THE GRAND JURY FILES ITS FINAL REPORT.

An Interesting Document Submitted to Judge Hebbard.

MANY ABUSES CRITICIZED

The Greater Number of Municipal Offices Roundly Scored.

DIVES AND SOCIAL EVILS.

Engineer Holmes and the County Clerk Object—Juryman Mayer Talks.

The Grand Jury made its final report to Judge J. C. B. Hebbard at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The document is an exhaustive review of municipal affairs, and embraces every office and department in the City, praising a few, but severely censuring the majority.

Judge Hebbard thanked the jury for its faithful work, dwelling at length on the long session and consequent neglect of business and home associations. The jury was then dismissed, and at the same time excused from jury duty of any kind for a period of twelve months.

The report presented to Judge Hebbard was not unanimous, though it was practically so. Juryman H. Mayer did not like certain features in it, and at the last moment refused to affix his signature. The report, as filed with Judge Hebbard yesterday, is substantially as follows:

SAN FRANCISCO, June 12, 1895.

Honorable J. C. B. Hebbard, Acting Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of the City and County of San Francisco:

SIR: The members of the Grand Jury, impaneled by you December 14, 1894, respectfully submit the following report:

Election Frauds.

The first two months of the life of this jury were taken up in the consideration of the frauds at the election last fall. Primarily, the cause of all the trouble has been in the character of the officers chosen, and for that the Board of Election Commissioners are to blame. Instead of commencing the work early in the year, and taking time to get honest and capable citizens, the work of selection had been delayed until the two months prior to the election, and then the lists of the County Committee and of a Registrar, who in the past had been appointed because his principal qualification had been to juggle with the election returns, were taken as the official lists.

The Mayor made an effort to have officers with proper qualifications appointed, but Registrar Evans defied the power of the Election Commissioners and appointed the men on the list furnished by the political bosses.

The returns were juggled with and kept back in a manner which was very suspicious, to say the least; but the boldest attempt was made when the Registrar refused to forward the certified returns of the Governor's vote to Sacramento; and he did not recede from his position until investigated by Mayor Ellert and a committee from the Grand Jury. It is to be hoped that the Non-Partisan Election Commission which is to be appointed by Mayor Sutro in July will deal with the question of election officers in a business-like manner, and appoint as members of the various election boards the substantial citizens and taxpayers instead of the pothouse politicians and primary election ballot-box stuffers.

If the Judges of the Superior Court would cooperate with the Election Commissioners, and hold forth as an inducement for honest and capable men to serve on an election board exemption from jury duty for the subsequent year, competent boards could be got to serve, and the expenses of the City would be materially decreased, because competent and reliable men, who would remain sober, could do the work in about half the time.

During the examination of this body into the frauds in the different precincts, the officers, in a majority of the cases, were found to be lamentably ignorant, and did not seem, in very many instances, to be alive to the duties of their positions.

They worked in two shifts, and both were positive that the frauds were not perpetrated during the time they were on duty. With twelve men doing duty as election officers, each swearing that he had no knowledge of the frauds, and unable even to surmise how it had been done, the difficulty under which this body labored must be apparent.

However, in several instances, we succeeded in obtaining evidences of fraud, the most notable one being the Fourth Precinct of the Twenty-eighth Assembly District. There we had the fact that the recount in the vote for County Clerk showed that eighty-seven votes had been stolen from one candidate and given to another; and, further, that persons directly interested in the successful candidate for County Clerk, and not members of the election board, had hustled the regularly appointed election officers out of the booth and had taken their places and counted the votes.

Indictments were returned, and the Grand Jury had performed its duty.

The presiding Judge of the Superior Court assigned the cases of the two most directly interested in the frauds, one of whom had been rewarded by a deputyship in the County Clerk's office, to Judge Bahrs, who had just been elected to the bench, and who, being a party to the election, should not have tried election-fraud cases. A demurrer to the indictment was sustained, and the doctrine was judicially put forth that a person not a regularly sworn officer of election could perpetrate almost any fraud and he could not be punished. Feeling that this was a most flagrant case of law-breaking, and that it violated one of the fundamental principles of our Government, the jury returned another indictment, and it was assigned to another department. What the influence was which caused Judge Belcher to dismiss it without hearing any of the evidence cannot be discovered, but it would certainly appear, by the continuances which are granted in election-fraud cases, that some great power is at work—a power which seems to be effective enough to almost paralyze the courts.

