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NEED FOR A STATE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT.

A memorial was yesterday presented to the Governor by a committee of the State Board of Trade in person, which is published in full in another column of this morning's "Record-Union," that is of first importance to all the people of California.

It will be recalled that last fall the Consul-General of the English Government, residing in San Francisco, made a report to the Queen, representing that for the most part California colonization schemes are fraudulent and deceptive.

The Crown indorsed and approved the report by transmitting it to Parliament, and thus it became a State paper, the influence of which will not be limited to English-speaking peoples.

Upon this subject the memorial was addressed to the Governor of California. In the outset it admits that there is considerable justification for the indictment so inimical to California.

That many deceptive schemes of colonization have been and are promoted and colonies induced to settle upon lands that no intelligent Californian would advise any one to occupy with a view to success in home building, is conceded.

But while it is true, unhappily, that such schemes have been foisted upon the foreign and the home public, as well, the report to the British Government tended to greatly injure this State by casting doubt upon all immigration invitations, and all really advantageous and beneficial propositions for settlement in the State, and is calculated to injure all beneficent enterprise and greatly retard the development of the natural resources of California.

Indeed, the fact that the representations have foundation in fact to a certain extent renders the case far more difficult to handle.

The memorialists therefore represented that the case demands the application of remedies, and since State interests are generally involved it is proper that the State itself in its official character undertake to apply the remedies.

It is set forth in the memorial that California has passed out of the condition wherein the prices for lands and the possibilities of cultivating the same with profit and density are not correlated with the density of population.

We are now in that condition where the volume of the population is directly related to the value of lands. High prices for desirable lands no longer rule; the depressed condition of business has eliminated false factors in valuations, and we are confronted with the important question, "Are our conditions such as to invite desirable population that more densely settled sections invested with the advantages flowing from sound moral, good educational and commendable social conditions and reasonable expectation of reaping fair reward for investment, offer to home seekers?"

If the answer is in the negative, then our invitation is deceptive. But the memorialists believe that California offers honest inducements, superior to those of more densely settled regions, and therefore it is commendable, necessary, that these advantages be fairly, firmly and unreservedly set forth, and that to do this is to confer inestimable benefits upon the commonwealth.

While the time was when inflated prices forbade expectation that investment by homeseekers would bring them reasonable reward upon their investment and enable them to better their condition, which is invariably the motive for all men who seek new homes, that period has passed and all the conditions inciting immigration have improved.

But at this very time, when we had most to hope for, the reputation of the State has received serious injury, and therefore the necessity for counteracting it and applying remedies becomes

a matter of first State importance. With a view to these ends the memorialists of the State Board of Trade addressed the Executive of the State yesterday and asked him to advise the Legislature that these two arms of the Government shall be extended in defense of State reputation and interests. It was suggested that a means to the end in view might well be found in the erection of a State Commission of Immigration, the office of which shall be to protect the State and its people from the injurious results of the promotion of deceptive and unworthy immigration and colonization schemes, and to undo, so far as can be done, the injurious effects flowing from such official representations as have been made by its representatives to the English Government.

It would seem that this memorial, which should be read in full that its gravity and importance may be fully comprehended, points the way to a remedy that should be at once applied.

At the very best we cannot hope to wholly undo the injury already inflicted—at least, not until after considerable lapse of time; but a commission such as that suggested would be an instrument capable of conferring lasting and incalculable benefits upon California.

Lifted out of political grooves, placed in the hands of men above reproach and of acknowledged ability and unselfishness, administered with absolute fearlessness and unsparring justice, it would prove a death-dealing instrumentality to all nefarious and illusory schemes promoted for unscrupulous gain to the injury of the whole people.

At the same time its indorsement and approval of worthy offerings would amount to guarantees that would inspire confidence among strangers and invite to the population, intelligence, energy and thrift and capital wisely used, of which the State for its full development stands in need.

There is popular distrust of commissions and multiplication of such agencies, but as the Executive is reported to have said the duty that would be imposed upon an Immigration commission can well be given in charge to some present official body, as, for instance, the State Board of Agriculture, as advised by the Governor.

That body is representative, unsalaried and sufficiently large and well balanced to preclude any thought of misuse of its powers. It is already a statistical and meteorological as well as an agricultural bureau, and is therefore admirably adapted to take on this new duty, which would also have the effect of giving it more of dignity and public importance.

It is to be hoped, therefore, that in this case there will be such prompt action taken as will meet the necessities of the case. Assuredly the State of California cannot afford by silence to give indorsement to that which, while in part true, is sweeping in its application when accepted by people in distant lands, who have no adequate means of informing themselves in a way to enable them to discriminate between false and true representation.

The matter is therefore one of exceeding gravity and high importance. It cannot well be postponed for two years. If that is done the injury the State has already received will more deeply affect all interests, and be the more difficult of eradication. Happily, we are not without examples to guide us. Other States and countries have erected similar agencies, both in protection and promotion of home interests, and there is no record of such influences having proved in practice other than beneficial.

