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THE IRRIGATORS IN CONVENTION

Look to California for Guidance

TECHNICAL SKILL AND HORSE SENSE

Brought to Bear on the Water Question

THE WRIGHT LAW IS FAULTY

But Is the Best Basis Offered for Future Action

A State Irrigation Commission Regarded as a Necessity

Mr. Creighton of The Herald, T. S. Van Dyke of Los Angeles and Mrs. Strong of Whittier Deliver Addresses

Associated Press Special Wire

PHOENIX, Ariz., Dec. 16.—At today's session of the national irrigation congress, W. S. Creighton, editor of the Los Angeles Herald, read an interesting paper on the Wright irrigation act, as follows:

The decision of the supreme court of the United States sustaining the supreme court of the state of California in its rulings upon the irrigation district act was a great thing for the credit of the state. Anything else would have a reflection upon stability that would be felt in all lines of investment that depend upon judicial decisions or lawyers' advice.

Whether the decision will facilitate the placing of bonds of the several districts already formed, lead to the formation of any new ones, or hasten the building of any works in the old ones, is quite another matter. There is no disguising the fact that within the last few years the law has become very unpopular in California. Were the question to come up before an irrigation congress assembled in Los Angeles the decision would be quite different from what it was three years ago, when every California delegate voted that it was a success. It certainly looked so then. It as certainly looks otherwise now. Capital will not invest to any extent in anything unpopular, no matter what the law may be. It takes something besides words to make the effective law. The man who lends money for 6 per cent wants his interests, and don't want to be told that the law is so, and that the landowners must pay some time. If he is to listen to such excuses, then he wants 15 per cent or more for his bother and risk.

It is well known that even in the districts where nothing has been done but pile up indebtedness, this prayer has been almost unanimous. Misconduct of the directors has been the chief cause of this, not merely the unnecessary multiplication of per diem and mileage, but on scales far more extensive, and even where no wrong intent was seen, there has been a squandering of the assets so great as to cripple some districts before a stroke of work has been done toward getting water to the land In all there has been a painful disregard of the fact that interest works nights and Sundays, while crops and tenderfeet have vagaries quite beyond control of the land-owner.

The Wright law is correct in principle and largely so in detail. It requires but a little amendment to make it the very best system in sections adapted to it. But it is now certain that there must be a state board of control, composed of experts in irrigation, land, law, hydraulics and, to a considerable extent, in finance. The most honest and intelligent board of directors likely to be found in any district will be so lacking in knowledge of these things that they will squander a vast amount of money without knowing where it goes. This is so in private works, and business experience in other lines qualifies one but little to manage so slippery a subject as water.

This board should decide first on the formation of the district as an economic proposition, not merely as a physical possibility. This was the intention of the author of the California act. He expected that the supervisors would use their best judgment as to whether the case in hand was in all respects a suitable one for the formation of a district; whether it was expedient and to the advantage of the land owners generally. On the contrary, they formed districts wherever the petition set forth the necessary facts for a legal and physical possibility. Consequently districts were formed in places where no private capital would dream of the undertaking, even in the wildest of boom times. They were formed where there were not only no settlers on the land of any consequence to pay the taxes, and nothing produced upon the land to pay them with, but where the experience of years had shown that, even with plenty of water at a reasonable price, the great American tenderfoot could not be inveigled by any means, fair or foul, fast enough to pay off one-tenth of the interest. There were many cases where it was plain that the sole dependence for paying the taxes was the capture of the aforesaid tenderfoot in large numbers, and where experience had shown that he would gladly be a victim if there were only water upon the land. Even this is now seen to be a mistake, for he will not buy until assured of the water, and he cannot be assured of the water until substantial steps have been taken toward bringing it. But substantial steps mean United States gold coin and plenty of it. And this many land owners will not put up because they want to get it out of the tenderfoot first. And many more cannot raise it except by selling a part of the land.