Another branch of election frauds in which this body took considerable interest was the cases of hotel stuffing, in which Steinberger, a deputy registrar, took a prominent part. He was indicted with his accomplice Cohen, and their cases were assigned to Judge Wallace's department. There political pull or outside interference did not seem to work, the indictments were held to be good, and the persons charged were found guilty. Several attempts were made to obtain a confession from Steinberger, and two or three times, through the efforts of his friends, he was on the point of telling how and at whose instigation the frauds were perpetrated; but at the last moment, on a promise of relief to come from the Supreme Court, and that he would be admitted to bail and the cases would be allowed to drag until they had been forgotten, he refused to make the confession. Singular to relate, about two weeks ago certificates of probable cause were granted both men by the Supreme Court, and application for bail was made to Judge Wallace. A representative of the District Attorney's office appeared willing to allow Cohen, the accomplice of Steinberger, to be admitted to bail in the sum of $10,000, and the application was taken under consideration by Judge Wallace. The matter was brought to the attention of the Grand Jury, and this body requested Mr. Barnes to resist the application to admit to bail.

The knowledge of Steinberger as to what the Supreme Court's action would be might be only a coincidence, but it is one which appears to be rather singular. It is a fact which has come to the notice of this jury that a person who had been convicted of a crime in 1888 was released on a writ of probable cause issued by the Supreme Court, and he is still under bonds. His case has neither been dismissed nor retried. With this case in mind it can be readily understood how the cases of Steinberger and Cohen, once they were admitted to bail, might be allowed to run on for years.

Of course, such people are only the tools of crafty masters, who manipulate elections and thwart the will of the people, but they do their work so carefully and seemingly have such great influence in the courts that it is an impossibility to catch them. Their tools know or are evidently satisfied with the representations of such influence, for they would rather suffer the disgrace of an indictment than give away any of their superiors.

We had much to satisfy us that the bosses visited various booths in different parts of the City after the polls had closed, but we were unable to obtain sufficient evidence on which to base an indictment. It also seems a pity that the dupes of such men should suffer for their sins while their masters are at liberty, but it is only by making such work costly that it can be prevented.

The report relating to the City and County Hospital has already been published in the CALL.

Police Department.

We have had several charges made against the police authorities and have carefully investigated all accusations made by the ministers and by the press, and, while there appears to be much to condemn in the conduct of police affairs, we could not secure any evidence against anybody which would be sufficient on which to base an indictment or to fasten the wrongdoing upon any particular member of the department.

For a while it appeared as if the Legislature would take some action tending toward a public investigation, and while the agitation looking to that end was in progress this body took no action which would in any way interfere with the efforts of the Civic Federation to attain that object. When the possibility of legislative action fell through this body again took up the work and invited the Civic Federation, who managed the legislative fight, to present their facts to the Grand Jury. The president, Mr. I. J. Truman, stated that they had nothing which they could support by legal evidence, and would need a Lexow investigation which would permit of searching inquiry. He expressed the greatest confidence in the honesty of Chief Crowley, but declared that he had many men under him and in his confidence who could bear watching. The confidence expressed by the president of the Civic Federation in the Chief of Police appears to be entertained generally by citizens of the County.

The recommendation is also made that captains and sergeants over 60 be retired and that the detective force be reorganized.

Police Courts.

During the session of this body many complaints were made about the maladministration of justice in the department of the Police Court presided over by Judge Campbell.

Persons charged with crime who were also possessed of a little political pull were able to get continuance after continuance, until the prosecution lost all patience and abandoned their cases, or in their desperation appealed for relief to the Grand Jury. Week after week complaints were made to the jury about the actions in this department, and finally a most flagrant case caused Judge Campbell to be summoned. It appeared that a woman known as Katie Cooper or Fletcher, a half-interest swindler, whose husband was released on a straw bond by Judge Bahrs, appeared with bondsmen before Judge Campbell.

An old man named Twiggs, who owned a piece of property on Bernal Heights, qualified as one of the sureties in the sum of $1500; two others who are unknown to fame, or to the Police Judge and attorney who got them on the bond, qualified in a like amount. Twiggs had been released from the City Prison also on a bond by Campbell to go on the Fletcher bond, and after he had served his purpose was sent back there, and a few days later to the County Jail for six months on a charge of battery. The Fletcher woman immediately left the City. Judge Campbell had no explanation to offer other than that he had been imposed upon. Having no proof to the contrary the jury was forced to accept the explanation. Scarcely a week had passed when another notorious swindler was permitted to leave the State by Judge Campbell, under circumstances which were thought to be suspicious.

