

SAN FRANCISCO'S TASK.

An Effort to Prevent the Raising of Her Assessment.

Arguments of Mayor Sanderson, Assessor Siebe, Supervisors and Others at the Capitol.

The corridors of the Capitol building and State Board of Equalization rooms were busy scenes yesterday.

It was the day set for hearing the arguments of the San Francisco authorities as to why they thought the assessments of the metropolis should not be raised.

Quite a number of representative San Franciscans were there, including Mayor Sanderson, Supervisors Burling and Ellert, Assessor John D. Siebe, Deputy Assessors Fred Siebe, Hester, Maloney, Misogogas, Tyrrell and Deane, Attorneys E. S. Pillsbury and Charles Ackerman, and others. There were also present representatives of the San Francisco newspapers and Associated Press.

All the members of the State Board of Equalization were there—Messrs. Morehouse, Beamer, Colgan, Hebborn and Swan.

SAN FRANCISCO'S MAYOR.

Mayor Sanderson was the first to be sworn and make a statement to the board. It was understood that his remarks would include the information furnished by the delegation which came up from the metropolis.

Mr. Sanderson argued that the assessment of San Francisco should be raised no higher, because, as it stands at present, it is high enough. He contended that the fact that the assessment of San Francisco more than kept pace with that of other portions of the State, and that, instead of the assessment being raised, it had been lowered.

The increase of the total assessment of the State was \$30,000,000, \$10,000,000 of which came from that city, an increase in San Francisco of about 35 per cent., when it had but about one-fifth of the population. There was, he said, no basis for such an increase in the assessment. He pleaded sympathy, because Eastern drummers were knocking upon the trade of the coast. He saw property lying idle for the past three years, because rents had been raised. People were going out of trade there because they cannot carry on their business.

Speaking as a business man, he said: "We are cutting down our stocks and the wages of employees." "Going from the place of business up to the City Hall, I saw lines of stores with the sign, 'To Let,' upon them."

"I don't know everything. Are you familiar with the methods of assessments in San Francisco? Is it not the custom for many people there to refuse to make returns? According to your Assessor's report there are 15,000 persons who fail to make returns," said Mr. Morehouse.

"I've always been busy with my business, and I don't know as to these details. I only know that people are taxed all they can stand, and more than they ought to be called upon to pay," replied the Mayor.

Supervisor E. Ellert somewhat differed from the Mayor as to any boom that might have occurred. The latter had stated that there had been no boom, but the Supervisor thought that outside lands in the suburbs of the city were selling at such prices as a basis they were assessed too high.

In answer to questions by Mr. Morehouse, the Supervisor admitted that he knew but little of real estate values or of the assessment roll. He based his claim of high assessment upon the aggregate of the roll and upon the general principle that it was considered too high an assessment in comparison with other counties.

In answer to questions propounded by Mr. Hebborn, Supervisor Ellert acknowledged that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors did not sit as a County Board of Equalization, as was done in other counties. "We cannot do it," he explained. The time allowed us is not sufficient, and we have not sat continuously."

"Don't you think, then," said Mr. Hebborn, "that other counties in the State have good cause for complaint when you do not act according to law, and then come and ask that your assessment be not raised, and assert that it should rather be reduced?"

Mr. Ellert said that might be the case, but at the same time the San Francisco Supervisors should not be expected to perform impossibilities. He said the board had made no effort to ascertain values. The board could not do so, as it completely equalized the roll, and therefore nothing was done. No one was cited to appear before the board and show cause why their assessments should be raised, and no increase had been made. A number of reductions had been made. He said that in San Francisco a custom was in vogue of assessing and reducing assessments after the roll had gone out of the hands of the Board of Supervisors.

"We claim," said Mr. Beamer, "that your board might have done something, but they have done nothing. It is an injustice to other counties of the State that equalize values, according to law, while San Francisco has done nothing."

Mr. Ellert did not reply to this. He branched off in another direction by saying that he did not see why the whole city's assessment should be increased because some particular omissions had been made. They had acted under the advice of their County Attorney.

"No advice of the County Attorney should deter the Supervisors from doing their duty," remarked Mr. Morehouse.

Supervisor Burling made a statement to the board, but it was in the same tenor of those given by his predecessors. In reference to the failure of many to return reports to the Assessor, he thought that many submitted to arbitrary assessments in order that they might be rated as more wealthy than they really were.

After Mr. Burling had been subjected to a few questions he was excused and a recess was taken.

Afternoon Session.

