ASSESSING ORANGE TREES.

San Bernardino Supervisors Before the State Equalizers.

Trials and Tribulations of Orange Growers—Don't Want Their Assessment Raised.

The State Board of Equalization spent all of yesterday afternoon hearing the arguments of the Supervisors of San Bernardino County against the proposed raising of that county's assessment-roll.

The southern Supervisors came well prepared for the occasion. They not only were opposed to having their assessment raised, but wanted it reduced, far below what their own Assessor had placed it. They claimed that his figures were all excessive—that is, those which had reference to the valuation of orange trees. Whether or not their arguments will have any effect on the State Board in preventing the proposed raise would be hard to say, but, judging from what one of the State Equalizers said, it is a safe guess that San Bernardino County's assessment will not be reduced.

THAT CAUCUS.

When the meeting was called to order Chairman Morehouse evinced a desire to know something about the meeting of southern Supervisors, held recently, at which it was agreed that San Bernardino's assessment was too high, and a general reduction was decided upon.

J. N. Victor, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of San Bernardino, was the first to address the board. He said he desired to state as a preliminary that the recent joint meeting held in Los Angeles of the different Boards of Supervisors of the south was a mere caucus, with reference to the assessment of fruit trees. The Los Angeles people had no complaint to make, but the San Bernardino people felt that they had been discriminated against. Four-year-old fruit trees had been assessed at $1 25 in San Bernardino, while just on the other side of the line, in Los Angeles, they had not been assessed at all. Mr. Victor assured the members that he was not finding fault with the State Board—they were not infringing on the board's powers.

"Did you have any idea that you were infringing on the board's powers, or that the board was discriminating against you?" asked Mr. Morehouse.

"No," was the reply.

"The fact of the matter was," continued Mr. Morehouse, "the board considered that you were infringing on the law."

WILLING TO RAISE THE OTHERS.

Mr. Victor said that everything was informal at that caucus. It was generally agreed though, that San Bernardino's assessment of orange trees was too high, and should be reduced, while the other four neighboring counties should be raised. The average rate of assessment of trees was $5 for a five-acre orchard, and the effect of the discrimination was to cause orchardists to move across the line.

"To save $5 a year?" asked Mr. Swan.

"Yes, that's the effect," replied Mr. Victor. He said the general feeling should be to encourage people to plant more orange trees, instead of discouraging them. The assessed valuation in San Bernardino was a speculative value. He said, he and the people of the south felt that their trees, like the crops of the north, should not be assessed at all.

Mr. Beamer of the Equalizing Board said that personally he was in hearty sympathy with the remarks of Mr. Victor, and was in a position to feel the force of his argument. But the Board of Equalization had to operate under a law, which it did not make, and there was no help for it—the law had to be enforced.

Mr. Morehouse asked Mr. Victor if, at the caucus of Supervisors, the actual selling values of the trees and land formed a basis of the discussion.

Mr. Victor said it was talked of, but the general agreement was that the assessment in San Bernardino was too high, and a schedule of reductions was adopted. The farmers were invited to come in and ask for reductions, and it was agreed that the other counties should be raised—and these counties acquiesced.

A COMPETENT OFFICIAL.

Mr. Morehouse said that Assessor Johnson of San Bernardino had been in office a number of years and thoroughly understood his business. He did not see how the Assessor could have made so many mistakes—if they were mistakes—as the southern Supervisors set forth.

Mr. Victor then branched off into a lengthy dissertation on the trials and tribulations of the orange-grower. He declared that even to the present day orange-culture in the south was of an experimental nature. At first they had tried to grow their fruit in the lowlands, but through experience learned that the foothills were the proper place for them. All this took time, and cost a great deal of money and labor. He could not see the justice in assessing the trees at all, much less assessing them for more than they were worth.

Mr. Morehouse said that the San Bernardino Supervisors had made serious charges against their Assessor, and he wanted a distinct understanding about the matter. He wanted to know whether the board operated on the actual selling values of the land and trees, or simply on its own schedule.

Mr. Victor could not answer the question directly. He said the board considered the values entirely speculative, and in adopting its schedule figured on what it considered was just and fair, when compared with the assessments in other and adjoining counties.

SOME MORE VIEWS.

