FREEHAND NOTES.

SNOW—PARTIES AND SOCIAL EVENTS—A SOCIETY RUMOR.

A Musical Treat—Visit to an Organ Factory—In the Bowels of a Great Organ.

[Correspondence of the RECORD-UNION.]

SAN FRANCISCO, January 3, 1883.

On Sunday it snowed. In the year of grace 1857 it appears the same dismal phenomenon occurred. Let us hope another twenty-five years will elapse before we are similarly betrayed by our glorious climate again. The piled up snow on the calla leaves was pleasantly incongruous, and the effect of the pink balls of the hydrangea and the stiff, rosy spikes of heath under the flakes was very good. The horse-play of the lower class, which the storm seemed unduly to exhilarate, was less charming than the bowed blossoms, but robust and bracing no doubt. More energetic than the builders of impromptu sleds were those who secured the services of the gay photographer, and had their homes "fixed forever," like Mr. Picksniff's great thoughts, in black and white, to perpetuate the frigid abomination. The pretty custom of

NEW YEAR'S CALLING,

Which has served for the text of so many social homilies, is less conformed to every year in San Francisco. The English fashion of going into the country for the holidays has been adopted by a great many families, and Monterey is a favorite withdrawing place. The first month of the new year is to be full of hospitality, however. Notably Mrs. Gwin is to give a kettledrum on the 6th, from 3 o'clock to 7. The house on California street lends itself admirably to arrangements for such a reception, the rooms opening into each other so cannily that it is always a fresh surprise to make the tour of them, and the dancing-room is what the dancing-room at Mrs. Gwin's is sure to be, whether on California or Harrison street, that is, perfect. There is to be

A CALICO BALL

At the Grand Hotel on the 8th, a sort of ball which is a good study as the outcome of much thought on the part of the guests upon the serious consideration how to make a costume of foulard as costly as one of satin. Mrs. Hopkins' ball was the great event it was expected to be. The electric light in the hall was the yellow Edison light, and therefore an improvement on the white light of last year, and the picture gallery hall was used as the dancing room. Mrs. Hopkins, nee Crittenden, was fair in bridal white and pearls, Mrs. Mark Hopkins resplendent in the much talked of diamonds. The appointments of the supper room were as choice as last year. Whether truly or not, rumor insists quite firmly that our legal San Francisco Mercutio has captured your Sacramento beauty whose name means Friend. She is said to be as witty as he. If so their life will be one duet of soprano and tenor laughter over each other's good sayings. Not a bad outlook. Mrs. Hubert Bancroft's cards are out for an "at home" January 9th. There is to be dancing, and the name of Miss Bancroft, returned from her European wanderings, appears with her mother's.

MUSICAL PEOPLE

Profess themselves in possession of a great treat in Weber's "Oberon" as it is put on at the Tivoli. There is always such a Saharan drought of opera in San Francisco that springs seem sweet to us that might be intensely brackish to the world's tired denizen. Hinrichs is also going to do his best for music Friday afternoon. With an orchestra of sixty pieces he proposes to give Beethoven's "Heroic Symphony," composed in honor of Napoleon, selections from Wagner's new opera, "Parsifal," and the ride of the Valkyrias, from Wagner's "Niebelungen," so wild and impetuous that it seems like the "music that makes mad" which beat in the ears Swinburne's Thalassius, compelling him to guide his panther car "what way the music bade."

AN ORGAN FACTORY.

Tuesday I went to visit an organ factory, rurally remote from the business centers, to speak mildly. We came quite to the foot of some suave green hills, with a scarf of snow thrown negligently on their breast, and after some interested exploring among detached tin-shops, we discovered the building we sought. A small organ was being repaired in the outer room; in the next, more of a work-room, was a voicer—that is, an organ consisting merely of wind-chest, bellows and keys, whereon newly-made pipes are applied and brought to the proper sound and pitch. A pile of graded square wooden pipes lay on a bench. They were made of cedar brought from British Columbia. A small space at the base is boxed in for a reservoir of air, and some delicate scratches on the edge met by similar indentations in the cap that covers the reservoir constitute the voicing of the pipes, and are the most important process in an organ's construction. As the workman picked up and blew upon several of the wooden pipes as one does upon a whistle, the sound was

PECULIAR AND MELLOW.