It now is plain that districts should not be forced where there is too much opposition, no matter how unreasonable it may be. Public opinion makes law; a minority can make public opinion and make it very powerful. We will never advance by saying that the law did so and so, and people will have to pay. Granted that, in the long run, they may lose their lands if they do not, that does not give the treasurer money to meet the coupons. What the bondholder wants is cash, not assurances. And the prudent land buyer will steer clear of districts where there is much opposition, especially from those who hire attorneys by the year and pay nothing except through a lawsuit fought to the bitter end. There are places enough where this system, properly applied and properly organized, should be very popular. Some unwilling parties might have to surrender for the good of the section. But there must not be too many, either in numbers or in extent of acreage. They make too much trouble and there have been cases where they are justified, for in this respect the act has been grossly abused in California. There are many who do not like the act who would not object to a small portion of their lands being taken in, but when swept into the lines by the tens of thousands of acres, they rebel and no one can blame them. To get such large tracts under cultivation before water comes is impossible; it is a vast undertaking even afterward. To sell them, even after the water comes, is in most cases a still greater task. And he who says you have only to put the price low enough had better try it awhile. No more stunning surprise awaits the hopeful seller than to find the more he breaks the price the more he scares the intending buyer. To offer irrigated acres for $10 or $15 is like offering town lots for a dollar. You cannot get people to look at them. And it is quite as useless to offer the land dry at $5 an acre. A few sales would be made but not enough to help out the district or the owner of the land, and if there is anything the experience of California proves it is that the man who gets land for a trifle is rarely a settler, but a speculator, whether the purchase be large or small. The people who have made California what it is are mostly those who have paid for their land a price large enough to make them appreciate it. Then they will work it and produce public wealth. But until they see the water coming, with certainty, they will not buy.

In the meanwhile, where is the cash to pay the taxes on the outlay necessary to prove the coming of the water a certainty?

This difficulty was seen years ago. Something must bridge the period of waiting between the outlay necessary to bring the water and the time when the land is productive enough to meet the interest. This was done by selling dry land, bought for a song, with water at a good price. The value of the land as enhanced by the water, built the works. In most cases this was successful, and the most prosperous settlements in California were built up in this way, the stock of the company going with the land. In other cases the same principle was applied by the sale of a perpetual guarantee called a "water right." This has been successful in some cases. All attempts to make the income of the land pay any interest on the cost of irrigation works of any magnitude without in some way calling on the enhanced value of the land, have been disastrous financial failures the world over, and, on new lands, will be to the end of time.

The state board of control should in such cases say: "You cannot have a district here unless this difficulty is in some way obviated, for you will surely get into trouble."

This state board should also govern all the expenditures above a certain amount, make all the contracts and see that they are carried out. They should see that the bonds are not discounted at a ruinous rate, by those who take them for work or property, and should not allow them to be scattered in many hands to be hawked on the street at half their value. The block should be kept intact if possible. Those that are paid out, if it must be done, should be put in escrow for the parties with the right to sell them at the price at which the rest are taken, or less, or to be turned over only when the rest are sold.

Other states should study the experience of California with this law. It throws the burden in the worst possible form—that of a high, annual tax rate beginning long before the land owner can get any benefit, and offers a most tempting bait to dishonesty and carelessness. With these points well guarded and some other amendments it would be a highly beneficial act in sections well adapted to it. But where the conditions are unfavorable nothing can excel it for making a tangle of which no man can see the end.

Geo. H. Maxwell of California urged strongly upon the congress to harmonize upon broad general propositions which could command the support of the press and people of the country. He said those advocating the development by irrigation of the arid lands of the nation wanted results, and that by the shortest and surest route. They needed not only energy, but driving power as well, a sledge-hammer of truth and sound argument which could be driven by the united power of all advocates of irrigation movements straight through every misapprehension and false doctrine from which opposition could come. All were agreed that a national irrigation commission, as recommended by the commissioner of the general land office, was conceded by all to be necessary. Then let all unite in its support.

The resolution coming from a recent convention of engineers at Denver, and embodying the recommedation of Ellwood Mead, state engineer of Wyoming, furnished other grounds for action. These were:

First—The cession to the states of arid land where it can be done upon such coditions as to assure its settlement by actual settlers and avoid the certainty of a monopoly in few hands of the public domain.

Second—The preservation of forests as a source of water supply.

Third—Permanent reservation from sale of lands suitable only for grazing, which should be leased only to actual settlers and resident farmers for a nominal rental of 1 cent per acre, the revenue to go to the states.

Maxwell also advocated the construction of storage reservoirs by the Federal government, as he believed that cession to the states could not in all cases be a practical solution of the problem of irrigating the arid lands of the government, and afforded no relief in the territories, as Arizona, for example, where hundreds of thousands of acres could be reclaimed by Federal aid and in no other way. He said the bill just introduced in congress by Senator Allen of Nebraska providing an appropriation of a million dollars for survey of the headwaters of the rivers of the country to locate reservoir sites was an entering wedge in the right direction. He could not concede the power of the national government to unconditionally give away the land of the nation even to the states. If ceded to states it should be only on the assurance of the accomplishment of a national purpose, which, however, unquestionably existed in the growing necessity of checking the over growth of our great cities by subdividing the lands of the country into small holdings on which a dense rural population could be worked under conditions which would lead them to cling to it through all succeeding generations, and check the social and political evils resulting from too rapid centralization of population in cities and manufacturing centers. It is a national duty to promote rural settlement, to preserve the plain people of whom Webster spoke, and multiply the strong and stur-

(Continued on Page 2.)