Tax Collector Kendall, who lives on the Ontario tract, was the next witness. He stated that while San Bernardino was the largest county in the State, it was in a large degree a desert county. The whole of it that was tillable was located in a basin. A small-bore cannon would throw a ball across all of the land upon which the present valuation had been made. That district was largely watered by irrigating ditches. In the Ontario tract, as in other places, the water-pipes and ditches were appurtenant to the land. After the land is assessed he did not consider it fair that the ditches should be assessed. The ditches made a portion of the value of the land, and he considered it a double assessment to assess them both. Land without the water was practically worthless. The southern part of the State was different from the northern part.

Mr. Kendall then produced the affidavits of various persons in San Bernardino County who considered the assessment as it now stands, corrected by the Supervisors (acting as a County Board of Equalization), as fair and just. These persons were not particular about having the valuations further reduced, but were opposed to their being raised.

One of these affidavits was from a man who had been assessed at the rate of $1,400 per acre for his orchard. Questions by Mr. Morehouse, however, developed the fact that this orchard was in the city limits of Riverside, and was in consequence assessed as a town lot.

Mr. Kendall then read the affidavit of B. C. Shepherd, who owns a few acres on the Ontario tract. This man had been assessed for $400 per acre on his land, and his trees were assessed for $175.

ORCHARDISTS' THEORIES.

After considerable talk and reading of affidavits, Mr. Morehouse remarked that affidavits should not, as a rule, be given much consideration by the board, because every orchardist had his own peculiar ideas and theories as to how he should be assessed, and no two of them agreed—except that their orange trees should not be assessed at all.

Mr. Kendall informed the board that the assessment of San Bernardino, as already equalized by the County Board, was 8 per cent. greater than it was last year. The County Board reduced the Assessor's figures about 3 per cent. Continuing he said he had talked with the Assessor of Santa Clara County and the latter had informed him that orange trees in that county were only assessed at fifty cents.

"Um—Mr. Secretary, what day do we hear the Santa Clara Supervisors?" asked Mr. Morehouse, turning to Secretary Coglan, and jotting down something in his note-book.

The Secretary furnished the desired information, and then G. W. Garcelon, another of the southern Supervisors, was sworn. Mr. Garcelon assured the State Board that Assessor Johnson's figures were altogether too high. He then told of all the trouble an orchardist had in raising oranges, particularly the nurserymen. When the trees were two years old they were only worth five cents.

"Then," said Mr. Swan, "do I understand that after two years of trials and tribulations you have a tree worth five cents for the purposes of taxation?"

The Supervisor did not reply.

"Well, now," said Mr. Swan, "we have been trying right along to get some of you folks to set a price upon the trees, but it seems that we cannot succeed."

Mr. Garcelon branched off on the difference between good and bad trees, but did not elucidate matters much.

Several other Supervisors went over the same ground covered by the others, and then Assessor Johnson explained his position. He had endeavored to be as fair as he could in levying the assessment, he said, and indulged in no discrimination.

The board will take the matter under advisement.

The San Francisco Supervisors will be heard to-day.

POLICE COURT.

The Drunks Had the Right of Way at Yesterday's Session.

Yesterday's session of the Police Court was brief and devoid of special features. Enos Rou was acquitted of the charge of having been drunk.

Frank Myers pleaded guilty to a like charge and was fined $10, and the same disposition was made of the case of Jake Martin.

John Quinlan, another gentleman who had yielded to bacchanalian influence, had to put up $20 or take the alternative.

John Fitzpatrick, a man who should know better than to make himself a nuisance by delivering noisy harangues on the streets, pleaded guilty to drunkenness, and was assessed $10.

Police Captain Lee frankly admitted that he had landed a blow on ex-Chief Dillman in a moment of excitement, and contributed $5 to the public exchequer.

New Corporations.

The following articles of incorporation were filed in the Secretary of State's office yesterday:

The Bonebrake Fruit Company of Los Angeles. Capital stock, $300,000. Directors—George H. Bonebrake, Albert E. Fletcher, Blanche Bonebrake, W. P. Gardiner and A. L. Wright.

Amador Coal and Pressed Brick Company of Oakland. Capital stock, $250,000. Directors—S. R. Andrews, Judson Chamberlain, E. M. Gibson, F. V. Wood, H. A. Cole, W. G. Williams and H. L. Davis.