The factory had just finished an immense organ, of which the firm was proud. It was erected in St. Francis' Roman Catholic Church, and was being adjusted. St. Francis' was exactly at the other end of town, but we were upon organs intent, and, nothing daunted, crossed the city, and "by St. Francis' Church and Francis, too," we were repaid for our voyagings. The church is gothic, and very pretty. It was rapidly growing dark, and the Christmas evergreens were still up, wound round the pillars, while the little red lights before the two principal shrines twired—the word is obsolete, but expressive—and a more aggressive gaslight glared in the choir, toward which we lifted our desirous eyes. Besides the great new organ to give picturesqueness to the view, there was an old priest leaning over the railings—a priest with wide-open gray eyes, and wearing a velvet cap mitre-shaped. After a few preliminary inquiries we climbed up the winding stairway, and found ourselves in the midst of much carpenter work. Then we went inside of the organ itself, up a

"CHICKEN LADDER,"

And in among the pipes and trackers. It seemed a very large instrument to our provincial inexperience. "Twenty-eight stops, beside the mechanical ones," sounded numerous when they said it, and that one stop should control seventy of the graduated cornucopia tin pipes, as was the case with one, gave an idea of a strong full swell. The forest of tin pipes was attractive from the leopard spotting upon them of the lead, which the organ builder explained was cast with the block tin of which the pipes are made. It was a mottling like lustreless upon polished silver. Behind us was the cluster of the wooden pipes, and quite at the back the great basses, like—it is very irreverent to music—but they were very like troughs or sewers set on end. "It is a wonderful instrument," we all said, with an intense originality pathetic in its unanimity. "It is the King," said the old organ-maker with simple conviction. We took a look at the comparatively

SMALL CRANK

That was to make the great creature breathe, and the composer said, "Fancy how its lungs must be weighted," for we recalled the stones and bricks that were heaped on the bellows of the small organ that was taken apart for repair at the factory, and how the workman had said, "Without that resistance you could get no music from the keys at all," and then he had said that a good organ, without remarkable architecture either, cost five thousand dollars. The church was entirely dark when we turned to go; dark except for the little glimmer at the shrines; but as we came down stairs we saw several men and women praying in the pews. We went out into the open air, and over a little French restaurant saw the tricolor at half-mast.

"Gambetta is dead!" we said.

PHILIP SHIRLEY.

SAN FRANCISCO ITEMS.

Real estate sales to the value of $15,127,720 were made in 1882.

The sailing of the steamer City of Peking has been deferred until the 16th.

Since July 1, 1882, there have been 232 vessels cleared from this port with flour and wheat.

Suicide by strychnine, is the verdict in the case of Charles A. Nichol, found dead at Fort Point.

The Clerk of Police Court No. One has paid over to the Home for the Care of the Inebriate $800.

There were eighty-seven boys and seventy-two girls in the Industrial School on December 31st.

A verdict of accidental death has been rendered in the case of Claus Petersen, found on the wharf with a fractured skull.

The annual election of the Chamber of Commerce will be held on the 9th. The regular ticket is headed by the name of Horace Davis for President.

Thomas L. Cazneau, Deputy Supervisor of Elections, has been arrested for perjury, in swearing that he lost his commission. It is claimed he sold it for thirty dollars.

It has been decided by the French residents to hold funeral services to the memory of Gambetta, the dead statesman, on Sunday afternoon, in the Grand Opera House.

The first shipment of the new gold certificates was received Friday, being $2,160,000, in denominations of $1,000 and $20. Some $13,000,000 more are to follow, of various denominations.

Upwards of $700,000 in coin, bullion and currency, was shipped from San Francisco, through regular mercantile channels, in December, 1882. This is the largest amount since last August.

C. H. Warner has filed with the Board of Supervisors a statement concerning an artesian well built by him at a cost of $2,000, from which he supplies water for his own use and that of his tenants.

Times are now better in nearly every portion of California than they are in San Francisco, and they are now better here than they have been for years. Business men are nearly all making money, and a large part of their surplus has gone into real estate within the past year.

John Center has, it is reported, contracted to supply with artesian water the Southern Pacific rolling stock for $400 per month. About 500,000 gallons per day will be required. A brick cistern, 25 feet in diameter and 30 feet deep, has been built within a block of the railroad repair shops. A water tower with two tanks, holding 140,000 gallons, will be erected.

On the steamer City of Rio Janeiro, that came into port a few days ago from Panama, were six Chinese passengers. Five of these are merchants from Peru, with their wives and families, on their way to China. Two only wanted to land, and they were allowed to come ashore on furnishing sufficient evidence of their identity. The other one of them was a laborer, and presented a passport that allowed him to land.

Tuesday evening four cattle-drivers were riding in pairs along Railroad avenue, South San Francisco. It seems that to each party was suggested at the same moment the idea of a race; so they spurred their horses along, being unable to see any obstacle on account of the fog, which was very thick. Finally the two parties dashed into each other, the riders being thrown from their saddles and fearfully bruised, while two of their horses were killed outright and lay on the railroad bridge for some time, impeding travel.

PACIFIC COAST NEWS.

Willows has got a skating-rink.

The Calaveras Railroad is progressing.

Reno, Nev., is trying to get rid of its tramps.

Sleighing is reported fine at Eureka, Nevada.

Malarial fever is reported widespread in San Bernardino.

Orland has too small a school-house for its number of children.

The pipe for irrigating water at Ontario is now being laid down.

Money enough has been promised to make the mill enterprise a success at Willows.

