

TOWN OF BENICIA

A Busy Manufacturing Place on Carquinez Straits.

ITS VARIOUS INDUSTRIES

Three of the Largest Tanneries on the Pacific Slope in Operation.

FARMERS' IMPLEMENTS WORKS.

A Thrifty and Industrious Community of 3500 People Which is Prospering.

BENICIA, March 10.—San Francisco has an interesting, prosperous neighbor in Benicia. This town of 3500 inhabitants, on the Straits of Carquinez, thirty miles away, has been an incorporated town since the golden days of 1850. Benicia, like the capital of the nation—Washington—can be called the "city of magnificent dis-



BENICIA'S HISTORIC BUILDING, THE FIRST CAPITOL OF CALIFORNIA. [From a photograph taken expressly for the "Call."]

ances," for it has within its corporate limits, seemingly, half the rolling hills and dales of Solano County. In 1854 the first building built expressly for a Capitol was used by the Fifth State Assembly. This quaint old building, which General J. F. Houghton built, still remains standing in the heart of Benicia and is useful for city offices. The CALL's correspondent asked an old resident of Benicia why Sacramento won the prize from them.

"They came down from that region with 'dust' enough to buy it, and Benicia's hopes floated away in the boats that carried the adjourned Assemblymen up the river to Sacramento." "Dust" is synonymous with "bread." So the sons are no worse than the fathers.

The first Protestant college in the State was founded at Benicia. The building still remains. Many cultured women all over the United States remember with gratitude Miss Atkinson, the gifted teacher, who came to Benicia in 1854, and with twelve girls started the school, which became the nucleus of the Mills Seminary, she having retired in favor of the Mills in 1863. Miss Atkinson became the wife of Judge John Lynch, and spent many happy useful years in the town of her adoption. When she was laid away in the little cemetery on the hill, a monument was erected to her memory by former pupils and friends. Judge Lynch, who is the father of J. C. Lynch, speaker of the present Assembly, is still in the active practice of his profession, and is one of the most interesting and highly respected men to be met with in Benicia to-day.

"One of the best Government reservations in the United States is here. On this mile square owned by Uncle Sam there is a barracks and the only arsenal on the Pacific Coast. It is the intention of the United States Government to locate a gun-plant on this coast. The Benicia reservation has been reported on favorably by the committee sent out by the Secretary of War for the purpose of selecting the best site. Benicia is anxiously waiting for Congress to make an appropriation for this gun-plant, which will bring hundreds of skilled laborers to the town and put thousands of dollars in circulation each month. Indirectly the entire State would receive an impetus and reap a harvest if this Government works should be constructed at Benicia. Why not make a united effort for a gun-plant on the protected land-locked arsenal grounds at Benicia?

Benicia is a manufacturing town. The Baker & Hamilton Agricultural Works, the largest in the State, are located here. They manufacture all kinds of farming implements, also spring wagons, carts and buggies. When running full force they employ from fifty-five to 100 men, but with freight rates against them and the general financial depression everywhere, Hamilton & Baker consider themselves fortunate to be working sixty-five men. One does not fully realize what harm railroad monopoly does, not only to California, but many other States, until we know of manufacturers such as Baker & Hamilton, bringing coke and pigiron from England by way of Cape Horn, because they cannot buy in the East, pay freight rates and compete with Eastern manufacturers.

Everywhere the people are saying "Speed the day when the San Joaquin Valley road is completed to Bakersfield." The distance between Bakersfield and Mojave, the terminus of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe, all think will then be a matter of little moment and California will have a competing road to the East.

On March 1 T. B. Montgomery, who has been for quite a long period manager of the Benicia Agricultural Works, retired from the firm for the purpose of engaging in a manufacturing enterprise. William A. Cowley of San Francisco succeeds Mr. Montgomery in the management for Baker & Hamilton.

Three large tanneries make of Benicia the leading leather-manufacturing town not only in the State but the entire Pacific

slope. The Benicia Pioneer Tannery, owned by McKay & Chisholm, employ seventy men at their extensive works where they get out 2000 sides of leather per week. The extent of the work may be better understood when one item only is considered—that of the oak bark, which is to make the "tea" for tanning. Twelve cords a day is consumed at the Pioneer Tannery alone. This bark comes principally from Mendocino County and costs from \$16 to \$20 a ton. This firm sends leather as far East as Chicago. It is becoming generally known everywhere that the water and bark of California produces a better quality of leather, hence the demand on California, and Benicia in particular, for leather.

