

BUTTE'S MEN ON THE RACK.

Trying to Explain the Decrease in Property Values.

Some Heavy Conundrums Propounded by Several of the State Equalizers.

Yesterday's session of the State Board of Equalization was an interesting one. The county of Butte had been cited to have her officers appear and show cause why the assessed valuations of that county should not be raised, there being a drop of \$1,000,000 since 1895.

To account for this large discrepancy a number of prominent Butte County officials and other citizens appeared before the board, among whom was H. C. Bell, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, and members E. T. Reynolds, W. H. McKay and J. M. Nelson. County Assessor W. P. Lynch and Deputy Assessor A. M. Smith were also present.

The Butte men came fully fortified with figures and facts to show what had become of the \$1,000,000 valuation, but they were not prepared for the tactics of the State Board.

Mr. Bell opened the investigation by stating that the county was represented by the full Board of Supervisors and the Assessor and his deputy. They were ready to answer any questions. They had also with them Colonel Boyce, manager of General Bidwell's estate.

Assessor Lynch being called upon to state what he had to say relative to his assessment, said the closing of the saw-mills had removed \$69,000 worth of lumber from the county within a year, and the removal of grain about \$50,000. He had also reduced the grain land in the foothills or uplands \$5 per acre. This he thought would about account for the reduction.

George L. Arnold of the State Board wanted to know what orange lands were assessed at, and Mr. Lynch replied that \$30 per acre would probably be a fair average. The trees were valued at from \$15 to \$25 per acre. The Assessor assured the board that much of the fruit land and large tracts of the grain land could be bought at from \$5 to \$15 less than their assessed valuations.

This statement was Mr. Arnold's opportunity, and he lighted the fuse to his bomb by asking: "And do you see no other reason for this decrease in assessments, Mr. Lynch?"

Mr. Lynch confessed that he did not, whereupon the Equalizer led the discomfited Assessor into a maze of bank statistics.

"Do you know," asked Mr. Arnold, "what are the bank statements from your county of the solvent credits made under oath to the Bank Commissioners?"

"No, sir."

"Do you know that the solvent credits of the Bank of Butte are about \$120,000? And what is your assessment?"

"Nine thousand dollars," replied Mr. Lynch.

"The Bank of Chico has about \$44,000 in solvent credits, and you assessed it for about \$6,000," continued Arnold. "The Bank of Oroville has \$36,000 in solvent credits and Rideout & Co. have \$90,000. In each case you assessed these banks for less than one-fifth the amount you should have. Here is where you lost at least one-quarter of a million dollars. Do you see it?"

Mr. Lynch admitted that the point was visible, and he was solicitous to know if he was the only Assessor in the State who had been taken in.

The board assured him that he was not the only victim, but that he had made a grave error. His whole attention had been directed to the lands of the county, and he had lost sight of those who were best able to bear their just proportion of the taxes.

The investigation then shifted from the banks to real estate, and numerous instances were cited by Mr. Lynch showing the decline in values. Land worth \$50 per acre five years ago now sold at \$25 or \$30. Letters were read from prominent bankers, lawyers and farmers estimating the decrease in land values at from 10 to 15 per cent. The cause was attributed to levee breaks, suspension of mining (whereby the Cherokee Canal was closed) and crop failures.

It was quite evident that Mr. Arnold was determined to get at the bottom of the orange business in the northern citrus belt, and he precipitated the matter by asking Supervisor Bell how it was that orange land in Palermo Colony, which would produce oranges equal to those of Southern California, was assessed at \$30, while in the latter section it was valued at \$500.

Mr. Bell answered simply, "The land sells for that. Yours sells for more."

"Tell me," insisted Mr. Arnold, "what was the crop last year of the best orchard in Palermo?"

The reply was, "One twenty-acre tract produced 3,000 boxes, which sold at from \$2 to \$3 per box."

Mr. Arnold could not understand why this orchard was only assessed at \$90 per acre.

Mr. Bell explained that there was a disposition to encourage the industry, and that last season was an unusually good one.

Controller Colgan humorously inquired of Mr. Lynch how long he had been Assessor of Butte County, and that gentleman replied, "Six years."

"Now, at the rate you have been decreasing the assessment roll, how long do you think it will be until you have none?" asked Mr. Colgan.

Mr. Lynch happily replied that he thought he could hold out six years longer.

The board assured Mr. Lynch they did not doubt his integrity, but it was their desire to assist him in getting at a just valuation.