Thirty thousand boxes of oranges will be the product of the orchards of the Santa Ana valley the present season.

While boring a well on Mrs. Willis' place, at Madrone, not long ago, a large vein of the very saltiest water was opened.

Saturday evening at Stockton two young men hired a boat at Fred Berryman's ark, in McCloud's Lake, to go hunting in the tules the following day. Since then they have not been heard from, and the boat cannot be found.

The largest gang-saw on the Pacific coast, and probably in the world, will soon be set up at Tacoma, W. T. It has a weight of twenty-five tons and a capacity of 100,000 feet of one-inch boards per day. The crank-shaft to the gang is of steel and eleven inches in diameter.

The *Journal* says: It is not saying too much when we affirm that Willows has grown more rapidly than any town in the interior of the State, and we can further say truthfully that there is no town or city in northern California that enjoys such robust health in a business point of view.

A miner at the Albion reduction works, Eureka, Nev., became so stimulated from inhaling carbonic acid gas, mixed with lead fumes, while repairing one of the tunnel fume escapes, that had he not been immediately secured he would have killed three men, standing near him, with a sledge hammer which he snatched in his mad fit.

The Miles City, M. T., *Journal* says: It is generally supposed the name of the "Banana Belt" was given to the country traversed by the Northern Pacific Railroad by Jay Cooke; but the fact is an English hunting party passed through this country twenty years ago, and when in a hut on the Yellowstone they found a hunter with a well-filled belt of ammunition. The hunter called it a banana belt. The story was told as a joke on their return to Jay Cooke, who has since then always believed that bananas grew in this country.

In Como District, Nevada, there is a mining claim which was located several months ago by the Ely sisters, aged 16 and 14, and named the Woodbine and Daffodil. These young ladies, who are personally very attractive, are at work developing their claim, in the value of which they have great confidence. Like all prospectors, they look upon their property as the coming rival of the Consolidated Virginia and California bonanza. They already have sunk a shaft eight feet deep and twelve by six feet in size, doing all the work with their own hands—and picks and shovels—in hard-picking ground.

"VALUABLE STATISTICAL INFORMATION."

[Dixon Tribune.]

The New Year's issue of the RECORD-UNION is an admirable number, and contains much valuable statistical information and an exhaustive review of the business interests of Sacramento.

Herr Most's efforts in Chicago are not successful, most of the former Socialists being now property-owners.

SIGNAL SERVICE AND CIVIL SERVICE.

EDS. RECORD-UNION: Noticing in your telegraphic columns a few days ago that a bill has been introduced in Congress to detach the weather branch of the Signal Service from the War Department to that of the Interior, permit me to say in behalf of myself and quite a number of the Signal Service men, that they would prefer it remaining where it now is. There has been much talk about civil service reform, or in other words, the retention of a man or public servant who performs his duties properly and satisfactorily to those to whom he is directly responsible for the performance of the duties allotted to him. I claim that the weather branch of the Signal Service is a genuine *civil service*. An applicant must pass both a mental and physical examination before he can become a member of the Signal Corps. He is not asked what his religion or his politics are; his recommendation as to his general character must be given by persons who are known at the Signal Service Department. The applicant's examination proving satisfactory to the examining officer, he is enlisted into the Signal Service branch of the United States army for five years. An apprenticeship must be served by the applicant at the Signal Service school of instruction near Washington, D. C., which requires from four to six months of constant study and practice. After his course of studies he must go before another Board of examining officers. If he passes the final examination he is then placed upon the list of waiting observers; if not, he is discharged from the service as being unfit for the performance of the duties required. During his term of waiting he must continue the course of meteorological studies. When a vacancy occurs on a station, the senior observer sergeant is ordered to take charge of said station, where he is generally retained for a long period of time, unless the exigencies of the service require his transfer to some other station, in which case he is relieved by a member of the signal corps, and leaves for his new station. An observer, if sick, has his medical bills payed; his own pay of course is not stopped during his sickness. If during his term of service he becomes an invalid and unfit for duty, he is discharged from the service on a surgeon's certificate of disability, and draws a small pension from the Government. If he dies he is buried by the United States authorities. If he leaves a wife and children she draws a certain amount as long as she remains single, and so much for each child until it arrives at a certain age. And last, but not least by any means, is the amount retained from each observer's monthly pay, which sum is not paid until the end of his five years, or when he is discharged. Therefore when a member of the Signal Corps leaves the service at the end of his term he receives several hundred dollars in cash. Furthermore, each member of the service has the privilege of returning into the service of the Signal Corps at the expiration of each term of service, in preference to an uninstructed man. It would be rather uncharitable to turn a man adrift after he had served the best part of his life in the continuous performance of his duties. The salary is not so great as to enable an observer to lay by much, if any, for a rainy day. If he does lay up anything, it is by the practice of the most rigid economy known, otherwise he leaves the service penniless. The constant changing of men from one station to another takes all the loose change, if any has been saved, making his bank account a thing of the past, while the little home comforts he may have gathered around him must be sacrificed for a mere song to the rapacious second-hand dealer. Upon his arrival at his new post of duty he must repeat the same thing, that is, buying at high prices the absolute necessaries for his own comfort. Another good thing in our service is that a man must not run in debt beyond what he can pay at any one time. If he does so he is discharged from the service. It looks to me as though the weather branch of the Signal Service comes nearer being a genuine Civil Service than any other clerical branch of the Government. Your obedient servant,

JAMES A. BARWICK,
Sergeant Signal Corps, U. S. A.

