

M'GOWAN PLEADS FOR MRS. BOTKIN.

Closes the Argument for Defense in the Murder Trial.

Charges Prosecution With All Kinds of Infamy in Handling Its Case.

Assistant District Attorney Homer to Conclude for the Prosecution To-day, the Case Then to Go Over Until Tuesday, When Judge Cook Will Deliver His Instructions to the Jury.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29.—The announcement that to-day would probably be the last day for arguments in the Botkin case attracted an immense throng to Judge Cook's courtroom today. The police held the crowds in check with difficulty, and for hours after the commencement of the argument for the defense by Attorney Frank McGowan, the corridors were filled with a curious, motionless crowd anxious to catch a few words of the scathing arraignment of the police and the methods of the prosecution, which it had been whispered about would be the main feature of McGowan's address.

Nor were the rumors without foundation. McGowan hauled the police over the coals royally; he charged the prosecution with all kinds of infamy in the handling of its case, and he roasted several of the witnesses to a crisp. He went over the case from beginning to end, and said that the defense had made a technical fight, that he had not eked out a single admission of evidence, and had kept nothing back. He attributed directly opposite methods to the prosecution. He said that were his client guilty she would have attempted to hide everything hurtful to her cause.

He admonished the jury regarding circumstantial evidence, and asserted that evidence must be resolved in favor of the defendant. He enumerated many cases of circumstantial evidence, and hinted upon the dishonesty of prosecutors in many cases to secure convictions on such evidence.

McGowan attacked Attorney General White's argument. He accused the Delaware attorney of appealing to the sympathies of the jury. He said that Mr. White had misrepresented, especially with regard to the arrival of the box of candy at the Delaware Postoffice. McGowan reserved his arraignment had not been proven, and that an employe of the Dover Postoffice might have placed the package in the bag as easily as not.

Referring to the anonymous letters, Mr. McGowan said that they had not been traced to Mrs. Botkin, and that she had no reason for writing them. The identifications of Mrs. Botkin by several of the witnesses for the prosecution, continued Mr. McGowan, were flimsy and unreliable, and that action in such cases must be carefully considered.

Mr. McGowan said that no motive had been proven; that the contention of the prosecution that Mrs. Botkin was enamored of Dunning had not been proven by the facts in the case; in fact, the opposite held good. McGowan entered a bitter attack upon Dunning.

Mr. McGowan concluded his concluding feature of his argument. He held that arsenical poisoning had not been proved, and even if it had, the attending physicians had stated that lump arsenic had been used, whereas the drug clerk from Mrs. Botkin had purchased arsenic, entered the purchase upon the poison book of the druggist, specifying powdered arsenic. Every point throughout the case, declared McGowan, was shrouded in doubt, and he urged the jury not to bring in a verdict opposed to the facts adduced by the defense.

Assistant District Attorney Homer will make the closing argument for the prosecution to-morrow. Owing to the New Year's holidays, the case will then go over until next Tuesday, when Judge Cook will deliver his instructions to the jury.

STATE INSANE ASYLUMS.

Meeting to Discuss Matters Relating to Them.

STOCKTON, Dec. 29.—The quarterly meeting of the representatives of the Board of Managers of the various State insane asylums and members of the Lunacy Commission was in executive session to-day at the State Hospital here, though the meetings are generally held in San Francisco. These meetings are for the purpose of discussion of matters relative to the conduct of the institutions for the care of the insane.

Those in attendance were Dr. Campbell of Southern California, John McGonigle, editor of the Ventura "Democrat"; Dr. Curnow of the San Jose, Dr. F. M. Spangole of Agnes, Dr. F. W. King of Ukiah, J. T. Doyle, F. W. S. Woods and John Thompson of the Board of Managers of the State Hospital at Stockton, Dr. Clark, Medical Superintendent of the State Hospital; Dr. Hatch and Dr. Matthews of the Lunacy Commission, and Secretary Carrere of the Lunacy Commission. They met in executive session again.

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You don't have to have an eye-glass nose to be properly fitted here. Every one sets easily but firmly. No slipping, tipping, wobbling, or pinching. Eyeglass grinding factory on premises.