One member of the board wanted Deputy Assessor Smith to account for Butte's dogs. Last year the county owned twenty-six dogs and a sprinkling of cats, and there were none this year. He wanted to know how it was that there were 108 watches on the roll of '95 and none on '96. The county was also short 1,500 wagons, and a good round sum in furniture.

Mr. Smith gave it up as unanswerable. Colonel Boyce, manager of Rancho Chico, interested the board for an hour with a recital of the figures showing the profits and losses on the General Bidwell estate. In a number of instances there had been a great loss in marketing fruit. In a tract of 3,800 acres of what land, assessed at \$55.89, the income showed only 8 per cent, on a valuation of \$15 per acre. On another of 700 acres, assessed at \$23.36

per acre, the income was 8 per cent, on a valuation of \$17 per acre. On an orchard of 110 acres three years ago they lost \$1,858 and paid \$324 taxes. Two years ago they lost \$5,900, and this year \$7,000.

"But you don't always have such losses," suggested Mr. Morehouse.

"Oh, no," quickly and reverently responded the Colonel; "thank God for that!"

After going into a long list of documentary evidence, the board took the matter under advisement and adjourned.

Yolo and Solano Counties will be given a hearing to-day.

AT REST.

Funeral Services Yesterday of the Late Mrs. G. A. Ottmann.

"I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord. He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live, and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

So chanted two white-robed priests at the entrance to St. Paul's Church yesterday afternoon, as the remains of the late Caroline S. Ottmann were borne over the threshold of the church she loved so well. The deep tones of the organ sounded in Chopin's "Funeral March," and the two priests led the procession to the altar, continuing to chant the beautiful sentences that open the Episcopal burial service. The late afternoon sun, as it shone through the many colored prisms of the memorial windows, cast a soft and beautiful light over the handsomely decorated chancel.

The two clergymen took their stations, and the Rev. J. A. Emery of the Church of the Advent, San Francisco, continued the service. The burial chant was sung by a choir composed of Messrs. Cohn, Crocker, Genshien, Kiddle and Owens. "Plee as a Bird," a solo, was sung by Mr. Cohn. "Oh, Mother, Dear Jerusalem," was rendered by the choir. Then the final prayer was said, the organ sounded in Handel's "Dead March in Saul," and Rev. Mr. Emery, accompanied by Mr. George, led the procession.

At the grave the members of St. Agnes' Chapter of the Daughters of the King passed around the newly made grave, each placing a bunch of flowers thereon. The final prayer was said, the mourning family, and the friends departed.

The flowers were beautiful to behold. The prevailing color was purple, the favorite of the deceased, and the purple asters amongst the white produced a pleasing effect.

The pall-bearers were A. C. Tufts, M. J. Dillman, C. F. Dillman, C. K. McClatchy, Dr. G. L. Simmons and Dr. T. W. Huntington.

THE CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGN.

Importance of Sending Republicans to Congress.

(From the Amador Republican. Republicans should not allow the Presidential election to overshadow the Congressional work necessary to be performed. It should be borne in mind that McKinley, when elected, will want just such men as Hon. Grove L. Johnson in the lower house, and should fate order otherwise and Bryan be elected, then, indeed, will this nation need staunch Republicans like Johnson in Congress. So, whichever way we look at it, the importance of sending Republicans to Congress is apparent. See to it that Grove L. Johnson is returned to the halls of Congress.

PRINTERS IN COURT.

H. Rodgers Fined Ten Dollars for Striking C. J. Nangle.

Justice Davis yesterday heard evidence in the case of Harry Rodgers, foreman of the State Printing Office, charged with an assault on C. J. Nangle with an intent to do great bodily injury, and he was fined \$10 for battery.

The trouble occurred on Tuesday night over differences between the faction denouncing the management of the State Printing Office and the printers upholding it. A dispute between Rodgers and Nangle reached its climax at a meeting of the Typographical Union, when Rodgers struck Nangle.

Suit to Recover Property. J. L. Hicks, by his attorney, E. C. Cordell, has filed an amended complaint against James Paris, Jr., and Alfred Spinks to recover possession of a boat or barge in the American River and a Hicks marine gas engine. Or, in lieu of the property, he wants \$2,000 in money, also \$500 damages and \$50 attorney's fees.

The property is held under an attachment.

Police Court Jottings. Justice Davis yesterday fined Gow Chung \$50 for selling lottery tickets. John McIsaac, found guilty of vagrancy, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment, but the sentence was suspended until 3 o'clock and the defendant granted leave to secure a "tie ticket" for other parts.