THAT BEEFSTEAK.

It requires courage in the light of knowledge, and almost daily experience, for one to assert that there is no reason why every beefsteak that is put on the table should not, so far as cooking is concerned, approach the ideal steak. "Subscriber" writes far from Louisiana to know how his cook may be instructed to give him a good beefsteak. A member of my own family has brought the cooking of this article of food to what we consider perfection. The first requirement is not so much a tender and juicy steak, though this is always to be devoutly desired, but a glowing bed of coals, a wire gridiron, a stout one, with good-sized wires, a double one, so that you can turn the steak without touching it. The steak should not be pounded, only in extreme cases, when it is cut too thick and is "stringy." Attempt nothing else when cooking the steak; have everything else ready for the table; the potatoes and vegetables all in their respective dishes in the warming-closet or oven, with the door left open a little way. From ten minutes onward is needed to cook the steak. The time must depend on the size, and you can easily tell by the color of the gravy which runs from the steak, when gently pressed with a knife, as to its condition. If the master of the house likes it "rare done," when there is a suspicion of brown gravy with the red, it will be safe to infer that it is done enough for him; if, as is generally the case, the next stage is the favorite one, remove the steak from the gridiron the instant the gravy is wholly of a light brown. Remove it to a hot platter, pepper and salt it to suit your taste, put on small lumps of butter, and then for two brief moments cover it with a hot plate, the two moments being sufficient to carry it to the table. One absolutely essential factor in the preparation of a good beefsteak is that it must be served at once. If "Subscriber" can impress it upon his cook that she is not to let the steak stand and steam while she is doing other things, he will be likely to receive his reward for so doing. If he can inspire his cook with a desire to excel, if he can induce her to believe that it is worth while to take pains, he will do an even more important work than to produce a delicious steak. A good cook must belong to one of two orders—she must be a Christian of great conscientiousness, or a person of abundant culture, whose sole delight is to do well and with thought whatever is undertaken.—[N. Y. Evening Post.

San Francisco Stock Sales.

SAN FRANCISCO, January 5th.

MORNING SESSION.

250 Ophir	1 80	310 Bullion	95c
50 Mexican	2 05	200 Exchequer	20c
200 Gould & C	1 80	20 Seg. Belcher	1 05
50 Best & B	3 90	205 Union	3 05
200 California	20c	700 Alta	15c
150 Savage	80@77c	380 Caledonia	5c
415 C. Virginia	5@35c	95 Occidental	1 25
410 Chollar	1 15	5 Scorpion	55c
250 Potosi	1 10	200 Indepen	70c
100 Hale & N	1 10@1 05	100 Eu. Tunnel	75c
200 Y. Jacket	1 05@1	610 Belle Isle	70c
50 Kennuck	1 5	65 N. Belle Isle	45c
190 S. Nevada	2 50	100 Silver King	10½@10
110 Utah	1 60		

AFTERNOON SESSION.

40 N. Belle	91	55 Hale & Nor	1 05
1250 Argenta	30c	10 B. & B	3 90
100 Navajo	82	50 Alpha	1
100 Indepen	70c	10 California	20c
1000 Belle Isle	75@80c	410 Con. Va	45c
300 Elko	15c	115 Mexican	3
150 Day	40c	10 Utah	1 50
100 Albion	2 85	300 Bullion	95c
400 Wales	20c	55 S. Nevada	2 55@2 50
60 Bodie	2@1 95	100 Ophir	1 80
200 M. White	2 95	110 Union	3 10
75 S. King	10	50 Belcher	70@75c
50 Pinal	1 80	300 Scorpion	55c
110 G. & C	1 80	200 Andes	60c
1020 Potosi	1 10@1 15	40 Y. Jacket	1 10@1 65

An engineer employed on some of the public works at Szegedin, Hungary, bought four cigars one day not long ago and began to smoke. He had finished one and laid another, half-smoked, upon his table, when suddenly it exploded, throwing him from his chair and wounding his cheek, ears, lips and left hand. Investigation showed that the cigar had contained a glass tube filled with nitro glycerine. The fact that tobacco is a monopoly, manufactured and sold only by dealers licensed by the Government, makes the mystery deeper. If the officer's cigar had been in his mouth when it exploded he would doubtless have been killed, a circumstance which does not add to the pleasure of smoking in Szegedin.