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and after a long discussion a resolution was passed opposing the separation in appropriations by the Legislature of the fund for salaries and wages from the support fund, and the incoming Legislature will be asked to make the appropriation in a lump sum. There was also a lengthy discussion on the question as to whether the contingent fund should be paid to the State Treasurer, or remain under the control of the local hospital managers of the Lunacy Commission, as now. A resolution favoring the leaving of the contingent fund as it is and one indorsing the lunacy law were passed.

BATTLE SHIP OHIO.

Work on the New Warship Begun at Union Iron Works. SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29.—Work on the battleship Ohio has been commenced at the Union Iron Works. The Ohio will be the largest ship ever built on the coast and one of the three biggest to be built in the American navy. She will have a displacement of 12,500 tons, and her dimensions will be as follows: Length, 388 feet; breadth of beam, 72 feet 3 inches; draught, 23 feet 9 inches. The battleship will be twenty feet longer than the Wisconsin, and forty feet longer than the Oregon. She will have a greater displacement than the Wisconsin by 1,000 tons, and 2,000 tons more than the Oregon. The Ohio's contract speed is two knots faster than the Wisconsin and three knots faster than the Oregon.

MINCKLER IN CUSTODY.

The Alleged Bank Swindler Arrested at Ashland. SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29.—L. D. Minckler, the Postal telegraph operator who, in conjunction with Harry L. Cator, alias Barclay, is accused of having swindled the Bank of Palo Alto out of \$840 by means of a bogus dispatch from the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank of Los Angeles, was arrested at Dunsmuir to-day on a dispatch sent out by Chief Leas. Cator was taken to Palo Alto by an officer this afternoon. It is alleged that his real name is Henry L. Hall, and that he was born in Ashland, Or. Minckler is a native of Oregon, and was on his way to that State when arrested.

SENATOR WHITE.

Says He Is Utterly Opposed to Acquiring Distant Lands.

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 29.—United States Senator Stephen M. White left for Washington in an interview with a reporter of the "Express" regarding the Philippine question, he said: "I am utterly opposed to the acquisition of distant and barbaric lands. It appears to me foolish to embark on a line of policy which we have heretofore avoided. It is my earnest conviction that the carrying out of the expansion program will prove disastrous to the Republic as such. This result may be postponed for years, but it will be reached, if we abandon our precedents."

Institute of Mining Engineers.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29.—The California Miners' Association proposes to do all in its power to induce the American Institute of Mining Engineers to hold its next annual meeting in San Francisco, and to that end an invitation was forwarded to-day to the head office of the institute in New York. The convention is usually attended by 500 to 600 delegates, who embrace within their ranks the best mining engineers in America.

Trial Trip of the Chitose.

SANTA BARBARA, Dec. 29.—The trial trip of the Chitose, the new Japanese cruiser just completed by the Union Iron Works, will take place to-morrow morning at daylight, if the weather is more favorable than to-day. It will be on an eight-hour run of 16 hours under forced draught and six hours with natural draught. The test will be made over the Government forty-mile course, extending from Santa Barbara to Point Conception.

Seizure of "Samshu."

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29.—Customs inspectors to-day seized 1,007 quarts of "samshu," or gin made from rice, on board the steamer China. This is the second large seizure within a month. There is a duty of \$2.50 a gallon on the stuff, which is much prized by Chinese.

Held for Murder.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29.—Miguel Espudra was to-day held without bail to answer before the Superior Court by Judge Conlan on a charge of murder. He is accused of killing his wife, Soledad, in their home at 1317 Powell street by subjecting her to the most atrocious cruelty in September last.

Suicide by Drowning.

SAN RAFAEL, Dec. 29.—C. Serenti, a well-to-do Swiss living near Tomales, committed suicide this afternoon by drowning himself in Tomales Bay. Family troubles are assigned as the cause.

Judge Searls Resigns.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29.—Judge Niles Searls, Commissioner of the Supreme Court of California, has resigned his position, and will retire to private life. He is 73 years old, and says that he desires to rest. The Justices will appoint his successor.