A WORD FOR SACRAMENTO.

The Alameda "Argus" says in the course of an acrid article, and the Santa Cruz "Sentinel" echoes the remark with acerbity, that "There is always an assumption on the part of Sacramentoans that the State Capital is maintained largely for the benefit of that city."

We think we know Sacramentoans pretty well; have a pretty extensive acquaintance among them and understand the motives and thought of the community. We undertake to say that the flippant statement of our contemporaries is not only error, but is a half-faced falsehood. They do not have the knowledge of this people that justifies them in making such a statement.

It is the result of false conception, for the fact is, and it is a patent fact, that the people of this city, far less than those of any other Capital City, assume that the State maintains a Capital in their interest. On the contrary, the people of Sacramento have no such thought and never had. The city has never received a dollar from the State by way of appropriation or otherwise, but has given to the State hundreds of thousands of dollars, sometimes in response to the appeal of the State itself.

The charge of our contemporaries would be precisely as just if leveled against Stockton on account of the Asylum there; or Napa because of the Institution for the insane; or San Jose, Los Angeles and Chico because of the Normal Schools; or the people of Alameda County because of the State University, the Institution for the Blind and the Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb; against San Francisco because of the Affiliated Colleges and the dozen or more State Departments maintained there; or San Bernardino because of the Insane Asylum at Highland; or Lone because of the Preston School; or Los Angeles because of Whittier, and of Santa Clara because of the Agnes Asylum and the Lick Observatory, now a State institution.

It is admitted in all candor and sobriety, that this nagging and snarling at the Capital of the State is evidence of an ungenerous and petty spirit. The fact is, as every sensible intelligence must realize, that wherever a Capital building might be located it would need care and attention, would be subject to wear and tear, and would have to be maintained and that such State and not local duty. As a matter of fact, Sacramento has fewer of her people in the State Capitol than any

one of a large number of counties. She has but one citizen who holds a State office, and not even his deputies are Sacramentoans.

There is less expended for State purposes in Sacramento to maintain the Capital than is spent in almost any other county where a State institution is located and State officials have their homes. The expenditure necessary to maintain the Capital is largely distributed in other communities. We submit that while it is absolutely false and a vicious and mean allegation that any such assumption is entertained by the people of Sacramento as is charged by our contemporaries, aside from the projection of such expression it is injurious to the State, cultivates a feeling of jealousy and localism and suggests that we are not one people but a parcel of greedy beasts corralled in pens, the boundaries of which form the horizon of our interest in the splendid heritage that California is to all of us.

Indeed, it has been complained that Sacramentoans have not manifested sufficient interest in the Capital, and have not concerned themselves sufficiently in the care and betterment of State property. If there is any semblance of truth in that charge it is due to the fact that if any of them gave special evidence of such becoming public spirit, they would be liable to precisely such assault as our contemporaries, the "Argus" and the "Sentinel" indulge in, and that very fact is deterrent.

The latter journal adds to its charge that Sacramentoans only, and no others profit by the State Fair. That is untrue also; but we submit that wherever a State Fair is held it will be impossible to wholly localize it; that it is a State institution, and that it conserves State interest largely, and has far more than repaid all it has ever cost.

Undoubtedly Sacramento benefits in natural and rational course by the holding of the fair here, and so would any other city where it might be located. It is also true, a fact which our contemporaries wholly ignore if they know it, that Sacramento gave out of hand the splendid property, the original Capitol Park, in which the Capitol building stands, worth at the time hundreds of thousands of dollars, and likewise gave to the State that other splendid property worth other hundreds of thousands of dollars, known as Agricultural Park, and which the State has just ordered sold, that there may be relocation, thus cutting off all possibility of the property ever reverting to the donors.

Besides all that, Sacramentoans, with unexampled liberality, paid one-half the entire cost of building the present Pavilion, on State property, and prior to that built and paid the entire cost of the Pavilion which the State for so many years occupied for its annual exposition. Yet Sacramentoans are so little accustomed to speak of these things that the facts are scarcely known to the traders of this city.

However, referring to the charge quoted in the outset, we repeat that it is an unvarnished falsehood, an unwarranted assumption; there is no foundation in fact, in thought or in fancy, that Sacramentoans entertain the idea that the Capital is maintained largely for the benefit of this city. Sacramento takes that natural pride in being the Capital City that ought to be expected of it, and for failure of which none would sooner or more sharply rebuke us than our Alameda and Santa Cruz contemporaries.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS.

No More Room for Women at the Southern California Asylum.

At the meeting of the State Board of Examiners yesterday afternoon a communication from Dr. M. B. Campbell, Medical Director of the Southern California State Asylum, was read.

The letter stated that the two wards erected for the use of women patients are now overcrowded, and asked that the board notify the Judges of the Superior Courts not to send any more women to that asylum.