A HOWLING GALE IS RAGING

Over the County East of the Rockies

THE WORST FOR A DECADE

Four Deaths Reported With Still More to Come

Ample Warning Was Given and Shipping Is Expected to Escape Serious Damage—Not a Blizzard.

Associated Press Special Wire

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—The northwest storm which struck this city about 10 oclock last night grew in violence until at about 6 oclock this morning a howling gale of fifty miles an hour raged. The storm, which caninot be called a blizzard, because lacking the elements of cold, was the worst since 1888. At daylight five inches of snow had fallen and was being whirled about by the wind. As the day wore on the wind abated and the snowfall diminished. At 4 oclock the sky began to clear and with nightfall the wind disappeared, moving on toward New England. About eight inches of snow fell. The lowest thermometer reached during the storm was 23 degrees above zero.

Surface and elevated roads and ferries suffered much inconvenience, but are now running as usual. Fifteen hundred men are cleaning the streets and by 6 oclock tomorrow morning the snow will have been removed. Fair and warmer weather is predicted for tomorrow.

Ample warning of the approach of the storm was given to the mariners and probably not much damage was done to shipping.

Three deaths due directly or indirectly to the storm have been reported. They are:

James Cully, an elevated railway employe, found dead on the track.

Louis Bressler, a tailor, found frozen to death in a hallway in Pell street.

Moriar Zanoano, a laborer, struck by a Pennsylvania railroad train while working on the track near Waverly, N. J.

In addition to these William Beckley was found unconscious in a snowdrift in Jersey City, so badly frozen that he cannot recover, and George W. Fears was picked up in this city unconscious with the cold, and he cannot survive.

The same train that killed Zanane fatally injured Guiseppe Callotto, a fellow laborer.

A VESSEL WRECKED

HULL, Mass., Dec. 16.—The three-masted schooner Ulrica, which left Hillsboro last Friday for Hoboken, N. J., with a cargo of plaster rock, was wrecked on Nantasket beach just before noon today. Captain John Patterson and his crew of six men were rescued in an exhausted condition after undergoing a terrible experience. A furious northeast gale, accompanied by snow struck the vessel before daylight this morning and all her sails were blown away. Captain Patterson threw out his anchor, but the sea was running high and they failed to hold. The wind gradually increased to a hurricane, and the thick snowfall made it impossible to see a vessel's length away. Mountainous waves broke over the vessel, saturating the clothes of the crew. The temperature was far below the freezing point and the men were badly frost bitten.

At 11:30 the Ulrica struck on the big sandbar off the beach and in a short time broke completely in half. Several of the top spars went overboard. The life-saving crew of Stony Beach, headed by Captain X. James, launched a boat but could do nothing in such a sea. The second time the boat made considerable headway when it capsized, letting the crew into the water. They narrowly escaped drowning, but finally reached the wreck and took off the captain and the crew, who were lashed to the after part of the vessel.

The men were completely exhausted, the hands and feet of several being frozen. It was late this afternoon before they were able to tell the name of their vessel and of their experiences. The life-savers themselves were almost exhauted when they reached land.

TOOK TIMELY WARNING

NEW LONDON, Con., Dec. 16.—This expansive harbor is crowded with sailing craft of all sorts which have sought refuge from one of the ugliest storms in years. The sound steamers succeeded in reaching this city not far behind their schedule time, but no navigation was attempted today. The snowfall still continues and promises to rage indefinitely.

A FATAL RIDE

MIDDLETOWN, N. Y., Dec. 16.—Percy Middlebrook, Frank Rowe and Patrick Powers, sons of prominent citizens of Florida, took a ride in a sleigh last night, returning at midnight. Roe and Powers attempted to assist Middleton from the sleigh, but found he was frozen stiff.

TRAFFIC DELAYED

MIDDLETOWN, Conn., Dec. 16.—Steamship traffic is greatly delayed by the record breaking storm which now prevails and trolley lines are badly crippled. The snow is ten inches on the level and has drifted four to five feet deep. All country roads leading into the city are blocked.