Death of a Ventura Millionaire.

VENTURA, Dec. 29.—John Melner, the millionaire resident of Ojai Valley, died to-day. The deceased owned much valuable Milwaukee (Wis.) property, having been a pioneer brewer of that city.

Los Angeles and Pasadena Road.

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 29.—The electric railroad known as the Los Angeles and Pasadena Railway Company, operating between Los Angeles and Altadena, has passed into the possession of the Southern Pacific Company.

Drank Wood Alcohol.

SANTA CRUZ, Dec. 29.—Mrs. Laura Rains to-day drank wood alcohol by mistake for pure alcohol, and died from its effects. She was a native of Ohio, aged 40 years.

Gunboat Wheeling.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29.—The United States gunboat "Wheeling" came down from Mare Island to-day in new white paint, and will in a few days leave for a two months' cruise in Alaskan waters.

Suicide of a War Veteran.

VALLEJO, Dec. 29.—John Neubaer, a veteran of the civil war and a recent employe of the navy yard, committed suicide by shooting himself during a fit of despondency.

LEGISLATION FOR HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

A Sharp Contest Expected to Occur in the House

When the Subject of a Form of Government Is Brought Up for Debate.

The Majority and Minority of the Committee on Territories Fail to Agree Upon a Bill, and the Former Also Disagrees With the Report of the Foreign Relations Committee.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—A sharp contest will occur in the House over the legislation for the government of Hawaii, as the majority and minority of the Committee on Territories do not agree as to the form of a bill. Neither do the majority agree with the report of the Foreign Relations Committee, although the differences are not such as to cause great difficulty. The majority report of the House committee changes the bill introduced by Hitt only slightly with the exception of the qualifications for Senators and Representatives. The property qualifications are stricken out and any citizen who is a voter and has been a resident of Hawaii for three years is eligible. Those who were citizens of Hawaii on August 12, 1898, are made citizens of the United States. One House will not be allowed to constitute the Legislature in case the other adjourns, nor will it be necessary to have the sanction of three members to introduce a bill in the Legislature. The delegates to Congress shall possess the same qualifications as a voter. Bonds issued on the credit of the public domain of the Territory of Hawaii shall not have a term of more than fifteen years. One year's residence must be proven to obtain a divorce.

The minority report was prepared by H. B. Ferguson, delegate from New Mexico, who is a member of the subcommittee. Henry of Oregon, who is also a minority member, is now absent. The report says that the minority is unable to agree to some prominent features of the bill, as introduced and as approved by the majority of that subcommittee, and continues: "We object to the provision of the bill making the Superior Court of the Territory of Hawaii judge of the membership of the House of the Territory Legislature of Hawaii. We believe that each house should be the final judge of the qualifications of its members."

"We also object to the property qualifications for members of the Senate of the Legislature of Hawaii. This disqualification also extends to the voters for members of that branch of the Legislature. "A residence of three years in Hawaii is also necessary for one to become a qualified voter. As our desire is, of course, to be able to elect our own representatives, we think a residence of less than one year would be preferable."

ENDED IN A DRAW.

The Bantam-Weight Fight Between Barry and Leon. DAVENPORT (Ia.), Dec. 29.—Jimmy Barry, the bantam-weight champion, and his old-time rival, Casper Leon, fought a fast twenty-round fight to a draw to-night before the Tri-City Athletic Club. The small hall in which the fight was held was filled to overflowing, large delegations from Chicago and adjoining cities being in attendance.

The fight was an even one from start to finish. In the opinion of many of the spectators Leon outpointed his man, but Barry's apparently superior strength easily evened up matters. There was very little betting on the event.

Owing to long delays caused by awaiting the arrival of special trains, the fight was not concluded until after 1 o'clock. Though the fighting was very fast, neither contestant scored a knock-down. Leon came out of the mill with a badly-damaged eye, Barry inflicting the injury with a hard right smash during the third round.