Tulare Fruit Packing Company of Tulare City. Capital stock, $100,000. Directors—Thomas H. Thompson, James Morton, I. N. Wright, Frederick W. Wheeler, Wooster B. Cartmill, Samuel P. Erwin and Albert O. Erwin.

Washington Restaurant Company of San Francisco. Capital stock, $2,500. Directors—Luka Boro, Ellia Toncovich, C. L. Dall, L. A. Souc and C. C. Dall.

Yesterday's Weather.

The Weather Bureau reports show that the temperatures at 5 A. M. and 5 P. M. yesterday were 71° and 94°, while the highest and lowest were 100° and 68°, with gentle to fresh southerly winds and a cloudless sky.

The highest and lowest temperatures one year ago yesterday were 96° and 62°, and one year ago to-day 91° and 62°.

The fresh southerly wind at 5 P. M. yesterday had quite a cooling effect upon the sultry atmosphere that was holding sway in the early part of the day.

Marco's Mad is Up.

Yesterday Marco Maina, aged 72 years, caused the arrest of a printer named W. A. Selkirk on a charge of battery.

It appears that Maina remonstrated with Selkirk and others against their throwing melon-rinds on the sidewalk in front of his property, and then trouble ensued, Maina being knocked down, as he says, by Selkirk. The latter claims that Maina turned a hose on him. The case will be heard to-day in the Police Court.

Haverly Squared the Debt.

Burt Haverly, a member of the Russell Comedy Company, was arrested on his arrival here yesterday on complaint of a San Francisco collector, to whom had been assigned, by one F. C. Bridge, a claim against the comedian for $406 50.

Haverly was escorted to the County Jail, where he was seen by an attorney for Bode. The latter made a proposition to settle the matter for $200 and costs, and it was accepted. The money was paid over and Haverly was released.

Thrown From Her Buggy.

While Mrs. Will H. Young was driving on L street, near Seventh, yesterday morning, she was thrown from her vehicle in consequence of her horse shying at a vegetable wagon and running the buggy against a telegraph pole.

Mrs. Young received a severe fall, but fortunately escaped serious injury.

Fun at the Park This Evening.

The driving club will this evening drive at Agricultural Park by direction of President Wilson, instead of on the Riverside road. There is to be given a whip worth $5 to any driver who drives the mile nearest to three minutes. The public is invited to witness the sport free of charge.

Citizens' Alliance Meeting.

On Saturday evening L. C. Fry, Assistant State Lecturer of the Citizens' Alliance, addressed a large audience on the Newcastle Plaza on the subject of our present system of political economy. The address was bristling with good points, and elicited much favorable comment.

Death of an Esteemed Lady.

The death is announced at Los Angeles of Mrs. M. Everhardy, sister of Mrs. E. W. Hale, after a lingering illness. Mrs. Everhardy was well known and had many friends in this city, where she frequently visited. She was buried in Stockton.

It Should be Repaired.

There is a dangerous hole in the culvert crossing Twenty-first street at T, and it should receive the immediate attention of the Street Commissioner. A horse stepped into the hole Sunday and strained its hind legs badly.

Will Appeal the Case.

Charles W. Summers lately obtained judgment in Justice Starr's Court for $40 damages for having been ejected from a car of the Electric Railway Company. The company has filed the necessary papers on appeal.

He Spared His Own Life.

C. Dreyfuss, who had threatened to put himself out of the way and then quietly disappeared, returned to the city yesterday. He thinks life is worth the living.

Fair Equestriennes.

Some of the ladies who are to contest for riding prizes at the State Fair were practicing yesterday morning and again last evening at Agricultural Park.

SUBSTITUTIONS of well-known advertised articles seem to be the order of the day. We deem it only justice to our patrons to warn our readers against this form of piracy. When you want an article, ask your merchant or druggist for it and don't accept a substitute.

TWO LEGAL OPINIONS.

Property-Owners Liable for Improving J Street.

But Lawyer White Says the Railway Company Should Move Its Track to the Street Center.

The question as to whether or not the Central Electric Railway Company is responsible for the payment of the cost of grading and graveling J street, from Twenty-first to Twenty-eighth, for the width of two tracks (although only one is laid on the street) was taken up yesterday by the City Trustees.

