

CLEARING FILES.

The Decks Ready for Action This Week.

Bennett-Toland Contested Election Settled in the House.

Return of the Southern Jaunting Committee To-Morrow.

Fate of Many Bills Will Soon be Settled—Another State Highway Measure.

The Senate Chamber was a deserted appearance yesterday morning, only three or four Senators occupying their seats...

Senator Morehouse was busy preparing his bill for transferring the girls from the Whittier School to the former Home of the People-Minded at Santa Clara...

The second reading file having been nearly disposed of on Friday, it is not probably that much time will be wasted on it for several days...

The committee on the rock-crusher, fixing the minimum price of the rock, which has reached its present stage without the amendment...

Several bills that came from the committee with an adverse report were allowed to go to third reading...

AS PER AGREEMENT. On adjournment Friday the Assembly cut out its Saturday work, agreeing to leave the third reading file until the return of the absentees on Monday...

So when the faithful few—enough for a quorum—gathered together yesterday morning it was the first and second files which they attacked with considerable energy...

Eighteen bills amending the Code of Civil Procedure were read and passed to third reading with very few amendments.

Lindenberg's bill regulating the width of wagon tires was amended to take effect from and after A. D. 1900.

Hill's bill, fixing the age of consent at 18 years, was amended to read at 16 years. The sentiment of the House seemed to be in favor of 18 years, but past experience...

Sanford's bill, 45, requiring corporations to file in this State to pay their employees, each of them, at least once in each month the wages earned by such employee...

Other bills read the second time were the following: A. B. 123, by Waymire, to amend section of Public Law in relation to insurance.

A. B. 124, by Waymire, to enable any county, city and county, city, or town to lease property to associations of ex-soldiers and sailors.

A. B. 125, by Cross, enabling any city or county to take its census between the times for the Federal census.

A. B. 126, by Wright, providing for the prevention of blindness in infants and fixing a penalty for improper neglect by midwife or physician.

A. B. 127, by Dibble, providing for the setting up of headstones provided by the United States for deceased sailors, soldiers and marines, the expense to be borne by the county.

To-morrow, too, the work of investigation goes on, and more members will tell what they know about attaches.

IN THE ASSEMBLY.

The Story of the Files in Several Chapters.

Barely a quorum in the House yesterday morning, but the story of the files went on without interruption. Leave of absence for the day was granted Godfrey, Pohlman, Emmons, Cartwright, Bettman, McCandlish, Foreman, Gateley, McGrath, The Chaplain was also absent.

ENGROSSMENT. The Committee on Engrossment reported the following bills correctly engrossed: Nos. 4, 172, 150, 21, 18, 6, 139.

SPECIAL ORDER. Under special order Mr. Mead called up 296, providing for the sale of street railroad and other franchises in municipalities, which had been reported correctly engrossed, and was ready for its final passage.

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VENUS DE MILO.

Light Thrown Upon the Mystery of Its Creation.

Marquis de Trogoif-Lavaux Saw the Statue Intact, and So Testifies. There has always been considerable controversy over the actual original condition of that world famous statue in the Louvre, the Venus de Milo. Who was its author? At what period was it conceived? And what was the position of those missing arms? M. Marcelles, in 1854, remarked: "It will not be very long before there is no one living who will be capable of lifting the mist of mystery which enshrouds the light of the Venus de Milo."

In this statement he was mistaken. The very seemingly impenetrable mystery which enshrouds this goddess, but which the impatience of the archaeologists to unravel it. In 1874, just twenty years after M. Marcelles had spoken these words, a manuscript was discovered by M. Jean Alcard, over the signature of one Dumont d'Urville, written at Milo April 16, 1820.

D'Urville claimed to have been one of the first to see the treasure. He was at that time only an Ensign on board La Chevrete, a French naval vessel. In this report, addressed to his commandant, he relates the details of the discovery, which, according to him, was made at the end of the month of March and he adds:

"She (the statue) represents a nude woman; her left hand is uplifted and holds an apple; the right grasps a fold, which is draped in graceful folds around the breast. The statue is found, but unfortunately both the arms have been mutilated and are actually detached from the body."