FEW CASUALTIES

BOSTON, Dec. 16.—With the exception of the steamer Howard, which left for Baltimore, there have been no sailhere on her usual sailing hour yesterday ings of local steamers. Of the large fleet of European steamers now some days overdue at this port only one, the St. Ronans, from London, came to anchor today after a fearfully rough passage, fully three days late.

No accidents were reported in the harbor. Telegraphic communication with Highlands and other points on Cape Cod is interrupted.

CONSTRUCTIVE CONTEMPT.

Colorado County Commissioners Arrested While in Session.

LEADVILLE, Colo., Dec. 16.—While the board of commissioners of this (Lake) county were in special session tonight they were arrested by the sheriff on a mandate from the state supreme court, commanding that they be brought before that court to purge themselves of contempt. Judgment for several thousand dollars against the county was recently obtained and affirmed by the supreme court, which thereupon ordered the commissioners to levy a tax of four mills to satisfy it. As there was nearly enough money in the county treasury to pay the judgment the commissioners levied but one mill, and not liking the attorney for the claimant, did not notify him of the fact. When he saw by the official report that the full four mills had not been levied he advised the supreme court of the matter, which caused the action taken tonight. It is said by the court's attorney that the board will be able to purge itself of contempt without going to Denver in charge of the sheriff.

A STRANGE SUIT

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 16.—A civil action of a very unusual nature was commenced here today. Frank C. Griffen in November, 1895, employed E. H. Frost as his agent to secure a policy of accident insurance which would entitle him (Griffen) in case of injury in an accident, to receive $25 a week. Frost received the amount of the premium but never secured the policy. Griffen was injured January 7th last and has since been an invalid. He brought suit against Frost for $1225, the amount which he would have been entitled to had Frost secured the policy.

BANK OFFICIALS INDICTED

Under Charges of All Sorts of Crooked Conduct

Helena Bank Managers May Find It Unprofitable to Loot Their Institution—Grand Jury's Report.

HELENA, Mont., Dec. 16.—The United States grand jury today returned indictments against Erastus D. Edgerton, George H. Hill and T. D. Beattie. The first named was vice president and general manager, and the others assistant cashier and director of the defunct First National bank of this city. Edgerton is at present receiver of the bank. The charges are misdirection of funds, misappropriation of credits, false entries in the books, and false reports to the comptroller of the currency. The bond was fixed at $50,000. Edgerton and Hill gave bonds. Beattie is in the east, but will at once return.

The report of the grand jury, filed today, concludes as follows: "The grand jury also finds that the appointment of E. D. Edgerton as receiver of the bank has placed the institution and its affairs in the hands of one of the men who has been more instrumental than anyone else in looting the institution and has in many ways hampered a full and complete investigation of the affairs of the bank by this grand jury. It seems to the grand jury that it is an outrage on common decency that a man of the character of Mr. Edgerton should be permitted to remain in charge ofan institution after he has wrecked it."

Edgerton makes a general denial of any irregularities.

A MINING HORROR.

Red Cliff Miners Killed by a Premature Explosion.

DENVER, Col., Dec. 16.—A special to the News from Red Cliff, Col., says: Five men either killed outright or terribly maimed, with one other badly wounded, is the probable result of a premature explosion of giant powder in the Mollie tunnel at Holy Cross, fifteen miles from here, today. C. A. Trow, bookkeeper for the Holy Cross Gold Mining and Milling company, arrived in Red Cliff by team from the company's works, bringing very unsatisfactory and meager accounts of the accident. Eleven oclock in the morning is about the hour at which the day shift on the tunnel fires the first round of holes in the breast. The heavy concussion was heard on the surface at about schedule time, and shortly afterward a man with his face and head terribly cut and bruised and one eye closed, groped his way out of the tunnel and managed to say that a premature explosion had occurred at the breast and that a number of men were either dead or frightfully mangled. It is known that about eight holes loaded with from five to eleven pounds of giant powder each are fired at a round, machine drills being used in the bore. Mr. Trow did not wait to ascertain the extent of the disaster, but ordered one of the teamsters to drive him to Red Cliff in all haste. He was foreman of the shaft. No further details are now obtainable and probably none will be known here till tomorrow.

A SAN DIEGO MURDER.