At the afternoon session Wendell Easton, the well-known real estate broker of San Francisco, was sworn. He said he was satisfied that Assessor Siebe's figures were governed largely by the prices at which real estate had been sold at the auction sales of the Real Estate Exchange in San Francisco. These prices were even higher than they should be. There was not exactly a real estate boom in San Francisco, but sales values prevailed. He was satisfied that the general assessment of the metropolis was higher by a good deal than the interior, and not only that, but it was assessed up close to its full selling value. But to come right down to figures, he had had taken data from the city tax list, and had calculated that the assessment was a fraction over 61 per cent. of the full value.

Mr. Beamer wanted to know if Mr. Easton had any evidence that the Assessor's figures were governed by the real estate sales other than the fact that the Assessor had kept a close watch on the sales.

Mr. Easton said that Mr. Siebe's head Deputy, Mr. Misogogas was an expert in the real estate business, had wide experience in the matter of valuations and kept himself posted on all sales. The other deputies were also posted.

Mr. Beamer said that he had figures on 300 sales of property in San Francisco. These footed up \$15,000,000, and the assessment on the same property footed up only \$7,000,000.

Mr. Easton thought these figures were subject to revision.

"I understood you to say, Mr. Easton," continued Mr. Beamer, "that property in San Francisco south of the park had quadrupled in value in the last three years?"

"Yes, I said that," replied the real estate man.

"Then the assessment should have increased materially, too, should it not?"

"Well, we have figures showing that the assessment on those lands had decreased."

Mr. Easton hesitated a moment and then said that the assessment had increased greatly during the past five years.

Mr. Beamer said he had not gone back to the figures, but he wanted to know if, in making a comparison of the assessment of San Francisco property and some of the large tracts in the interior Mr. Easton had particular reference to the Rancho del Paso. Mr. Beamer took him up on this, and said that the board had personal knowledge of the assessment of that property, and that it was very fair one. The board was present when the Sacramento County Equalizers had this subject under discussion. There was a very great portion of that ranch that was worthless.

Mr. Hebborn asked Mr. Easton if he was acquainted with the property of E. Frayon on the water front between Sacramento and Market streets.

Mr. Easton said that he was.

"What do you think is the value of that property?"

"About \$60,000."

"Well, then, what do you think of an assessment of \$14,000?"

Mr. Easton said that that was rather a queer assessment.

Mr. Hebborn referred to another piece of property which Mr. Easton thought was worth \$200,000. This was assessed for \$80,000.

WHAT HE FIGURED ON.

Mr. Morehouse asked Mr. Easton what information he had on which he based that property that he thought was assessed more closely than country property.

The reply was that he had dealt largely in country property, and knew whereof he spoke. He knew that the assessments were a very poor criterion to go by in arriving at the value of country property. In fact these assessments were wholly unreliable.

Mr. Beamer asked the witness if he was familiar with a certain piece of property on Alameda street. Mr. Easton said the lot was worth about \$25,000 and the building at \$15,000.

Mr. Beamer looked at his own figures and remarked that there was a mortgage of \$7,000 on this property.

Mr. Easton said it was possible that the figures would appear in this manner on the books of the Assessor, but he did not loaned that much on this one piece of property. There were various ways in which that might have occurred.

Thomas Magee, real estate dealer, succeeded Mr. Easton on the witness-stand. He started in by asking permission to read some figures on the market values of Chicago property. Mr. Beamer objected, saying that the board had enough on its hands to take care of San Francisco. Mr. Magee insisted, however, and was finally permitted to read his data.

The object of the figures was to show that the assessment of San Francisco was far higher by comparison than that of the World's Fair.

When Mr. Magee had concluded Mr. Beamer opened a book containing the proceedings of the State Board of Equalization of Illinois. He read from it a resolution to the effect that the assessment of Chicago property be fixed at 25 per cent. of the actual cash value of such property.

Mr. Easton said that he did not think it fair for Mr. Magee to draw comparisons between Chicago and San Francisco. The Constitution of California demanded that property should be assessed to its full cash value. The Board of Equalization was not trying to work any hardship. It was simply endeavoring to carry out the law.

In answer to questions propounded by Mr. Morehouse, Mr. Magee said that he considered the assessment of San Francisco property as levied by Mr. Siebe, very uniform.

Mr. Magee was asked if he was familiar with the Heurt tract of thirty-three acres near the House of Correction. He was, and remembered that it was sold recently for \$74,000. The fact that it was only assessed for \$20,000 did not surprise him. The Heurt tract was a piece of property worth. It was sold for a great deal more than its real value.

