

THE RAILROADS.

Excellent Business Done on All the Lines.

A Further Reduction on California Products.

Numbers of Prominent Railroad Men Visiting Here.

The Work of Repairing the Southern Pacific Line in Soledad Canon. Some of the Changes.

The railways are doing an excellent business in these days, both in freight and passengers. The overland trains come in moderately well filled and the local passenger traffic is good.

Word was received yesterday at the Santa Fe offices that Mr. Hynes, who is at present in the freight traffic convention at San Francisco, had moved to have mixed carloads of oranges, lemons and vegetables carried at the general rate of \$1.12 1/2 to Missouri river points and \$1.25 to Mississippi river points and Chicago.

The resignation of E. W. Sanborn, whose place as general superintendent was filled by W. B. Beamer, makes room for a new man in the position of train master which had been occupied by Mr. Beamer.

G. W. Stevens, superintendent of the eastern division of the Wabash railroad, is in the city visiting his father-in-law, Williamson Dunn, of the Southern California road.

Several well-known railroad men, who attended the meeting of the General Passenger and Ticket Agents' Association, held in the City of Mexico, on March 18th, are returning by way of Southern California.

One day last week a reporter of the Burbank Times visited the Soledad cañon and inspected the work being done by the Southern Pacific Company.

The new line, as far as established, strikes from Acton, and runs continuously to about three miles below South Side; this is from thirty to forty feet above the present grade, and at the farthest 1,000 feet north.

The line continues down the north side of the cañon to the first tunnel above Lang's, where the river is crossed, and then the route is on the south side of the cañon.

Half a mile west of Lang's the permanent grade again commences. Considerable work has been done here, and men are now driving two tunnels, one 150 feet and the other 312 feet.

The work is being remarkably well done. Great care is being taken with the cuts and fills to avoid land slides in winter; all the loose dirt is scraped back beyond any chance of a slide, and the fills are very broad at the base.

There is an army of men at work: There are 43 men in the engineering corps, 25 in locating and 18 in construction; 42 gangs of Chinamen, or about 2,000 men; 30 track-layers; 300 horses, 150 carts, and 2 land and 1 car pile-drivers.

The Southern Pacific Company again demonstrates its ability to cope with any disaster. After a damage costing fully \$500,000, the company was able to set their trains running, and, although men, work trains, etc., have been steady at work on the road for nearly three months traffic has not been delayed in the least, and now we expect to be able to ride through the cañon at all seasons of the year without any set-backs.

A Session Yesterday Discusses All Sorts of Insect Pests on Trees.

The executive committee of the Southern California Fruit-Growers' Association met by appointment in the office of the Rural Californian, No. 118 North Main street, yesterday, at 9 a. m., all members being present.

R. P. Waite was chosen chairman, and H. W. Krueberg secretary. It was decided that the committee prepare an address to the fruit-growers, embodying the objects and aims of the association, to be published in the Southern California newspapers.

A New Departure. The New Mexico Coal Company has made arrangements to handle Ocean Coal. Leave of absence of one officer, board of directors, corner East First street and Santa Fe avenue, Telephone 855.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

industry to deliver the opening address, which is to be followed by the reading of essays, touching upon the leading subjects now before horticulturists of this section, and to invite a mutual interchange of opinion from all present.

After the committee had concluded its business, Messrs. Pirtle, Waite, Heintz and Krueberg concluded to make a tour of inspection of some of the leading fruit stands, and learn the condition of the fruit at present placed upon the market. Upwards of fifteen different places were visited, and in every case the fruit inspected was found infested with scale; not only red scale, but other scales as well. Many of the dealers in their talks expressed their willingness not to purchase infested fruits, and in one or two cases reports came that certain fruits had been ordered returned to the orchards, by the inspectors, as being infested with scale.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

ADDITIONS MADE TO THE PERMANENT EXHIBIT YESTERDAY.