SAN DIEGO, Dec. 16.—Frank Thing was brought into town today from the Potrero, where he was arrested on Monday on a charge of having murdered Santiago Socias, a Mexican. The killing occurred near Tecarte last April, and the coroner's jury at the time exonerated Thing on the ground of self defense. Thing was assisting his brother Frank, who is a deputy sheriff, to arrest Socias, who was wanted in Orange county, and the latter is said to have resisted. The Mexican consul of this city, however, took up the matter, and there has been considerable correspondence with Washington and the City of Mexico, with the result of a warrant being finally issued on complaint of a sister of the dead man.

THE NORTHERN CITRUS FAIR.

FRESNO, Dec. 16.—The clouds broke away today and the sun shone on the San Joaquin valley citrus fair. In the afternoon and evening 2500 people were in attendance, and the beautiful exhibit and the delightful music was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. Tomorrow a special excursion will come from Stockton over the Valley road, and in the evening an address of welcome to the Stockton Commercial association will be delivered in the pavilion by George E. Church of this city. It is expected that P. A. Buell will respond. Friday has been designated as children's day, and Saturday as Tulare county day. The fair is in every respect a grand success.

FRENCH WRITERS DEAD.

PARIS, Dec. 16.—The death is announced of Viscomte Auguste Margon, a dramatist and famous as a rival of Victor Hugo.

Baron Boigne, author of Les Petites Memoires de l'Opera, and father-in-law of Robert McLane, formerly United States minister to France, is dead. The government has seized Baron Boigne's papers, which contained memoirs of secret diplomatic negotiations.

SHERMAN'S PROGRAM

CLEVELAND, O., Dec. 16.—A local paper says: Senator Sherman will not be a member of McKinley's cabinet. He will, however, be a candidate for reelection to the senate. These statements are made officially. The information comes from a reliable source and several of the senator's most intimate friends in Cleveland today said they knew it to be a fact.

GEN. MACEO IS STILL ALIVE

According to Reports of Steamer Passengers

FESTIVITIES AT HAVANA

Promptly Ordered Stopped on Receipt of the News

Cirujeda Writes a Letter Indicating the Truth of the Charges of Treachery Made by the Cubans

Associated Press Special Wire

KEY WEST, Fla., Dec. 16.—Passengers arriving here tonight from Havana report that Antonio Maceo is alive and well and is in the province of Matanzas.

The passengers say that all the festivities that were going on in Havana to celebrate his death have been ordered stopped since it has become known that he is alive.

MORE EVIDENCE NEEDED

DENVER, Dec. 16.—A special to the News from Key West says: Advices from Mavana tonight by the steamer Olivette state that the alleged death of Maceo is still shrouded in mystery and a majority of the Cubans refuse to believe that the great chief is dead. The body has not been discovered and contradictory statements made by the Spaniards lead the Cubans to believe that Maceo is still alive. Even the people who live at Punta Brava, where Maceo is said to have been killed, do not credit the story. Dr. Zerturcha continues to make conflicting statements. He says now that the knife which the Spaniards have belonger to young Gomez and not to Maceo.

They say that this proves that Maceo is still alive, and that if he is dead his death will not injure the rebellion. There is a multiplicity of stories current in regard to Maceo. One report in Havana is that the Spanish officer at Cabezas, province of Mantanzas, has informed the Havana authorities that Maceo passed that place recently with a large force. Then, too, it is claimed that a letter has been received in Havana from Aguirre, the insurgent leader, dated December 11th, in which no mention is made of Maceo's death.

Weyler is now in a quarrel with the marine authorities because of the charge that Maceo passed the trocha in a boat. The marine authorities deny the story positively and have cabled the facts to Spain. All these contradicory statements render it difficult to believe that Maceo is really dead.

CIRUJEDA'S LETTER.

HAVANA, Dec. 16.—Captain-General Weyler today presented $100 to the scout of Major Cirujeda's column who took from the body of Antonio Maceo the articles which the Spaniards claim establishe the identity of the corpse as being that of the insurgent leader.

Cirujeda, it is officially announced in a dispatch from Punta Brava, dated December 14, congratulated Captain- General Weyler on the success of his recent "combinations," adding that "the results obtained were but the natural outcome" of his, Cirujeda's, own strict compliance with previous instructions from the captain-general and the Marquis de Ahumada, who acted as captain-general during Weyler's absence from Havana.

The captain-general, replying to the message of Major Cirujeda, has assured the latter that he will be rewarded for the splendid services which he had rendered to Spain.

A mulatto woman named Francisca Horrorea, will be tried by court martial tomorrow. She is charged with rebellion and incediarism. Francisca is described as an Amazon and formerly belonged to Castillo's band of insurgents.

