

DAILY RECORD-UNION

TUESDAY, MAY 20, 1890.

ISSUED BY THE SACRAMENTO PUBLISHING COMPANY.

Office, Third Street, between J and K.

THE DAILY RECORD-UNION, Published six days in each week, with Double Sixes on Saturdays, and

THE SUNDAY UNION, Published every Sunday morning, making a splendid SEVEN-DAY paper.

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Terms for both one year and six months, \$2.00. The WEEKLY UNION alone, \$1.00. The SUNDAY UNION alone, per month, 10c.

All these publications are sent either by Mail or Express to agents, single subscribers, with charges prepaid. All Postmaster's orders are accepted. The Advertising Mediums on the Pacific coast.

Entered at the Postoffice at Sacramento as second-class matter.

The RECORD-UNION, SUNDAY UNION and WEEKLY UNION are the only papers on the Coast, outside of San Francisco, that receive the full Associated Press dispatches from all parts of the world.

Outside of San Francisco, they have no competitors either in influence or home and general circulation throughout the State.

San Francisco Agencies.

This paper is for sale at the following places: P. Fisher, 202 1/2 Merchants' Exchange, California street, Wholesale Agent for San Francisco; the principal News Dealers and Retailers at the Market Street Ferry.

Also, for sale on all Trains leaving and coming into Sacramento.

Weather Indications for To-day, California, Washington and Oregon—Warm or fair weather; northerly winds.

"POSTAL INCOMPETENCY."

On the 12th of April the RECORD-UNION contained an editorial article under the title above quoted, in which it charged that letters mailed in San Francisco for the early evening trains for this city were frequently held in the San Francisco office for a later train, much to the inconvenience of correspondents, and often with the effect of inflicting loss upon business men of this city, and that the long-standing annoyance demanded prominence of complaint. Direct instances were given, and the specific charges were sustained by evidence that admitted of no denial. We showed beyond question that there is not the certainty that should obtain that a letter posted in San Francisco at 3 P. M. or earlier will reach this city by the first afternoon mail train, that leaves the metropolis at 3:30, or the next, which leaves at 5, and that letters are often held until the next overland train, which reaches here at 11 P. M.

This it was shown proved that the midnight mail is an inconvenience, indeed an absolute hindrance to business men, and it was advised that it be abandoned, in order to compel the San Francisco office to make up its mail for the early train, and thus enable Sacramento to receive their mail matter early enough in the evening to respond, if necessary, the same night, or to send on communications related to the same by the east-bound mail at midnight.

Our article called the attention of the San Francisco postal officials to the matter, but none was given, and we abandoned hope of any remedy being applied through such agencies. But the matter did not sleep; the Philadelphia Bureau of Press Clippings noted the complaint, and forwarded a copy of the RECORD-UNION editorial to the Postal Department at Washington. Documents now in our possession, through the courtesy and official duty of Postmaster Stephens of this city enable us to continue the history of the affair, which is of special importance to this community, because of the hope that the agitation will serve to bring about the long-needed reform, and without which important business interests are hindered, and possibly life itself imperiled. It will be noted that the inefficiency originally charged is emphasized by the correspondence we quote, as it is disclosed that by a species of red-tape ingenuity the protest against poor service was made to encounter the risk of being side-tracked.

April 25th, from Washington, D. C. General Superintendent of the Railway Mail Service, forwarded the RECORD-UNION article to Jas. L. Wilder, Superintendent Eighth Division of the Railway Mail Service at San Francisco for his action.

April 30th Mr. Wilder sent the article and the reference tag referred to, to another official with this indorsement:

Referred to J. F. Ford, Esq., Superintendent of Mails, for such remarks as he may desire to make. Please return papers.

Jas. L. Wilder, Superintendent.

No inquiry was made by Mr. Wilder at the RECORD-UNION office or at the Sacramento Postoffice, where he could have ascertained the facts within twenty-four hours, and have examined the proofs.