The decision of Referee Malachi Hogan met with the approval of the spectators. Barry's seconds were Frank Bartley, Tommy White and Patsy Fitzgerald, while Leon was backed by Morris Raused, Kid Manning and Dan Leach.

JOINED THE PYTHIAN RANKS.

A Catholic Priest Elected a Member of the Order. CHICAGO, Dec. 29.—Father F. J. Walsh, a Catholic priest of this city, has been elected a member of a local lodge of the Knights of Pythias. His application for membership was made in the usual manner, and being favorably passed upon by the lodge, his election followed without question.

He admitted to-day that he had been elected a member of the organization with his consent, but said that he had not yet been initiated, and until this latter ceremony had taken place he could not be considered in any sense a member of the organization. He said that he would endeavor to secure the approval of Archbishop Feehan of this city.

Archbishop Ireland of St. Paul is a close friend of Father Walsh. The priest is assistant pastor of St. Vincent's Church. He is a member of the Lazarist Order, and is one of the most popular clergymen of the Catholic faith in Chicago.

Murdered Three Men.

WEST PLAINS (Mo.), Dec. 29.—At Ambrose, in Ozark County, William Barton to-day shot and killed two men named Cobb. Sheriff Luna quickly organized a posse at Gainesville and started out to capture him. He was found near the scene of the tragedy, and before being arrested he shot and killed a member of the posse, and then surrendered. News of the tragedy is very meager, but from the best information obtainable three men are dead, and their slayer is in jail at Gainesville closely guarded.

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ADAMS POISONING CASE.

REMAINS AS GREAT A MYSTERY AS EVER.

WANTED IN GEORGIA.

ATLANTA, Dec. 29.—The "Constitution" will say to-morrow: S. LaFayette Almand, a Georgia merchant, who is charged with absconding with some forty or fifty thousand dollars, was arrested in Tulare, California, last Sunday morning, and Monday night an officer started for California after the absconder.

Almand was a merchant with headquarters at Conyers, Ga., and did a large business throughout the State. He had the confidence of the business men of the State, and almost unlimited credit. He appeared to be flourishing, when about three or four weeks ago he suddenly disappeared, and when those who had trusted him examined his affairs, they claimed he had carried with him several thousand dollars which he ought to have turned over to them. Just how many were victimized cannot be said, as all of them decided to keep quiet and try to catch Almand. Nor can the exact amount of the money alleged to have been taken be named, as even the victims do not know, but it is estimated that the amount will be between \$40,000 and \$50,000.

Almand is a young man, not more than 30 years of age, and is well connected throughout the State. He is married, and his family had been residing in Conyers. Last Saturday the Sheriff of Rockdale county came to Atlanta, and saw some of the parties interested in the capture of Almand. He said he had received information which led him to believe that Almand was in Tulare, California, Sunday morning a telegram was sent to that town, and Monday a reply was received stating that Almand was under arrest.

BODIES TO BE BROUGHT HOME.

American Officers and Men Who Lost Their Lives in Late War. WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—General Ludington, Quartermaster General of the army, has completed arrangements for bringing back to this country the bodies of American officers and soldiers who lost their lives at and in the vicinity of Santiago de Cuba, Ponce and other points in Porto Rico, Manila and Honolulu. The graves have been carefully marked by officials of the Quartermaster's Department, who have gone over the several fields, and have succeeded in identifying nearly all of the American dead.

A large number of metallic caskets are now being made. The shipments of the caskets will begin about January 10th, and a force of skilled men will follow them to attend to the work of disinterment, hermetically sealing the caskets and shipping them back to this country. The bodies of the men, and the first caskets will begin arriving about the end of January.

Families of the deceased soldiers who wish the remains sent to their homes are requested to at once notify the Quartermaster General of such desire, stating in full the name of such soldier, the company and regiment to which he belonged, and the address of the remains are to be forwarded, and the remains are to be shipped, so that they can be advised of the date of shipment when made.

Preferred Death to Going to Jail.

CHICAGO, Dec. 29.—Joseph Kasper, formerly a member of the firm of Shourds & Kasper, one of the largest jewelry establishments in Chicago, shot himself through the head to-night rather than spend the night in a cell at the police station. Kasper was charged with larceny.