CRISP FAVORS RECOGNITION.

ATLANTA, Ga., Dec. 16.—A special election held today in the Third congressional district to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Charles F. Crisp, resulted in the election of C. R. Crisp, the ex-speaker's son. Mr. Crisp, in response to a telegram from the Atlanta Journal today wired that paper: "I am in favor of the recognition of the independence of Cuba by the United Staes."

FEELING IN VIRGINIA.

WHEELING, W. Va., Dec. 16.—Captain General Weyler was hanged in effigy at 6:30 this morning.

VOLUNTEERS CALLED FOR.

TOPEKA, Kas., Dec. 16.—Richard Talbot, claiming to be an authorized agent of the Cuban insurgents, today opened an office here, unfurled the Cuban flag, along with the Stars and Stripes, and issued a call for 500 volunteers to take the field for Cuban independence. A citizens' mass meeting, at which Governor-elect Leedy will preside, will be held here Friday night to manifest sympathy with the Cuban patriots.

A PRISON INDUSTRY

LEAVENWORTH, Kans., Dec. 16.—Warden J. W. French of the United States penitentiary at Fort Leavenworth, has made the discovery that a gang of five convicts, four of them sentenced for counterfeiting, were making $5 bills. The leader of the gang, J. C. McKibbon, the prison photographer, worked in a room by himself and used government tools to make the counterfeit. Four trusties were his confederates and they secured the paper and materials through the driver of a grocery wagon. The counterfeits were made by photography and using chemicals.

MASONIC MYSTERIES

PHOENIX, Ariz., Dec. 16.—Elzaribah Temple Nobles of the Mystic Shrine was installed this evening by Past Potentate Freeman G. Teed of Los Angeles. Members and candidates, the latter numbering fifteen, made a pilgrimage through the city streets. The ceremonies of the day wound up with an elaborate banquet. Many members were in attendance from Southern California and from all parts of the territory.

A RAILROAD WRECK

AUBURN, Cal., Dec. 16.—A freight train going west was wrecked two miles above here this afternoon. The air pipe broke and the jar threw a flat car behind the engine off the track. One brakeman, L. S. Sheldon of Sacramento, was killed and another, William Lindley, also of Sacramento, was seriously injured. No particular damage was done to the train.

BARCELONA RIOTS.

BARCELONA, Spain, Dec. 16.—The courtmartial of the anarchists for complicity in the disturbances of June 6th, when six persons were killed and fifty wounded by a bomb, has been concluded. The sentences imposed are kept a secret, and anyone giving them out is to be severely punished. It is believed, however, that twenty-eight of the anarchists have been sentenced to death and fifty-nine others to penal servitude.

NEWS OF THE MORNING

By telegraph:

Fair weather today.

The Bering sea claims commission disposes of one case.

Steamer passengers from Havana report that Maceo is still alive.

Helena bank officers indicted charged with looting the institution.

A howling gale raging along the Atlantic coast; lives lost and vessels wrecked.

The Oxnard Sugar company fails to collect the bounty offered by the state of Nebraska.

Railroad land grant case in the United States supreme court; suit begun to recover a railroad subsidy promised by an Arizona county.

Irrigators in session at Phoenix look to California for guidance and direction; Angelenes give their ideas regarding action deemed necessary in the reclamation of arid lands.

Proceedings in congress; interesting and somewhat rancorous debate in the senate ends in a formal announcement that the Dingley bill will not be passed; the pension bill passed and sent to the president; the house does nothing.

Police court calendar—page 6.
Early orange shipments—page 6.
The harbor commission in private session—page 6.
The official result of the civic election declared—page 4.
A well-known contractor suddenly becomes insane—page 6.
Mass meeting of Cuban sympathizers tomorrow evening—page 4.
Weekly meeting of the chamber of commerce directors—page 4.
Another Markhurst society's prosecution is dismissed; a crowded court room during the Van case—page 3.
G. J. Griffith's magnificent gift to the city; the presentation to the city council; Mr. Griffith banqueted—pages 5 and 6.

News of the courts—The curious experience of the manager of an inebriates' refuge....A supreme court decision affecting the Los Angeles electric road....Another will contest....An amateur detective's troubles....Burke, the Glendale blacksmith, up for battery....The divorce mill....Court news and new suits—page 10.