Activity of the People of Pomona—Fresh Fruit and Flowers—Exhibits of Curios to be Prepared—Secretary Patton Goes to San Francisco.

Yesterday afternoon, at 3 o'clock, was the time set for the meeting of the finance committee appointed to raise the funds for the Chicago exhibit. The members were asked to come together at the Chamber of Commerce. Those present were: Major E. W. Jones, J. M. C. Marble, George H. Bonebrake and Judge Charles Silent.

Numerous additions were made to the permanent exhibit yesterday. The Pomona display was furnished with fresh fruit and flowers and several new articles placed on the shelves. H. H. Wheeler supplied navels and Malta bloods. Dr. E. Parsons furnished St. Michaels, navel, Mediterranean sweets and seedlings; Capt. F. Cogswell offers a sample of California licorice root and E. E. Howe gives some Mediterranean sweets.

The Pomona display is one of the handsomest in the hall and is being constantly improved. Some residents of this enterprising town comes in nearly every day to bring flowers and fruit.

H. N. Rust, of South Pasadena, will add a number of Indian curios to the exhibit from that place. Miss Frances McCroery, past president of the La Esperanza Parlor, No. 24, of the Native Daughters of the Golden West, called at the chamber yesterday to say that the ladies would provide a table of California curios, to be rearranged each week.

W. B. Webster, of San Jacinto, displays some fine oranges, grown on trees from 12 to 14 years old. The Los Angeles Terra Cotta Works yesterday asked for space in which to put a display of their manufactures. Flowers were donated yesterday for the exhibit by Mrs. H. W. Cowles, Miss Longstreet and E. E. Howe.

Secretary Patton left for San Francisco yesterday evening to look after the permanent exhibit of Los Angeles county products at the rooms of the State Board of Trade. Mr. Patton proposes, as soon as possible, to take steps to prove and enlarge the display. He will return next Monday.

Among the visitors to the permanent exhibit at the chamber yesterday were the following: C. E. Clayton, Fort Worth, Texas; A. H. Carey, Scranton, Iowa; G. W. Reese, St. Paul, Minn.; Carl McStay, Whittier; John E. Quinn, San Francisco; Horatio N. Rust, South Pasadena; L. Fuller, Lambertton, Minn.; C. W. Marsh, Long Beach; Mrs. M. P. Oatman, Denver; Geo. E. Place, Guaymas; H. L. Demeritt and family, Benicia, Cal.; Mrs. Geo. Bently, Azusa; J. P. Williams, Pacific, Mo.; Mrs. J. D. McCutcheon, Helena, Montana; Kingsley H. Curtis, Hanford, Cal.; H. Erichsen, Detroit, Mich.; W. J. Kessler, Claremont, Ohio; J. M. Evans, Gardena; P. Marion, Pasadena; A. J. Morrill, San Francisco; J. Campbell, Pasadena; W. T. Edwards, Prospect Park; E. E. Howe, Pomona; Thos. Wild, Rosedale; Beresford Billinger, New York; Miss Lillian Disoway, Chicago; M. A. Byford, St. Paul; W. S. Castleton, Rochester; Mrs. A. J. Domel, New Orleans; Mrs. J. W. DeVan, Chicago; F. W. Sanborn, Orange; A. S. Hamilton, Orange.

Taxpayer to the Council. EDITORS HERALD—Is it not time for the taxpayers of this city to assert their manhood in assisting an honorable Mayor to put a stop to the peculations of an audacious ring? Their tenacity increases in proportion to the silence of a patient, law-abiding community.

Monday's proceedings in the Council are sufficient to arouse the indignation of all taxpayers of every shade of politics. Such unblushing disregard for law and public opinion as manifested by the ring is incomprehensible. As your journal is devoted to the best interests of the citizens at large, call an indignation meeting, so the taxpayers may have an opportunity to warn the ring publicly of what is in store for them if they continue in their nefarious course.