The Summer Tanning Company's plant has not quite the capacity of the Pioneer, but turns out equally fine work. Charles Stewart, vice-president of the company, takes a cheerful view of matters. He says business is much better than a year ago. This is partially due to an extra demand for saddle and harness leather, because of the war in the Orient.

Kullman, Salte & Co. also have a large tanning plant, with a capacity for 2000 sides. The Carquinez Packing Company puts up large quantities of fruit and fish. The Benicia Packing Company makes a specialty of salmon.

There are also many smaller but thriving industries, such as the Benicia Pottery Company, Pacific Cement Works and other enterprises, drawn here on account of the splendid shipping facilities. Any ship that can enter the Golden Gate can come to Benicia under sail.

One noticeable and pleasant fact is that

there are no idle men in Benicia; so everything seems cheery. The working people all live in detached cottages, with pretty little dooryards in front, and for these attractive little places the rent ranges from \$8 to \$12. One striking thing I noticed, and that is that every working man has a daily paper put down at his door.

The business houses seem to be in a good condition. One of the most artistic places imaginable is the jewelry and art novelty store of F. J. Stumm. Mr. Stumm, who was engaged in the same line of business in Paris and London, came to California for his health and continued in the same artistic line, partly for personal gratification, but his taste and judgment were soon sought and to-day he has orders from all parts of the State.

Benicia is extremely healthy, so said one of their young doctors with a slight suspicion of a sigh. The drainage is perfect, the ground high and rolling. The water supply is bountiful and pure. The pressure on the mains is wonderfully high, 85 pounds, an advantage in case of fire. Benicia's fire department is far above the average. The engines and all appli-

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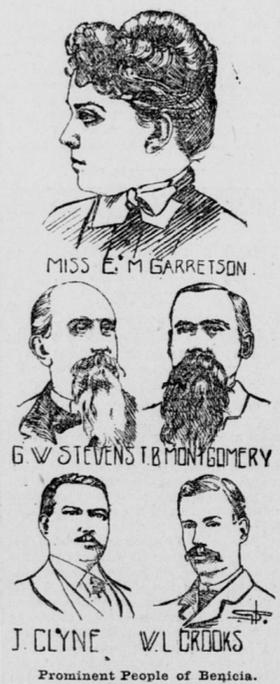
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Prominent People of Benicia. [Drawn by a "Call" artist from photographs.]

BURNING OF BANDITS.

Two Horsethieves in Indian Territory Suffer Terrible Death.

FIRING OF THEIR CABIN.

A Posse Runs Them to Cover and a Fierce Fight Wages for Several Hours.

THE OUTLAWS REFUSE TO YIELD

Then the Match is Applied to Their Retreat and They Perish in Agony.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., March 10.—A special from Enterprise, L. T., says that a posse in pursuit of two men who had stolen thirty horses from the Choctaw Nation followed the thieves for three days, finally surrounding them ten miles east of that place. The thieves refused to surrender and kept up a constant fire, having dismounted from their horses and taken to the woods. The posse pressed them closely and the fight was kept up for two or three hours.

One of the pursuers received a bullet in his arm, shattering it and causing him to fall from his horse. Finally the entire party massed and charged the two criminals, forcing them to take refuge in a cabin. Here the thieves barricaded themselves and defiantly proclaimed that they would not be taken alive.

After repeated efforts to induce them to give up the house was set afire. Although the roof was a mass of flames the thieves still refused to come out and threatened death to any of the posse who ventured near. At last the frame of the building fell in, burying the desperadoes in the ruins and they were roasted to death.

A NEW SPORTING LEAGUE.

CALL FOR A CONVENTION TO FORM AN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION.

TO PROMOTE ALL LEGITIMATE SPORTS AND SECURE THEIR HONEST CONDUCT.

BALTIMORE, March 10.—Sidney W. Giles, secretary of the Cleveland (Ohio) Driving Park Company, has sent out a call for a convention on Monday, April 9, in Cleveland, to organize the American Sporting League, similar to that which exists in England. The call says each sporting club is to send one or more agents, and continues:

"The object of the league will be to promote racing and all legitimate sports honestly conducted; prevent legislation hostile to its interests, and prevent the so-called winter tracks and other evils."