The Detroit Ordered to Santiago.

BOSTON, Dec. 29.—Sailing orders have been received at the navy yard for the Detroit to leave for Santiago the instant she is ready. It is expected that she will sail Monday.

Duel in France.

PARIS, Dec. 29.—M. Musson, well known journalist, fought a duel with swords to-day with M. Dupont, a supporter of Dreyfus revision. M. Dupont was severely wounded, his adversary's weapon piercing his lung.

Bequest to a Children's Hospital.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—The late Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild left £100,000 to the Evelina Hospital for Children, founded in memory of his wife. He made also other considerable charitable bequests.

Embassador Romero Dead.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—Embassador Romero of Mexico died this (Friday) morning at 4 o'clock, aged 62 years. The remains will be taken to Mexico for interment.

Evidence.

"Ellen, has George come home from school yet?" called Mrs. Snaggs to her servant. "Yes, ma'am," came back the answer. "Where is he?" "I haven't seen him." "How do you know, then, that he's home?" "Because the cat's a-hidin' under the dresser."—Philadelphia Inquirer.

The Mean Thing.

"Did the minister say anything comforting?" asked the neighbor of the widow recently bereaved. "Indeed, he didn't," was the quick reply. "He said my husband was better off."—Yonkers Statesman.

Well, Let Her.

"My lady sleeps!" he sang, feelingly, from the garden below. A fair head was thrust from the case-ment; it was Evelyn. "Where, do you suppose?" she demanded, with some asperity.—Detroit Journal.

Authorities in Possession of Nothing to Assist in Bringing Guilty Persons to Justice.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—The Adams-Cornish poisoning case remains as great a mystery as ever. When the Detective Bureau, the District Attorney's office, the Coroner's office and others seeking to find a solution of the strange case, ended their labors for the day, all said that nothing had been learned that might assist in bringing the guilty persons to justice.

The police are inclined to believe that the person who sent the poison to Cornish is a woman, although the evidence is of the most flimsy character, and is largely based on opinions of more or less responsible parties.

Mr. Cornish, who was also poisoned at the time of Mrs. Adams' death, is not completely out of danger, though confined to his bed by a Knickerbocker Athletic Club.

Captain McClusky denied that he had placed or contemplated placing Mr. Cornish under surveillance. He sent word to the Knickerbocker Athletic Club, however, asking if Cornish was able to come to his headquarters. Dr. Coffin, who is attending Mr. Cornish, replied that his patient would not be able to leave his bed for two days. He said he is undoubtedly out of danger, but he did not want him to take any chances.

Dr. Coffin gave an interesting statement while Mrs. Adams' remains in the same glass, was killed by the deadly poison. "Cornish mixed the poison," said Dr. Coffin, "and gave it to Mrs. Adams. She drank but a little, complaining that it was bitter. Cornish then took the remainder, and drained the glass to the dregs. I think that the reason Cornish was not killed is that he drank the dregs, and Mrs. Adams took the poison in solution. The quantity of powdered matter acted as an emetic and cleared his stomach."

When they found he was unable to come to the Knickerbocker Athletic Club, Mr. McIntyre, accompanied by a stenographer, went to the Knickerbocker Athletic Club, and were in conference with Cornish for more than an hour.

Captain McClusky said little had been learned that had not already been published. Cornish told him that the silver holder had been "sterilized," and while it was marked "sterilized," it was placed. It was not a Tiffany article, but came in a Tiffany box, and had a Tiffany card in the package.

Late this afternoon an autopsy was completed, and the parts of the body desired for analysis were sealed in jars. Coroner's Physician Weston issued a report in which he reiterated his opinion expressed yesterday that death was due to the use of cyanide of potassium.

TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

Interesting Addresses at Yesterday's Session at Santa Rosa.