Thomas Kenney, having complied with the ordinance relating to cess-pools, he was yesterday discharged.

Prompt Payment of Life Insurance. The Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company, through its agent in this city, A. E. Rudell, yesterday paid me one thousand dollars (\$1,000), being insurance on my brother's life, the late M. V. Lima. The above claim was paid in eighteen days after proofs of death were handed to Mr. Rudell.

MARIA A. BORGES. Optician. F. de Wolfe Hennah, at Masonic Temple. Office hours, 9 to 1, 2 to 5; Sundays, 9 to 12. Examination and consultation free.

Public Schools. Have closed. Conditioned scholars should attend Howe's Academy, Ninth and I.

Wanted. Fifty four-horse teams to haul wood from Fair Oaks. For particulars, inquire of Edwin K. Alsip & Co., 1015 Fourth street.

Dairyman Milk Cans. Seamless necks, extra heavy and very strong. See this can and get our price before purchasing. American Cash Store, Eighth and K.

Late Crawford and Orange Cling peaches, 20c box; cans and jars cheaper than any one. Fine Burbank potatoes 6c sack. Beesley & Son, 518 J street.

You can get employment picking hops in Durst's hop yards, Wheatland. Excellent! Excellent! is the unanimous verdict pronounced upon "C. C. C." Java Blend Coffee, 64 to 1. How's that? 64 ounces for one silver dollar. Granger building, Tenth and K.

If you want something new and novel in the ice cream or candy line, try Welch Bros., Ninth and J.

In collars and cuffs we have an enormous stock of E. and W. and C. Coon & Co. William M. Petrie, 622 J.

Hop pickers Wanted at D. P. Durst's hop yards at Wheatland.

INDEPENDENT REPUBLICANS.

They Call a County Convention of Their Own

And Say They Intend Placing a Full Ticket in the Field.

The following report has been furnished in manuscript for publication by a committee representing the organization calling itself "Independent Republican":

The Joint Executive Committee of twenty-two of the Twentieth and Twenty-first Assembly District Republican Clubs, has held several meetings since the regular Republican County Convention, which met on August 10th in this city. These clubs claim to represent a majority of the Republican voters of the Twentieth and Twenty-first Assembly Districts, and to have the sympathy and support of a large majority of the party in the Twenty-second Assembly District, being that portion of the county outside the city.

They also claim that the present regular Republican organization does not correctly represent the Republican voters in the county; that the methods adopted by said organization are corrupt and unwarranted, tend to disrupt the party and destroy hope of Republican supremacy; that the only salvation for the party, as locally considered, is for the honorable, respectable elements in the party to take independent action, not as a bolt from the party, but as a revolt and protest within party lines.

At a meeting of the committee held last evening the following preamble and resolution was adopted:

"Whereas, The recent action of the Republican County Central Committee of Sacramento County has demonstrated that said committee does not properly represent the Republican voters of the county in that, by a vote of nine to two, it refused to allow representatives of any opposition ticket to be named upon the several election boards at the recent primary election; by a vote of nine to two refused to agree to permit the ballot boxes to be kept in plain view of the public during said election, and by a vote of nine to two refused to allow the Republican voters to be present in the room when the ballots cast were counted; also, that a full county ticket was 'slated' by a few individuals without authority so to do prior to the recent Republican Convention, and by connivance and co-operation of said central committee a convention was 'put up' which was intended to and did merely ratify the nominations so previously made, all of which action has prevented the Republican voters of Sacramento County from giving a free and unstrained expression of their purposes and desires; and

"Whereas, A large majority of the Republicans of Sacramento City and county are absolutely opposed to star chamber proceedings in the party, and will not submit to the unwarrantable methods adopted by the machine now in power, resulting as it has in bringing back into the central committee of the notoriously corrupt element from which the party had but recently purged itself, and rendering possible the disgraceful scenes enacted at the Armory during the recent primary; therefore be it

"Resolved, That a convention of the Independent Republicans of Sacramento County be called to convene in Sacramento City on Saturday, August 29, 1896, said convention to be composed of representative men of the party and other honorable electors who desire clean and respectable methods in politics; each member of said convention to be absolutely free to express and vote his personal preferences, and that said convention nominate a full county ticket which will properly represent and receive the support of the party and of all interested in good government."