Several foot notes by Lieutenant Mattered, another officer of the Chevrete, were added to this manuscript. "When M. d'Urville and myself," he writes, "first saw the statue, the left arm was still attached to the body. The right was broken off at the wrist, but the left was still almost perfect. The hand was uplifted and held an apple. If M. d'Urville called this antique statue Venus Victrix it was because she was holding the apple in her left hand."

Dr. Barnard has published more than 800 pamphlets on educational topics during his life time and now in his active old age, is revising some of his work for republication. His efforts have not, however, been confined to his literary work; for he has been responsible for many of the reforms which have been instituted in educational methods by the States, and also for the organization of the National Department of Education, which has been of incalculable benefit to educators. The improvement of the public schools has been his life work. One of the most interesting things about the life of Dr. Barnard is that he has seen and known personally all the Presidents of the United States except Washington, John Adams and Jefferson.

GLEASON TO-DAY. Professor Gleason has given many interesting and exciting exhibitions in this city during the last two weeks, and hundreds of people have gathered at times to see him struggle with vicious and unruly horses while taming them.

But the exhibition which the horse tamer has announced for this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock is expected to eclipse them all. On this occasion he proposes to bring under subjection the vicious Cook horse, said to be the meanest in the State—an animal that has successfully resisted all attempts to subdue his fierce spirit.

In addition to this brute Professor Gleason will have several others with which to experiment.

INDUSTRIAL LODGE. Its Members and Friends Enjoy a Pleasant Evening. Industrial Lodge No. 157, I. O. F., gave an entertainment to its members and friends last evening, and the most enjoyable time was had by all. The exercises included a piano solo by Mrs. D. E. Kerr; recitation, Master Elwood Hart; solo, Mrs. Walter Longbottom; piano solo, Edna Kromer; character song, Al. Gibson; piano solo, Mrs. W. Dickens; vocal solo, T. K. Barkworth; farce comedy, "The Glassman," by members of the lodge.

After the exercises the members and their friends partook of refreshments in the banquet room.

Red Men's Ball. The Improved Order of Red Men and Wenonah Council, Daughters of Pocahontas, will give an anniversary waltz at Turner Hall on Tuesday evening, February 23d.

Coursing To-Day. The programme for to-day's coursing events at Agricultural Park is a very attractive one, as it will bring together a large field of the best dogs owned in this vicinity. Nothing short of rainy weather will prevent a good day's sport.

Grape Growing in China. In Northern China large areas are given up to the production of grapes. Heretofore the Chinese have grown grapes only for the table, but now a syndicate has been formed for the manufacture of wine in Chinese vineyards. The Chinese of late years have grown to like wine and have imported it in quantities from Europe, but it is claimed that with Chinese cheap labor the foreign wines can be driven out of the Chinese market and the industry become as profitable as that of tea growing.

Women and Tobacco. The French Society for the Prevention of the Abuse of Tobacco is trying to call the attention of all French women who use the fragrant weed to the fact that nearly all the Queens of Europe do the same, and that they are likely to be suspected of monarchical sympathies if they continue to indulge in the habit. Among the royal smokers, so claimed, are the Empress of Austria, the Dowager Empress of Russia, the Queen of Roumania, the Queen Regent of Spain, the Queen of Portugal and the Queen of Italy.

Republicans of Wyoming whisper that the plucking of a woman as a ticket for Presidential Elector defeated the whole number and brought about the election of the Populist candidate for Congress. Even the women of the State failed to rally in full strength for the ticket bearing the woman nominee.

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seashore, that this operation was effected by means of ropes, and that they were obliged to work secretly and at night, as the Turks had forbidden the sale of objects of art to strangers. I remain, gentlemen, etc.

MARQUIS DE TROGOIF-LAVAUZ.

