

POWDER WORKS BLOWN UP.

The Nitro-Glycerine House at Pinole Completely Wrecked.

ALL THE EMPLOYEES FORTUNATELY ESCAPE INJURY.

Further Particulars of the Wrecking of the Steamer Ventura on the Mendocino Coast—A Murder and Suicide the Outcome of a Drunken Row at O'Brien, Washington—The British Cruiser Warspite Sails for Victoria—Weather Notes.

Special to the Record-Union.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 28.—At two minutes to 7 o'clock this morning the California Powder Works at Hercules Point, near Pinole, were blown up with a crash that was heard for miles around.

The disaster took place in the nitro-glycerine house, and about 400 pounds of that combustible exploded. This particular establishment is right on the brow of a hill overlooking the bay and across the marshes, which are protected by huge bulkheads and earthworks.

With a cry of alarm they fled from the building shouting as they went, and the signals of danger created a wild tumult among the other workmen outside.

Several minutes had now passed by since the red fumes had been first noticed, and by this time a huge cloud of heavy smoke was hanging over the seething fluid. From its center flashes of light burst forth occasionally, getting fiercer and fiercer as the minutes went by.

The force of the explosion was so great that windows were shattered and movable articles thrown a mile away.

No blame at all is attached to the workmen for the accident was one of those unfortunate ones that have happened here and there in the history of the industry.

The explosion was quite marked in Oakland, eighteen miles distant from the disaster. Clouds of smoke and flames and glasses broken as far south as Fourteenth street, and in the northern part of the city the crash was heard by all.

WRECK OF THE VENTURA.

Captain Johnson's Account of the Disaster.

WESTPORT (Cal.), March 28.—Captain George Johnson of the wrecked steamer Ventura, who has just come down from Rockport, the scene of the wreck, says the sea came in rough at midnight, then calmed down until 3:45 o'clock, when it became suddenly very rough.

The Captain made several fruitless attempts to reach the bow of the vessel to cut the cable. Finally a tremendous sea caused the cable to lift and carry across the vessel's deck a 400-pound anchor and a 100-foot rope.

Orders were given to launch a life-raft, and soon the raft was in the water. The second engine and first mate were washed into the sea. The engine was also carried to sea. The mate succeeded, by superhuman effort, in saving the vessel. By this time the raft had broken away and gone to sea.

The Captain stood upon the bridge when the vessel struck. The rail being against the bluff and the house loose, stepping from the rail upon the perpendicular face of a bluff.

The rescued sailors leave for San Francisco to-morrow. The Captain remains, awaiting orders from the agent.

BODY CUT IN TWO.

Mangled Remains of a Farm Laborer Found at a Railroad Crossing.

STOCKTON, March 28.—The mangled remains of a farm laborer, known as "Shorty," were found early this morning at the railroad crossing of the slough near

French Camp, four miles south of this city. The body had been in cut two, the lower half being wedged between the ties on the trestle and the upper half laid under and to one side of the trestle, just at the water's edge.

NICARAGUA CANAL.

State Convention to Meet at San Francisco To-day.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 28.—Delegates appointed by the Supervisors of the various counties will meet at 11 o'clock to-morrow at the Chamber of Commerce to discuss the Nicaragua Canal, and to place California on record as having urged in State Convention the need of the speedy completion of the important work.

It is expected that the convention will place itself on record on three points and these topics will be discussed at length. One is the recommending of a bill to the Legislature for the present year.

RAIN IN THE VALLEYS AND SNOW IN THE MOUNTAINS.

NORTH SAN JUAN, March 28.—Saturday night, after a strong, cold wind all day, a light rain fell, changing to snow yesterday morning, when three inches followed, by a light rain all day.

Supposed to Have Suicided.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 28.—M. Hacken, who for eighteen years was engaged in the candy business in this city, left here January 16th to purchase a store in Fresno.

WASHERFIELD, March 28.—The trial of J. S. Gulart, charged with the murder of Martin Hains, picking his remains and then feeding the same to his employees on the San Francisco and Coast Range Railroad, was set for trial in the Superior Court to-day.

TEMESCAL TIN MINES.

SAN DIEGO, March 28.—Lloyd Booth, President of the immense iron foundry and machine works of the Booth Company at Youngstown, O., who has been in the city to visit the property.

MURDER AND SUICIDE.