An opinion from S. S. Holl and C. H. Oatman of the Street Improvement Company was read. They say: "As a matter of fact the double railroad track on J street extends only to the east line of Twenty-first street, the track being single from the east line of Twenty-first street to the center line of Twenty-eighth street. By reason of this fact said assessment against the property liable for the expense of the work is too low by the sum of $724 62. This amount the Central Electric Company refuses to pay, and in our opinion payment of the same can be successfully evaded by it. Therefore, the Sacramento Street Improvement Company respectfully appeals to the board from the assessment heretofore made, and prays that a new assessment be issued, assessing to the property liable for the expense of the work, under the terms of said Act of March 18, 1885, the said sum of $724 62, in addition to the amount now assessed, and requests your honorable board to appoint a time and place of hearing this appeal."

Clinton L. White in his opinion to the board says: "A consideration of the law and the ordinance leads me to the opinion that the railway company is only liable for payment for the improvement of that portion of J street between Twenty-first and Twenty-eighth streets, actually occupied by its track, with two feet on each side of the rails. It is liable on the basis of the road, as actually constructed, not on what it may claim in the way of a franchise. It is liable for the improvement of J street, between Twenty-first and Twenty-eighth streets, on the basis of having a single track thereon, with the exception of the block between Twenty-seventh and Twenty-eighth, where it has a switch also; and it is my opinion that the right of the company on J street, from Twenty-first to Twenty-eighth is—because of its failure to construct a double track thereon within the time limited by the ordinance—now confined to the right to maintain and operate a single track only. Such single track is required, both by the law and the ordinances granting the franchise, to be as nearly as possible in the middle of the street. The company has no legal right to maintain and operate this road on one side of the street, as it is now doing, and its so doing constitutes an unlawful use of said street by it. The company is under the legal obligation, if it continues to maintain said track, to remove the same to the middle of the street."

Directors Coleman and Lindley, of the Street Improvement Company, appeared before the board at the afternoon session and suggested that in the future the board should, in letting contracts for street grading, make an order designating who should pay the assessment.

Trustee Conklin moved that the adjustment of the matter at issue be left to the Street Commissioner.

The matter was discussed at some length between the members of the board and Messrs. Coleman and Lindley, and finally—without any action being taken on Trustee Conklin's motion—an order was made that all parties concerned be given a formal hearing on Monday next on the protest (against the assessment) filed by the Street Improvement Company.

NEITHER GRAVEL NOR BASALT.

Property Owners on M Street Must Put Up With Mud.

The matter of the improvement of M street, from Fifteenth to Twenty-eighth, was taken up by the Trustees yesterday, and Owen Casey, who represented something over 200 feet frontage, said he, for one, wanted the street improved with gravel, and wanted it done right away, before all the money in the improvement fund shall be exhausted. He was opposed to the city's paying for the alleged basalt three times what it would have to pay for good gravel, and the majority had asked for the latter.

Mr. Lambert, the agent for the basalt rock, denied that it would cost three times what gravel would. He could get down pretty close to the cost of gravel.

A new petition for gravel was presented, signed by the owners of a majority of the feet fronting on the blocks named.

Trustee McLaughlin here presented a resolution of intention to improve M street, from Fifteenth to Twenty-eighth, with gravel.

The Mayor objected to the provision for Oregon pine crosswalks. He further said that if the street were ordered up it would be simply to tie it up, as the work could not be commenced for a couple of months.

Trustee Conklin said he would be willing to pledge himself to give M street the precedence in ordering up streets for improvement if the matter should now be laid over.

Trustee McLaughlin said a majority of 1,100 feet was represented on the petition for gravel, and it was the simple duty of the board to order the work.

The roll was called on the resolution, and the Mayor and Trustee Conklin voted against it.

Trustee McLaughlin remarked that the property-owners could, if they wished, force the board to have the street improved.

Trustee Conklin expressed his disapproval of having any street work done in winter. He desired further to economise in the outlay of the remainder of the improvement bonds.

Trustee McLaughlin remarked that if his colleagues saw fit to go on record as opposing street improvements they might do so, and intimated that the Mayor had been an obstructionist in that direction.

This the Mayor denied, and a little cross-fire ensued between him and the Street Commissioner, after which the subject was dropped.

AN OPIUM VICTIM.

John Gormley Dies a Miserable Death in the Hospital.

