

LOS ANGELES, CAL., TUESDAY MORNING, JULY 18, 1905.

STRENUOUS HOURS FOR EQUALIZERS

LIBERALITY IS RULE ON ALL COMPLAINTS

MANY ASSESSMENTS REDUCED

Closing Session Is Banner Day for Corporations Having Complaints Against Valuations Placed on Property

Nearly 100 complaints, small, large and of medium size, marked the closing of the county board of equalization, which held its last meeting of the year at the court house last night.

The last meeting, however, proved a banner one for the banks and some of the larger corporations and on the advice of the members assessments on both franchise and property were cut liberally.

The franchise question proved the hardest of all to solve and not until Deputy Shaw of the district attorney's office served legal advice regarding the assessment would the board take action. Then the great howl went up. Those who were fortunate enough to get the franchise assessment taken down boasted of it and all the others became angry.

As the district attorney had advised the board that while the assessment of the franchise was legal it could change the figures, all the corporations considered the statement made to fit their special case and as the seconds passed into history and hastened the midnight hour, the board patiently listened to the numerous complaints, realizing that if the fort could be held only a little longer all would be well.

The Home and Sunset Telephone companies seized the last opportunity to interject final objections to their taxation and the matter was taken under advisement.

Following the rule of deducting "tangible assets," the board granted the Merchants' Trust company a reduction in its assessment from \$52,640 to \$11,540, and the Los Angeles Trust company a reduction from \$146,655 to \$34,185.

The Federal bank and Mercantile Trust company were refused reductions.

MORE DAIRIES FOUND IN UNSANITARY CONDITION

Mayor and Health Board Find Degrading State of Affairs in Places

The mayor and some of the members of the health board have made another inspection of the dairies furnishing milk to the citizens of Los Angeles. This time the run was made into the El Monte district and the health commissioners found some of the milk ranches in a most disgusting condition.

A rather grim joke was unearthen by the investigation. The most unsanitary dairy visited has the exclusive contract for supplying milk to a certain restaurant in the city whose specialty is supposed to be pure foods of a modern and faddish construction.

The dairymen may have been on the lookout for the party for the automobile broke down several times while the tires blew up and were punctured innumerable times until the machine was forced to turn back tied up with strips of rope gathered by the wayside.

As a result of the trip, however, four dairymen will be forced to defend themselves before the board when it meets next Thursday evening.

MORE AMENDMENTS TO BUILDING ORDINANCE

Law Now So Tangled No One Seems to Understand It Thoroughly

The council adopted another batch of amendments to the building ordinance yesterday, and declared that it would take a Philadelphia lawyer to tell where the city was "at" in the case. So many and various are the provisions of this ordinance and so numerous the amendments that nobody appears to know just what it is.

The first amendment was drawn to remedy defects in the fire law as laid down in the original ordinance. It is said this was done to allow churches to be used for the purposes of holding entertainments and lectures.

The most important provision among the amendments, however, prescribes that the plumbing-inspector shall inspect all gas piping put into houses in the city. This is considered by Building Superintendent Backus a most important move and one that will be productive of much good.

SUES RAILROAD COMPANY FOR \$75,000 DAMAGES

Alfred Stern yesterday filed suit against the Salt Lake road and the Pacific Electric railway company for \$75,000 damages for the death of his father, Charles Stern, a prominent grape grower of the southwest.

The elder Stern was killed in a railway accident in which a street car collided with a freight car of the Salt Lake road.

Make your way of smoking right, by getting a Lee Palace.

ESTIMATES OF DEPARTMENTS CALL FOR LARGE INCREASE ASK NEARLY \$400,000 MORE THAN LAST YEAR

Street, Police, Water and School Demands Are to Receive Liberal Treatment; All Others Will Be Heavily Pruned. Small Chance for Tax Reduction

Total assessment 1905-6	\$157,123,654.00
Total assessment last year	126,126,568.00
Increase during past year	30,997,091.00
Increase in city's revenue	423,958.00
Estimated increase in expenditures	299,283.69

With the estimates from every department in the prospect for a reduction in the tax rate is declared to look brighter than ever. These estimates represent the amounts the heads of the various city departments would like to have the council appropriate for the running of their departments during the coming year.

Consequently, they are all generous in size, for the belief is general that when these estimates get past Chairman Smith of the finance committee of the council they will look much more emaciated.