Preparations for the Railway Exposition in Chicago are going rapidly forward. There is every indication that it will be a success.

GLOSSARY OF CALIFORNIA NAMES.

Alameda—Grove of elms; hence any grove with walks.
Alcatraz—Pelican, or sea fish.
Almaden—Arabic. The mine.
Alvarado—The white road—a proper road.
Alviso—The view.
Amador—The lover.
Benicia—Corruption of Venicia.
Calaveras—The true skull.
Calistoga—Cup and gown.
Chico—Very small.
Colusa—An Indian name.
Contra Costa—Opposite coast.
Corral—Yard.
Coyote—A kind of wolf.
Del Norte—Of the north.
El Dorado—The golden.
Farallones—Rocky island in the sea.
Fresno—The ash tree.
Lobos—Wolves.
Loma Prieta—Dark mountain.
Los Angeles—The angels.
Los Gatos—The cats.
Marin—A chief of the Tomales Indians. Of the sea.
Mariposa—The butterfly.
Merced—Mercy.
Modoc—Strange or hostile Indians.
Monte Diablo—Devil mountain.
Monterey—The king's mountain.
Nevada—Snowy.
Pah Utes—Utes that live near water (Indians).
Pajora—The bird.
Pescadero—The fish.
Placer—Gold diggings.
Plumas—The feather.
Potrero—Pasture grounds.
Presidio—Garrison, fortress.
Rincon—Place where two corners meet
Rio Vista—River view.
Sacramento—Sacred mind.
Saline—Place of salt.
San Andreas—St. Andrew.
San Buenaventura—St. Good Venture.
San Diego—St. James.
San Francisco—St. Francis.
San Joaquin—St. Joachim.
San Jose—St. Joseph.
San Lorenzo—St. Lawrence.
San Luis Obispo—St. Louis, the bishop.
San Mateo—St. Mathew.
San Pablo—St. Paul.
San Pedro—St. Peter.
San Rafael—St. Raphael.
Santa Clara—St. Clara.
Santa Cruz—Holy Cross.
Saratoga—Healing waters in a rock.
Saucelito—Light willow.
Shasta—Stone house, or cave.
Sierra—Saw, or mountain chain.
Solano—The potato.
Sonoma—Valley of the moon.
Sonora—Harmonious sound.
Tahoe—The big or deep water. Some say that it means grasshopper.
Tamalpais—Tomales eaters.
Temescal—Sweat house.
The Dalles—Stone spout for water.
Tomales—A tribe of Indians. A kind of food.
Tulare—The tule, or rush.
Tule—The rush, or juncas plant.
Utah—Mountain dwellers.
Vacaville—Cow town.
Vara—A measure about 33 1-3 inches.
Vallejo—Big valley.
Walla Walla—Away down.
Yolo—Region of rushes or tules.
Yosemite—Large grizzly bear.
Yreka—Cave mountain. Ieka is the proper word.

HANDWRITING OF FAMOUS MEN.

Sometimes half-a-dozen engravers are engaged in rendering an artist's drawing of a single subject, which, when finished, presents to the unpractised eye one uniform style. Nevertheless, a practised eye can discover where each individual engraver's work leaves off and where that of every one of the rest begins. In handwriting, as in other arts and in literature, "the style is the man." For all that, the evidence of handwriting, as of style generally, is not to be relied on when men's lives and liberty are at stake. Still less can character be judged from handwriting. Brave men may perpetrate a timid scrawl, generous and high-minded men may write a mean hand, and cowards produce a bold and flowing script. Porson, the great Greek scholar, among the untidiest of students, wrote neatly and elegantly. Cromwell's writing, though large, is shaky. Shakespeare's signature is not particularly clear. Napoleon Bonaparte wrote illegibly, it is said purposely, to hide his bad spelling. The handwriting of the tortuous-minded Charles I. is as clear and striking as that of Thomas Carlyle is crabbed and indistinct. On the other hand Queen Elizabeth's writing is magnificent. Edgar Allen Poe wrote beautifully, and with scarcely an erasure; whereas the manuscripts of Charles Dickens, to be seen in the Forster collection at South Kensington, are rugged and full of alterations and emendations. Many men write large or small, in characters boldly or weakly formed, according to their humor of the moment. Again, handwriting depends for its style on the school in which it is taught and the purpose to which it is applied. The manuscript of Byron, of Thomas Campbell, and of Thackeray, may be called the literary hand. It is uniform in color, small, and fairly legible, but without a superabundant curve or flourish. The great mass of "copy" which passes through the hands of a modern printer is more or less of the same character. A commercial hand, as it is called, is something quite different. Given an envelope addressed by a city clerk, and one from the hand of a University professor, and it is well-nigh certain that the former will be more distinguished for elegance and clearness than the latter. Again, the writing of the rustic and uncultured class is so much alike as to defy differentiation. All this goes to prove that the evidence of experts must be taken with the proverbial grain of salt. [London Telegraph.