Some three months ago a gentleman from Mexico came to this City in quest of medical attention. At the train he was met by one Frank Pierce, a notorious bunko-steerer and confidence man, who treated the sick man very kindly and escorted him to his hotel. By the tricks which bunko-steerers employ Pierce got $1100 of the visitor's money and was arrested by the police and his case assigned to Judge Low's department. On an effort being made to have Pierce released on straw bonds, Judge Low had Detective Graham notify the other judges of the police courts of the attempt made to release Pierce on straw bonds. The detective also explained that Pierce was a notorious bunko-steerer, and detailed the facts in connection with his crime. With the others Judge Campbell was notified, and he agreed to refer all parties coming to him to Judge Low.

Despite the warning and his promise, that same evening, in the saloon of his bailiff, Judge Campbell accepted worthless sureties on a bond, and Pierce made haste to leave the State. When Judge Campbell appeared before the jury to answer this charge he again pleaded ignorance, and finally made the statement that he could not see why such a fuss was being made over such a little matter; that, if an American went to Mexico, he would be bunkoed worse.

An accusation stating the facts, and asking that Judge Campbell be removed from office, was presented to Presiding Judge Sanderson of the Superior Court. A trial was had, and, despite the facts as stated above, Judge Campbell was exonerated and publicly commended for having taken so much trouble as to go to his bailiff's saloon at night to accept a worthless bond. Such action on the part of the sworn officers of the law will nullify the good work of any body of citizens banded together to induce people of means to visit this City either for pleasure or investment. How such actions can be commended is a mystery, and it is by such that Judges and courts are brought into contempt by the people.

We would recommend that the police authorities detail officers to examine into the qualifications of sureties on bonds, so that worthless characters cannot ply their trade any longer. It is a pleasure to say that we found Judges Conlan, Low and Joachimsen attentive to duty, and that not a single appeal was taken from their courts to the Grand Jury.

The Ferry Foundation.

The investigation of the charges preferred regarding the work being performed by the contractors on the ferry foundations consumed a great deal of our time, and revealed the fact that the contractors have not lived up to the conditions and specifications under which the contracts were let; that the Board of Harbor Commissioners—Messrs. Bassett, Cole and Alexander—did not use judgment in the preparation of these plans, particularly in allowing too much power in the hands of the chief engineer, nor have the officials whose duty it was to inspect this work attended properly to their duties.

Undoubtedly, through the lack of observance of the specifications, the people of this State have been put to a great and unnecessary expense. While a scientific test shows that the foundations were strong enough to support the buildings as contemplated, there is no reason for doubting what has been clearly proven, viz.: that the rock as used (gray rock from Telegraph Hill), the manner of its delivery (not washed or cleaned), and the way it was mixed, have not been in accordance with the specifications.

The fact that rock not coming up to the specifications and accepted by the chief engineer was obtained from a quarry owned by him is certainly worthy of comment.

The investigation disclosed that when the contractors, Harbor Commissioners, architect or engineer were asked as to who should be responsible for the work as performed, it invariably was placed upon the engineer. We think the Board of Harbor Commissioners should pass upon or reject any part of this work, and their official authority certainly gives them this right.

We found that about the only work performed by the architect, A. Page Brown, after he turned the plans and specifications over to the Board of Harbor Commissioners was to put in a bill, which was paid by the board. According to his sworn testimony he rarely visited the work, and, like all the others, shifted all the responsibility on to the chief engineer.

The fact that the material and mixing, together with the balance of the work as now being performed, has greatly improved since this Grand Jury commenced to look into it has shown the advantage of our investigations.

That such an investigation was needed, and that it was distasteful to some of the parties interested, is shown by the bitter attacks through the newspapers on some of the people who were directly interested in getting facts for this investigation. Perhaps the most bitter of these attacks was directed against C. J. Stilwell, who faithfully performed his duties under instructions from this body, and who was in no way connected with the investigation except as a paid officer.

We desire to thank the chief executive, Governor J. H. Budd, for his kind interest and assistance in this investigation, and will close this report suggesting that particular attention be given the ferry foundations and contemplated buildings by the officials in charge.

