

The Record-Union is the only paper on the coast, outside of San Francisco, that receives the full Associated Press dispatches from all parts of the world. Outside of San Francisco it has no competitor, in point of circulation, in its home and general circulation throughout the coast.

NEWS OF THE MORNING.

FASTER—The scheme to put a line of balloons across the continent has been again revived. It is reported that Thomas Joseph, a Texas millionaire, has offered to finance the project. The cost is estimated at \$2,000,000. C. P. Huntington has spent \$15,000 for two balloons. The project is being revived because of the success of the late Colonel Fred. Grant's expedition. The project is being revived because of the success of the late Colonel Fred. Grant's expedition.

FOREIGN—German soldiers are congregating about Baden in great numbers. All the forts along the Belgian frontier have been strengthened and supplied with new guns. France is exercising over Belgium a military supervision which will be wiped out of existence as a nation. Emperor William is said to be in a very weak condition. The Eastern question is being discussed by the powers. The Pope desires peace above all things.

A REMARKABLE REPORT.

A remarkable document was submitted on Saturday by the San Francisco Bar Association to the Superior Judges in that city, and by them approved, and radical methods adopted to relieve the "gorging" of criminal trials in that city. In brief, it was a frank admission by the bar of the fact that the procedure and practice in criminal cases in that city have become outrageous for delay. The Association, by its committee, finds that there is unreasonable and shameful delay in bringing criminals to trial in San Francisco, and that the reason for it is threefold. First, because of the host of technical advantages afforded the criminal by our laws in their mistaken mercy; second, the reprehensible practice that has grown up of granting continuances. This has gone to the extent of recognized custom, warranting a continuance when the prisoner is first called to trial, simply because it is the first call, and on the evil of this miserable practice the committee is especially severe; third, the outrageous license given to criminal lawyers in the examination of jurors upon the question of qualification. Here we have a staid and old-fashioned profession of lawyers, engaged in a noble and necessary work, and yet they are guilty of such a gross and shameful practice.

But, if not the chief cause of delay, considered in their wider sense, and of the intricate and costly procedure which our statute provides, beginning with the Grand Jury and continuing through the trial, the jury and the examination of jurors, upon the question of qualification, the committee has no objection to the practice, and every opinion they entertain, with qualifications, is in favor of the practice. The committee has no objection to the practice, and every opinion they entertain, with qualifications, is in favor of the practice.

The proposed reduction of the salary of the Assistant Treasurer of the United States on this coast appears to be without sufficient reason. The office is one of exceeding great responsibility; it demands a very heavy bond, and the duties are the reverse of light. The Assistant Treasurer is now paid \$4,500, and it is proposed to cut him down to \$4,000. The office ranks next in importance to that of the Chief of the Sub-Treasury in New York, it demands ability of as high an order as at New York. The salary here has been cut from \$6,000 to \$4,500, and to reduce it now \$500 more is without warrant. We cannot believe that it will be done, for there does not appear to be any reason advanced for the small economy. It is a small matter to the Government of the United States, but it cuts a very large figure in the pay of a man of the place and capable of fortifying the responsibility assumed, by the exceedingly heavy bond required, and who can be trusted to administer funds represented by millions of dollars in the vaults.

The first blow that broke the strength of the New York strikes, was the issuance of an injunction by a competent Court, at the suit of an officer of the "Old Dominion" company, enjoining the strikers from molesting or annoying those who took their places. At the same time the company sent out the strikers organizations for damages. This staggered the leaders, and the body behind them was not long in discovering that the laws of this land still protect people in their right to administer their own property in their own way. From that hour the strike was a failure.

We are told by a local contemporary that Howells, the accomplished, literary, scholarly, and one of the foremost writers of the day, notably so in fiction dealing with society of the "Gilded Age" and the "Fog" of New York, is a man of remarkable writing, namely, novels, which have resulted in such a long line of decisions that it is rather the exception now if in any especially extended trial a lower Court is able to steer as to avoid exceptions being taken, which will "stick" in the Supreme Court.

Not long ago a gentleman now upon the Supreme bench pointed out that the practice of sending cases back for retrial is the cause of much of the delay on both sides, criminal and civil, and in an admirable monograph in a popular magazine he pointed out a remedy for the ill. Probably the law is here, as in the other case, at fault and needs shearing and trimming, to the end that judgments may be modified without re-trials of necessity, and yet without any right being stripped from any man. Of course, modification would be less possible and more difficult in criminal

PACIFIC COAST.

TERRIFIC SNOWSTORM IN THE SIERRA NEVADA.

Another Week in the Golden Gate—Home-Sneakers En Route to the Coast—The Rain.

SATURDAY'S STORM.

RAIN EVERYWHERE, AND FARMERS IN GOOD SPIRIT
GONZALES, February 12th.—It commenced raining about 3 o'clock this morning, and continued to fall until 7 o'clock. The total rainfall amounts to 1.70 inches for the month, and 3.02 inches for the season. It is raining again at 5 o'clock.

PASO DE ROBLES, February 12th.—The rainfall to date this morning is 5.98 inches for the season. If indications are favoring anything, we are in for a heavy storm tonight, and ground is soaked full. SANTA ANA, February 12th.—The rain fell here for this storm 17.77 inches, making a total for the season of 13.58. The ground is good, and everything is growing finely.