The following is the text of the marginal notes written day by day by the young midshipman, De Trogoif: "During our anchorage at Milo from the 4th to 11th of March, 1820, according to the log book a young Greek peasant working in his field one day found that his spade met with a very unusual resistance. Pulling it out he discovered what looked like a vault. Flged by curiosity, and also in hopes of making some precious discovery, he dug carefully around the object and found a species of niche. At last, after infinite trouble, he happened accidentally upon the opening. Entering hurriedly, he perceived to his great astonishment a magnificent statue, having two white ants on either side."

"She was in a condition of good preservation. In one of her hands she held an apple, a fact which led him to suppose that she was the goddess of the island—as the word 'meles' in Greek signifies apple—but she could just as easily have been taken for a Venus. She is of marvellous beauty, the draperies being especially admirable."

The author of these lines, a nephew of the Admiral of the same name, was himself a brilliant naval officer. A graduate of the naval school and then of Angouleme, he gained great honors for his bravery at Navarin and Salamine. After the revolution of 1830 he sent in his resignation from active service.

His testimony in regard to the Venus de Milo is absolutely indisputable. He never for a moment thought of attaching any importance to his role in the affair. He simply wrote these daily notes for his own pleasure and perhaps because it was his duty to correct his daily observations, and they are simply what he heard and what he saw on the subject."

M. De Trogoif's story, which is absolutely trustworthy, settles and fixes two points in this historical controversy—first, that it was in March, 1820, from the 4th to the 11th, and not on the 8th of April, as has been generally believed, that the statue was found; second, that both arms were intact and the Venus held an apple in one of her hands.

It is very improbable, however, that the archaeologists will confess themselves vanquished. For nearly twenty years they have been promulgating systems without giving a thought to the witnesses who might overthrow them."

The different attempts made toward the restoration of this Venus de Milo offers some very amusing incidents. Fortunately, from the very beginning there was so much disagreement among the archaeologists that Louis XIII, finding himself in an embarrassing position when the Marquis de Riviere brought the marble to Paris, ordered the statue sent to the Louvre for public exhibition as it was found.

Being deterred by the royal decision from trilling with the original marble, the archaeologists called for competitive designs, showing how Venus probably looked before her mutilation, and this was followed by a myriad of fantastic and ingenious interpretations. The following are a few out of a vast number: Messrs. Millingen, John, Welker and Puller represent Venus as holding Mars' shield.

Mr. Braun and Wetzig put the shield on Venus. According to Mr. Rydberg, she holds a shield upon which is engraved an inscription commemorating the victory of the Greeks over the Persians.

Mr. Stullman, of the Century Magazine, who has studied the subject very carefully, poses a striking figure, that of Victory, who has just finished trampling an inscription on a tablet.

Mr. Bell, an English sculptor, gives us a Venus holding a crown of laurel in each hand.

In 1873 an anonymous sculptor exhibited at Vienna a Venus making her toilet. According to Mr. Fourtwaenger Venus is leaning on a column, the left hand holding an apple.

Felix Ravaisson, who seems to look upon himself as an authority on the subject, has indicated the Venus as a reproduction, executed in the time of Alexander, of a model created in Athens in the time of Pericles, the reproduction and the original showing Venus Urania welcoming into Elysian bliss the heroic founder of Athens, Theseus.

The fact that the statue is sculptured out of two pieces of marble, has drawn forth the conclusion from Mr. Saloman that it is without doubt the work of Cephalotes and Timarque, two sons of Praxiteles.

Mr. Tarral, an Englishman living in Paris, and M. Gledier, von Ravensburg have accepted Dumont d'Urville's description of the goddess when first found at Milo, and which has been so completely corroborated by the young midshipman's log book. The work of restoration proposed by Mr. Tarral is the most characteristic of all the models so far offered and seems to come nearer the truth of the original. Such she seems to have been when she left the hands of her creator, and such she certainly was when the peasant of Milo found her in his field and showed her to the officers of the French squadron.—New York Herald.

CURIOUS FACTS. If the armies of Europe should march at an eight-mile gait, five abreast, fifteen inches apart, it would require nine and a half days for them to pass a given point.

On the eastern coast of Ireland it rains on an average of 208 days in the year, in England about 150 days, at Kazan about 90 days and in Siberia only 60 days.