WORK YET TO BE DONE.

One of our most intelligent and experienced sanitary experts has the following sensible say in a private letter—so sensible and valuable that we copy entire: Despite all the agitation of late years, it is amazing how much yet remains to be done in the line of sanitary work. When after four years spent in recommending sanitary reform I began the practical work of remedying bad drainage and plumbing, I had to confess astonishment at the small results that have been accomplished in the way of improvement. The sewer-gas scare, dating from before 1876; the two outbreaks of yellow fever at the South; the diffusion of official health documents; the publication of sanitary periodicals and books, with the wide dissemination of information by the press and on the lecture platform—all seem as but a drop in the bucket, in view of what yet remains to be done. We have scotched the snake, not killed it, and the ground has been barely scratched for the seed of reform. We need to start a sanitary boom, and ought to make household hygiene as popular and attractive as household decoration. People should be impelled to search out antique nuisances and the sources of old-fashioned contagion with as much ardor as they now track "grandfathers' clocks" and carved oaken side-boards. We already see one good result of the art decoration fever, in the taste for bare floors and hard-finished walls. A sanguine man may have faith that in time a healthy house will be as much admired as an artistic one, and that even bric-a-bric may pale in glory before perfect plumbing and ventilation. The character of our people is such, and the condition of our climate so different, that we cannot always follow foreign experience in sanitary matters. Hence it is vitally important to study local conditions and requirements, and at least take the first step toward practical success by employing only men of competency in supervising sanitary work.—[The American Plumber.

"VERY ENTERTAINING."

[Independent Calistogian.]

The New Year's number of the SACRAMENTO DAILY RECORD-UNION contained sixteen pages, and undoubtedly proved very entertaining to its numerous readers.

COMMERCIAL.

San Francisco Produce Market.

SAN FRANCISCO, January 5th—1 P. M.

FLOUR—Millers report an active trade. Best City Extra, $5 60@5 75; Superfine, $5@5 25; interior Extra, $4 75@5 25. Interior Superfine, $3 75@4 ₱ bbl.

WHEAT—The market is strong at $1 77½ for standard No. 1 grade, and all parcels afloat or on the seawall can be promptly placed at this figure. Lower grades are still in disfavor. Although the official statements of the stock in the State on the 1st of January will not be published for some days, it is generally conceded that the amount in first hands is anything but large, and operators incline to the belief that wheat will be good property for the next few months. On call at the Produce Exchange there was a fair speculative feeling, with good record of sales, embracing 100 tons No. 1 White, January, $1 76¾; 50 do, buyer February, $1 8¼; 500 do, $1 83; 100 do, March, $1 83 ₱ ctl. The situation at the close is represented by the following table:

No. 1 White—	Bid.	Asked.
Spot	$1 75½	$1 78
January	....	1 77½
Buyer January	1 78½	1 80
Buyer February	1 83	1 83½
March	1 83	1 83½
Buyer March	1 84½	1 85½

BARLEY—Although there is an apparent indisposition to do any large amount of business, the transactions on call this morning at the Produce Exchange were comparatively liberal. Prices keep fairly steady, and operators do not anticipate any marked fluctuations in values until the quantity in the several warehouses in the State is approximately ascertained. The feature of to day was the offering on call by a prominent dealer to sell 100 tons No. 1 Feed in July at $1 18. This brought out a bid of 90c, which was quickly raised to $1 10, and as no better rate could be obtained the parcel was allowed to go at this figure. Other sales included 100 tons No. 1 Feed, February, $1 23; 300 do, $1 23½; 400 do, March, $1 25; 200 do, April, $1 25½; 100 do, May, $1 25½; 100 do, buyer May, $1 26½; 100 do, 100 do, $1 26½ ₱ ctl. Brewing is quotable at $1 30@1 40, and spot Feed at $1 17@1 25 ₱ ctl. Closing bids were as follows:

No. 1 Feed—	Bid.	Asked
February	1 23	1 23½
March	1 25	1 25½
April	1 25½	....
May	1 25	1 25½
Seller the season	1 18	1 22
Buyer the season	1 29½	1 29½
No. 2 Feed—		
Spot	1 16½	1 18
January	1 15½	....
February	1 16	1 22

OATS—Stocks are too well concentrated to admit of any immediate lowering of values. On call this morning $1 72½ was bid for January delivery of No. 1, but nobody would fill below $1 80. We quote: Fair Feed, $1 70@1 75; good, $1 75@1 80; choice, $1 85@1 90; Eastern, $1 65 ₱ ctl.

RYE—The market is somewhat profusely supplied at the moment, and stocks do not go off as freely as holders would desire. Quotable at $1 65@1 75 ₱ ctl for fair to good quality.

CORN—The inquiry is slightly improving, and values are a shade steadier. Yellow is quotable at $1 47½@1 50. The range for White is $1 67½@1 70 ₱ ctl.

