

WOOD OR IRON? How Shall the Court House Roof be Constructed? Shall it be Fire-proof, as is the Building? Is it Worth \$42,000 to Make the Change?

Interviews with the Big Tax-payers on This Important Question—Pro and Con.

The Board of Supervisors have before them a question as to changing the roof of the new court house. As at present planned and contracted for, the roof is to be a wooden frame covered by slate shingles. The wood in this frame of the roof is the only ignitable material in the building, from the lowest footings of the basement walls to the chimney pots above the roof. The walls are stone or brick, the joists and girders are of iron or steel, the floors are slate. It is absolutely a fire-proof structure until one reaches the frame-work of the roof. In this there is naturally a large amount of wood, as it must uphold a covering of slate shingles whose weight is very great. There is not much danger of fire getting into the roof if it is properly constructed without dormer windows or mansard features. In case of a fire the roof only would be lost, but the inconvenience and disfiguring of the building would be great. With a roof of metal the entire edifice would be absolutely fireproof in all its parts and in all respects. The cost of the proposed change would be \$42,000.

Knowing these facts, and that the board was wrestling with the problem, yesterday a HERALD reporter was detailed to gather up the views of a number of heavy tax-payers as to the desirability of making such a change at the above expense. John F. Humphreys was found at his office on Spring street, and the matter being explained, he said: "I think the building ought to be all of the best construction, and that it is very desirable that the roof, like the other parts of the building, ought to be fire-proof. As to the cost, I am not prepared to speak. All means ought to be used to keep that down to what is fair to the contractor and people. Being a change from the original contract, the builder will naturally expect to make a good profit, but he ought not to be allowed to charge what is unfair."

General E. Bouton said: "The court house will cost, I suppose, \$600,000. It is to stand for all time. To scrimp in the matter of the roof looks to me like being penny-wise and pound-foolish. L. N. Breed, of the Southern California Bank, said: "I think the roof ought to correspond in the main with the rest of the building. It ought to be fire-proof."

W. F. Bobyshell, of the same bank, said: "I think a steel frame and slate shingles the best, provided the shingles will not be too heavy. I think slate shingles should be preferable to iron; although I have not given that matter much thought. It may be well to state that there is a rebate allowed by the contractor of \$2,000 for the change in the shingles from slate to metal."

W. Lacy, Sr., said: "One is hardly prepared to speak on so important a matter in this off-hand manner. I have not given the subject much consideration. But as a mere off-hand view, I would say that so expensive a building, for so important uses, ought to be as near fire-proof as possible."

W. J. Brodrick said: "By all means the roof ought to be of iron. The building is for all time, and ought to be so constructed that it will not be needing repairs or be in danger of partial destruction. John W. Gaffey and Fred. Harkness, who were in Mr. Brodrick's company when the reporter interviewed him, said that they entirely concurred in these views."

W. H. Workman was the first met who dissented from the iron roof. He said: "It is all wrong to change the plans now. There will be very little chance of a fire in the roof if it is properly finished, and therefore the extra expense seems to me unnecessary, to me more so at a time when taxes are very high, and money rather scarce."

H. W. Hellman, of the Farmers and Merchants Bank, said: "The court house ought to have a fire-proof roof. The extra cost ought not to prevent this being done. As a tax-payer, I say the mistake made when the plans were drawn ought to be corrected now. The original plans ought to have provided for a fire-proof roof."

J. M. Elliott, of the First National Bank, said: "I am not quite ready to express an unqualified opinion, as I have not given the matter very close consideration. But it seems to me that a properly constructed slate roof would be practically fire-proof, even with wood as the frame work. There should be no dormer windows in the roof, nor casings or other woodwork exposed to catch fire. The risk would then be very small, and the expense of the change is great. Then apparatus ought to be provided near the roof to extinguish a fire, if one by any chance should catch there. The expense of such precaution would be very small."

C. Prager, said: "As an ex-supervisor, I say the change ought not to be made. A change is always a bad thing under such circumstances. All that could be lost in the extremely improbable event of a fire in the roof would be the roof itself. I would not take \$42,000 more of the people's money for such a purpose. The taxes are already high enough, and no addition that can be helped ought to be made to them."

Tom Hays said: "I think we ought to have as good a court house as we can get. It ought to be fire-proof in all respects, so as to secure it against all possibility of destruction. I am willing to pay my proportion of the extra \$42,000. A. E. Pomeroy said: "I have kept the run of this topic in the daily papers. I think the change should be made. The building should be for all time with no need of replacement of any parts."

