



THE PACIFIC SLOPE.

San Diego Collectors of Taxes Disappear in the Desert.

FEARS OF FOUL PLAY.

Belief That the Men Were Murdered by Robbers Who Waylaid Them.

RETURN OF THEIR HORSES.

The Animals Were Without Trappings and Showed Signs of Hard Running.

SAN DIEGO, CAL., March 30.—Deputy County Assessor L. N. Bailey of Julian and J. B. Brackett of this city are missing on the Colorado River, above Yuma, where they have been reported to have been killed by robbers.

The two men went out to collect taxes on personal property and polltax at the mining camps of Gold Rock, Largo, Muchacho and Picacho, as well as other points on the desert. They left Julian, which is a short journey from the western edge of the desert, on March 5. Nothing was heard of them until they arrived at Picacho, on the Colorado River, above Yuma, where Bailey wrote to County Assessor Burt. This was on the 16th. On the 20th Bailey again wrote to Assessor Burt, this time from Yuma, remitting \$400 which he had collected. He asked for certain instructions, which were wired him.

Bailey and Brackett were to leave on the day after receiving a telegram, which was the 22d. Nothing has been heard of them since, though plenty of time has elapsed for them to cross the desert. On Tuesday night, the 26th, their horses arrived at San Felipe, east of Julian. The animals showed every sign of hard running, and were apparently suffering from thirst. So far as known, Bailey would have had considerable money on his person collected in the mining camps. His brother feared that Mexicans or Indians, or even white men had followed the two men and murdered them.

Though no trail existed Charles Bailey and Paine struck out for Yuma on the course they thought most likely to find the missing men. They were well armed. It was suggested that perhaps the two men had themselves fled, sending their horses home to make it appear they had become lost. But this is hardly likely, as both men have property, while the sum they had collected was not sufficient to tempt them to such a move.

Brackett is part owner of Santa Yzabel ranch and Bailey some time ago sold the Ynolia ranch at Julian. From the remarkably fast time made by the horses, crossing the desert in four days, a distance of about 100 miles, it is believed they got away soon after leaving Yuma, and that if murder was committed it was in the eastern end of the county. Information regarding the case was furnished by Assessor Burt to the District Attorney's office to-day, and District Attorney Sweet telegraphed to the authorities at Yuma to make a search.

ALASKA MINERS STARVING.

RUN SHORT OF SUPPLIES OWING TO THE ACTION OF A STEAMER CAPTAIN.

A MESSENGER ARRIVES AT PORT TOWNSEND TO SECURE FOOD FOR THE MEN.

PORT TOWNSEND, WASH., March 30.—T. J. Healy, son of Captain Healy of the Alaska Commercial Company's steamer P. B. Weare, was a passenger to-day on the Al-Ki from Alaska. Healy made the trip from Fort Cudahy overland to Juneau, a distance of 750 miles, for the purpose of fitting out a vessel with supplies to be taken at once to the upper regions of the Yukon country, where there is, at present, prospects of a famine among the miners who spent the winter there and who, at the time Healy left, were out of coffee and bacon, while the other food supplies were at the lowest ebb.

The depleted state of the larder is due to the desertion of the captain of the steamer Arctic, who left that vessel at Fort Yukon when she was bound to Forty-mile Creek with grub and implements for the treasure-seekers. Healy will outfit a vessel at Seattle and return at once to the relief of those, who perhaps by this time are suffering for the necessities of life.

The winter on the Yukon has been comparatively mild, the lowest temperature being 68 deg. below zero, according to Healy. This intense cold was exceeded at Forty-mile Creek, where, during the entire third week in December, the mercury reached a point 72 deg. below zero.

AN INDIAN RUNS AMUCK.

Shoots the First Mate of a Steamer and Then Himself.

PORT TOWNSEND, WASH., March 30.—The steamer Al-Ki brings news of a shooting affray at Killisnoo, in Alaska, the first

mate of the steamer Francis Cutting having a narrow escape from instant death at the hands of an insane Indian armed with a revolver. The mate was standing in a cannery watching the men at work, when one of the Indians jumped to his feet with a yell and dashed at the mate, shooting him twice, once in the breast and once in the face. Before the bystanders could disarm the Indian he fired a shot into his own brain, which did not kill him, but will result fatally. The mate is reported to be improving and is sure to recover.

