season.

At this moment we have no doubt that plenty of people who opposed it at the time are willing to declare that the so-called outlet to have had two years ago. But if we wait until the winter is over and the floods have subsided, there are some people who will probably change their minds again, and resist any protective measures.

It would be easy to show that this kind of vacillation is productive of ruinous extravagance instead of economy. Whenever the drainage and surface water of the city is backed up, and accumulates in the southern portion, it causes heavy damage to all kinds of property, as well as to the health of the people.

There may be those who are willing that the property of their neighbors should be destroyed so long as they are not called upon to pay for it, and who are opposed to any taxation but that which confers a direct benefit upon themselves. That such people are not rare in any community, we know by the present opposition to the general tax principle of the debris bill. Both in the one and the other case, however, the most selfish and narrow-minded have much to lose and nothing to gain by resisting this principle. Whatever injuries property south of K street, for example, must incur property all over the city, since it is not too late to adopt it now, but judging from past experience we are of opinion that if anything is to be done in the way of gaining the public consent to further protective works, the appeal should be made with a little delay as possible.

While the danger is present we have some guarantee for the enlightening influence of self-interest. If it were until it has passed away, it is to be feared that the old procrastinating and apathetic spirit will show itself again, and that some feeble and futile compromise will be adopted, such as that which has just resulted so disastrously.

A GOOD BILL.

A bill has been introduced "to prevent the introduction of frivolous measures." Should it become a law legislators will have comparatively little to do next session, for under such a prohibition it is doubtful whether a round dozen or seven hundred new bills would be introduced, and five-sixths would have to be sacrificed, and we are not at all confident that the whole of the remaining one-sixth would escape condemnation.

"IMAGINARY" PROPERTY.

The San Francisco Bulletin, speaking of the debris bill, says: "Our scheme of drainage is, according to the Governor, to make \$700,000,000 of property, but not for the State." The whole scheme is to expend \$70,000,000 to make an imaginary \$700,000,000 for a few persons not "specified." Perhaps the Bulletin thinks that kind of writing forcible and argumentative. If so, we are sorry to be compelled to disagree with our contemporary.

What the Bulletin means, or thinks it means, by saying that the property to be created by the Drainage Act is "not for the State," and is "imaginary," we do not know. That both these intimations are nonsensical, however, we think demonstrable.

In the first place, it is impossible to create new property which is not "for the State" in any real and tangible way. Whatever property adds \$70,000,000 to the wealth of the State adds that amount to the assessment rolls, and by so doing distributes and lightens taxation. If that is not making property "for the State" we do not know what is.

In the second place, use of the term "imaginary" in this connection is equally inappropriate and absurd. Nothing, certainly, can be less imaginary than the reclamation of large tracts of land, and their utilization for agriculture and other productive purposes.

Now the scheme of drainage which has been commenced involves the reclamation of real property which Governor Perkins has very conservatively estimated at \$70,000,000. We believe that if he had said \$100,000,000 he would still have been well within the mark, and the creation—for it is almost a literal creation—of this amount of productive land is as certain as anything founded upon scientific data can be.

There is no room for doubt about the possibility of adding so much wealth to the State, and the maximum amount stated by the Governor in his message as to the possible cost of the undertaking would be very cheap for the gain to be derived. But it is unfair to assume that the work will cost \$100,000,000. If figures are to be used on this, and the demands that the lower as well as the higher ones should be stated. It may cost less than \$75,000,000 according to the engineers, and the less it is obstructed the lower the cost will be. The truth is that this one plan consideration, that the works contemplated will add \$70,000,000 to the capital of the State, is sufficient of itself to demonstrate the wisdom of proceeding boldly with the enterprise, and of itself answers every narrow objection that has been raised to the principle of general taxation.

If an individual or a community can make \$70,000,000 with an expenditure of \$100,000,000, they are fools if they do not embrace the opportunity.

THE DESTRUCTION OF OUR FORESTS.

An effort should be made by the Legislature to call the attention of Congress to the rapid destruction of our forests. This subject has been written upon almost to weariness, but though a Commissioner of Forestry was appointed two years ago, and though his first annual report contained a great mass of information showing the urgent need of remedial legislation, nothing has been done to protect, preserve or replace the timber. To those who have studied the subject few things can appear more discouraging than the whole treatment of this important question. Selfishness, greed, stupidity, ignorance, apathy, have been exhibited in turn by Congress and the people.