Fire Department.

It is a pleasure for this body to be able to state that, during the many meetings held to investigate election frauds, not a single mention of the members of the Fire Department meddling in politics has been heard. This state of affairs is highly creditable to Chief Sullivan and his staff, and one which should be very satisfactory to the citizens of this City.

Under the efficient management of Chief Sullivan the department has steadily improved until now it will compare favorably with that of any city in the Union.

Fire losses have been reduced steadily during the past three years, each year showing a decrease from the preceding one: $1,098,156 97 in 1892, $967,339 40 in 1893, and $849,373 94 in 1894.

We believe that it is owing in part to the efficiency of the department and the consequent lessening of risks and losses that the people of this City have been able to get such reduced insurance rates during the past few months.

Among the many reforms inaugurated by the present management that of standpipes on all large buildings is one that should be strictly enforced and the Board of Supervisors should be very careful to thoroughly investigate before they grant permission to leave them off a building. By them a connection can be made immediately on the arrival of the department instead of wasting fifteen or twenty minutes in hauling 150 feet of hose to the top of a building. The value of the standpipe was demonstrated at the fire in the Baldwin Hotel a few days ago and no big building should be without it.

Dives and Social Evils.

In dealing with the social evil it has been the aim of this body to impress upon the police authorities the necessity of compelling the women of the town who occupy the cribs along Morton and Dupont streets and the alleys adjacent thereto to remove to other and more secluded neighborhoods. The district complained of is surrounded by churches and schools and is in the heart of the retail district, where the mothers of the city are forced to go to do their shopping. When accompanied by their children the sights they witness and the sounds they are compelled to hear are both shocking and embarrassing. In this connection we have suggested to the police that there are many abandoned residence districts where the women of the half world might be compelled to take up their abode and where their presence would not be demoralizing to the youth of both sexes.

When we commenced our investigation we found next the Commercial High School, on the corner of Bush and Stockton streets, two houses—one an assignation-house of the lowest character, whose proprietress boasted of the opportunities offered her by being so close to a school which had for its pupils girls from 15 to 18 years of age; the other a house of the ordinary character, which had been there for twenty-five years. The proprietors of both places boasted of their pull, but after a struggle which lasted some six weeks Sergeant Gillen secured the necessary evidence and arrested the proprietor of the Little Casino, and the house was abandoned. Chief Crowley notified the proprietress of the other house to vacate, and she did so. Censure is due the police for having permitted these places.

We believe that similar action on the part of the police would have a beneficial effect. The greatest obstacle in the way of regulating these women comes from the property-owner who rents his house to these people. The rents they have to pay is simply enormous, one piece on Morton street 20x60 bringing its owner $270 per month. These people, many of them of standing in the community, bring all the pressure and influence at their command to bear on the police authorities to exempt their places. It was for the purpose of bringing this matter to the attention of the people that this body filed presentments against the owners of much of this property. They at once secured able attorneys and took the cases to the Supreme Court to test the right of the Grand Jury to take such action. We also found, through the efforts of the Civic Federation, that disgusting exhibitions were being nightly given by abandoned women which made San Francisco notorious wherever tourists met. Presentments were also filed against these women, and they also appealed to the Supreme Court for relief.

We cannot too forcibly condemn the side-entrance saloons. They are a menace to the prosperity of the city. Young women are induced to visit them, and many a girl who would have been an ornament to society has been ruined through them. Respectable merchants and saloon-keepers should co-operate with good citizens generally for the purpose of suppressing these dens of iniquity.

Gambling, Opium-Dens and Lotteries.

Strict attention has been paid to all reports that have reached the Grand Jury regarding gambling, lotteries and opium dens. The hearty co-operation of the heads of the Police Department has been had; still this body believes that gambling is going on under the eyes of some of the police officials. Many places have been closed, and other places that are suspected but of which no evidence could be gotten that would have secured conviction have been listed for the benefit of the next Grand Jury.

There are many forms of gambling that do not seem to be a crime, and it is these games of chance that cause the public to think gambling is unrestricted. The action of Wells, Fargo & Co. in co-operating with the Postoffice Department in refusing to carry lottery tickets or transact business with lotteries is highly commendable. This has, to some extent, hampered the lottery companies, but the evil still exists and perhaps always will. If the banks and collection exchanges would join with the Government in this matter the results would be of great public benefit.