BUCKWHEAT—$2 25@2 50 ₱ ctl.

HAY—Alfalfa, $13@14 50; Wheat, $15@17; Wild Oat, $14 50@16 50; Mixed, $11@13 ₱ ton.

HOPS—The market is decidedly firmer, consequent on a better demand from the East. Sales have been made within the week at 85@90c, and good lots are now generally held at 95c@$1 ₱ lb, with favorable prospects of getting these figures in a short time, as advices from New York and London report both markets as being quite strong and stocks light.

SEEDS—In fair supply. Mustard, $3 @ 3 25 for Brown and $3@3 10 for Yellow; Canary, 5½@6½c; Hemp, 5@5½c; Rape, 2c; Timothy, 10@12c for imported; Alfalfa, 11½@12c; Flax, $3@3 25 ₱ ctl.

ONIONS—Buyers for poor lots cannot be found. A good article sells at a range of 50@60c ₱ ctl.

BEANS—The market has a steadier tone, and holders are asking higher rates for some kinds. Bayos, $4@4 50; Butter, $3@3 15 for small, $3 20@3 30 for large; Lima, $3 75@4; Pea, $3 25@3 37½; Pink, $3 25@3 50; Red, $3 25@3 50; small White, $3 25@3 37½; large White, $2 75@3 ₱ ctl.

VEGETABLES—Demand fair and prices steady. Mushrooms, 10@15c ₱ lb; Marrowfat Squash, $5@10 ₱ ton; Carrots, 30@50; Turnips, 75c@$1; Cauliflower, 75c@$1 ₱ doz; Cabbage, 75c@$1 ₱ doz; Garlic, 3½c ₱ lb; Celery, 50c ₱ dozen; Dried Okra, 15@20c ₱ lb; Dry Peppers, 12½@15c ₱ lb.

FRUIT—A I reports so far agree in the statement that the California Orange crop this season will be quite large. Receipts to date have mostly been unripe. Good Apples are in constant demand, while poor lots are as unsalable as ever. Limes are not plentiful. We quote as follows: Apples, 30@50c common and 75c@$1 25 for good; Lemons, $7@8 ₱ box for Sicily, and $5@6 for Malaga; California Lemons, $2 50@3 ₱ box; Limes, $7@9 ₱ box for Mexican; Tamarinds, 12@13c ₱ lb; Bananas, $1 50@3 ₱ bunch; Mexican Oranges, $20@25 ₱ thousand; California do, $2 50@4 50 ₱ box; Pineapples, $8@9 ₱ doz. New crop Western Cranberries are offering at $15@17 ₱ bbl.

HONEY—Comb, 12@20c; extracted, 7@10c ₱ lb.

BUTTER—Dealers report abundant supplies, with prices still in favor of buyers. Fancy, 28c; choice, 26@27c; fair to good, 23@25c; inferior lots from country stores, 17@22c; firkin, 25@26c for good to choice, and 20@23c for ordinary; pickled roll, 22@24c; Eastern, 18@22c ₱ lb.

CHEESE—A fancy consignment occasionally sells in a retail way at a shade above our figures. California, 14@15c for choice; 11@13c for fair to good; do, factory, in boxes, 15@16c; Eastern, 16@17c ₱ lb.

EGGS—It would have to be an extra choice article that would bring our top rate to-day. Quotable at 34@35c ₱ dozen.

POULTRY—Dressed Turkeys move off slowly. Chickens are scarce and wanted at full prices. Live Turkeys, gobblers, 14@15c; do Hens, 14@15c; dressed do, 14@16c ₱ lb; Roosters, $6@6 50 for old, and $7@8 50 for young; Hens, $7@8 50; Broilers, $5@6, according to size; Ducks, $9@11 ₱ dozen; Geese, $2@2 50 ₱ pair.

GAME—The demand is about equal to the supply, and values keep steady. Quail, $1@$1 25 ₱ dozen; Mallard Ducks, $3 50@4; Canvasback do, $3 50@4; Grey Geese, $2@3; White Geese, $1 25@1 75; Honkers, $4@4 50; Brandt, $1 23@1 50; Sprigs, $2@2 25; Teal, $1; Widgeon, $1 25@1 50; Snipe, $2@2 50 for English and 50@75c for common; Hare, $1 75@2 25; Rabbits, $1 25@1 75 ₱ dozen.

WOOL—The market for the past week has been a dull one, with no material change in any of our quotations. Most lines of choice Fall Wools have been taken by the scouring companies and Eastern shippers. There is yet, however, a good stock of medium grades and a very large stock of defective and low grades still on hand. The stock on the 1st of January approximated 10,000,000 lbs of all classes, being about one-fourth Oregon, one-fourth spring clip of the poorer grades, and the remainder fall. We quote fall:

San Joaquin and coast	8@12c
San Joaquin and coast Lamb, good	11@12
Northern fall, free	15@20
Northern fall, defective	11@15
Northern fall, Lamb	15@20
Free Mountain	11@15
Eastern Oregon	18@23
Valley Oregon	22@26
We quote spring:	
California, ₱ lb	14@20

Boston Wool Market.