Representation to the independent convention will be by Assembly Districts—one hundred from each district—making a convention of three hundred. The delegates are to be named by the committee of twenty-two working in conjunction with representative independent Republicans from the county district.

A large number of names were selected last evening, but the list will not be published until completed, which will be done a few days prior to the holding of the convention.

Members of the committee state that this is purely a local matter, and that there is no intention to take any action regarding the national ticket. They also assert that there is great dissatisfaction in the county with the work of the County Central Committee and the recent county convention.

It is proposed that the independent convention give the county full and equitable representation on the ticket nominated.

Of all the "good things" sold at the "C. C. C." Granger building, Tenth and K. "C. C. C." Java Blend Coffee takes the lead; 16 ounces for 25c.

BOHN. ROGERS—in Ventura, August 16th, to the wife of Rev. Conway B. Rogers, a daughter.

DIED. WILLIAMS—in Fair Oaks, August 8th, David Williams, a native of Wales, aged 49 years. Friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend the funeral to-day (Friday), at 10 a. m., from George H. Clark's funeral parlors, 101 and 109 Fourth street.

WZARD—in Oak Park, August 19th, William Ward, a native of Connecticut, aged 71 years, 9 months and 8 days. Friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend the funeral to-day (Friday), at 2 p. m., from his late residence, Oak Park.

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WEINSTOCK, LUBIN & CO. TO-DAY, 9:30 A. M. TO-DAY, 9:30 A. M. Art Silks and Stamped Linen Goods. LOT 1—A large assortment of beautiful patterns and colorings in soft, lustrous Florentine Drapery Silks, 31 inches wide. Sale Price, 32c. LOT 2—All our Stamped Linen Goods, including Mats, Tray Cloths and Bureau Scarfs, with scalloped and hemstitched edges, at greatly reduced prices. Stamped in pretty patterns for outlining. Sale prices, 2c, 5c, 9c, 12c, 22c, 33c and 57c. Prices, 2c, 5c to 57c. Also a few Tea Cloths, 54 inches square, reduced to 98c and \$1 13. Japanese Silks. We have just placed in stock a complete line of Japanese Silks, 20 inches wide, at 25c. The colors include white, cream, yellow, rose, pink, shrimp pink, old rose, cardinal, garnet, green, brown, navy blue, gray, light blue and black. New Fall Dress Goods. The New Woolens are coming in almost daily, and those who wish to buy for State Fair and early autumn wear can find a nice assortment of choice things on our counters. The weaves, patterns and shading are all entirely new and must be seen to be appreciated. Prices, 35c, 50c to \$1 25 yard. Weinstock, Lubin & Co., 400-412 K St.

BEFORE GOING TO THE MOUNTAINS SUPPLY YOURSELF WITH Fishing Tackle, Cartridges, Rifle or a Shotgun. YOU CAN FIND ANYTHING YOU WANT IN THAT LINE AT ECKHARDT'S GUN STORE, 609-611 K STREET. GIRLS WHO USE SAPOLIO ARE QUICKLY MARRIED. Try it in Your Next House Cleaning.

OUR TENTH SEMI-ANNUAL CLEARANCE SALE. This sale is a marked one, as it yokes together high-grade goods with low prices, something not experienced in previous sales. We have studied how to save our patrons many a hard-earned dollar and still wear good clothing. When you've examined our various lots on sale you'll agree that we mean exactly what we say. The following list will convince you: LOT 1 includes our elegant \$4 50 and \$5 Suits, cut to \$2 95. LOT 2 includes our line of \$6 Suits, cut to \$3 90. LOT 3 includes a good, solid line of \$7 Cassimeres and Cheviots, cut to \$4 45. LOT 4 includes our elegantly made \$7 50 and \$8 Cheviots, in fashionable colors, cut to \$3 45. LOTS 5 AND 6 include our fine tailored \$8 50, \$9 and \$10 Cheviots, weaves and Cassimeres, cut to \$6 50. LOTS 7 AND 8 include our handsomely tailored \$10 50, \$11 50 and \$12 50 Suits in the latest shades, cut to \$7 50. LOT 9 includes those elegantly tailored and stylishly cut \$13 50, \$13 50 and \$14 50 Suits, in Cassimeres, Cheviots and Worsted, cut to \$8 35. Our entire stock of Furnishing Goods, Boots, Shoes, Hats, etc., cut in proportion. Step in and examine. No trouble to show goods. H. MARKS, Clothier and Furnisher, Etc., 414-416 K St.

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