THE ANGELS STAGE-ROBBER.

Messenger Hendricks Did Not Shoot a Shadow as Alleged.

STOCKTON, CAL., March 30.—William Hendricks, Wells-Fargo's messenger on the stage road between San Andreas and Angels, must have shot at a highwayman when he blazed away at a figure in the brush near the road a few nights ago. Some of the people in the hills who did not find a dead man lying behind the brush fence there doubted the story, or at least thought that the plucky messenger had made a mistake in the dark, but he is corroborated by a traveler who passed over the road a few minutes ahead of the stage. This man, a resident of Tuolumne County, drove along that road in a buggy half an hour ahead of the stage, and at the place where Hendricks fired he saw a man arise from behind the brush fence, and after a survey of the traveler's rig he disappeared. The fellow was waiting for the stage to come along, it is thought, and rose on hearing the buggy to find that he had made a mistake.

The description of this man tallies with that given by the messenger. Men who have talked with the messenger and the driver are positive that Hendricks saw a man rise in the dark who was there for no good, and if he did not stop the stage it was owing to the quickness of the guard.

THE LOS ANGELES TONGS.

HIGHBINDER CREATING MUCH TROUBLE IN THE SOUTHERN CITY.

EFFORTS TO BLOCK PROSECUTIONS AND SIGNS OF AN IMPENDING ROW.

LOS ANGELES, CAL., March 30.—Chinatown is stirred up to a high pitch of excitement to-night, and the police will be surprised if the opposing tongs engage in an open street fight should the opportunity occur.

Wong Chee, who has been leader of the Wong society for many years in this city, is in jail awaiting trial on a charge of murder. Although the leader is safely confined in prison the Wongs are not idle, and under direction of Sam On Eye of San Francisco and another highbinder from Fresno, they are making matters warm for the friends of the man who was murdered.

Cases against fifteen dissolute Chinese women, who are under the protection of the tongs, were to have come up for trial in the Police Court this morning. When the hour arrived a continuance was asked for on the ground of absence of material witnesses. The Deputy District Attorney stated to the court that he understood that there was a conspiracy on the part of the Wong tong to get the witnesses out of the way; that one of the most material witnesses had been shipped away to Fresno upon a fictitious charge of murder, and another had been arrested and taken to San Bernardino on a warrant sworn to at the latter place by Wong men charging him with arson.

In view of this serious aspect of the case the court granted the continuance asked for. From all that can be learned the men arrested were in Los Angeles at the time the crimes at Fresno and San Bernardino were committed, and there seems to be not the slightest doubt but that the Wong men here deliberately swore to a falsehood in order to get the witnesses out of the county and beyond the reach of process.

The policemen all pronounce the charges trumped up, and several officers will go up to Fresno to testify in defense of the men taken there. It is probable that Wong Chee will not now be admitted to bail.

Electric-Car Held Up.

LOS ANGELES, CAL., March 30.—Two masked men held up a Maple avenue electric-car just before midnight at the end of the line. The passengers had all got off and the conductor was turning the trolley when a man with a black cloth over his face approached with a revolver and ordered him to throw up his hands.

At the same time the other robber held up the motorman and brought him round where the conductor was. The latter was relieved of about \$10 in fares and \$5 of his own. The motorman had no money, but had a pistol in his pocket, which he had no chance to use.

Cleaning Up the Crooks.

LOS ANGELES, CAL., March 30.—The police net in this city is beginning to drag heavily. The police have already locked up nearly a dozen crooks, attracted by the coming Fiesta, and to-day they captured Henry Parker and James Collins, three-card monte and lock-game men. Parker is an Easterner and Collins a coast man. The detectives have been apprised that others are on the way.

Acquitted of Murder.

LOS ANGELES, CAL., March 30.—A verdict of acquittal was returned under instructions by the jury to-day in the Superior Court in the case against William Settles, accused of having murdered John Hawkins, a baker of Wilmington.