Careful experiment has shown that through a certain depth of water, where only 50 per cent. of the red rays passed through, there were per cent. of orange, yellow 80, green 90 and indigo 95.

When lions and tigers bring forth young in captivity, the greatest care has to be exercised to keep them for several days in the dark and undisturbed, as otherwise the mothers will almost invariably destroy their cubs.

Sunlight does not penetrate deeper than 1,200 feet. Very sensitive photographic plates exposed for ten minutes at 400 fathoms deep showed no development of light.

Military stables horses are known to have pretended to be lame in order to avoid going to military exercise. A chimpanzee had been fed on cake when sick; after his recovery he often feigned coughing in order to procure dainties.

Tortoise live to a great age. In the library of Lambeth Palace there is the shell of a tortoise which was brought there in 1623 and which lived until 1730. Another in Fulham Palace, procured by Bishop Land in 1628, died in 1753, and one at Peterboro lived 220 years.

THE WORLD,

Especially the Western World, is thickly populated with beer drinkers.

It is clearly important that a beverage so generally consumed should be without adulteration.

GILT EDGE is composed of nothing but pure water, hops and malt. In all truth and modesty, there is no better beer in the world.

RUMSTALLER'S Gilt Edge Steam Beer.

VOICE OF THE PRESS.

Extracts From Editorial Expression of Journals

Of the State and the Coast on Subjects of Living and News Interest.

Stockton Mail: There is no merit whatever in the legislative opposition to the stone-crushing plant at Folsom. It is in no way worthy of consideration that interferes with free labor. On the contrary it gives employment to large numbers of men throughout the State and serves a useful public purpose. The objections should not be considered for a moment. They are trivial and unreasonably.

PROPOSED NEW GAMBLING LAW. Riverside Enterprise: It is going to be a serious matter to be detected in the business of conducting a gambling house, or even being caught playing the game hereafter, if a bill just introduced in the Assembly becomes a law. The present law only makes the keeping of a gambling house a misdemeanor, which means that a conviction can bring as punishment a small fine or a few days' imprisonment at most in a county jail. Under the proposed law the offense will be a felony.

CIVIC DUTY. Stockton Record: Kansas City adopted an ordinance fining every qualified citizen who did not vote \$2 50, but the Supreme Court of Missouri has declared it invalid, as it should. But there might be some punishment arranged for those who neglect their civic duties. If they could be deprived of some privilege that pertains to citizenship and finally, if they persist in neglect, deprive them of citizenship itself, it might be effective.

ANARCHY IN DISGUISE. San Diego Union: A resolution has been offered in the Colorado Senate asking Congress to call a convention for the revision of the Constitution of the United States, on the ground that it has outlived its usefulness. The purpose is undoubtedly to begin a movement which its promoters hope will spread and in time become an actual factor in national politics.

Happily there is little likelihood that so unpatriotic a project will find followers. To the average citizen of the United States there is something almost sacred about the Constitution. It is regarded as embodying the wisdom and best thought of the men who launched this republic, and whose memory today is revered the length and breadth of the land. People are not prepared to suddenly take up the idea that after all this Constitution, under which this country has become the great and free nation it is to-day, was only a temporary makeshift, the work of men who could not see beyond their own generation. Even the most rancorous iconoclast will pause when it comes to proposing the nation's great political landmark.

THE ROCK PLANT. Santa Rosa Republican: The rock-crushing plant at Folsom furnishes employment for some 300 convicts, who are maintained at the expense of the State. This is distressing a lot of labor reformers, who work principally with their mouths, and there is a demand to have the crushing of rock stopped. The proposition is unreasonable, and it should not be heeded. Great good can come to the State from the rock-crushing enterprise, and instead of reducing, it will increase the demand for labor.

THAT PRACTICAL ANTHONY. Stockton Independent: Chief Crowley, in his note to the Chinese Consul, probably overstepped his authority. He should have addressed his note as President Lincoln issued his proclamation against Horace Greeley's peace conference scheme. "To whom it may concern" is faultless, the only error is in the address.