May 3d Mr. Ford returned the documents with this attached note:

Respectfully returned to Superintendent R. M. S., Eighth Division, for his information. For some time past I have been preparing the Sacramento mail has been closed out, and an affirmative that it has all been promptly dispatched. If the Sacramento RECORD-UNION will furnish us with the copy of time that permit before the next rainy season sets in.

It is, therefore, so momentous a matter, so far as money is concerned, as the very few who oppose the issue of the bonds assume. Up to a very recent period Sacramento had a street intersection fund, and street improvement was aided by the city at large paying the cost of intersection work. All that the present proposition amounts to is a return to that system, which can be done only in the manner proposed, because of the general street law of the State.

The money to be realized upon the bonds is all to be expended at home, and under the new and economic system of street-paving will produce greater results, dollar for dollar than any previous expenditure. It is as just as that system, which at large shall bear a fair proportion of general street improvement, as to call upon it to light, sprinkle, sweep and repair the streets of the city.

Because some of the people under the State law that intervened and destroyed our intersection fund, have been compelled to pay for intersection work on the basis of front-foot assessments, is not a good reason for continuing the error. To do so will be to cripple improvement, which, if carried out as fully as is intended, will not only value the desirableness of residence, and the comforts of life in Sacramento.

It is not the purpose, however, to now enter into all the phases of strong argument why the proposed issue should be made. There is time enough for that, and a short and spirited campaign is desirable, but the people should think upon the subject, and when the announcement of the date of the election is made the friends of the proposition will be prepared to meet any possible objections or doubts that may be raised.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

The Napa Journal appeared as a daily on the 16th instant. It is typographically handsome, democratic in politics, and its proprietor, J. E. Walden, proposes to make it the leading paper of the county.

The Eureka Citizen has entered upon its thirty-eighth volume. It is one of the brightest newspapers in the northern part of the State.

PARIS' soap is the purest and best soap ever made.

THE UNNECESSARY DELAY OCCASIONED BY SENDING THE DOCUMENTS BACK ACROSS THE CONTINENT WITHOUT INVESTIGATION OF THE CHARGES THAT THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT HAD VOLUNTARILY MADE ITS OWN. MR. WILDER ADDRESSED POSTMASTER STEPHENS AT SACRAMENTO AS FOLLOWS:

RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE. OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT EIGHTH DIVISION, SACRAMENTO, CALIF., MAY 19, 1890.

Respectfully referred to Postmaster, Sacramento, California, your letter of the 12th inst. calling upon the RECORD-UNION people, and ask them to furnish the evidence concerning delays as complained of. Returns those delays with such remarks as you may wish to make.

JAMES L. WILDER, Superintendent.

Postmaster Stephens thereupon placed all the documents before the Managing Editor of this paper, and the following reply was attached to them and the whole returned to him to be forwarded to Mr. Wilder:

SACRAMENTO, MAY 19, 1890.

R. D. Stephens, P. M., in mail train from San Francisco, the editorial in the RECORD-UNION of April 12, which is attached to correspondence, stated the facts without exaggeration. I will state the facts without exaggeration. I will state the facts without exaggeration.

On Saturday a special meeting of the union was called in San Francisco, at which President P. E. Platt tendered his resignation as President and Director, and Eugene J. Gregory also resigned as one of the Executive Committee of three and as a Director.

This action on the part of these gentlemen means that neither the firm of the W. F. Strong Company or Gregory Bros. Co., fruit shippers, will hereafter ship any of their fruit through the California Fruit Union. As these two houses have in the past been the heaviest shippers and supporters of the union, their withdrawal has attracted considerable attention.

A RECORD-UNION reporter called on both gentlemen yesterday in regard to the matter.

MR. PLATT'S REASONS.

Mr. Platt, upon being seen, said: "Yes, I have resigned from the Fruit Union, and as President and Director, and our house will hereafter ship independently of that concern. For nearly three years we have worked with the Fruit Union, and we have been treated in a most unjust and unbusinesslike manner. The original intention and expectation of the Fruit Union was that it would control, centralize and protect from unjust and unbusinesslike competition, and consequent slaughtering of prices, the fruit crop of California. This much desired result has by no means been attained and I am satisfied that it will never be possible, even if it were desirable, that the produce should be controlled by any concern, no matter how powerful it might be.