Southern California specials—Abrupt discharge of Pasadena electric road employes....Orange county's poultry association....Rain causes Riverside ranchers to rejoice....Santa Barbara's farmers' institute....Moneta and Gardena gossip....Burglary at Anaheim....A crusade against hobos at San Bernardino....Fighting the rain in bathing suits at Santa Monica....Is Murderer Dunham near San Diego?....Rivera's walnut crop—page 7.

ON THE TURF

Result of Races Run Over the Course at Oakland

OAKLAND, Dec. 16.—Weather cloudy; track muddy. Results:

Six furlongs—Lucky Dog won, Braw Scot second, Charles A. third; time, 1:18¾.

Five and a half furlongs—Etta H. won, Adam Andrews second, Torpedo third; time, 1:12.

Mile and a quarter—Thornhill won, All Over second, Fred Gardner third; time, 2:14½.

One mile handicap—Sir Play won, Schiller second, Lincoln II. third; time, 1:44¼.

Mile and a quarter, handicap, over five hurdles—Burmah won, Haymarket second, Three Forks third; time, 2:26½.

OAKLAND RACES

The following is the list of entries and weights for the races at Oakland, which are posted at the Los Angeles Turf Club, 212 South Spring street. Commissons received on these races, and full descriptions of the events given. Races begin at 2 p. m.; first quotations received at 1:20 p. m.

First race, five and a half furlongs, high weight, purse—Jay Wheeler, 96; Pronto, 129; Los Banos Kid, 139; Pastime, 119; Cadenza, 114; San Lucas, 139; Geo. Dickerson, 122; Jack Richelieu, 122; Cardor, 124; Soniro, 96.

Second race, three-quarters of a mile, selling—Pollock, 107; Spry Lark, 107; Classis, 107; Palmerston, 110; Doubtful, 107; Jessie O., 107; La Flecha, 107; Mike Rice, 107; Judge Denny, 110; Reddington, 111.

Third race, five and a half furlongs, purse, high weight—Scorcher, 96; Petrarch, 117; Howard, 124; Hymn, 129; Gold Bug, 119; Alturera, 96; Billy Vice, 104; Roy Carruthers, 99.

Fourth race, mile, purse—Navy Blue, 99; McLight, 102; Schnitz, 102; Minnie Gee, 99; Flashlight, 102; Can't Dance, 104.

Fifth race, thirteen-sixteenths of a mile, selling—Yemen, 117; Kowalsky, 103; Battledore, 106; Tempestuous, 97; Rienzi, 91; D. J. Tobin, 97; Fig Leaf, 91; Major Cook, 101.

B. & O. NOTES.

BALTIMORE, Md., Dec. 16.—The directors of the Baltimore ond Ohio railway met today and unanimously reelected John K. Cowen president.

R. S. McVeigh has been appointed traveling agent of the coal traffic department of the B. & O. S. W., reporting to Coal Traffic Manager W. W. Peabody, jr.

Contracts have been let for the erection of a new car repair house at Keyser, W. Va., for the B. & O. railroad. The structure will be 80x420 feet and will cost $10,000.

A FORGERY SCHEME.

TOPEKA, Kas., Dec. 16.—A forgery scheme, by means of which free transportation has been secured over a number of western railroads by certain parties as yet unknown, has been discovered by the officials of the Santa Fe road. The name used in the former was J. E. Nugle, general manager of the Sonora railroad, a branch of the Santa Fe, and all requests for transportaitno were made over his signature. The swindlers had secured a supply of Sonora railroad letter heads.

A DISABLED STEAMER.

QUEENSTOWN, Dec. 16.—The British steamer Hazelmoore, from New Castle on November 24th for Baltimore, lost her propeller in a storm in latitude 58, longitude 21. She was picked up yesterday by the British steamer British Empire, Captain Wills, from London, December 13th, for Boston, when 94 miles from Queenstown. The Hazelmoore had drifted for sixteen days.

A NEW MINING PROCESS

DENVER, Col., Dec. 16.—Charles Butters, the distinguished mining engineer of Johannesburg, arrived in Denver today. He will visit the principal mining camps in this state and Utah to make investigations with a view to introducing the Siemens-Holzke electrical process for the treatment of low grade ore.

GRIDIRON PROFITS.

PRINCETON, N. J., Dec. 16.—Athletic Treasurer James J. Elliott made a statement today of the Princeton football season, showing receipts $31,787; expenditures, 17,048; balance, $14,739. Princeton's share of the Harvard game profit was $10,277; Yale game, $14,156.