THE DREDGER. Modesto Herald: Incidentally, we observe that the dredger project is discussed as a new idea. Years ago, when the writers were in the thick of the fight between the farmers of the Sacramento Valley and the hydraulic miners, we pointed out the absurdity of the existing system of building levees with earth taken from the land itself, instead of serving a double purpose by bundling the levees with earth dredged from the river bed. This system has been followed until the beds of the Sacramento River and its tributary streams have shallowed to a level (in some instances) with the towns on what was originally their banks, and the waters are only kept from inundating the towns by the artificial bunding alone.

THE CONVICT LABOR QUESTION. San Jose Mercury: Concerning the argument that the use of rock crushed by convict labor and sold at a cheap figure to counties or cities would give employment to many more men than would otherwise be employed, they contended that it would be necessary to put ten convicts at work in order to give one free man employment on the outside in handling the material after it had left the quarry, so that in order to give ten men work on the streets, the bill proposed to throw ninety free quarrymen out of employment. This statement is certainly an exaggeration. The object of supplying rock at a nominal figure is to encourage road and street improvements that would not be done at all if the city or county were compelled to buy the material at market prices. Under the system inaugurated at Folsom there will probably be ten or twenty times the amount of work on roads and streets that is now being done, and this will give employment to hundreds and thousands of men who otherwise would not be employed.

THE BURDEN BEARERS. Fresno Examiner: In discussing the bills introduced in the Legislature providing for the appropriation of money for the various Harbor Commissioners, the "Examiner" advises the San Francisco delegation to secure for the San Francisco Harbor Commission its share of the State's money and then, speaking of the board, adds: "The whole expense of salaries, as well as improvements, has been met by San Francisco through dues levied on its shipping and commerce." This statement is narrow, clamorous, unfair and an audacious example of metropolitan presumption. The farmers of this State have been paying State tolls at the San Francisco wharves on all products sent to commission firms there for over a quarter of a century. When these farmers bought goods there they have also paid the wharfage charges to get the goods started from the bay. These tolls went into the harbor fund and paid for new wharves and salaries of employees. Every collector and every wharfman under the San Francisco board has been a legalized leech on what the interior shipped in, as well as on what it took home. The wholesale importer has added his wharfage dues to other costs and sold to the interior buyer at a figure fixed accordingly. All the producers and consumers of the State who have shipped to and from San Francisco have borne the burden referred to, and any San Francisco dealer that her people have suffered a disproportionate share of the burden has no justification at all.

THE DREDGER BILL. Stockton Mail: If there is a bur in the dredger bill it should be smoked out. The "Mail" some weeks ago suggested that provision should be made for State interest in the lands reclaimed. No attention was given the suggestion, yet on that point is based about all the objection to the measure. Unless the bill is broadened and improved it is not likely to prevail at this session. It possesses too many good features to be lost.

ITEMS OF INTEREST. The Montreal Street Railway Company gave its employees six tons of turkeys and three tons of plum pudding at Christmas. There were several carloads.

The Shaker settlement in Florida has had a prosperous year, and a large number of the members of the society in Mount Lebanon, New York, will join it as soon as buildings can be made ready for their use.

Department officers in Washington sometimes get queerly directed letters. One received by the Second Auditor the other day was addressed: "The Oremble 22 Ordery United States Dreshury, Washington, D. C."

Boston's police force cost the city last year \$1,535,130, and \$95,477 additional for maintaining the signal service. The amount paid into the city treasury from fees for licenses over which the police have supervision was \$1,484,568.

The Toronto "Monetary Times" says of a man who began business in that city three years ago and failed last week: "At that time he had no experience as a business man, but this he has since acquired." Who now has the money it does not tell.

The District Commissioners of Washington have forbidden newsboys to cry their papers in the streets on Saturdays or after 8 o'clock in the evening on week days, except that they may cry "at other necessary hours extra editions of the local newspapers on extraordinary occasions." The decision is to the hour and the occasion seems to be left to the discretion of the newsboys.