MERED, February 12th.—A heavy shower of rain, accompanied by hail, lightning, and wind, began to-day, commencing at 4 P. M., and continuing twenty minutes. The weather promises to continue stormy. Snowfalling is a popular amusement in this country, and the population utilizing the hail that lies in a mushy state upon the sidewalks, sheds and roofs of houses.

GILROY, February 12th.—It is raining heavily. There was a severe gale last night. The creeks, lakes and rivers are very full and in some places overflowing. The farmers expect an excellent season.

TRUCKEE, February 12th.—A heavy snow storm has been blowing from the north, and the weather prophets prognosticate a heavy fall of the beautiful. The ice crop is all harvested, and it is estimated that some 75,000 tons are in the ice-houses.

PRINCETON, February 12th.—Two inches of rain has fallen during the twenty-four hours ending at 11 o'clock this morning. It is now clear. The river is rising fast and high water is expected.

UKIAH, February 12th.—There has been a heavy rain for the last twenty-four hours. The rainfall to date amounts to 5.50 inches.

LIVERMORE, February 12th.—Fifty hundredths of an inch of rain has fallen during the last twenty-four hours. The total for the month is 3.82 inches, and for the season, 7.63 inches. It is still raining, and the creeks are running high.

SANTA BARBARA, February 12th.—It began raining hard at 11 o'clock this morning, and has been pouring down since. About two inches have fallen, making the total for the season 9.9 inches.

RIO VISTA, February 12th.—For the twenty-four hours ending now there was 2.2 inches of rain, making a total for the month of 10.2 inches, and for the season 16.2 inches.

HUNTER, February 12th.—It began raining at 2 o'clock this morning, and the indications to-night point to a continuance of the rain. The rainfall so far this season measures 5 inches.

LOS ANGELES, February 12th.—There was a heavy rain last night, but no rain has fallen to-day. The river has risen sixteen feet.

SAN DIEGO, February 12th.—Rain is not falling (midnight), and the chances are that there will be a good downpour.

BAKERSFIELD, February 12th.—A strong wind has prevailed all day. It is raining heavily now 3 P. M.

THE SAN JOAQUIN RANCH SALE.

SANTA ANA, February 12th.—A splendidly well-attended sale of real estate and ranches was held at the residence of Mr. J. H. Barker, of San Francisco, on Saturday last. The sale was conducted by Messrs. Crocker and Woolworth, of San Francisco, and was one of the most successful of the kind ever held in this city. The property offered for sale included some of the finest ranches in the State, and attracted a large number of buyers. The sale was held in the afternoon, and was attended by a large number of gentlemen. The property was sold at a high price, and the sale was a great success.

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THE ENCAMPMENT.
Grand Army Veterans Preparing for a "Time."
SANTA ANA, February 12th.—A meeting of delegates and alternates to the Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic at Los Angeles was held this afternoon. Commander Dibble, of the local command, presided. The meeting was held in the afternoon, and was attended by a large number of gentlemen. The property was sold at a high price, and the sale was a great success.

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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE.

THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE. TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION—FORTY-FIRST DAY. ASSEMBLY.

COMMITTEE REPORTS.
State Prison—In favor of the passage of A. B. 412, appropriating \$100,000 for the purchase of additional juve machinery and the erection of a new building for the State Prison at San Quentin.

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BOOMING EL DORADO.

What Her Supervisors Are Doing—Florida Looking Towards Her Possibilities. The recent action of the Board of Supervisors of this county in lending a helping hand to the immigration movement was a step in the right direction, and one that has been followed by similar Boards of adjoining counties. The Supervisors of El Dorado county at their last session passed a resolution giving W. H. H. Fellows \$1,000 for 4,000 copies of a pamphlet which he has compiled, which shows in detail the various advantages of this wonderful section, and also the amounts and locations of land available. The proposition of Mr. Fellows is to print 4,000 copies of this pamphlet, and to distribute them by himself, and 4,000 by the Board of Supervisors. The book will be printed in this city, and ready for distribution by the 15th of next month. This is a step forward by El Dorado county, and cannot fail to bring about a healthy immigration, renewed prosperity and permanent wealth. The greater the number of settlers the more land under cultivation, the development of natural resources that to-day are stumbling, is one of our foothold counties need to make them take a front rank with the most prosperous sections of the State. El Dorado has been slow to act, and it was not until the immigration began knocking at their doors and trying out their country, that they awoke to a realization of the value of their thousands of uncultivated acres, and the necessity of the step they now have taken. They have fertile soil, an equable and healthful climate, and the best of educational facilities, while their irrigation systems and water supply is unequalled in the State.

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Barbed Wire vs. Board Fences.

Barbed Wire vs. Board Fences. The question of fencing is one of great importance, to the poor man at least. Let us consider for a moment the difference in the cost of constructing a good barbed-wire fence and one wholly of boards. At the lumber-yards of this vicinity I pay \$25 for 100 feet of fence boards, and from 15 to 20 cents a piece for good posts. A six-board fence, 16 feet long, contains 48 feet of lumber, which at 2 cents per foot costs 96 cents; two posts at 15 cents each cost 30 cents; total for lumber about \$1.26 per 16 feet.

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