SANTA ROSA, Dec. 29.—The morning session of the State Teachers' Association convened promptly at 9 o'clock with a very large attendance. Frank Coffin of San Francisco opened the proceedings with a tenor solo. Dr. Washington Wilson of Berkeley delivered an admirable address upon the "Spiritual Principles of Nature." Dr. John Sweet spoke of "Evolution of the American System of Public Schools," and Dr. G. Stanley Hall spoke of "Foods."

The principal address made in the forenoon was by Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the Bell telephone. His subject was "Instruction of the deaf." At the general meeting of the Teachers' Association to-night State Superintendent-elect Thomas J. Kirk of Fresno delivered an address. He advocated the formation of university normal schools to take the place of county institutions.

Professor Bernard Moses of Berkeley lectured on "Social Life in Japan." The ladies of Santa Rosa held a reception for visitors in the Society Hall, which was largely attended.

The alumni of the State Normal Schools held their annual reunion in Germania Hall, and the alumni of Stanford University met in the Christian Church.

After an important business session to-morrow the convention will adjourn.

JUDGMENT AFFIRMED.

Supreme Court Decision in a Butte County Bridge Case. SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29.—The county bridge over the Sacramento River connecting the counties of Butte and Glenn was demolished by a freshet, and the Board of Supervisors gave permission to the Chico Bridge Company to maintain a toll draw bridge. A steamer of the Sacramento Transportation Company struck the bridge and damaged it to the amount of \$750. Reimbursement was refused. Upon action being brought for its recovery a judgment was given to the bridge company. The transportation company contended that the Supervisors had no power to grant a permit to a private person to maintain a draw bridge over a navigable stream, but the Supreme Court holds that the board had such power, and affirms the judgment.

CONSERVATION OF WATER.

Meeting to be Held at San Francisco to Discuss the Subject. SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29.—The committee of the California Miners' Association on the conservation of water met to-day at the office of Surveyor General Gleaves. It was agreed that the conservation of water on the water sheds of the State was of vital importance to the horticultural and agricultural interests of California as to the miners. And it was decided to inaugurate all the commercial bodies in the State to send three representatives each

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High-Grade Coats and Capes All Reduced.

All our stock of finest garments have at this time come under the reduction pencil; swell garments all of them. Fine velour capes, elegant kersey top coats, in tan, black and other colors, black tailored kersey and beaver caps, self-strapped; all sizes, many styles, and all marked at one-third less than the regular price.

Women's Woolen Waists. All of our \$2.00 and \$2.50 warm woolen waists for women's winter wear have been reduced to \$1.58; they are in colors navy, cardinal, royal green and black; all are attractively braided, well made and of the latest style. Reduced to \$1.58.

Women's Cloth Capes. These cloth capes are an assortment of various styles, colors and qualities, which formerly sold for double the price now asked; they are slightly garments, heavy and warm; will withstand rain and storm; some have velvet inlaid collars and some self-strapped and fur and braided trimmed, others plain. Reduced to \$1.95 and \$2.45.

Children's Long Coats Reduced. Eiderdowns and cloth coats of rough effect, long, full saten lined, fur trimmed and warm for the little tots, ages from 6 months to 3 years; an assortment of pretty colors in mottled and two-toned effects. The \$1.25 kind reduced to 95c; the \$2.00 kind reduced to \$1.39; the \$3.50 kind reduced to \$2.50.

Over 100 Jackets \$7.50

These jackets formerly sold from \$12.50 to \$15.00 each, and in their variety represent the best styles and sellers of this season's coats; they are principally of fine heavy kersey cloth, severely tailored, silk lined, and are in colors navy, royal blue, green, cardinal, tan and black; are in sizes 32 to 42, and your choice for \$7.50.

Children's School Jackets. Your choice from only about twenty left of these pretty mixtures, colors red, green, blue and tan; made stylishly, and neatly trimmed with braid and plain cloth; \$5.00 and \$6.00 garments for boys, to 18 years of age, and your choice at \$2.95.

Women's Ready-made Suits. This is a new line of suits reduced, particularly for today's selling; they are handsomely, perfect fitting and perfectly tailored costumes of navy blue, and black serge, covert cloths in fancy mixtures and military blue, gray, brown and tan; silk lined jackets, percale lined skirts, with velvet bound bottoms. Reduced to \$8.75.