Following are the estimates from the departments:

Department	1905-6	1904-5
Water	\$300,000	\$18,831.03
School	285,044	18,664.93
Police	403,856	283,890.33
Fire	367,470	257,451.40
Health	54,070	38,218.50
Street	548,588	499,428.36
Library	53,300	57,540.75
Park	186,756	102,495.74
City engineer	91,332	82,138.06
City assessor	33,000	29,101.82
City auditor	18,555	10,227.94
Building Dept.	18,000	12,751.70
Custodian city hall	18,325	20,828.03
City council	13,870	14,228.68
Civil service Com.	5,200	4,978.49
Mayor	5,300	5,927.24
Boiler inspector	4,207	3,211.87
Oil inspector	4,178	4,366.54
Gas meter Ins.	3,882
Tax and license Col.	26,300	21,246.82
Outfall sewer	6,669	5,227.24
Receiving hospital	7,412	4,366.54
Justice courts	4,876.63
Department 1	4,754	6,075.45
Department 2	5,074
Department 3	5,074
Playground No. 1	2,902.50
Playground No. 2	2,902.50
Total	\$3,104,066.94	\$2,784,783.25

These figures show an increase over the actual expenditures last year of \$399,283.69. City officials in discussing the question have expressed the opinion that the estimates of the heads of the departments would be cut by the council finance committee to such an extent as to lower the total excess over last year to about \$260,000.

Just where the pruning will be done is the subject of much interested discussion among city officials. The water department asks for an increase of almost \$200,000, and if rumor is correct, this department has an excellent chance to get what it asks for, as it is necessary to install during the coming year nearly half a million dollars' worth of new mains and otherwise improve the system.

The request of the school department for \$100,000 additional from the city this year may also be granted, if not in full, nearly so, for many new teachers are needed during the coming term. The total school appropriation is about \$1,200,000, but the greater part comes from the county and state.

The police department needs \$150,000 more and will probably get the most of it, as councilmen declare the present force is entirely too small and they favor adopting the recommendations made recently by Chief Hammel as regards the increasing of the force.

Just \$140,000 more than it was allowed last year is the request of the fire department, but officials appear to believe that the fire boys will be forced to get along with considerably less than this amount over what it cost to conduct the department last year. Chief Lips has planned many improvements, however, which promise to benefit the department.

Street Superintendent Hanley has asked for an allowance of \$52,588, about

RAILWAY BUILDS ROADS FOR AUTOMOBILE LINE

IMPROVING SERVICE BETWEEN ITS DESERT STATIONS

Heavy Teaming on Highways Between Ivanpah and Bullfrog Makes Them Impassable, and Private Routes Are Being Established by Santa Fe

General Passenger Agent John J. Byrne of the Santa Fe at the present time is largely interested in the subject of good roads. After an investigation, it has been decided that for the Santa Fe's automobile line, from Ivanpah to Bullfrog, it will be necessary to construct a private road for a portion of the distance.

At first it was thought that the auto stage line would be put into service at once, but because of the terrific heat and poor roads of the desert, the opening will not take place until September 1.

Heavy teaming from Ivanpah to Bullfrog has worn ruts in the roads, often to a depth of three feet, making them impassable for automobiles. Where it is found impracticable to make roads, the Santa Fe will construct

SOLDIER HUSBAND DISAPPOINTMENT

"TOO THIRSTY," AVERS HIS WIFE

BOTH AGREE TO DIVORCE

Mrs. Sarah E. Barlow Tells Story of Husband's Brutality Which Wins Case Before Judge

The joy of having a strong soldier boy for a husband proved short lived when the aforesaid boy in blue took regular and abnormal drams from a large-sized bottle was the substance of the testimony given by Mrs. Sarah E. Barlow in her suit for divorce from George H. Barlow before Judge Conroy in department 5 of the superior court yesterday.

The gray-haired woman was nearing the allotted three score years and ten limit, while the husband was just on the threshold of that dreaded period. Her story of her romantic marriage and unhappy ending was pitiful. The wedding occurred in 1896 in Los Angeles. The groom, a former soldier in the Union army and inmate of the Old Soldiers' home at Sawtelle, was a carpenter, and with his small property at Santa Monica managed to make a fair living for his wife and himself.

But first for a certain fiery liquid was said to have been the cause of all the trouble. "Yes, he admitted to me himself," testified the woman. "He told me time again that he couldn't take very much 'thout gittin' tippy, and whenever he got about three glasses of the stuff in him he took the notion that it was about time to whip me up some more, and he was always strong to his inclinations."

"Not long ago he got on a good one and come home leery and started to beat me. When he finished I had one eye in mourning and was sore from the effects of the blows and he had gone back to the home. He nearly always did that. He spent nearly all his time at the Soldiers' home and when he did live at our house he was continually drying up the place and beating me, after which performance he always hurried back to the Soldiers' home."