St. Louis Races End. St. Louis, March 10.—The announcement made by the Madison Park Association that the meeting ended with the last race yesterday created considerable surprise among local turfites. The association intends to make the track a mile in circumference. When this is accomplished they will apply for membership in the Turf Congress and give a legitimate meeting.

INDIANA LEGISLATURE ADJOURNS

Sixty Bills Are in the Governor's Hands for Signature.

INDIANAPOLIS, March 10.—The Indiana Legislature will adjourn to-morrow night. There are now in the Governor's hands about sixty bills, among them being the temperance bill. The Moore temperance bill, a drastic measure, has already been signed.

Among the more important bills that have become laws are the Roby bill to prevent winter racing, the constitutionality of which is questioned; the Congressional and legislative apportionment bills. A bill was also passed giving councils the power to gerrymander cities, which is distinctly a partisan measure.

BOULDER FOUND GUILTY.

A Gentleman Who Killed Three People at Last Convicted.

CHEYENNE, Wyo., March 10.—The jury in the case of Charles Boulter, charged with murder, this evening brought in a verdict of manslaughter. Boulter is a retired cattleman, who, during the past ten years, has killed three men, heretofore escaping punishment.

Prominent People Dead.

COLUMBIA CITY, Ind., March 10.—L. L. McLellan, aged 29 years, head of the banking firm of McLellan & Co., dropped dead this evening. He was a thirty-third degree Mason.

ELK POINT, S. D., March 10.—Henry D. Doane, one of the early pioneers of South Dakota, was buried here to-day. In his youth he was a stage driver, and during the war he served in the First Minnesota Infantry.

COLUMBUS, O., March 10.—Rev. David Harries, one of the oldest and best known Welsh ministers of the country, died here to-day. He was born at Caerwent, South Wales, in 1824. He had charge of the Welsh Presbyterian Church in Chicago for nineteen years.

LONDON, March 10.—Admiral Sir George Gifford, retired, is dead. He was born in 1815.

No New Police Commission. ALBANY, N.Y., March 10.—Speaker Hamilton Fish to-day affirmed very positively the Associated Press report that there will be no police reorganization commission for the city of New York. He said: "The reorganization of the department will be done by the Police Commission itself and not by special reorganization."

LAKE MERCED MAY BE ABANDONED.

SPRING VALLEY WILL MAKE IT A PLEASURE RESORT IF ITS WATER IS IMPURE.

THE COMPANY'S NEW PROJECT

SCHUSSLER GIVES A REASON FOR THE MAYOR'S RECENT OUTBURST.

Mayor Sutro will have something to say about the impure water in Lake Merced to the Board of Supervisors to-day. Sutro says he has more than enough proof to substantiate his charges, and Hermann Schussler, chief engineer of the Spring Valley Water Works, does not deny that the waters of the lake may be impure, though he says he is not aware of their present condition. Dr. Martin Regensburger of the Board of Health has no particularly favorable word for any of the waters in lakes near this city. He believes the water furnished to San Francisco is better than that furnished any city of its size, but he does not believe any large city is getting really pure water at the present day.

Chief Engineer Schussler in his answer to Mayor Sutro's caustic denunciation of the water supply of the Spring Valley Company asserts that all the water supplied to the city at the present time is absolutely pure. He says that if the water of Laguna de la Merced is as bad as Sutro says it is, it will not be used.

The waters cannot be used to supply the city, the shores of the lake and the lake itself will be turned into a pleasure park with drives and cottages, and the lake will be used for boat racing, both sailing and rowing. Mr. Schussler's remarks also indicate that the Spring Valley Water Works is to put into operation a new system vastly superior to the present as regards the supply and force for fire purposes.

Schussler kept his remarks as free as possible from personalities, but he could not refrain at times from making some statements which were rather severe on the Mayor. He intimated that Sutro's present attitude toward the water company was actuated by a revengeful spirit. Mr. Schussler said:

"The Spring Valley Water Works is as much interested in giving good water as the city is in receiving it. Consequently we are constantly on the lookout to prevent any contamination. When a year or more ago there were indications of a possible contamination of Lobos Creek, which empties into the Golden Gate near Bakers Beach, we had the water analyzed by Professor Hilgard of the State University. The result was that we abandoned it."