"California fruit has become a staple article of the East, and is being sought for by responsible dealers all over the country. What we want is that Eastern dealers should be able to get the fruit over the country and introduce it into as many different channels as possible. We cannot get this general result if dealers are obliged to pay tribute to some particular concern, such as the Fruit Union or any other combination that might seek to control and regulate the distribution.

"Another reason that we had for withdrawing from the union is that it was expensive and could do us no particular good. The machinery of the union costs a great deal of money to run. There are a great many conflicting interests, and it becomes very unwise and could not be regulated so as to meet the requirements of our rapidly increasing trade. We have no personal grievance against Mr. Buck, the manager of the union, and do not wish the union to be broken up. We simply think the field is wide enough, and there is fruit enough to supply both the union and outside shippers.

"We, of course, expect to get the advantage of the low freight rates which have been made largely at our personal solicitation, and in making up trains we shall cooperate with any and all shippers who may wish to get the advantage of the special train system, and to ship fruit East in a practical manner. We propose to work on the very broad platform, and one which will not be inimical to the fruit raiser of California."

MR. GREGORY TALKS.

Mr. Gregory readily consented to talk about the matter. "The truth of the matter is," said he, "I decided several months ago to take this step, as I have long since found that the machinery of the Union was not a practical method for the handling and disposition of California fruits. In the first place the system involves a considerable outlay in the way of salaries and other expenditures, while the number of those who ship through the Union has always been limited. In fact, it is not a mutually preferring to use other methods for the disposition of their produce. As a result of the desired centralization has been at the other end, and the measure of the proportionate expenses has been DIVIDED AMONG A VERY FEW.

Instead of between the great mass of fruit-growers of the State, the latter presumably preferring to use other methods than the one which the Fruit Union has adopted. In other words, I resigned as a member of the Executive Committee and as a Director of the Union because business principles prompted me to do so. I have no personal feelings against the personnel of the management. In fact, I can say nothing derogatory to Mr. Buck, the manager of the organization, who is certainly conscientious in his desire to carry out the regulations and laws of the California Fruit Union. My dissatisfaction is with the management as a whole and not with any individual member thereof. In other words, the method and principles of the organization is unsuited for our requirements, as the expensive machinery of the concern places a heavy tax on those who desire to use it.

"I did not leave the Union with the intention of joining into or forming any other similar organization, which would salaries or fees to be considered in the connection with the manipulation of such fruit. What we do desire is that the salaries or fees in my opinion, the general public requires is quick transportation at favorable rates—such as now offered by the recent change whereby seven cars their proportionate special train, and at a reduction from last year's rate—and the facilities necessary for the packing, shipping and disposition of choice marketable stock. As I stated before, our house does not propose to enter into any fruit-shipping arrangement, but to manipulate our business in our own way and according to the dictates of our own judgment, knowing that there can be no mistake in purchasing our produce. Our object in withdrawing from the Union is not for the purpose of creating any antagonism against the Fruit Union, but because it is infinitely more desirable to do so. Having that course in view, I, representing the house of Gregory Bros. Company, do not think it desirable or proper to remain a member of the Directory of an institution through which I did not propose to do any further business."

WIFE-BEATER SILVA.

The Details of His Brutality Told in Court Yesterday.

John Silva, stout and indolent, sat in Justice of the Peace Henry's court yesterday afternoon, apparently little caring what the Court might do to him in regard to the charge of wife-beating which had been preferred against him.

The details of Silva's brutal treatment of his delicate wife were given fully in the RECORD-UNION several days ago, together with the facts of his subsequent assault upon James A. Lamb, the city treasurer, who interceded for the poor woman.

Silva, when he appeared in court yesterday, was not represented by an attorney, and when an acquaintance asked him why he had not secured counsel, he only shrugged his shoulders and replied that it was not necessary.