Plumbers' Strike Is Off.

LOS ANGELES, CAL., March 30.—The threatened strike of plumbers of this city has been declared off, owing to the fact that the employers decided not to make the cut of \$1 per day, to take place to-morrow.

Preparing for La Fiesta.

LOS ANGELES, CAL., March 30.—The work of constructing 6000 seats at Central Park for use during La Fiesta was begun to-day, and other preliminary arrangements are well under way.

Dr. Peery's Death at Tehachapi.

TEHACHAPI, CAL., March 30.—The inquest on the body of Dr. M. Peery, found yesterday, revealed that he died from an overdose of chloroform, self-administered for the purpose of alleviating pain, and the coroner's jury returned a verdict in accordance with the facts. The Masons will take charge of his remains.

HOLD-UP AT REEDS.

Two Masked Robbers Try to Loot the Oregon Express.

A BATTLE ON THE TRAIN.

Sheriff Bogard of Tehama Shoots One Bandit and Is Killed in Return.

FLIGHT OF THE MURDERER.

Rides to Sacramento on a Bicycle and May Be Caught by the Police.

MARYSVILLE, CAL., March 30.—One of the boldest robberies ever committed in this State, and which was attended by tragic results, was the holding up of the northbound Oregon express-train No. 15 a hundred yards below Reed's Crossing, a station seven miles south of this city, at 7:45 o'clock this morning. In the fight that was opened by James J. Bogard, the brave Sheriff of Tehama County, one of the robbers and the officer were killed, and Fireman Nethercott was wounded. The robbers, of whom apparently there were three, did not succeed in getting any money from the express-car, and although they looted many of the effects of the passengers, they left their booty behind them.

The Oregon express left Sacramento for the north on time last night, but when a few miles outside of Sacramento was delayed by a hot box and lost an hour. This time was not made up in the run to Wheatland. The train pulled out from Wheatland soon after 1 o'clock, and was near Reed's station when a masked man, wearing slip-overs swung down from a boxcar into the tender of the locomotive, and, jumping into the cab, covered the engineer and the fireman with a revolver and commanded them to stop the train at the next station. When within a short distance of the station the engineer was told to put on the airbrakes and did so. When the train came to a standstill the robber ordered the engineer and fireman to jump from the cab. As they did so a small man, also wearing a mask and with a revolver in his hand, suddenly appeared beside them. They thought he must have been secreted beside the road, though he may have been on the boxcar with the tall man. The trainmen were then ordered to march toward the express-car and tell the messenger to open the door. They did so and the messenger, without much hesitation, complied with the order.

One of the robbers remained on guard outside and the other entered the car, but their search was fruitless. There were no valuables or money outside of the safe, and the big steel strongbox was a through safe, with a combination lock, which the messenger could not open.

Ordering the messenger from the car, the robbers marched the three men toward the passenger coaches. Arriving there, one of the bandits produced the leg of a pair of overalls and, tying a knot in one end improvised a sack. Handing this to the fireman, they told him to enter the smoking-car, cautioning the other men not to move. With drawn revolvers they marched beside the fireman and commanded every passenger to put his valuables and money in the sack.

By this time the colored porter in the tourist sleeper, just beyond the day coach, became aware that a robbery was in progress, and knowing that Sheriff Bogard was in a berth, called him. The brave officer was in his shoes and trousers in a minute, and, armed with a heavy revolver, started for the day coach.

He crossed the platform between the sleeper and day coach, and, as he entered the latter at the south door, the robbers came in at the other door. The Sheriff stepped to one side, aimed and fired. His bullet struck the man nearest him, but a second failed to reach its target. One of the robbers must have been Bogard enter, and on doing so jumped down, and, running along the side of the car, entered and hid in the back. It is evident, from the bullet struck the Sheriff in the main right artery in the back, just below the kidneys.

As the robber fell he exclaimed, "I am done for." The other jumped from the car, telling the now thoroughly frightened trainmen not to attempt to follow. By this time the passengers were all aroused and a general fusillade followed, the wounded robber joining in it, and the little robber escaped amid a shower of bullets. In the melee Fireman Nethercott was hit twice by flying bullets.