The fact that newspapers continue to publish notices of lotteries is a crying shame, but we are advised that it is not within the province of the Grand Jury to indict, as the law is not made to cover more than a misdemeanor in these cases.

This jury desires to express to the people of the City the commendable course of such of the dailies as have now refused to advertise the drawings of the various lottery companies. It is to be hoped that other proprietors will, in justice to themselves and to the public, follow this good example, which will go well in the line of progress this State is now making.

The recommendation of the Grand Jury is that the Legislature make the sale of lottery tickets and advertising and aiding the lottery business a felony, instead of a misdemeanor, and the verdict of the majority of a trial jury sufficient for conviction. Meanwhile the faithful administration of the law, the frequency of prosecution and the severity of punishment by imprisonment as well as fines in every case of conviction under the present statutes, would have a healthier effect in restricting the spread, if not entirely suppressing this great evil.

Street Department.

This Grand Jury recommends that the Board of Supervisors lease or acquire suitable pieces of property for public toilet uses, and the Superintendent of Streets agrees to see to it that during his term of office all such places are properly kept without any additional expense to the City. We have no doubt that Mr. Ashworth is desirous of giving the City good and honest service; but nevertheless we find that, in spite of his good intentions, some of his assistants and deputies are not so carefully selected as they might be, and unless Mr. Ashworth oversees them more closely, and the work on which they report, crooked and dishonest work in the Street Department is bound to creep in. For samples of such work, and in proof of our statements, we refer to a block that is being concreted on Army street, crossing Mission. This concrete is a mere shell, and does not come up to the specifications. It can be dug up with a stick without effort. The cesspool openings should be five feet and six inches deep, and they are only five feet and three inches deep. And yet this piece of work was reported by the deputy as coming up to the specifications in every detail. This work should not be accepted.

On Elwood street, off O'Farrell, one short block of bituminous pavement was accepted on February 25 by James A. Dobbie. The investigation showed that in one place, in the middle of the street, the bituminous rock was one inch thick, in the second place one and a half inches thick. The investigation made in the gutter showed that the bituminous rock was two and a quarter inches thick. The specifications called for two and a half inches all over. The bituminous rock was laid by A. J. Raisch. The price was 22 cents per foot. In this case it is evident that Deputy James A. Dobbie cannot and should not be relied on by the Superintendent of Streets.

Other places visited by your committee, though they do not come up to the contract and specifications, yet are fairly well done, hence we omit details. The property-owners are to blame in most cases where such jobs are rushed through, as they do not seem to take any interest in what is going on, and allow these frauds to be carried out without protest to the proper officials.

We would also suggest to the Park Commissioners that additional places for toilet purposes be sent apart in Golden Gate Park, and more drinking fountains be erected.

School Department.

Having made a close scrutiny of contracts and the actual supplies furnished to the department for the various schools, it became apparent that the contract list did not contain more than 25 per cent of actual supplies used in and about the School Department.

We found that many articles contracted for were not used, and we suggest that a complete, accurate and full list of all articles and supplies needed for the department be complied from the stock ledger, which is kept in the department storerooms, from which the qualities and actual quantities of all supplies can be readily and easily ascertained, and submitted to the bidding of six or more contractors.

We are decidedly opposed to the idea and practice of having a permanent architect in the employ of the Board of Education.

It would be far better to have the designs and draughts of various architects submitted to the board, thus insuring a greater variety of ideas and architectural beauty to select from, and far better designed public schools. Most of the present buildings are monstrosities and illy constructed, not adapted to the present wants of the department, and, being old and worn out, are exceedingly expensive to keep in repair.

No fees, commissions or percentage should be allowed or paid to the architect for his services in the matter of painting, as the chairman of Buildings and Grounds Committee is supposed to attend to such matters; nor should the architect be allowed any percentage on materials used in repairs. This has been the usual custom heretofore.

In investigating the telephone bills we learned that various chairmen were supplied with telephones, not only in their places of business, but also in their dwellings, the City paying the bills.

No telephone should be placed at the City's expense in the office or dwelling of any member or clerk connected with the Board of Education. Telephones are a necessity in the secretary's office and at the storeroom, and all others used elsewhere are mere luxuries. This would do away with heavy and excessive bills for local and territorial switching.

