

A FATAL NAP.

Shocking Death of James Murphy, a Track-Walker.

He Falls Asleep on a Track, and a Flat-Car Crushes His Head—Himself to Blame.

Christmas Day brought sorrow to at least one home in this city—that of James Murphy, an employe of the Southern Pacific Company, on Third street, between K and L.

The shocking death of a man lying beneath a flat-car on the northernmost spur in the yards between Eighth and Ninth streets.

At half-past 3 o'clock two boys, named Anson and York, who happened to be taking a walk in the up-town switch yards, noticed the body of a man lying beneath a flat-car on the northernmost spur in the yards between Eighth and Ninth streets.

They immediately informed some of the switchmen, who hurried to the spot and were shocked to discover that the mangled body was that of James Murphy, the track-walker.

Chief of Police Drew was next informed, and he in turn notified Coroner Clark. While the latter was preparing to go after the body, the Chief drove out to where it lay and made a close examination of the surroundings.

He learned that the car of rock which was over Murphy's body had been switched from the spur at 2:30 o'clock by engine No. 702, showing that Murphy was killed at that hour.

The car was let down easily, and the theory is that Murphy had fallen asleep in the edge of the brush thicket at that spot, and laid his head on the rail. The fact that his head was between the rails, and his pipe close by his side, leads to the belief that possibly he might have laid down there to enjoy a quiet smoke and had fallen asleep.

His tools were found on the ground on the opposite, or south side, of the car. Those who were in the vicinity of the accident at the time of the discovery of the body say they could easily understand how a man could be lying on the north side of the track and not be observed. The brush is quite thick, and there are cars standing on the track nearly all the time.

The car which killed Murphy would have come to a halt against another flat-car if it had gone a few yards farther. As it was, the engine gave the car a shove and "shot" it in some upon the switch, and this is undoubtedly the reason why so little noise was made.

The wheel crushed into the left side of the man's face, breaking the jaw-bone and skull, lacerating the flesh horribly, and breaking the collar-bone.

The deceased leaves a wife, but no children. The inquest on the body will probably be held this evening by Coroner Clark. Murphy's fellow-employes say he never drank to excess, and so far as known he was sober when he met his death.

EVERYBODY'S COLUMN.

Correspondence of Interest to the General Public.

Under this heading the Record-Union will publish short letters from correspondents on topics of interest to the general public. The matter in these communications will be understood to represent only the views of the writers. All communications must be accompanied by the name of the writer, not for publication, unless so desired, but as a guarantee of good faith.—Ems.

Jailer White Makes a Few Remarks.

Eds. RECORD-UNION: I see by several articles written by Mr. Goodell, which have charge of the repairing which is being done on the city hall building, that he directs a great many of his remarks at myself and what I have said about the old building. He seems to consider my judgment very poor, and my knowledge very limited. While I am free to confess I cannot see very far into a brick wall—not far enough to see rotten timbers that have been imbedded in the wall for so long a period that when removed they were found to have become nothing but dry dust—still I do think my vision sufficiently strong to be able to penetrate masonry equally as deep as Mr. Goodell's eyes are capable of doing.

Mr. Goodell says he is not writing for his own glory, but in the interest of the city of Sacramento. We will observe a few things and see what his interest in the "dear people" is. He was employed with Mr. McAdams to examine the old City Hall, and to report its condition to the City Trustees. A few remarks which Mr. Goodell has made to me in the presence of witnesses prove conclusively to my mind, at least, that he is working and writing more in the interests of Mr. Goodell than of the city of Sacramento.

He claims that the stay-rod, or hog-chain, which he has been writing so much about, is of no use in supporting the wall, but he receives pay from the city for fixing the wall that was broken by the pressure of the washer at one end of the rod.

He also claims that the pressure of the immense water-tank on the top of the building is not on the outside walls, but he receives pay from the city for removing these rotten and mangled sills and replacing them with new timbers.

He also has had a small abutment built under the southeast corner of the building, as the walls were cracked both ways from the corner, and it looked like the corner might, in the near future, fall out. But it would appear that he had this work done without a proper knowledge of the condition of the walls, as that particular corner is nearer plumb than any other place in the front wall, notwithstanding the fact that it is 23 inches out of plumb.

I will give an accurate statement of how the front wall of the building stands, as regards being plumb.

Commencing at the southeast corner (the one referred to above as being repaired), these plumbings, eight in number, were made at about equal distance from each other, and extend the full length of the front wall, which leans toward the south:

Southeast corner—23 inches. Second plumb—43 inches. Third plumb—1-16 inches.

"WORTH A GUINEA A BOX" SPECIAL NOTICE. Complying with general request, BEECHAM'S PILLS will in future for the United States be covered with a Quickly Soluble, Pleasant Coating, completely disguising the taste of the Pill without in any way impairing its efficacy. Price 25 cents a Box.

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The other articles that were eatable and drinkable—had vanished, as the dew disappeared before the ardent sun-drenched. If the bullocks had been eatable the, too, would probably have disappeared.

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