East Side, April 1st. TAXPAYER.

A New Departure. The New Mexico Coal Company has made arrangements to handle Ocean Coal. Leave of absence of one officer, board of directors, corner East First street and Santa Fe avenue, Telephone 855.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

POISONED HERSELF.

Jennie Wickersham Dies at the City Jail.

Her Case Puzzled the Doctors for a Time.

She Wrote a Short Farewell Letter to Her Mother.

The Circumstances Surrounding Her Death—No Reason Assigned for the Rash Act.

When the HERALD went to press yesterday morning the fate of the young girl who had been taken to the city jail in an unconscious condition at 9 o'clock on Tuesday night, and upon whom Drs. Lasher and Morrison were still in attendance, was uncertain; but, in spite of the heroic efforts of the physicians, who did everything to revive the senseless girl, the patient died at 5:10 o'clock.

The Coroner was notified as soon as possible and the body removed to the morgue to await identification and the inquest. About 10 o'clock a resident of the East Side called at the morgue, and, after viewing the body, positively identified it as that of Miss Jennie Wickersham, who lived with her parents at No. 624 Pasadena avenue. It was subsequently learned that her father, J. M. Wickersham, is a sewing-machine agent, and is at present at Selma in Tulare county.

Her mother, however, was found at the corner of Lecouvreur street and Pasadena avenue, and it was learned that the girl had left her home on Monday evening last to purchase some groceries. When she failed to return Monday night her mother did not worry much, as she supposed that she was stopping with a friend. Tuesday afternoon, though, when she failed to turn up, Mrs. Wickersham became very much worried.

When night came, and with it no information as to her daughter's whereabouts, the poor mother was nearly crazed with anxiety. She passed an almost sleepless night, and when morning came she started out to search for the missing one. Instead, however, of inquiring at the proper source, the police station, and setting the machinery of the detective force to work upon the matter, Mrs. Wickersham attempted to solve the mystery for herself, in order to escape notoriety. On being informed by a neighbor, who saw the body at the morgue, the poor mother was completely prostrated with grief, and when she received, later on, the following letter, written in pencil in her daughter's handwriting, her distress knew no bounds.

"MAMA—You're watch is up at pawn-brokers on Main street, the bracelets I have on are sun that he gave me on the watch you can give these bracelets and \$6 dollars and then you can your watch. I want the city to bury me. Goodbye forever. J."

As at the time of the girl's death the doctors were somewhat in a quandary as to the real cause, Coroner Meredith ordered a post mortem examination upon the body, and at 4 o'clock Drs. Smith, Wing, Morrison, Ainsworth, Lasher and Bicknell assembled at the morgue for that purpose. A thorough examination, however, failed to throw any further light upon the subject, all the organs being found in a healthy condition, and an analysis of the contents of the stomach as made by Dr. Morrison subsequently, failing to show any signs of morphine, which, it was generally believed by the medical men, caused her death. The poison, however, could easily have been absorbed into her system, during the six hours she was unconscious in the woman's cell of the city jail.

The letter addressed to her mother, however, proves beyond doubt that she intended to take her life; but, strange to say, not the slightest cause can be assigned for such an act on her part, and the affair is still shrouded with mystery.

At 7 o'clock last night Coroner Meredith held an inquest upon the body, at the undertaking parlors of Messrs. Orr & Sutch, on Spring street, which were crowded with morbidly curious spectators during the proceedings. The first witness called by Dr. Morrison, the police surgeon, who testified to having been called at 11:30 p. m. to attend to the girl at the city jail. She was then unconscious, and remained so until her death at 5:10 o'clock a. m., in spite of his efforts to revive her. The usual restoratives were applied, but without effect. He treated her for morphine poisoning, and administered the antidote. He then detailed the result of the medical treatment, in the patrol wagon. She subsequently revived after Dr. Wink had been summoned, and told the witness that her name was Pauline Clinton, that she was 17 years of age and was here on a visit from Sacramento, and her parents reside. She further stated that on Monday night she stayed with some friends on Main street, and that she was on her way down town to visit some other friends, whose address she could not then remember. She said she had been to the skating rink and after falling on the back of her head did not remember anything for a long time.