The rapid safety filters are too costly and that company should make a rebate on the twenty filters during the vacations, when they are not in use.

We found that many small jobs that should have been done by the department employes had been executed by outside firms, and, instead of furnishing materials at the lowest possible market rates, the charges were all excessive.

We believe the rental of gas regulators is too high.

In our investigation of school repairs we found that a majority of repair bills were under the $200 limit, and also that two or more bills were rendered for the same work, each describing a section of such work.

This we were informed was purposely done to avoid the cost of advertising for bids, as the rules of the board require, but possibly the Buildings and Grounds Committee could better explain this method of breaking the rules.

A very important item of cost, and one that seems to be unfathomable, has been the coal supply.

No one can positively state how much coal has been received at any particular time on account of its not being weighed at its reception by either the principal or janitor, they merely receiving a duplicate tag upon which the weight is written. We suggest that some one be assigned to the duty of weighing the coal.

Board of Supervisors.

We have not had much time to devote to the Board of Supervisors, but have carefully investigated all charges made against that body. The same charges of corruption and malfeasance in office which have been numerous for years were made, but we could get no definite information, nor were we able to get corroborative witnesses. We heard through Supervisors Demond and Spreckels that transactions having a peculiar appearance had gone through the board, and also that Behrend Joost, who was seeking a franchise for an extension of the San Francisco and San Mateo Railroad, had been referred, through Supervisor Morgenstern, to his attorney, John H. Dickinson, who was also the attorney for other members of the board. Mr. Joost repeated the statement to this body.

Joost further stated that he had all of that kind of experience he wanted and refused to see Dickinson. Supervisor Morgenstern corroborated Mr. Joost's statement, but said that he and Joost had been friends for twenty years and when he found him in trouble he recommended him to go to Dickinson, as the latter had done valuable services for him in showing him how to file his bond and other things which are necessary for a Supervisor to know. He frankly told the Jury about the solid eight as it was first organized on party lines by Mr. Spreckels and afterward for the spoils of office, such as patronage, by a combination of Republicans and Democrats. He vehemently declared that the solid eight, as at present constituted, was a combination solely for the proper and equitable disposition of the patronage connected with the office of Supervisor.

We had charges from Mayor Sutro against the Lake Merced property of the Spring Valley Water Company. He charged that the watershed leading to the lake was in a filthy condition, and that it was dangerous to life to have the citizens drinking that water, and he asked that the lake be condemned. A majority of this body visited the locality, accompanied by the expert of the Mayor and Engineer Schussler of the Spring Valley Water Company. We found that the surrounding territory contained a number of ranches which drained into the lake and polluted the water. Mr. Schussler said he had a remedy for that, and that was to build a bulkhead across the natural drain at the head of the lake, and then by means of a tunnel to the ocean carry off all the drainage of the watershed. He said that enough water could be obtained from springs in the lake and by artesian wells to furnish a water supply to the City for three months in case all other supplies were shut off. Realizing that such a body of fresh water so close to the City was of inestimable value, this body was loath to condemn it, and the president of the company was summoned before the jury to make a definite statement about the intention of the company. He stated that no water had been pumped from the lake since January, and agreed not to use any until the improvements spoken of were made, and also to give a written guarantee that the work would be done. The following guarantee was given, and we are pleased to say that the work is at present being pushed night and day:

At a regular meeting of the trustees of the Spring Valley Water Works, held at the office of the company on the 25th day of April, 1895, on motion of Mr. Bigelow, seconded by Mr. Beaver, it was

Resolved, That the plans of our engineer for works to protect Lake Merced from pollution, embracing a tunnel from the southerly lake to the ocean, and a masonry conduit from Colma Creek to said tunnel, be accepted, and that the company proceed at once to acquire the right of way and build the same.

W. H. Gagan Esq., Foreman of the Grand Jury, San Francisco, Cal.—DEAR SIR: According to promise I have had an analysis made of the water in the upper lake and the lower lake in Golden Gate Park. The result as given by Thomas Price & Son you will find in their inclosed report, which I should like to have returned to me after inspection by the Grand Jury. It appears therefrom that the water is not absolutely bad, but, as he says, may become so. Respectfully yours,

ADOLPH SUTRO.

County Clerk.

We find the number of deputies and clerks employed in the office of the County Clerk to be sixty-seven, a number which we believe can and should be reduced without detriment to the efficiency of the office.