SWAN SAID IT.

Deputy Assessor Misogogas, the next witness, said he wanted to reply to statements made by Mr. Easton. He said that members of the board to the effect that the San Francisco Assessor had given them high assessments and the poor high ones. He was interrupted by Mr. Hebborn, who wanted to know who had made such statements.

Mr. Misogogas denied having said anything of the kind. He said that he had read a report that said that a gentleman said he might have said it, and told Misogogas to go ahead.

Mr. Misogogas then proceeded, by reading figures drawn by companies and making oral arguments, to show to the board that San Francisco's assessment was as near correct as it could be figured out. San Francisco was built on hills, and values were different almost on every block. It would be next to impossible to follow the values of property in a city like San Francisco. The general assessments were increased from 10 to 100 per cent. in localities where values were running up rapidly—such as the neighborhood known as the Old Hights. This was now the fashionable portion of town, and values were advancing at a lively rate.

Mr. Beamer wanted to know if it was customary in San Francisco for the Assessor to add names to the roll after it was in the hands of the tax collector.

Deputy Misogogas replied that such a thing had been done, but only when it was discovered that some property had escaped assessment.

Mr. Beamer asked the Chief Deputy if he remembered the facts connected with the assessment of Kohler & Frothing, by which the Chief Deputy stepped forward and explained that one of the assessing deputies found a horse and wagon belonging to that firm and put it on the roll. The Chief Deputy said that he did not assess the liquor and stock of the firm. The total assessment, therefore, went in at \$250. The omission was discovered by the tax collector, and the correction was made. The assessment then was fixed at over \$30,000.

Deputy Maloney, in answer to questions by Mr. Morehouse, said that great numbers of San Francisco business men refused to make statements. Then the Assessor made an arbitrary assessment.

Mr. Beamer going over the roll noticed in many cases was to make it appear that they were worth more than they really were. In fact, some of them had said that they had their own true statement would bankrupt them.

THOUGHT THEY WERE FAIR.

Mr. Beamer read off a list of the assessments levied on firms in San Francisco which were rated in the neighborhood of a million. The highest assessment among these only reached \$30,000. In answer to all of these the deputies said they considered the valuations fair and just.

Mr. Beamer going over the roll noticed that in cases of arbitrary assessments the valuations were not unusually large. He inquired what the rule was in these cases in San Francisco.

Deputy Maloney explained that in these cases the assessments were raised a little just as a punishment.

"Do you know what the law is on that subject?" asked Mr. Beamer.

"In a general way," replied the deputy.

"The Assessor may, if he chooses, raise the assessment to ten times its value."

"He may?" remarked Mr. Beamer.

"Why the law says he must make it ten times its value."

Mr. Maloney did not think the law read that way, but when it was produced it was found that Mr. Beamer was right.

There was quite a discussion next over the assessment of the Laming estate. Mr. Maloney said he understood that a great deal of the property belonging to the estate had been converted into United States bonds, and were therefore not assessable. The notes had been assigned.

Deputy Fred J. Siebe explained further about the Laming assessment. The administrator of the estate, he said, had made a statement to the Assessor under oath of what was left of the estate to be assessed.

Mr. Hebborn wanted to know if the notes when assigned were indorsed, but Mr. Siebe could not answer the question.

"How could the administrator of an estate assign notes belonging to the estate?" asked Mr. Morehouse.

"I suppose on an order of court," replied Mr. Beamer.

A CASE OF MURDER.

Thomas Edmonds Was Fatally Beaten and Robbed.

A Witness Who Saw the Old Man Lying in an Alley, Where the Thugs Assaulted Him.

The coroner's jury, which last night inquired into the circumstances attending the death of Thomas Edmonds, the old man who died a few days ago at the County Hospital, were convinced that he was beaten and robbed, and that his death was the direct result of the injuries received.

Attention was first called to Edmonds by his noisy demonstrations on Third street, between J and K, on the afternoon of Sunday, the 24th inst., where he provoked Marco Zarick into a fight. It was evident that he had been beaten about the face and head prior to that time, although his face was then bleeding from fresh wounds.

It was stated at the time that he had been coming out of the alley between Second and Third streets, and that he presented a dilapidated appearance. His wounds were dressed and he was sent to the County Hospital, where he died a few days afterward, as stated.