SEATTLE, Wash., 28.—The Times' special from O'Brien, March 28.—Says: Late last evening, during a bar-room row, Mike Crowley, a bar-keeper, shot and instantly killed Richard Horn.

PHYSICIANS BAFFLED.

CARSON (Nev.), March 28.—Ernest Trevett, a nine-year-old inmate of the Orphan's Home here, became stone-blind about the middle of last week.

ASSAULT TO MURDER TRIED.

STOCKTON, March 28.—Benito Bojorcas is being tried in the Superior Court to-day for an assault with intent to murder Jesus Apodaca last January at San Joaquin, thirty-five miles south of this place. He climbed in the window and shot Apodaca while in bed.

FREE COINAGE BILL.

Belief Expressed That it Has Met Its Death Blow.

BLAND VERY MUCH DISCOURAGED AT THE OUTLOOK.

Congressman McKenna Retires From Active Duty in the House as Representative of the Third District of California—Contracts for Furnishing Supplies at the Mare Island Navy Yard Awarded—Proceedings in Congress.

Special to the Record-Union.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—The chances are that Bland's silver bill is knocked out. Speaker Crisp confirms the report that he will not, as a member of the Committee on Rules, vote to set a time for consideration and for calling the previous question.

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eratic members of Congress. A majority of the Democrats requested a time to be fixed for the consideration of the free coinage bill, but the majority of the Republicans thereupon to change of rules. In response the committee permitted three days.

The Speaker said as well as he recollected Bland did want to incorporate a limitation of the right of the house to filibuster, or to continue in order, but the committee determined that that necessity for such a rule was demonstrated, they would not report it.

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CALIFORNIA'S OPPORTUNITY.

Greatest Advantage Ever Offered It by an Excursion.

VISIT OF THE NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION.

How the Eastern Newspaper Men Will View the Various Sections of the State and Take Notes and be Supplied with Information—An Important Meeting at San Francisco and What Was Accomplished.

Special to the Record-Union.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 28.—The Joint Committee of the California Press Association and the Southern California Editorial Association held a meeting in the Chamber of Commerce rooms this afternoon.

The delegates chosen to represent the association in the Eastern States are: State Board of Trade, 3; Chamber of Commerce, 3; State Grange, 3; State Agricultural Society, 3; State Horticultural Society, 3; State Board of Horticulture, 3; State Mining Bureau, 3; State Miners' Association, 3.

Those for the State Agricultural Society, State Grange and the Viticultural Society were present.

He said the speaker showed present: William H. Mills, Eugene J. Gregory, Tyler Deach, L. W. Buck, J. L. Mosher, B. M. Leong, W. C. Ralston, William Ireland, Jr., William D. Johnson, S. K. Thornton, Henry Martin, Charles G. Yale, H. W. Meade, Charles Bundschu, M. D. Buck, Allen B. Lemmon, J. A. Miller, S. L. C. W. Maslin, George F. Kernaghan, George M. Francis, Arthur R. Briggs, J. A. Woodson, Duncan McPherson, Professor Allen.

The delegates coming here, said Mr. Lemmon, "are connected with the rural press of the United States. They are fully equipped to do a thorough job, which will convince here in May. They are not men who can come here merely for the novelty of coming, but they come to do a job, and they will do it."

Mr. Mills said that he wanted it understood that he was only an honorary member of the meeting by virtue of his being a member of the Chamber of Commerce and the State Board of Trade.

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work, an elaborate affair, will be sent to every member of the visiting body fully two weeks before he leaves the East.

Very many speakers remarked upon the high value of this excursion to California—that it will be the most important of any ever made, and in its length and breadth.

Mr. Briggs brought up the question of finances for San Francisco's share in the work, and after a spirited debate, on motion of Mr. Mills, the chair was instructed to notify every city, town and county to be visited, through proper associations or official bodies, of the excursion, and that then to each left the whole question of local finances and methods of entertainment. It was ordered that the complete itinerary be furnished to the press.

The meeting at 4:15 adjourned to the call of the chair. It was a very harmonious and spirited assembly, and it fully entered into the work before it and manifested its appreciation of the unmeasurable value of the excursion to California.