Though it is as certain as the changes of the seasons that the denudation of the Sierra will produce climatic and other revolutions most disastrous to the whole people of California; though it is equally certain that the destruction of our finest timber must make the best building material and fuel dear to the north builder; though the conversion of our rivers into torrents, and of our valleys into deserts, is menaced by the operations steadily proceeding; there is scarcely any contemptible partisan question so insignificant that it will not thrust this great subject out of sight, and it is only in the most spiritless and perfunctory way that any reference to it is ever made.

As a matter of fact there are no questions before the Legislature of today of greater consequence than this. It has an intimate and most important bearing upon the drainage issue, for it concerns the future condition and character of our rivers. If the Sierra is to be stripped of its forests it will be of little use to devise elaborate schemes for the reclamation and improvement of our valleys and for the deepening of our rivers, for the action of the woodsman is setting in motion natural forces which, if suffered to operate unchecked, will overcome the best conceived devices of human science, and overwhelm our valleys as a part of the Southern France and Switzerland and Italy have been overwhelmed in the past. To convince Congress that we are in earnest on this subject we must show that we realize the extent and magnitude of the dangers impending, and whatever is done should be given an emphasis and gravity such as will command attention. Our Senators and Representatives might well be instructed and requested, in some special and significant way, to use their best energies in pressing the question of protection to our forests, and it is apparent that California is thoroughly in earnest if it is possible that something will be done.

THE RIVER.

The behavior of the Sacramento continues to confirm the soundness of the theory which Captain Eads advanced. Though there were at least half a dozen breaks in the levees up and down the water rose again yesterday to an inch beyond the flood mark of 1878. The American had fallen considerably also, and the Tulsa and Feather were lower by several feet than on Sunday night. An enormous volume of water had escaped from the channel, and notwithstanding this the river rose. Nothing could prove more clearly that the result of the breaks and the dip which they have caused is to diminish its carrying capacity by lessening its velocity. The speed of the current being thus checked it could not carry half the volume which before any breaks occurred it had borne with comparative ease, and so notwithstanding (or rather because of) the many drains from its banks, it continued to rise until it had passed the flood light of 1878. It would have been most interesting and valuable to have had scientific observations of the velocity of the current before and after the breaks, but unfortunately the State Engineer's Department is without funds to conduct any such work, and so it is impossible to obtain accurate records of phenomena which would convey the most instructive lessons in regard to the questions now being discussed by the Legislature.

LOS ANGELES, February 1st.—A large and enthusiastic meeting of citizens of Los Angeles was held at the Chamber of Commerce building, for the purpose of discussing the division of the State. A committee was appointed to confer with the citizens of the several counties, and to report on the matter. It was empowered to take such action as it might see fit to take in regard to the matter. The meeting broke up with three cheers for the State of Southern California.

SHOCKS OF EARTHQUAKES.

SANTA CRUZ, February 1st.—At four minutes past 4 this afternoon quite a shock of earthquake was felt here.

SALINAS, February 1st.—A shock of earthquake was felt here this afternoon at 5 minutes past 4, lasting four seconds. Its course was from north to south.

A ROYAL VISIT.

SAN MATEO, February 1st.—His Majesty King Kalakaua, accompanied by his family, arrived here this afternoon at 1:30 p. m. today, after an extended tour of the Spring Valley Water Works.

Southern Pacific Passengers.

MOJAVE, February 1st.—The following overland passengers by Southern Pacific Railroad, passed Mojave today: James I. Harman, Oakland; Mrs. Compton, M. D. Harman, M. D., Oakland; S. J. Benigno, San Francisco.

REPLACES THE LIVER WITH HERRING'S GARDEN BAGS.

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PACIFIC COAST.

LAST NIGHT'S DISPATCHES TO THE RECORD.—ENSON.

PRIMEVAL LAWYER DROWNED.

John W. Dwinelle Meets Death in a Mysterious Manner.

TERRIBLE EXPERIENCE OF A MINER.

The Question of Dividing the State Agitated at Los Angeles.

OR. GOV. AND WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

Important Purchase of Mines in Arizona by San Francisco.

CALIFORNIA.

A Prominent Lawyer Drowned.

BENICIA, February 1st.—Hon. John W. Dwinelle, a lawyer, was drowned while attempting to jump upon the steamer Solano as she was moving out of the Port Costa sea on Friday evening last, fell off the end of the apron into the Straits and was drowned.

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