The board decided that the matter of notification was one for the trustees of the asylum themselves, and a suggestion was also made to them that they should first receive patients from San Diego County and afterwards from those farther south.

A number of bills from the Home for the Feeble-Minded at Glen Ellen were laid aside, as the supplies furnished had been purchased contrary to law. The law requires these supplies to be advertised for, while these had been purchased in the open market.

The excuse of the Superintendent was that when he advertised for these supplies he received no bids and was compelled to purchase them to keep the institution running.

The bills were laid aside till the next meeting, and the Superintendent was notified to readvertise according to law in future.

"UNCLE" JOHN DOUGLASS.

The Old Veteran Wants to Visit Sacramento Again.

The following letter from "Uncle" John Douglass, the Mexican war veteran, who is now an inmate of the Soldiers' Home at Santa Monica, may be of interest to some of the old man's friends here:

"Els. 'Record-Union': I wish you would remind the people of Sacramento that I will be 75 years old on the 22d of this month. Now, I am poor, but would like to come on one more furlough and see the people of Sacramento once more before I pass over the last river.

"If some of my friends could get up a reception for me, helping me financially, I will be able to come. Now if you please put a piece in the 'Record-Union' for me I will think it a great favor."

Y. W. C. A. Meetings.

The meetings held at the rooms of the Young Women's Christian Association continue in interest. Mrs. Norvell, the leader, charmed all who heard her at the recent convention, and those who miss these services are depriving themselves of a rare treat.

There was a Bible reading yesterday afternoon, and there will be another to-day at 2:30 o'clock. All women welcome.

A PRETTY FAIR GAME BILL

The One That is Likely to Pass the Legislature.

It Could be Materially Improved, But All in All, is a Good One.

In response to the many inquiries that have been made of the "Record-Union" as to the nature of proposed amendments to the game laws now pending in the Legislature, the following bill is published for the information of the public.

This bill was introduced in the Assembly, amended there, passed and sent to the Senate. There it received several amendments, the last having been made on Tuesday. To-day it will be on the third reading file, and as soon as it passes that body it will be returned to the Assembly. If the Senate amendments should be concurred in there, the bill will be passed without much delay.

Considering the feeling that has been displayed during the last two years over the game law provisions, this bill, which now bids fair to pass, is a very fair one. In its present shape the open season for ducks and quail begins October 1st and closes March 1st. This adds two weeks to each end of the shooting season. It would be better to let the present date (October 15th) remain, but the two weeks' extension from February 15th to March 1st is not objectionable, as in the upper half of the State there is very little duck shooting to be had between the first part of January and February 15th. From the latter date to March 1st the ducks are more plentiful.

The provision of the law of 1895 restricting market hunting has been omitted as a sort of compromise. The law now in force is in the right direction, however, and unless something of the kind be re-enacted the excellent work of protective clubs will have been for naught.

The following bill, as originally introduced, exempted canvasback and blue-bills from its operation—that is, they were not to be protected. This would all right if men would not kill other ducks that nest here in the early spring months while pretending to be shooting canvasback and blue-bills. As all men who carry guns are not true sportsmen, and cannot be trusted to obey the law, the Senate very wisely struck out this provision.

THE BILL AS IT IS.

An Act to repeal Sections 626a, 626b, 626c, 626d, 626e, 626f, 626g, 626h, 626i, 626j, 626k, 626l, 626m, 626n, 626o, 626p, 626q, 626r, 626s, 626t, 626u, 626v, 626w, 626x, 626y, 626z, 627a, 627b, 627c, 627d, 627e, 627f, 627g, 627h, 627i, 627j, 627k, 627l, 627m, 627n, 627o, 627p, 627q, 627r, 627s, 627t, 627u, 627v, 627w, 627x, 627y, 627z, 628a, 628b, 628c, 628d, 628e, 628f, 628g, 628h, 628i, 628j, 628k, 628l, 628m, 628n, 628o, 628p, 628q, 628r, 628s, 628t, 628u, 628v, 628w, 628x, 628y, 628z, 629a, 629b, 629c, 629d, 629e, 629f, 629g, 629h, 629i, 629j, 629k, 629l, 629m, 629n, 629o, 629p, 629q, 629r, 629s, 629t, 629u, 629v, 629w, 629x, 629y, 629z, 630a, 630b, 630c, 630d, 630e, 630f, 630g, 630h, 630i, 630j, 630k, 630l, 630m, 630n, 630o, 630p, 630q, 630r, 630s, 630t, 630u, 630v, 630w, 630x, 630y, 630z, 631a, 631b, 631c, 631d, 631e, 631f, 631g, 631h, 631i, 631j, 631k, 631l, 631m, 631n, 631o, 631p, 631q, 631r, 631s, 631t, 631u, 631v, 631w, 631x, 631y, 631z, 632a, 632b, 632c, 632d, 632e, 632f, 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