"We at last both decided each to take halves of the property and get divorced." The ruling was made accordingly, the plaintiff and defendant each receiving \$600.

WIFE COMPELLED TO WORK

Mrs. Lilly Austin Granted Divorce on Ground of Non-Support

"Compelled to do manual labor" formed the basic complaint of a suit for divorce instituted yesterday by Mrs. Lilly Austin against F. C. Austin before Judge Gibbs in department eight of the superior court.

The couple were married in Los Angeles five years ago. According to the allegations of Mrs. Austin she was always compelled to work, but when her husband finally disappeared from his home about two years ago, it became necessary for her to drudge.

She told the court that from early morning until late in the evening she was compelled to do manual labor in order to get enough for food and shelter and the court readily appreciating the position of the frail woman granted the divorce on the ground of desertion and non-support.

HUSBAND CHARGES DESERTION

Usual Rule is Reversed in Case Tried Yesterday

The usual case of the husband deserting the wife was reversed yesterday in the suit for divorce of Eugene Puissegur against Rose Puissegur held before Judge Wilbur in department three of the superior court.

The couple had been married about ten years. Over one year ago, Mrs. Puissegur was alleged to have left her husband and shortly afterward filed suit against him, charging cruelty. The decree was denied, and when the necessary year had passed and his wife did not return to him, the husband secured his divorce.

"HYPNOTIZED FOR \$25,000"

Railroad Contractor and Wife File Charges Against Each Other

Christian Bertelson, a wealthy railroad contractor, was fined \$50 by Judge Bordwell yesterday because he was not ready to answer the charge of cruelty brought by Mrs. Lena Bertelson, in her suit for divorce against him.

Mrs. Bertelson, an ex-manicurist, asks divorce because she alleges her husband nagged her, while the husband asks the return of \$25,000 worth of property which he says his wife secured from him by hypnotism.

Desertion Alleged

MAN IS SLAIN FOR OFFERING ALLEGED INSULT TO WOMAN



MISS M. H. WILLIAMSON, WHO KILLED RICHARD S. SAUNDERS

MATRIMONIAL MARKET AT SAWTELLE IS FLUCTUATING

OLD MAIDS LAY SIEGE TO SOLDIERS' HOME

Marriage of Veteran Recently Has Raised Hopes in Fluttering Hearts of Ancient Females, and Old War Horses Are Being "Pestered Nigh unto Death"

Farewell to the Redondo boom! Farewell to the "Scotty" special! There is a new ring around the moon and the old maid rush to Sawtelle is the latest topic of feverish discussion and scores of ancient females are spending extra car fare in search of information concerning the report of the "easy picking," matrimonially, to be had in the little soldier village.

The great event began a short time ago when an old soldier appeared at the marriage license office and brought along an elderly woman. The "splicing" was quickly accomplished and forth trooped the gay ones, the old soldier to celebrate and the woman to spread the glad tidings.

The rush then accelerated. To old women, forced to spend the remainder of their days in solitude, the romantic idea of having a "little boy in blue" appealed strongly, even though he be an "old boy." Besides the romantic feature a twelve-dollars-a-month pension was thrown in with each old soldier.

has provided but scanty living, and finally deserted here two years ago. The decree was granted.

Petitions for Divorce

Petitions for divorce were filed yesterday as follows: Leacie Parks against Alex Parks, Emily Camp against Samuel Camp, Albert H. Henner against Lenora May Henner, W. T. Brown against Alice Brown.

Wife Granted Decree

Getrude E. Lewis was granted a divorce from Berton F. Lewis by Judge Wilbur yesterday. The woman charged her husband with non-support and alleged he spent his money for gambling and drinking.

PERSONAL

Mrs. Helen Gittere, a delegate to the convention of the Ladies of the G. A. R. at Ventura, arrived in Los Angeles yesterday. Mrs. Gittere's home is in Hartford.

J. E. Moore, district freight and passenger agent of the Clark road, with headquarters in Salt Lake, arrived in Los Angeles yesterday and will spend two days here on business.

Evangelist Bulgin closed a series of successful meetings Sunday night for the Newman Methodist church, of which Rev. G. E. Foster is the pastor.

JURY SAYS HUNTINGTON DIED BY HIS OWN HAND

As a result of the inquest held over the remains of Charles Huntington, who shot himself in the room of Nora Leslie, 625 1/2 South Spring street, Sunday morning, the jury handed Coroner Trout a verdict to the effect that Huntington came to his death by his own hand in a fit of melancholy.