J. H. Harbour, chief clerk at the office of the Los Angeles Cable Railroad Company, testified that at 8:15 o'clock on Tuesday night, Conductor Schubert rushed into his office and said that he had a sick lady on his car. The witness went out and assisted her from the car to one of the benches. She appeared to be either drunk or drugged. He telephoned to the police station, and while waiting for the patrol wagon, roused her sufficiently to learn from her a story similar in every detail to that related by Officer Sanchez. Her breath did not smell of liquor.

Conductor A. A. Schubert stated that at 7:12 o'clock p. m. on Tuesday evening a young girl got on his car at the corner of Johnston street and Downey avenue, in East Los Angeles, and after collecting her fare he paid no particular attention to her, although she sat on the end seat of the car until he arrived at the end of his journey, Jefferson street. He then, before switching his car, asked her when she wanted to get off, and whether she wished to ride back again. She replied

that she did, as she had intended to get off at Spring street and walk up to the skating rink, but that she was too sick to do so. He requested her to keep up until the car reached the power-house on the return trip, when he could summon medical assistance, and in the meantime he asked her for her address, but she appeared to have forgotten it. On reaching the power-house he notified Chief Clerk Harbour, who took charge of her, and he then proceeded on his journey.

Miss Lola Wickersham, a sister of the deceased, was then called, and but for a slight difference in height, she presented a startling resemblance to her dead sister. She stated that she resided with her parents at No. 624 Pasadena avenue, East Los Angeles, and that the deceased, Jennie Wickersham, was 16 years of age and a native of Newark, Ohio. She knew nothing about her sister's death. She last saw her alive on Monday morning at their home. Never heard her threatened to commit suicide, and knew of nothing that would lead her to do so. Did not know of any trouble at home or elsewhere, and never knew her to keep company with any young man. She identified the letter addressed to her mother as in the handwriting of her sister.

Miss Nina Forbes, 17 years of age, testified that she was a waitress, and an orphan. She had known the deceased since January last, and saw her alive last on Monday evening, between 7:30 and 8:15 o'clock, at her parents' residence in East Los Angeles. She also knew nothing that would drive the deceased to commit suicide.

On hearing the testimony the jury, after a very brief deliberation, returned a verdict of "Death from an overdose of poison taken by herself with intent to commit suicide."

The city detectives were at work upon the case yesterday in order to solve the mystery, but were unable to discover any cause for the girl's suicide. The girl, Nina Forbes, stated that Jennie was a good novel reader and was dissatisfied with her home life. When called upon to account for the fact that she was over at the Wickersham house Monday night, Nina said that she made an appointment with a man named McCullom, who is a baggageman on the Southern Pacific, running between this city and San Pedro. McCullom and the girl walked off, and this was the last time she saw Jennie alive. She said further that that evening she and Lola Wickersham went to the skating rink with McCullom and a cousin of his named Bert Sanborn. After leaving the skating rink the two girls went to the Pico house with the men. Here the girls secured a room, paid for it and spent the night there, leaving their escort at the door of the hotel.

The theory raised by Dr. Morrison that the girl had taken a second dose of poison after her apparent recovery while in the woman's cell of the jail, during Jailer Hare's temporary absence, was yesterday confirmed to some extent, as Jailer Clayton who relieved Jailer Hare at 6 o'clock a. m., discovered a clue. Under the cot which was occupied by Jennie Tuesday evening, he found a scrap of blue writing paper such as is used to wrap drugs and medicines in. This paper the jailer is certain was not in the room before it was occupied by the girl, because it was cleaned out thoroughly yesterday. It probably contained the poison which Jennie took to end her existence.

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