Mr. Lamb was the first witness for the prosecution. In answer to questions by District Attorney Brainer, he said that Silva and he were neighbors at Third and J streets, and had been on friendly relations for two years or more, until last Thursday. On that morning about 6:30 o'clock he heard loud screams in the street and, running to his door, saw Silva raining blows after blow upon his wife. The poor woman ran into the yard and under the eaves of the house, where she hid herself unmercifully. The witness' wife went over and reconstrued with Silva, but he drew her out.

Mrs. Lamb, a mild-mannered, intelligent lady, corroborated her husband's testimony, having also been a witness to the beating. "When I went over to Silva's," she said, "Mrs. Silva was crying piteously. She told me that her arm had been broken by one of his kicks. I went home, but presently heard more screaming in Silva's house. I went over again, and found the poor woman lying on the floor, bruised and weeping. She said he had choked and kicked her again because she had screamed in the street. When I pushed Silva for his brutality he said he would kill his wife the next time she ran into the street. I reminded him that 'Yat' was on a few weeks ago that his wife had given birth to a child, and naturally was in a weak condition; but he had no effect on him at all, except to make him madder. In fact, the matter was the talk of the neighborhood."

This closed the case for the prosecution, and Judge Henry asked Silva if he had any testimony to offer.

He only started at the Judge and made no reply.

A man whose name is also Silva, but who is a relative of the defendant, informed the Court that he and defendant spoke very little English. This gentleman also volunteered his services as interpreter. He was asked to interpret for the defendant, but he did not prove much of a success.

Through the interpreter, Silva said the Court he had been that of his wife and his own.

The wife was not present, but in order to give the defendant every possible advantage, both Judge Henry and District Attorney Brainer agreed to send for her.

A recess was then taken to await the coming of Silva's wife. At the end of an hour she put in an appearance, and the examination was resumed.

Mrs. Silva took the witness-stand, and in a half-frenzied way answered the questions asked by the Court and District Attorney Brainer. She said that she ran out of the house during the trial, and her husband went out after her and "pushed her in." She seemed afraid to say that he had struck her, but the District Attorney did not insist upon an answer.

Silva then took the stand and made a rambling story of a statement about "making his wife a fool," which he had not intended to make. He said that he had struck her, but that he had not intended to do so, and that he had not intended to do so.

At the conclusion of Silva's testimony Judge Henry wanted a physician to examine Mrs. Silva for bruises, but she refused to let the doctor examine her, and the Court promptly rendered a verdict of guilty.

The charge of battery upon Lamb, which occurred the evening after the wife-beating, was also taken up. Lamb took the stand and told about his meeting with Silva and of his restraining with the latter.

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The details of Silva's brutal treatment of his delicate wife were given fully in the RECORD-UNION several days ago, together with the facts of his subsequent assault upon James A. Lamb, the city treasurer, who interceded for the poor woman.

Silva, when he appeared in court yesterday, was not represented by an attorney, and when an acquaintance asked him why he had not secured counsel, he only shrugged his shoulders and replied that it was not necessary.

Mr. Lamb was the first witness for the prosecution. In answer to questions by District Attorney Brainer, he said that Silva and he were neighbors at Third and J streets, and had been on friendly relations for two years or more, until last Thursday. On that morning about 6:30 o'clock he heard loud screams in the street and, running to his door, saw Silva raining blows after blow upon his wife. The poor woman ran into the yard and under the eaves of the house, where she hid herself unmercifully. The witness' wife went over and reconstrued with Silva, but he drew her out.

Mrs. Lamb, a mild-mannered, intelligent lady, corroborated her husband's testimony, having also been a witness to the beating. "When I went over to Silva's," she said, "Mrs. Silva was crying piteously. She told me that her arm had been broken by one of his kicks. I went home, but presently heard more screaming in Silva's house. I went over again, and found the poor woman lying on the floor, bruised and weeping. She said he had choked and kicked her again because she had screamed in the street. When I pushed Silva for his brutality he said he would kill his wife the next time she ran into the street. I reminded him that 'Yat' was on a few weeks ago that his wife had given birth to a child, and naturally was in a weak condition; but he had no effect on him at all, except to make him madder. In fact, the matter was the talk of the neighborhood."

This closed the case for the prosecution, and Judge Henry asked Silva if he had any testimony to offer.