Conductor Shortridge secured a man to help Engineer Bowser, and after about half an hour's delay they came on to this city, arriving at about 2:30. Dr. Powell was called at once and treated Fireman Nethercott. Coroner Bevan was notified of the presence of the two bodies at about 3 o'clock, but it was nearer 5 when the news was taken to Sheriff Inlow and Marshal Mabey, both of whom left at once for the scene of the robbery. At 7 o'clock this morning a special arrived from Sacramento with several detectives aboard.

The dead robber was identified by Charles Becker, night clerk at the United States Hotel, as S. McGuire. The robber is six feet in height, weighs about 200 pounds and was attired in a full and complete bicycle suit, over which he had a pair of slip-overs, and in which there were two improvised pockets, made of toweling, to hold pistols, two of which were found on him.

Becker stated that two strangers arrived at the United States Hotel soon after the departure of the Oregon express Monday morning. They both had bicycles and stated that they had arrived on the train. The tall man, who wore a bicycle suit, and who slept at the Golden Eagle Hotel on Wednesday and Thursday nights, had registered under the name of "S. McGuire, San Francisco."

Daley, a clerk at the Golden Eagle Hotel, said that the tall man had stopped at the hotel before, and from his accent concluded that he was an Irishman. He was positive that he had no companions with him at the time. When McGuire arrived

SUICIDE AT TACOMA.

Abe Gross, a Prominent Merchant, Shoots Himself.

NO CAUSE FOR THE DEED.

Retires in the Best of Spirits and Is Found Dead in the Morning.

WELL KNOWN IN SAN FRANCISCO

His Relatives Think He Was Murdered, but Indications Point to Self-Destruction.

TACOMA, WASH., March 30.—Abe Gross, one of the best-known merchants in the Northwest, was found dead in his room on the top floor of the big Gross block, this morning at 9 o'clock, with a bullet-hole through his head, and a 38-caliber revolver between his legs. The pillows on which his head rested and the lower part of his face were covered with blood.

Mr. Gross had been in the habit of arriving at his store before 8 o'clock, and as he did not appear at that hour the clerk went to call him. Receiving no answer the clerk returned to his office. An hour later another call was made for Abe, and his brother Morris became alarmed, and, accompanied by Bookkeeper Edgar E. White, went upstairs and opened the door. Stretched out on the bed was the corpse, arrayed in nightclothes.

Abe Gross left no letters to explain the deed if he did commit suicide. Friends think his death an accident. He was 27 years of age and single.

Though depression had lessened their business, Gross Bros. have had no financial trouble and the attorneys say not a single bill has been pressing them. The generally accepted theory of the suicide is, however, that Abe became despondent because business did not pick up and was partially out of his head when he shot himself.

He was without doubt the most popular man in Tacoma. He was a member of the Chamber of Commerce, president of the Hebrew Benevolent Society, a thirty-second degree Mason, Mystic Shriner and was one of the trustees of the recent Interstate fair. In everything that would benefit Tacoma he took a most active interest. He was well known in San Francisco. In 1882 and 1883 he took a course there in a business college and subsequently went in business, afterward becoming a member of the firm.

After the shooting this morning the London and San Francisco Company filed two mortgages. One, given in 1893, is for \$40,000, and covers property owned by David and Morris Gross in the business district. The other, for \$1000, was given by Abe in 1892 on property owned by him. Both claims are overdue, but will not be pressed, the bank simply desiring to put its claim on record. So far as known these are the chief outstanding claims.

Last night Abe went out to a dinner party, returning to his room at 1 a. m. with a friend, who saw him last alive. He was then in good spirits. The three brothers and their families are grief-stricken. They still insist that Abe must have been murdered.

The coroner's jury rendered a verdict that death resulted from a pistol wound inflicted in some manner unknown. An autopsy made by Dr. Everett revealed that the revolver was placed between the teeth. The ball galloped upward, lodging at the base of the brain. The inquest developed that the shooting occurred about 7 o'clock, just after the porter had stepped in and taken his shoes to the floor below to black them. The funeral will take place Monday or Tuesday.