Geo. H. Stewart of the County Bank, said: "It is better to have a fire-proof roof even at the extra cost of \$42,000. But that seems to me a large difference to pay for the change. The slate costs more than the metal shingles, and there can hardly, it seems to me, be so much difference between the cost of the wood and of the steel frame."

far has been properly built. It ought to be completed in the same manner. The building is fire-proof, the roof ought to be so. Not of course at any cost, but at any fair cost, say \$30,000 to \$40,000. I do not know just what the cost of the change ought to be. The building ought to be uniform in all its parts, and be a credit to the county."

Dr. M. Hagan said: "I favor the change because it will be a permanent betterment to the building. It will secure it against risks and be better in all ways. If it is worth \$42,000 to make the roof fire-proof, it is worth that much to get the building made safe. The extra expense seems a little high, but it may be worth that much to make the change."

Cyrus Willard said: "The proposed change is for the better and ought to be made. So long as the building is fire-proof the roof ought to be so. Make it fire-proof all through. As to the expense, I am not prepared to say much. I have not seen the plans and am not able to guess at the cost of such a change. It may seem a big difference to pay, but it may not really be so. A burning roof is hard to put out. That is what destroyed Boston. The fire got into the mansard roofs and the water could not reach the spot."

W. J. A. Smith said: "I am in favor of the change. I think it ought to be made. But would not a copper roof be the best, the cheapest, the most durable, the lightest? I am not sure but it could be so. I do not know as to the cost of such a proposed change. It may be a good deal to pay \$42,000 for it. The above gives a fair idea of the way the citizens look upon this matter. Most of the heavy taxpayers seem certainly favor the change, even at the large expense."

PERMANENT EXHIBIT.

SOME INTERESTING ARTICLES ADDED TO IT YESTERDAY.

Some Curious and Valuable Botanical Specimens—The Mineral Display—A Communication on the Subject.

The permanent exhibit of the Chamber of Commerce received its usual large number of visitors yesterday. The new register is filling up at the rate of six or eight pages a day.

Among the additions to the exhibit yesterday were the following: Max Neberlung, of Anaheim, Ramie plant, raised from a root sent by the State University, and the Buhac plant, from the root of which Persian insect powder is made; Pacific Clay Manufacturing Co., Los Angeles, sewer pipe; John L. Plummer, Caluenga, barley, oats in sheaf, peas wild red clover, Burbank potatoes; Jacob Miller, of Caluenga, coffee tree, vegetables, St. John's bread, bronze plants, custard apple and alligator pears. Flowers were donated by J. A. Burns, Mrs. Jacob Miller, Mrs. Cole and Mrs. J. L. Plummer.

Senator Cole, of Colgrove, sent in some loquats, limes and figs; also a branch of the black wattle tree, a species of acacia. Its bark contains a large element of tannin, and sells in Liverpool at \$70 a ton. The bark can be stripped from the tree when it is three years old. It grows very rapidly. Senator Cole has a tree on his place one year old which is eleven feet high, and two inches in diameter at its base.

Secretary Patton is anxious to secure a good display of the minerals of this section, and with that end in view, has sent out the following communication: To Miners and Prospectors: The Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce desires to have represented in its permanent exhibit, samples of everything of a mineral nature obtainable in Southern California.

Cases are now being arranged for the reception and display of these specimens. We desire not only free gold and native silver specimens, but any sample of raw material which will be of interest to a manufacturer. Prof. C. E. Anthony, the assayer and mineralogist, a member of our committee on mines and mineral, will examine, classify and probably label all such contributions, and due credit will be given the owners. The two transcontinental lines of railroad have kindly agreed that such specimens shall be carried gratis in the following manner: If over the Southern Pacific they will be consigned to the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, and can be shipped as regular freight by application to the station agents on the line of the road. If small packages, they can be sent in the baggage-car by application to the station agent.

In sending anything along the line of the Southern California Railroad Company, it should be consigned to Mr. E. Chambers, agent at First-street station, for account Chamber of Commerce exhibit. Consignors are requested to give their names, locality, and anything else regarding the mineral that will assist in classifying it. Respectfully, H. W. PATTON, Secretary.

THE CHICAGO EXHIBIT. A New Committee Appointed to Undertake the Work. A new committee has been appointed to undertake the work of raising funds for the exhibit of California products in Chicago, in the hall offered by the Santa Fe Company. It consists of the following gentlemen: Charles Silent, A. W. Barrett, J. S. Slanson, M. L. Wicks, A. C. Fish and A. H. Denker. Dan Freeman is chairman of this committee. A number of the members of the committee appointed at the first general meeting found themselves unable to serve, and as several weeks passed without any satisfactory work being accomplished, it was decided to reorganize the committee. The gentlemen above named were notified of their appointment yesterday. It is expected that they will begin work immediately, and Mr. Freeman is very sanguine that good results will be accomplished.