The expense of carrying on the office of the incumbent for the first five months of his term has been $44,686 85, or an average of $8937 37 per month, as against $32,876 50 for the same time, or $6575 30 per month, of his predecessor. The County Clerk's attention was called to this great excess of expense as compared with that of his predecessor. His reply was that the work in the office when he took charge was at least six months in arrears, and it was absolutely necessary to increase the force of clerks to catch up with the work, which his predecessor denies.

We are informed that it has been the custom of County Clerks to commence some six months before the expiration of their terms of office to electioneer and logroll for renomination, and numbers of the deputies are permitted to absent themselves from their duties during office hours to assist the chief in his ambition. Who can wonder at the large amount of work left unfinished at the end of each term?

Relating to the great increase of expense in this office, it is well known that the platform issued and adopted by the convention that nominated the incumbent demanded that the County Clerk should conduct his office on $6000 per month. The County Clerk denies having indorsed the platform, or made any pledge to the convention to conduct his office upon any specified amount, but did pledge himself to conduct the office as economically as he could.

Several men have been rewarded with positions in this office who acted as clerks or inspectors at the last election in the precincts where the grossest frauds were committed, and in the interest of the County Clerk. Comment is unnecessary.

Sheriff's Office.

The Sheriff is still complaining of the operation of the fee bill, and refuses to act under it.

This bill was designed to bring to the public treasury fees that had been the illegitimate and corrupting spoils of office. It is somewhat distasteful to those inconvenienced by it or who think they suffer pecuniary loss through its enactment. Like all new laws, no doubt, with the light of experience, it could be amended; but the officers affected thereby, instead of seeking to have the law amended, lent all their energies in the last Legislature to have it repealed, with the sole view of having the old system of spoils restored.

This body has instructed the City and County Attorney to take immediate action to test the legality of this law, and the matter is now before the Supreme Court.

The Sheriff also mourns the loss occasioned his office by the action of the Legislature in taking away the handling of cases in bankruptcy, where the fees so often absorbed all of the assets of the insolvent, leaving nothing for the unfortunate creditors. Still we think this officer will finish his term without personal loss.

The County Jails in the care of the Sheriff are in as good condition as could be expected.

Number 1, the jail on Broadway, was found very clean and neat, and the commissary department appeared to be conducted in a businesslike manner.

Number 2, or the former House of Correction, needs more care as well as more paint and whitewash to give it a neat appearance. The grounds are well cared for and are a credit to those in charge.

Number 3, or what was the Industrial School for Boys, is now used for women only. Plumbing repairs are needed immediately.

The roof of this building has been on fire twice, and but for the assistance lent the officers by the inmates it would probably have been a total loss. The roof should be covered with tin as a protection against fire. The inclosed grounds are well arranged and present a very creditable appearance.

District Attorney.

We have made a thorough examination of the District Attorney's office, and take pleasure in stating that we have always found the District Attorney and his assistants diligently at work. We commend them for the able manner in which they perform their official duties, and we find the business of the office generally well conducted. However, we believe that old systems are too strictly adhered to, and that the bookkeeping could be improved upon, in order to obtain a better classification of outstanding cases and make researches easier. We have the promise that such changes will be made. We find also that there are more than 300 cases (mostly legacies from previous regimes) filed prior to June 30, 1894, still pending.

Your committee believes this number to be excessive. Upon examination it is convinced that a great many of these cases could and should be closed, and would recommend that the District Attorney take immediate steps to clear his books of all cases filed prior to June 30, 1894, that can be finally disposed of, to begin proceedings to have all such cases terminated by regular process of law, and that all cases having no standing in court be legally and lawfully closed, and so indicated in the records of the office.

We also find that in cases of "fugitives from justice" by reason of "bail-jumping" the office has no jurisdiction on the forfeiting and collection of the bail, a special counsel having been appointed to enforce such forfeitures and collections. In many criminal cases the amount of bail is very high, and it would be absolutely necessary that said counsel report to the District Attorney the result of his work, and that a record of such be kept in the office.

City and County Attorney.

We found this office in a good condition, and that the records of many suits were being thoroughly investigated and the testimony of witnesses carefully segregated and compiled.

Superior Courts.