PROCEEDINGS IN SENATE AND HOUSE

Party Leaders Warm to Their Work

AS NATIONAL POLICY IS DISCUSSED

The Intense Debate Not Free From Rancor

THE DINGLEY BILL IS DEAD

And the Scheme for Reviving Old Rates Maturing

Sherman's Announcement to That Effect Closes the Debate

The Pension Appropriation Bill Passed and Now Goes to the President—The House Adjourns Without Doing Any Business

Associated Press Special Wire

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—The session of the senate developed the most eventful and exciting debate that either branch of congress has heard in a long time. It brought forward the recognized leaders of the various parties and elements, including such conspicuous figures as Messrs. Sherman, Frye, Teller, Gorman, Vest, Aldrich, Platt, Mitchell of Oregon, Chandler, Hale and Allen in notable statements on the leading questions which have engaged the attention of congress and the country of late. Not only was the line laid down on traiff and finance, but the debate partook of all the pent-up feeling resultant from the national contest. It was dramatic in its intensity, and at al ltimes absorbingly interesting to the crowded galleries and intent body of senators. Political differences came in for a fair share of attention and the names of McKinley and Bryan were often heard. President Cleveland also came in for a share of attention.

Mr. Allen declared that the president was a Republican, who rejoiced with Republicans over the recent mutual victory. The debate came unexpectedly when Mr. Vest called up the Allen resolution for consideration of the Dingley bill, in order to make some remarks on it. Mr. Vest was in his usual caustic vein and his speech teemed with those graceful and catchy phrases for which he is noted. It severely arraigned the doctrine of protection and derided the promises of prosperity held out, he said, by Mr. McKinley, which could not be fulfilled by levying more taxes on the people. There were frequent sharp and amusing crossfires between Vest and Messrs. Aldrich, Chandler and Frye. The debate advanced to a more acute stage, when Mr. Allen, with his usual bluntness, began to question Mr. Chandler as to the future of the Dingley bill. He asserted that the Republicans had no need to fear opposition from the president, who had "gone over" body and soul to the Republican party. This brought forward Mr. Sherman and Mr. Teller. The Ohio senator spoke with deep earnestness, declaring that it was a crime for congress not to give the government ample revenue for needful expenditures. He characterized the silver substitute to the Dingley bill as a monstrosity, designed to cripple legislation. Mr. Cleveland's course in issuing bonds to maintain the gold reserve, he approved.

Mr. Teller pointed out the futility of urging the Dingley bill. As to future tariff legislation, he reserved his judgment on it until the measure was presented and its merits considered. Mr. Gorman also pointed out the uselessness of urging the Dingley bill, conceding, however, that March 4, next, the Republican senators would be in sufficient strength to pass a tariff bill. As to the course on the Democratic side, he said he anticipated no obstruction to such a measure, beyond insistence on reasonable debate. Throughout the debate the sentiment had prevailed that the Dingley bill was dead, and to give this final and apparently official sanction, Mr. Platt of the finance committee, announced that no effort would be made to urge that bill to passage. Mr. Sherman promptly rose and said in view of what had been said he acquiesced in the general sentiment that no further effort should be made on the Dingley bill. This was regarded as the final disposition of the bill.

The bitter debate came on in an apparently innocent way, when Mr. Vest, Missouri, Democrat, called up the Dingley bill upon which to submit a few remarks. There was no warning of the storm to come, and especially when he stated his appreciation of the fact that he was about to speak on a dead issue. The bill he regarded as a remarkable piece of legislation, born of the presidential warning to congress that the country's finances were in such a dangerous condition that the usual holiday recess might well be abandoned. The bill had not come from the wool growers, or the iron interests.

The production of tin plates, said Mr. Vest, had increased notwithstanding the decrease of 1 cent per pound on tin secured by the present law. And yet that reduction had been secured only at the point of the legislative bayonet.

This brought on a spirited passage between Mr. Aldrich and Mr. Vest. The former declared that it was well known that the iron schedule of the Wilson bill was protective in character, and that if iron and tin had been treated as other articles had been they, too, would have been struck down. This production was due, first, to the original protective duties on tin and to that partial remnant of duty retained in the present law.

"The senator from Rhode Island does not seem to agree with the president-elect, Mr. McKinley, on this tin question," responded Mr. Vest. The senator said he read a recent interview with Mr. McKinley at Canton, in which he said that the increased production of tin was due to the use of the natural oils of Indiana in the manufacture of tin plates. But Mr. McKinley must be mistaken, said Mr. Vest, for he found Indi-