In brief, it may be stated that the itinerary begins with the meeting of the guests well over in Arizona by the escort committee, thence to San Francisco, Stockton and stop, to Sacramento and stop, to Vaca Valley and stop, and on up through Napa Valley and stop at two points, on to Sonoma, Santa Rosa, Vallejo and stop. Then to San Francisco for three days; then to Monterey and rest on Sunday; then to San Jose and stop, Monte Park and stop, to San Francisco, to Woodland via the Sacramento Valley to Tehama and return via Vina and stop, Chico and stop, to Sacramento, to Auburn, Dutch Flat and stop, to Grass Valley and stop, Nevada City and stop, and return to Sacramento and disbursements never equalled in the history of excursions.

SPECKELS FALLS INTO LINE.

His Philadelphia Refinery Sold to the Sugar Trust.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 28.—John D. Spreckels has confirmed the dispatch announcing the sale of the Philadelphia Refinery to the Havemeyer combine, but says that he is not yet in possession of any of the details.

NEW YORK, March 28.—The executive officers of the American Sugar Refining Company would not say whether the report that the Spreckels Sugar Refinery at Philadelphia was turned over to the company on Saturday in consideration of \$7,000,000 in sugar certificates.

SOCIAL SCANDAL.

Sensational Developments Looked For in Will Contest.

CITY OF MEXICO, March 28.—A scandal has arisen over the property of Louis Huller, who died suddenly in Tucson, Arizona, recently while en route to California. Huller had large interests in Mexico, and had been heavily interested in the International Company of Lower California (Baja), and in many railroad concessions.

Executed by Electricity.

SING SING (N. Y.), March 28.—Jeremiah Cotto, the ignorant Italian, who murdered Louis Frankelos in Brooklyn last July, was killed by electricity this morning at 10:40 o'clock.

CHICAGO, March 28.—Just before adjournment for the day the Grand Jury in the boodle cases voted to indict Herley, who, beside being a member of the Board of Education, is an ex-member of the State Senate. The indictment voted will not be returned until to-morrow.

GERMAN POLITICS.

The Government Abandons the Educational Bill.

GREAT REJOICING AMONG THE NATIONAL LIBERALS.

Inquiries Into the Case of Two Brothers Confined in a Russian Prison on a Charge of Killing a Peasant Revealed a Practice of Wholesale Murder of Emigrants on the Frontier—It is Estimated by the Police That the Two Brothers Have Murdered at Least Forty Persons.

Special to the Record-Union.

Berlin, March 28.—In the Lower House of the Prussian Diet, Count von Eulenberg, the newly appointed President of the Prussian Council, made a statement in which he justified the separation of the Imperial Chancellorship from the Presidency of the Prussian Ministry.

The Landtag has not witnessed in many years such an exciting scene as today, when the new Prussian Premier announced that the primary education bill had been abandoned.

The Premier, however, was not long in raising a somewhat significant future discord in the Diet. He announced a general election bill would be postponed indefinitely, but the declaration that it had been abandoned was an almost universal surprise.

The National Liberals were delighted. The Ultramarines could not conceal their indignation at the Premier's announcement. The National Liberals cheered loudly, and both parties got so excited that for a time it seemed as if some would be provoked to personal violence.

REMOVED CHANGE IN THE CABINET.

Berlin, March 28.—The National Zeitung to-day says it is rumored that Herr Karl Zinrich von Jayden Gadow, Prussian Minister of Agriculture, Domains and Forests, will resign, and that Count von Eulenberg will take that post.

TROUBLES IN VENEZUELA.

Fear of English Interference Before New York, March 28.—A letter from Caracas says: "Most of the men here are in a position to know the state of the case believe that under the present political trouble at Caracas over the ambitions of Presidential candidates there will arise serious trouble that will create an excuse for England's interference, and before winter is over the guns of British men-of-war will be directed against the coast of Venezuelan seaports."

WILLFUL MURDER.

Verdict of the Coroner's Jury in the Deeming Case.

LIVERPOOL, March 28.—The Coroner's Jury investigating the deaths of the woman and four children, whose bodies were found under the floor of the Dinham Villa at Rainhill, continued to-day.

A Nerve Murderer.

MUSQUIZ (Mexico), March 28.—Jose Gonzales, a police officer, yesterday made an unprovoked assault on Manuel O. Iñiz, a Judge of the Peace. He started out of town, and was pursued by three policemen. Gonzales kept them at bay with a revolver, killing two of the officers. A shot from the third man's pistol brought Gonzales to the ground. He was taken to jail, but refused to be held and die, saying he supposed he would die as he liked, and sat in a chair till he bled to death.