At the inquest last evening George Grasser, who resides at 1108 Seventh street, testified that he was coming through the alley at about 5 o'clock in the morning and noticed a man with his body partially covered with a sheet, and a large bag of money. He saw two men enter the alley after he had reached Third street, but upon his return, about five minutes later, the bag had disappeared, as also had the men. He told no one of these facts, for fear of trouble to himself. Later, however, a person whom he thought to be the money-lender, inquired as to his knowledge of the facts, and the above information was tendered. The man was acting as if delirious.

Marco Zarick to whom considerable blame was attached for his supposed complicity in the cause of Edmonds' wounds, gave his version, as heretofore published, of the trouble that took place between himself and the deceased the night of the murder.

Officer Frank White stated that Edmonds called at the jail about 10:30 in the morning and demanded his baggage. He had on his person a leather purse and pocketbook, and acted in a peculiar manner. The officer sent him over to the depot in charge of a ticket, and that he was in possession of a ticket, and that the officials would attend to his wants. About 2 o'clock he was brought in by Officer McLoughlin, and his condition looked so unfavorable as to render it advisable to send him to the hospital.

The jury rendered a verdict to the effect that deceased died from the effects of injuries inflicted by parties unknown.

OTHER INQUESTS.

The inquest on the body of Frank Butler, who was found on the ground, showed that death resulted from alcoholism and exposure to the sun.

A verdict of accidental death was rendered in the case of Robert Wightman's little son, who was killed near the Union House by an anvil falling upon him.

THE SCHOOLS OF DESIGN.

It Will Reopen for the Next Term on October 1st.

W. F. Jackson, who is spending his vacation in the mountains, came to the city yesterday to meet the directors of the Museum Association to arrange for the reopening of the School of Design on the 1st of October.

Mr. Jackson is to have two assistants the next term. Some slight changes were made in the rate schedule, corresponding to the standing in the character of the instruction given.

Hereafter works of the pupils that are worthy of sale are to be placed on exhibition in the evening, and monthly given a window display also.

Mr. Jackson returns to the mountains to-morrow.

BRIEF NOTES.

There is some talk of Bob Fitzsimmons training at Rancho del Paso for his prospective fight with Ted Pritchard of England.

Yesterday afternoon Officer Shellars tried to arrest Olive-Groves, but he ran away from Truckee, but the youth escaped him.

Judge Henry has imposed a fine of \$80 on Nathan Friet, who pleaded guilty to the charge of driving a motor car from Mrs. Lizzie Gammon of Antelope.

One of the railroad pay-cars was here yesterday afternoon, and the other will probably be here tomorrow or to-morrow, and pay off the shopmen.

The Sacramento printers voted thirty-eight in favor of and nine against the adoption of the nine-hour rule. The total vote was 47, and the proposition was lost by 32 votes.

Articles of incorporation of the Central Christian Church of Los Angeles were filed in the Secretary of State's office yesterday. The directors are A. T. Bell, I. W. Clanton and S. Kennedy.

A pamphlet has been issued from the State Printing Office containing the proceedings of the Olive-Groves Convention held at San Francisco July 28th, under the auspices of the State Board of Horticulture.

Warden Aull of the Folsom Prison has returned to Delavan H. Gordon, one of the gang who murdered Robert Allen, letters which a Sacramento young lady had written to him. The Warden advises the girl to write to him for comfort and consolation to the family of the murdered man, instead of his slayer.

Could Not Find Him.

Yesterday morning word was left at Sheriff Stanley's office to the effect that a man was lying sick under a tree at the north end of the American River bridge. Deputy Fay and City Physician Nichols went out there, but could not find the man.

Parties are on the lookout for him, however, as it is thought he may be an escaped lunatic or hospital patient.

No Contest.

It was rumored about town last evening that a prize-fight between two "cullud gen'lm'n" was billed to take place in one of the stables at Agricultural Park. A number of sports and would-be referees, time-keepers and the like went out to the park and waited about there for several hours, without seeing anything of the fighters. The affair was either postponed or else was a hoax.

Residence at Auction To-day.

At 10:30 o'clock to-day D. J. Simmons & Co. will sell at auction the residence of the late John McNeill, at Eighth and G streets. The lot is 50x85 feet in size.

Words of Praise.

SACRAMENTO, April 25, 1890. Mr. JOHN P. COOPER—Dear Sir: The Mathews sick upright piano I purchased from you some time since only convinces me that my judgment of its merits were correct. I believe the solid iron frame Mathews upright the best for California climate, and I heartily recommend the Mathews to anyone wishing a strictly first-class piano. T. H. BERKEY.

HAMMER'S MUSIC STORE, No. 820 J Street. Sole agents for Chickering & Sons' pianos, Cough & Warren organs; also cheaper makes.