That Ten-Pound Boy. Ed. Gibson's new son and heir who came to bless his home a week ago is doing excellently well, as is also Mrs. Gibson. The boy weighed at birth ten and a half pounds. He is a sturdy little fellow, and will soon no doubt walk and cut teeth.

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Our Home Brew. Philadelphia Lager, fresh from the brewery, on draught in all the principal saloons, delivered promptly in bottles or kegs. Order and Brewery, 238 Aliso street. Telephone 91.

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Use Siddall's Yeast Cakes.

MUSICAL CLUBS.

Three Societies Which Flourish Here.

The Male Voices in the Ellis Club.

List of Ladies Who Belong to the Treble Clef.

The Los Angeles Orchestral Society Starts Out Encouragingly—Promises for the Future.

Los Angeles is essentially a musical city, and in the near future it is not only possible but probable that it will take the lead in musical matters on this Coast. It has long been remarked that no matter how dull business may be, an opera company, if it is good, will draw packed houses. It has also been noticed that concerts of all kinds are more largely attended here than in any other city on the Coast, and, as a general rule, the class of music heard is better than that given elsewhere. The directors of the public library, recognizing the fact that the musical element was large in the city, added a circulating department for music not long since, and the demand there has been so large as to show that they were not mistaken.

There are at present in the city three musical organizations which have proven to be of great value in the Los Angeles world of harmony. They have done much in the past, not only in the way of cultivating the public, but in presenting such compositions as could not be heard without a trip to the East. These societies so far have received the warm support of the public, and that they will increase in strength and capability is now an assured fact.

The Ellis Club.

The first and oldest of these is the Ellis Club, which was founded on January 23, 1888, and organized on the 3d of April in the same year. This club was formed by a number of gentlemen who are still members, and who took such an interest in music written for the male voice that they decided to have the active membership entirely male, and to give four concerts a year, to which those who desire to associate together for the purpose of guaranteeing enough to pay the hall rent and other expenses are invited. There was no lack of enthusiasm, and to-day, after an existence of two years, and after having given seven concerts, the club finds itself on a firmer foundation than ever before. There are at present sixty active members who take part in the concerts, and twelve auxiliary members who rehearse with the club, but who do not take part in its concerts except when some of the active members are absent. The vacancies in the active membership are filled by the transfer of auxiliary members. There are 200 associate members, each of whom pays \$10 per year and receives four tickets to each of the four concerts given by the club during the year, which begins April 1st. The last concert of the second year will be given at Turn Verein hall on May 8th, and for this a programme is being arranged which, it is said, will eclipse all former efforts. The following is a list of the officers and committees elected April 1st, for the season of 1890-1891: President, H. T. Lee; vice-president, H. G. Newhall; treasurer, D. McFarland; secretary, C. S. Walton; librarian, J. E. Sisson. Music committee—F. A. Walton, J. A. Osgood, A. G. Bartlett. Voice committee—F. E. Nay, J. J. Hayes, C. J. Ellis, Geo. Steckel. Music director—J. C. Dunster.

The active members of the club are as follows: First tenors—W. P. Keller, C. S. Walton, F. E. Nay, J. E. Sisson, F. B. Fanning, D. S. Alexander, J. A. Osgood, A. G. Walsh, W. E. Abernethy, J. F. Nuelle, C. B. Smith, Will Burr, J. P. Dupuy. Second tenors—A. G. Bartlett, B. S. Stoneman, A. W. Sias, W. Stephens, Jas. Booth, J. J. Hayes, G. E. Averill, H. E. Hamilton, G. M. Lebo, A. E. Miller, J. W. Hendrick, F. Fisher.

First basses—C. J. Ellis, F. A. Walton, F. A. Thomas, A. S. Bent, W. L. Willis, H. R. Maybin, H. Williams, F. J. Blanchard, Max E. Sewant, J. J. Schaller, B. T. Marble, W. E. Dunn, C. C. Desmond, T. F. Barnes, W. B. Townsend, E. C. Manning. Second basses—D. McFarland, M. S. Severance, F. S. Hicks, T. Wiesen-danger, F. W. Wallace, G. W. Ragland, J. R. Boal, C. C. Byram, C. W. Pendleton, A. B. Whitney, Geo. Steckel, C. W. Phillips, M. Fernandez, J. H. Brenner, Walter Bordwell.