Handsome Plush Capes. We've marked these down from \$7.50 and \$8.50; they are elegant shower-proof, and handsomely embroidered silk plush garments, with tulle fur edged around the collar, and front, and full sweep, hang perfectly and are changeable silk lined. Reduced to \$4.75.

WASSERMAN, DAVIS & CO. We stamp Bee Shopping Coupons.

to a general meeting, to be held January 21st.

The committee also adopted a resolution urging the Chairmen of both houses of the Legislature to appoint a standing committee on the Conservation of Water.

FRAUD HINTED AT.

An Injunction Issued Against San Joaquin County Supervisors. STOCKTON, Dec. 29.—For some time the Board of Supervisors of San Joaquin county have had in contemplation the purchase of a heating and ventilating system for the Courthouse at an expense of over \$10,000. The specifications were such, it is alleged, that only the Peck-Williamson Company could secure the contract. Fraud has been hinted at, in view of the fact that the building is already provided with a system which has never been put into service.

A writ of review was issued to-day by Judge Jones of the Superior Court, in the application of C. M. Jackson, an opposition bidder, citing the Supervisors to appear before the court on January 9th, and acting as an injunction against their giving the contract to the Peck-Williamson Company on December 31st, after which the terms of two of the present Supervisors will expire.

Lived on Mussels and Seaweed.

VANOCUVER (B. C.), Dec. 29.—George Ruder, from Wrangle, brings a story that three men from Port Simpson were blown out to sea on the little schooner Ohio a couple of weeks ago, and had to spend seven days on an uninhabited island with nothing to eat except mussels and seaweed. They were Dr. Phillips of New York, R. B. Black and W. Bridges, the last mentioned of Fresno county, Cal., and well known as the leader of an alleged expedition to the Stieken, who, it is said, was threatened with lynching by sixty members of his party.

Rescued by a Pilot Boat.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29.—While cruising near the Farallone Islands to-day, Captain F. W. Jordan of the pilot-boat America came upon an open boat, in which were W. Beaman, head lighthouse-keeper, his wife and two children, one an infant of two months, and the other a boy of 10 years, and H. Engelberg, the assistant lighthouse-keeper. They were attempting to reach this city, but could make no headway, and were being carried out to sea, when they were picked up by the pilot-boat.

A Pilot Carried to Central America.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29.—Captain Peter Otto, a veteran pilot of this port, was taken to Central America to-day on the steamer City of Para. He piloted the vessel outside the Golden Gate, but owing to the gale which prevailed, he was unable to board the boats which were in waiting to bring him back to land.

Some experiments recently made in Belgium tend to throw doubt on the truth of the assumption that insects are guided to flowers by the brightness of their colors. Brilliantly colored dahlias were covered so as to show only the discs, and butterflies and bees sought these flowers with the same eagerness and frequency as those which were fully exposed. The conclusion reached that the insects were guided by the sense of smell rather than by their sight seems verified.

SOUGHT OTHER FIELDS.

City Folks Were Unreasonable, It Seemed. "I have had deallin's fore now with unreasonable folks, but of all the exactin' an' unreasonable folks I ever bumped up agin I think the averidge city boarders are the unreasonablest." quoth Mrs. Pettigrew to her friend, Mrs. Clovertop, when they met at "the store," and then Mrs. Pettigrew added: "You know I had some city folks answer my advertisement for summer boarders, an' I wrote 'em to come on, an' they come las' Saturday to stay six weeks, an' here it's only Wednesday, an' I been carryin' 'em to the depot an' glad to be shet of 'em."

"Why, Mrs. Pettigrew!" "Yes, I be; an' all because of their bein' so unreasonable an' wantin' the airth, as the sayin' is. You know, we keep a couple o' hour dogs an' they howl nights, as most houn' dogs are apt to do. Then our ten roosters crow early of a mornin' as it's the hatchin' instink of a rooster to do. Then we've just sold a couple o' calves away from the neighbors, an' it wearn't