THE CONDUCTOR'S ACCOUNT.

GRAPHIC DESCRIPTION OF THE HOLDING UP OF THE TRAIN.

SACRAMENTO, CAL., March 30.—The train held up by the robbers was in charge of Conductor James E. Shortridge of this city. His account of the affair is as follows:

The train had gone about three miles beyond Wheatland, when the robbers held up the train. After the train had been brought to a halt they ordered the engineer and fireman out of the cab and marched them to the door of the express-car. Here Engineer Bowser, in obedience to the peremptory command of the robbers, rapped at the door of the car and asked the messenger to open it.

As soon as the door opened the messenger was covered with the pistols of the robbers and was ordered to get out. When he had obeyed the order one of the robbers entered the car, and after remaining only a short time, came out again. It is believed that he could not find any valuable packages loose, and that, not having any dynamite cartridges with them, no attempt was made to open the safe.

The next movement of the robbers was to take the engineer, the fireman and the express messenger into the coach back of the smoker. They gave the fireman a bag made of a pair of overalls sewed up at the small end, and as they entered the door of the coach they sternly commanded the passengers to throw up their hands and to deposit in the sack held by the fireman whatever valuables they happened to have about them.

The passengers readily complied with the order, but one of them, a man named Sampson from Redding, made a show of refusing to give up his money, but his rebellious spirit was tamed by one of the robbers beating him on the head with a large revolver, cutting a gash in Sampson's scalp about four inches long. Sampson, with his head and face and coat covered with blood which flowed profusely from the wound in his scalp, without further remonstrance threw his money into the sack held by the fireman.

After having gone through the coach without molestation or resistance of any kind, the robbers and their prisoners went into the smoking-car. The same order was given here, and the passengers threw up their hands. Some of the passengers held their lighted cigars between their fingers, and some were so astonished that they held their cigars between their teeth. While the robbers were finishing their

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VINE'S TRIP TO GUAYMAS.

DETAILS CONCERNING THE SEIZURE OF THE SAN FRANCISCO SCHOONER.

A PASSENGER TELLS A STORY OF ILL TREATMENT ON THE CRAFT.

LOS ANGELES, CAL., March 30.—E. M. Piery, the man who brought the news yesterday of the seizure of the schooner Vine of San Francisco, and alleged bad treatment on the vessel, gave the following additional details:

He says the Vine had not proceeded far to sea from San Francisco when he discovered that he had been deceived. He thought he was starting on a pleasure and trading cruise to the South Sea Islands, but instead the first stop was at San Blas, Mexico. Here the crew deserted, but were returned aboard by the Mexican authorities. He would have deserted the vessel too, but found that he would have to travel many miles by stage to reach the railroad.

After staying eight days at San Blas the schooner proceeded to Guaymas. The trip should have been made in eight days, but it took twenty-four. The captain and crew, Piery says, were incompetent. They encountered a severe storm lasting four days. The crew often rebelled and at Guaymas again deserted.

Captain Burns, the owner of the schooner, was at Guaymas when the vessel arrived there. Piery demanded an explanation for the deception practiced upon him. Burns tried to get the authorities to compel him to remain on board, but they refused. Finally, Piery took the train for home. Just before he left the schooner was seized. What the outcome would be he did not know, but intimated that he knows a great deal more about her voyage than he is willing to tell at present. He said that instead of being a passenger he had to work like a galley slave, as the crew was incompetent to navigate the vessel.

Steamer Diego Said to Be at Guaymas.

LOS ANGELES, CAL., March 30.—E. M. Piery, who brought the news of the seizure of the schooner, Vine at Guaymas, says that just before he left there he was aboard

SCHEMING IN KERN.

Southern Pacific Move in San Joaquin Valley.

TO BLOCK THE NEW ROAD.

Land-Grabbing and Coercion of Farmers the Features of the Plan.

DOUBLE JOKER IN A LEASE FORM

Ranchers Are Wary and Many Have Refused to Comply With the Railroad's Demand.