DEPPIC'S DELICIOUS Flavoring Extracts.

NATURAL FRUIT FLAVORS.

Vanilla - Of perfect purity.

Lemon - Of great strength.

Orange - Economy in their usage.

Almond - Flavor as delicately and deliciously as the fresh fruit.

When they were sick, we gave her Castoria.

When she was a child, she cried for Castoria.

When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria.

When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

Changed Daily for Weinstein, Lubin & Co.

TO-DAY AT 9:30 A. M.

First Special Sale of Shoes in the new store building. Access through the broad archway leading from the Men's Hat Department.

Ladies', Misses' and Children's Shoes

AS FOLLOWS:

Misses' Fine Dongola Kid Button Shoes, spring heels, sizes 11 to 2. Price, \$1.

Children's Fine Pebble Goat Button Shoes, spring heels, protection toes, sizes 8 to 10 1/2. Price, 95c.

Children's Fine Dongola Spring-heel Shoes, soft, flexible soles, worked button holes and tassels, sizes 4 to 7. Price, 85c.

Ladies' Low-cut Patent-leather and Tan-colored Ties, with high stitched heels. Price, \$1 15 a pair.

Ladies' Dongola Kid Button Shoes, well made and finished. Price, \$1 15.

Misses' Spring-heel Pebble Goat Shoes, good and strong, with worked button holes, sizes 11 to 2. Price, \$1 15.

Children's Neat Dongola Kid Shoes, suitable for dress wear, sizes 8 1/2 to 10 1/2. Price, 95c.

Ladies' Common-sense Shoes of black Dongola kid, good strong soles and well-stayed backs. Price, \$1 20.

Odds and ends in Children's and Misses' Shoes.

Weinstock, Lubin & Co.

400 to 412 K Street, Sacramento.

FALL MILLINERY OPENING

French Pattern Bonnets

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, AUGUST 28th and 29th.

MRS. M. A. PEALER'S,

619, 621 and 623 J Street, Sacramento.

Go you drink Sarsaparilla?

It is not you are not drinking the best NATURAL MINERAL WATER on the market. LINDLEY & CO., Wholesale Dealers, Sacramento, Cal.

LOWER AND LOWER OUR GRAND REMOVAL SALE

And the WONDERFUL BARGAINS we are offering in each and every department has been the talk of the town since the opening day, Monday, August 3d.

The contract for the erection of our new building will soon be let and work commenced, so we must reduce our stock, and the buyer receives the benefit.

This sale, as the public has found out, is not a humbug affair, but a genuine REMOVAL SALE. We have cut prices lower than ever before. Read and be convinced.

Men's Black Worsted Suits, worth \$5, now \$2 50

Men's Fancy Worsteds Suits, worth \$6, now \$3 00

Men's Fancy Cassimeres Suits, worth \$8, now \$4 00

Men's Fancy Cheviot All-wool Suits, worth \$10, now \$5 75

Men's Extra Fancy Cheviot All-wool Suits, worth \$12, now \$6 50

Men's Fine Worst All-wool Broadcloths, worth \$25, now \$12 50

Men's Fine French Imported Black Corksweat, worth \$25, now \$12 50

Men's Fine French Imported Worsteds, in broad and narrow wales, worth \$25, now \$12 50

Boys' Sailor Suits, worth \$1 25, now 45c

Boys' Suits, long pants, union cassimer, 13 to 18, worth \$4, now \$2 25

Boys' Suits, long pants, all-wool cassimer, worth \$5, now \$3 00

MARRIED.

WELLES-SULLIVAN—In this city, August 25th, by Justice W. A. Henry, George M. Welles, of Los Angeles, and Florence Sullivan, both of Sacramento.

DIED.

CORTES—In this city, August 24th, Mrs. Martina Cortes, a native of Zacatecas, Mexico, aged 44 years.

FUNERAL NOTICE HEREAFTER.

HESTER—In San Francisco, August 24th, Michael, the beloved brother of John, Patrick, William and Mary Hester, a native of Ireland, aged 35 years.

Friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend the funeral this afternoon at 4 o'clock from the undertaking parlors, 1017 and 1019 Fourth street.

ELBERT—In San Francisco, August 25th, of diptheria, H. Theodore, only child of Theodore G. and Mary T. Elbert, a native of Sacramento, aged 2 years, 5 months and 18 days.

Interment in San Francisco.

REISAM—In Los Angeles, August 19th, Charles H. Reisam, aged 26 years, 6 months and 19 days.

Funeral notice hereafter.

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