A few days ago a young man named John Gormley was admitted to the County Hospital for treatment for a combination of ailments.

In the first place, he was a total wreck from the prolonged use of morphine, and was a pitiable-looking specimen of the "fiend" class. Moreover, he was suffering from lockjaw. He said he was a native of Massachusetts, and recently came here from San Francisco.

Yesterday afternoon one of the attendants called Dr. White, the Superintendent of the hospital, to the patient's room, saying that Gormley had tried to kill himself. The doctor found that the latter had, by the use of a common caseknife, succeeded in making an incision in his arm, had bled freely, and was then in a dying condition. All efforts to save his life were unavailing, and he was soon a corpse.

Dr. White thinks that, although the patient lost considerable blood, his death was not directly due to that cause, as his ailments and vices had already landed him well across the threshold of death. The act of opening his arm, however, showed that Gormley wanted to end his sufferings.

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Miscellaneous.

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SILKS IN OUR CLEARING SALE.

All-pure 50c Surah Silks, in Havana brown, tan, cardinal, ox blood, garnet, emerald and Nile green. Sale price....25c per yard
Brown and White Check 75c All-pure Dress Silk. Sale price....48c per yard
Heavy Black Grograin $1 50 Silk for....85c per yard
Striped and Plain 50c Satins for....25c per yard
Striped Oriental $1 50 Silk for....75c per yard
Blue Brocaded $1 75 Silks for....95c per yard
Light Blue, Pink and Cream China Silk for....75c per yard
Light-color Remnant of Oriental $1 25 Silk for....45c per yard

Gents' Summer-weight Pants.

We have a large assortment of these goods, that are being closed in our Clearing Sale at extremely low prices. All well made and the material is first-class.

A mixed lot of All-wool Cassimeres, Fancy Worsteds and Cheviots, ranging in prices from $2 50 to $4, will be sold at....$2 per pair
Silk-mixed Cassimeres, Black Broadwales, Self Stripes and Fine Worsteds at....$3 per pair

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THE WEEKLY UNION IS THE STAR weekly of the Pacific Coast.

IRRIGATION DISTRICT BONDS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT sealed proposals will be received by the Board of Directors of the Anaheim Irrigation District at the office of the Secretary thereof, in the City of Anaheim, County of Orange, State of California, for the purchase of $200,000 of its bonds, issued January 1, 1890 (exclusive of the coupons which matured on July 1, 1890, and January 1st and July 1, 1891, which have been detached therefrom) of the denominations of $100, $200 and $500, respectively, till 2 o'clock P. M. of TUESDAY, the 6th day of October, 1891, at which time and place said board will open the proposals and award the purchase of said bonds to the highest responsible bidder; provided that no proposals therefor will be accepted or purchase awarded for any bonds where the amount is less than 90 per cent. of the face value thereof, the board expressly reserving the right of rejecting any and all proposals or bids therefor.

Any information in regard to the issue of said bonds or the terms and conditions thereof will be given on application in person or by letter to the undersigned at his office in the City of Anaheim aforesaid.

By order of the Board of Directors of the Anaheim Irrigation District.
au10 20t B. V. GARWOOD, Secretary.

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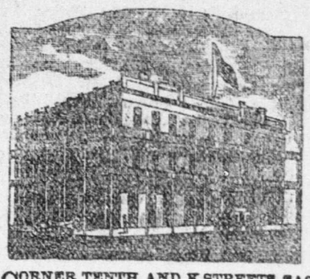

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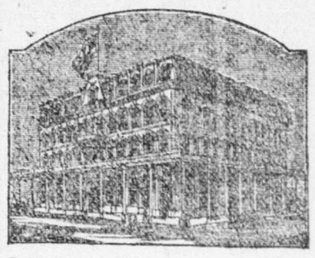

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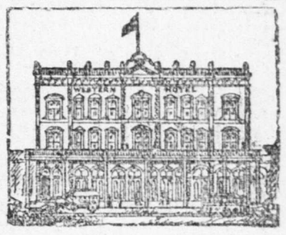
STRICTLY FIRST-CLASS. FREE 'BUS TO and from the cars. B. B. BROWN, formerly of the State House Hotel, Proprietor.



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☞At Market-street Ferry take Omnibus Line of street cars for Third and Howard. TTS

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