BAKERSFIELD, CAL., March 30.—There were many rumors afloat here to-day to the effect that the Southern Pacific is trying to make a land grab and at the same time strike a blow at the valley road. As near as can be ascertained the following facts are the basis for the reports:

The Southern Pacific Company claim they were originally granted 200 feet right of way along their lines and base their claims upon their original grants and on the act of Congress of March 3, 1875, granting to Congress of March 3, 1875, public lands of the United States 100 feet on each side of the central line of said roads.

However for years past the company has been assessed for but 100 feet, 50 feet on each side of the main line, with the exception of reservations in towns. The State Board of Equalization for 1894 describes the right of way in Kern County as follows: "117.83 miles with right of way through Delano, Bakersfield and Mojave 200 feet in width, at all other points 100 feet width." And for such was the assessment levied. To the Delano irrigation district the railroad company sent a statement of its line through the district in which the right of way is described as being 100 feet in width, and this statement is signed by J. L. Willcutt as secretary. In July last the company began setting back fences near Delano, and did move quite a number. The farmers resented the action, and one, in energetic language, informed the crew that the first man that started to dig a posthole on his land would die. They left the place and nothing more was done at that time. Now the matter is up again.

Mr. Garoutte has been here for three weeks quietly working among the landowners along the line inducing them to lease from the company the fifty feet that the company claims. This is accompanied by a threat that the fences will be set back and the land inclosed in the railroad's reservation. The consideration is \$1 a year and the promise from the farmer that he will ship all his produce over the Southern Pacific for five years.

Here is a double joker. The first is the lease. The moment it is signed will be a formal surrender of the farmer's adverse possession of from five to fifteen years, will give in turn adverse possession to the company, and at the end of five years the title will be acquired by prescription. The second joker is believed to be a blow at the new road, as the lease is said to be so worded that it binds up all the land belonging to the farmer signing it, and some of the land-owners have very large tracts of grain. All this must be shipped for five years over the company's lines, thereby shutting off competition. None of these leases have been filed for record.

Two men residing in Bakersfield are known to have signed it. Most every one approached has declined to sign. Letters from men all along the line are pouring in for information in regard to the matter.

Many valuable improvements are included in the strip. Many miles of valuable county roads are also affected. The original act excluded county roads then in existence, but these have been located and established since the passage of the act. Some are highways by common usage over a period of years. Others were advertised and declared public highways by the Board of Supervisors. On Monday the board will be called upon by Southern Pacific officials to see what it will do about the matter. As it is believed the roads are public property, a lively time is anticipated, and interesting developments are expected to follow.

The entire road from Jewetta, six miles north of Bakersfield, to Delano, a distance of twenty-six miles, will be taken if the company succeeds in its purpose, and the county will be put to the expense of a new highway. This is the best road in the county. The road from Tehachapi to Mojave, for forty or fifty miles, parallels the track and has on it many expensive cuts, and passes through rough mountains. This will go to the company.

Moscow Banker's Arrest.

MOSCOW, IDAHO, March 30.—I. C. Hat-tabaugh, the banker and ex-County Treasurer, has been arrested at the instance of the County Commissioners on the charge of embezzlement.

SANTA CRUZ IN THE PROCESSION.

Citizens Ready to Donate Lands to a Competing Road.

SANTA CRUZ, CAL., March 30.—The Taxpayers' Association has agreed to give land for depot purposes and to obtain a right-of-way from San Mateo County to this city for railroad purposes.

Chinese Lottery Dealers Arrested.

SANTA CRUZ, CAL., March 30.—Constables to-day arrested seven Chinese lottery dealers who had been selling tickets to boys.

Suicide Near Petaluma.

PETALUMA, CAL., March 30.—Elisio Evans, a painter, committed suicide at 8:30 o'clock last night, two and a half miles north of town, in the attic of H. L. Nay's residence, where he had been working, by cutting his throat. Evans was a native of New South Wales, aged 33 years. Excessive drinking led to the act.

Redwood City Paroled Held for Trial.

REDWOOD CITY, CAL., March 30.—The preliminary examination of John J. Clancy, charged with killing his father, was held to-day before Judge Cunningham. He was held to answer for murder without bonds.

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