CROWDED

Crowds throng the Mellin's Food booth in the Agriculture Building at the Lewis and Clark Exposition, Portland. Thousands of people have gazed on the boys and girls, and the booth is filled with interested people all day long. Some one is bound to get the big offered, and it costs nothing to try for it. Lots of other things of interest, but the guessing is real fun.

DIES FROM OVERDOSE OF HYDRATE OF CHLORAL

Evidence at the inquest over the remains of J. B. Wilson of 335 East First street, who was found dead in his bed yesterday morning, brought out the fact that the man had died from an overdose of hydrate of chloral. In the testimony it was shown that Wilson was known in other places by the name of Wayne and Wing.

WOMAN KILLS MAN WHO INSULTED HER

TAKES LIFE TO AVENGE WHAT SHE TERMS WRONG

SLAYER SHOWS NO REMORSE

After Being Arrested She Asks if Her Victim is Dead, and Says She Would Kill Him if He Lived

Miss M. H. Williamson, landlady of the Piedmont lodging house, 117 1-2 East First street, shot and killed Richard S. Saunders late yesterday afternoon because, as she said, he had insulted her.

The shooting occurred in Saunders' room on the first floor above the landlady's office and there were no eye-witnesses to the tragedy. Patrolman Peterson was attracted by the report of the revolver and hurried into the house to investigate.

He found Miss Williamson in her office in a hysterical condition declaring loudly that she had shot a man because he had dared to insult her. The woman directed the patrolman to the room above where Saunders was found lying on his elbow with a bullet in his forehead.

Detectives Steele and Craig were sent from the Central station to the scene of the shooting at once. The police ambulance was sent to take Saunders to the receiving hospital, where on examination of his wound by the police surgeon, it was announced that he could live but a short time. Two hours later he died without regaining consciousness, the bullet having crashed through his skull between the eyes and lodged in the brain.

Would Kill Him

When the two detectives arrived at the lodging house Miss Williamson seemed to realize what she had done for the first time and anxiously inquired if the man she had shot would live. When told that he was yet alive she became violent and shouted: "If he lives, I will kill him. I will rid the world of such men as he. Even if I go to h--l for what I have done, I do not regret it."

"A life for a life and if I have taken his, I will freely give mine for that I have done." She continued in this hysterical manner, calling vengeance down on the head of the man whose life she had taken, and no amount of persuasion on the part of the detectives would quiet her.

She would give no detailed account of how the shooting occurred and would say nothing further than that Saunders called her to his room where he insulted her, after which she went down stairs to her office, took a revolver from the desk drawer, returned to his room and shot him.

Tells of Shooting

Joe Smith, a newsboy, who was in the room across the hall from where the shooting took place, says he heard Saunders call Miss Williamson from her office and heard her go upstairs. After the door of Saunders' room was opened he says a conversation in loud tones took place but he was unable to recall any remarks made.

Smith says the conversation lasted but a short time when he heard the landlady go down stairs and return in a few seconds. As soon as the door was opened again Smith heard a pistol shot and, rushing into the hall, he saw Saunders sink to the floor and Miss Williamson step back with a revolver in her hand.

Sends Money to Bank

After the officers arrived and the body had been removed Miss Williamson expressed her willingness to go to the police station, but asked that she might first make a deposit in the banks. From beneath a loose board in the floor of her office she took a bag containing nearly two hundred dollars and turned it over to the care of the police. A cab was called and she was driven to the police station. She stood the ordeal bravely until the jail door was reached and then she broke down and wept. She became so weak that it was necessary for the policemen to carry her to the woman's ward upstairs.

Miss Williamson is about fifty years old and had been proprietor of the Piedmont lodging house for nearly four years. It is said this is the first time any trouble has occurred in the house since she has had charge of it.

Little is known of Saunders, except that he is a laborer, employed at night. He is about 30 years old. He engaged lodgings at the Piedmont Saturday night. In the papers taken charge of by the coroner is a receipt for \$2.50 issued by a local employment agency. An inquest over the body will be held tomorrow afternoon at Breese Brothers' undertaking establishment.

HURT BY STREET CAR; WILL PROBABLY RECOVER

Luis Acan, who was struck by an Ocean Park car Sunday evening at Sentous station, yesterday removed to the county hospital. It will be some time before Acan, who is suffering with a fractured skull and many bruises, will be fully recovered, but it is believed that his injuries are not as serious as at first reported.