BOSTON, January 4th.

WOOL—Is active, and a better feeling prevails. Sales are noted of X Ohio at 40c, XX at 41@42c, XX and above and XXX 42c. In combing and delaine fleeces, sales have been made at 42@47c for fine delaines and fine combings. Michigan fleeces have been in demand and have been selling at 37@38c for X. Unwashed wools are firm, and have been selling at 19@23c, low and coarse 23@32c, fine and medium California 31c. Spring pulled wools are selling at 45@47c for choice supers, and 35@40c for common and good. Foreign wool is quiet, and desirable wools are scarce. The sales of wool amount to 28,500 lbs.

Eastern and Foreign Markets.

NEW YORK, January 5th.

BREADSTUFFS—Flour is quiet and Wheat is steady, latter at $1 05@1 12 ₱ bushel.

WOOL—California is steady at 12@14c for fall burry, and 16@20c for clean fall; spring burry, 15@20c; clean spring, 24@31c; pulled, 18@40c.

HIDES—California are quiet at 23½@24c.

LIVERPOOL, January 5th.

WHEAT—California spot lots are dull at 8s 11d to 9s 2d. Cargo lots, 45s for just shipped, 45s for nearly due and 45s 6d for off coast.

Sacramento Produce Market—Wholesale.

(Corrected daily for the RECORD-UNION.)

SACRAMENTO, January 5th.

FRUIT—Lemons, Sicily, $7 50@8 50; Oranges—Mexican, $3@3 25 ₱ 100; Tahiti, $3; California, 3 25@3 50 ₱ 100; Limes, $1@1 25 ₱ 100; Bananas, $3 50@4 ₱ bunch; Pineapples, $6@9 ₱ dozen; Cocoanuts, $7 50@8 ₱ 100; Apples, 90c@$1 25 ₱ box; Cranberries, $18@19 ₱ bbl.

PIE FRUITS—Absorted, 2½-lb cans, ₱ doz, $2; assorted, gallon cans, $5; Peaches, 2½-lb cans, $2; Portland Blueberries, 2-lb cans, $2; Whortleberries, $1 75.

DRIED FRUITS—Apples, sliced, 6@7c ₱ lb; do quartered, 5@6c; pears, peeled, 7@8c; do, unpeeled, 4@5c; Plums, pitted, 11@12c; Peaches, 7@8c; do, peeled 19@20c; Prunes, German and French, 12@13c; Blackberries, 16@17c; Figs, California, 7@8c ₱ lb.

TABLE FRUITS—Assorted, 2½-lb cans, ₱ doz, $2 75; Peaches, $2 85@3; Bartlett Pears, $2 85; Plums, $2 85; Blackberries, $3; Gooseberries, $3 25; Strawberries, $3 25; Apricots, $2 85; Muscat Grapes, $2 75; Red Currants, $3 25; Cherries, $3 25.

VEGETABLES—Sweet Potatoes, 2@3c ₱ lb; Potatoes, 75c@$1 50; Salt Lake, $1 50@1 75 ₱ cwt; Onions, $1 10@1 20 ₱ cwt; Cauliflower, 75c@$1; Cabbage, 90c@$1 ₱ cwt; Carrots, 60c@75c ₱ cwt; Turnips, 75c@$1 ₱ 100; bunch vegetables, 12½c ₱ doz; Parsnips, 1c; Beets, 1c; Celery, 75c ₱ dozen; Horse Radish, 8@10c ₱ lb; Artichokes, 75c ₱ dozen; Jerusalem Artichokes, 5@6c ₱ lb.

BREADSTUFFS—Flour, $5 50 ₱ bbl; Oatmeal, $5 ₱ 100 lbs; Cornmeal, yellow, $2 25@2 38; white, $2 50; Cracked Wheat, $2 75@3.

POULTRY—Live Turkeys, 15@16c ₱ lb; dressed, 17@18c; full grown Chickens, $6 50 ₱ dozen; young Roosters, $4 50@5 50 ₱ doz; Broilers, $3@4; tame Ducks, $6 50@7; Geese, $1 50@2 ₱ pair; Eggs, choice lots, 35@37c ₱ dozen.

GAME—Quail, $1 25@1 50 ₱ dozen; Mallard Ducks, $3 ₱ dozen; Canvasbacks, $3 ₱ dozen; Sprigs, $1 5; Teal, $1 25; Hare, $1 75@2; Rabbits, $1@1 50; Doves, 50@75c ₱ dozen.

DAIRY PRODUCTS—Butter, choice, 28@30c ₱ lb; mixed lots, in rolls, 26@28c ₱ lb; Cheese, California, from 14@15c; Western, flats, 10@15c; Marin's Cream, 19@