"The water of Lake Merced has not been good since last summer, when it was in good shape because we have enough water in our own San Mateo County reservoirs. If our analysis, which we will make this spring, should show any deterioration of quality in the water we will not use it. We are constantly on the lookout for a new pumping system at Lake Merced in 1891 care was taken to construct it so that in case the lake as a water source should have to be abandoned we could pump water from a magnificent artesian water belt which we know exists under the Rancho Laguna de la Merced. We can also pump the San Andreas water with the same system into the upper level district. The artesian water is now at the 250-foot level, but we can raise it to the 400-foot level."

"We have always tried to keep the waters of Lake Merced pure. If they become foul, Mayor Sutro is to be held responsible. There is a law which makes people liable for polluting water which is being used for domestic purposes. The difficulty has heretofore been that water coming into the lake from the surrounding country, by the farms mentioned, passes through the gravely bed of the creek for two or three miles, and is thus filtered and purified. At the point where the water reaches the lake the water is difficult to protect against contamination. If later in the year should be desirable, we would pump water from the San Andreas water, but would probably involve the aid of the law against the persons polluting the water. This would be the period at which we would develop artesian water and make connection with the San Andreas supply."

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"Sutro's charges that the waters of Lake Pilarcitos and Laguna Honda are impure are false. We have an analysis made of the water supplied to our customers every day. The water is pure. The water has been found to be absolutely pure. The reservoirs are perfectly clean. They do not get dirty. The fact that there are no zymotic or other diseases traceable to impure water in the city at the present time shows that pure water is supplied. If the Board of Supervisors, the Fire Commissioners and the Board of Fire Underwriters will assume the responsibility of a fire risk in the Western Addition for a day or two there will be no difficulty in emptying Lake Honda in ascertaining that it is clean. There will be no risk of the walls falling in, as Sutro believes. There are no cracks in the walls of Laguna Honda, by which the sewer of the Alamo house passes. There are a few cracks in the easterly wall or the northeasterly wall, but the sewer passes by the southerly and westerly wall of Laguna Honda."

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LEGGERS, journals, cash books, letter and bill books, wrapping paper, twine, pens, ink, pencils, typewriter papers and ribbons, legal blanks, and all office supplies at the right prices. Sanborn, Vail & Co. 741 Market St.

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Mayor Sutro will have something to say about the impure water in Lake Merced to the Board of Supervisors to-day. Sutro says he has more than enough proof to substantiate his charges, and Hermann Schussler, chief engineer of the Spring Valley Water Works, does not deny that the waters of the lake may be impure, though he says he is not aware of their present condition. Dr. Martin Regensburger of the Board of Health has no particularly favorable word for any of the waters in lakes near this city. He believes the water furnished to San Francisco is better than that furnished any city of its size, but he does not believe any large city is getting really pure water at the present day.

Chief Engineer Schussler in his answer to Mayor Sutro's caustic denunciation of the water supply of the Spring Valley Company asserts that all the water supplied to the city at the present time is absolutely pure. He says that if the water of Laguna de la Merced is as bad as Sutro says it is, it will not be used.

The waters cannot be used to supply the city, the shores of the lake and the lake itself will be turned into a pleasure park with drives and cottages, and the lake will be used for boat racing, both sailing and rowing. Mr. Schussler's remarks also indicate that the Spring Valley Water Works is to put into operation a new system vastly superior to the present as regards the supply and force for fire purposes.

Schussler kept his remarks as free as possible from personalities, but he could not refrain at times from making some statements which were rather severe on the Mayor. He intimated that Sutro's present attitude toward the water company was actuated by a revengeful spirit. Mr. Schussler said:

"The Spring Valley Water Works is as much interested in giving good water as the city is in receiving it. Consequently we are constantly on the lookout to prevent any contamination. When a year or more ago there were indications of a possible contamination of Lobos Creek, which empties into the Golden Gate near Bakers Beach, we had the water analyzed by Professor Hilgard of the State University. The result was that we abandoned it."

"The water of Lake Merced has not been good since last summer, when