The club rehearses every Tuesday evening in its rooms in the Turn Verein building, at 8 o'clock. Associate members are always welcome at these rehearsals. Treble Clef Club. Similar in purpose, but with female voices, is the Treble Clef Club. This organization was formed a little over a year ago, and finished its first season on the 15th of last month at Turner hall. The ladies who compose the active membership labored very hard and faithfully during the year, and the result was that they succeeded in giving for the closing concert their programme in such a manner as to surprise even their warmest admirers and give hope of something grand in the future. The nature of the music taken up during the year may be gathered from the following programme: "Approach of Spring" (Gade); "Barcarolle" (Brahms); "Love's Messengers" (Howell); "Wagon" (Molloy); "Ballad" (Moszkowski); "To Sevilla" (Des-sauer); "Robin Adair" (arranged by Dudley Buck); part of sacred cantata, "Bethlehem" (Reinecke); "Ah, So True" (Estabrook); "The Water Sprite" (Kienzl); "Goldsmith's Apprentice" (Kienzl); "Patma" (Greg); "Little Elsie" (Rees); "Ballad of the Weaver" (Hattton).

The conductor of this club is Mrs. Jiah D. Cole, and the members of the chorus are Miss C. Achre, Mrs. F. B. Alderson, Mrs. W. B. Abernethy, Mrs. Ackerman, Mrs. W. E. Beeson, Mrs. J. H. Book, Miss J. Blake, Mrs. Barnett, Mrs. W. B. Carter, Mrs. S. G. Calkins, Mrs. Wm. Corlett, Miss G. Cochran, Mrs. W. G. Cochran, Mrs. L. M. Coffey, Miss A. Douglass, Mrs. Eames, Mrs. C. J. Ellis, Mrs. T. Goss, Miss L. Gibson, Miss N. Henderson, Mrs. J. W. Hendricks, Mrs. E. S. Hadley, Mrs. H. Hibbetts, Mrs. Judson, Miss Kinney, Miss L. Kimball, Mrs. H. T. Lee, Mrs. L. Loeb, Mrs. W. D. Larabee, Mrs. Lobdell, Mrs. F. S. Munson, Mrs. J. Maltman, Mrs. S. Matthews, Mrs. B. F. Nance, Mrs. J. G. Ogilvie, Mrs. A. E. Pomeroy, Mrs. J. G. Phillips, Miss N. Read, Miss K. Rider, Miss A. Stoneman, Miss C. M. Seymour, Mrs. A. B. Stafford, Miss L. Shorb, Mrs. L. Stomba, Miss F. Stull, Mrs. J. G. Scarborough, Miss Stevens, Mrs. F. J.

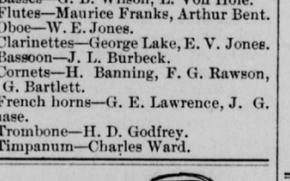
Thayer, Mrs. J. Torrey, Mrs. C. H. White, Miss K. Yarnell.

Los Angeles Orchestral Society. Turning from vocal music into the no less important branch, instrumental, the Los Angeles Orchestral Society comes to the front. This society is as yet very young, having given but one public rehearsal, at which it was demonstrated that it was formed with the right idea, and that when another year shall have rolled around it will take its place as an equal to any organization of the kind on the Coast. At the public rehearsal Mozart's XII symphony was rendered in a remarkably correct manner, considering the fact that the performers are amateurs. It is proposed that this society shall be supported in the same manner as the Ellis and Treble Clef Clubs, and with three such organizations Los Angeles may be well satisfied with the start she has made in the musical line. Dr. O. W. Green is president of the society, A. G. Bartlett treasurer, E. V. Jones librarian, G. E. Lawrence, secretary, and Prof. H. E. Hamilton musical director. Messrs. W. H. Mead, Arthur Bent, W. S. Boyd, A. G. Bartlett, G. A. Olshausen, E. V. Jones and G. E. Lawrence are directors. The names and instruments of the active members are as follows:

Violins—Miss Eloise Lemon, Miss Maud Maynard, Miss Mullen, Miss Mabel Brousseau, Miss Mamie Loomis, Miss Edna Foy, Miss Gertrude Nielt, Dr. O. W. Green, A. Brownstine, G. J. Clark, C. A. Valentine, George G. Grosser, W. S. Boyd, C. E. Pemberton, A. A. Hurka.

Violas—H. G. Aylsworth, R. Klages. Cellos—G. A. Olshausen, W. H. Mead. Basses—G. B. Wilson, L. Von Hofe. Flutes—Maurice Franks, Arthur Bent. Oboe—W. E. Jones. Clarinets—George Lake, E. V. Jones. Bassoon—J. L. Burbeck. Cornets—H. Banning, F. G. Rawson, A. G. Bartlett. French horns—G. E. Lawrence, J. G. Gnaese. Trombone—H. D. Godfrey. Timpanum—Charles Ward.

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These facts, with care exercised in making loans, insure a safe depository for saving accounts. School teachers, clerks, mechanics, employees in factories and shops, laborers, etc., will find it convenient to make deposits in small amounts.

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PAID-UP CAPITAL.....\$200,000 SURPLUS.....20,000 AUTHORIZED CAPITAL.....500,000

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THE CITY BANK, 37 South Spring street.