Complaint was made that disbarred attorneys were making a specialty of divorce proceedings, and that they seemed to have a monopoly of the business of one court. We found that Judge Troutt heard 271 divorce cases during last year, which was an average of about one a day. Many of them were cases in which the defendant was not represented, and were heard in the privacy of the Judge's chambers, the only persons present being the Judge, the person interested in obtaining the divorce, and the attorney, so called, who was to profit financially by the divorce being granted. The law requires all cases to be heard in open court and in the presence of the clerk and bailiff. Judge Troutt informed the jury that he no doubt had been a little too lenient, but that he would do better hereafter.

We would suggest that the Probate Department follow the example of Judge Coffey and require all guardians of estates to deposit all moneys coming into their possession in a responsible bank, only to be withdrawn by order of court. If that had been the rule in Department 10 it would have been impossible for ex-District Attorney J. D. Page to have looted the estate of his insane ward, Louis Lichtnecker.

The Auditor.

We believe the Auditor, William Broderick, a capable and painstaking officer. To him is due the credit of taking the City out of the difficulty it had with the contractors recently, and, if the Finance Committee of the Board of Supervisors would pay more attention to his recommendations in arranging for the tax levy such difficulties could be easily avoided in the future.

License Collector.

We have examined minutely the affairs of the License Collector's office and find everything kept in an orderly and careful manner. Our expert has examined the books of the office and reports favorably on them.

We recommend that the License Collector be allowed a suitable vault for the safe keeping of license blanks and books under his care.

Tax Collector.

The Tax Collector's office we find in the hands of James N. Block, a competent and efficient officer, who conducts the business of this important department of the City government in a manner which reflects great credit on himself and the clerical force in his charge.

The system of collecting taxes has been greatly improved during his administration and shows a careful study of the City's interests.

Registrar of Voters.

The office of Registrar of Voters is now in an honest man's care, and the Grand Jury hopes the system to be inaugurated under the new law, which comes into force this year, will realize the expectations of its friends.

Magdalen Asylum.

We find this institution in an excellent condition.

The Morgue.

The present Morgue is deficient and a disgrace to the City.

Indictments.

Perjury 8, embezzlement 8, having stolen goods in their possession 10, obtaining property under false pretenses 1, arson 1, falsifying election returns 26, grand larceny 2, procuring false registration 1, assault to commit robbery 3, assault to commit murder 4, rape 2, assault with deadly weapon 1, burglary 1, robbery 2, infamous crime against nature 1, obtaining goods under false pretenses 1, forgery 1, falsifying accounts 3; total 76.

Presentments.

Violating City ordinances 31, indecent exposure 5, conspiracy to blackmail 2, impeachment 1; total 39. Presentments 39, indictments 76; total 115.

Grand Jury Rooms.

The grand jurors desire to call the attention of the City Hall Commissioners to the comfortless, cool rooms set apart for jury duties, and, owing to the smoky chimneys, life at times became unbearable.

It is to be hoped that the rooms will be made more desirable hereafter and that the appropriation set aside for jury expenses will be larger.

Respectfully submitted,

W. H. GAGAN, Foreman.
C. W. IREDALE, Secretary.

H. MAYER.	HENRY L. TATUM.
EDWIN DANFORTH.	JOSEPH BRITTAN.
EMANUEL MAYER.	WILLIAM SINON.
R. H. PEASE.	S. J. HENDY.
MONSON RUSSELL.	CHARLES HOLBROOK.
S. C. BIGELOW.	H. J. CROCKER.
E. W. WAINWRIGHT.	EMANUEL MANDEL.
W. J. NEWMAN.	HENRY L. DAVIS.
JOHN MCCARTHY.	

The publication of the Grand Jury's conclusions created a stir among City officials. They are all more or less severely censured, and consequently are not in the best of humor with the body that has just made its report.

Speaking of the document Howard C. Holmes, engineer for the Harbor Commissioners, said: "I notice in this evening's Report, in an extract from the report of the Grand Jury, the following words are used:

The fact that the material and manner of mixing, together with the balance of the work as now being performed, has greatly improved since the Grand Jury commenced to look into it, has shown the advantage of our investigations.

"I want to say right here that it is susceptible of proof that the material and manner of mixing has not been changed one iota since the investigation started or since the work commenced. Consequently there is not a shadow of truth in the assertion made by the Grand Jury. Furthermore, that the rock, while it may not literally be according to the specifications, it is identical with the sample submitted at the time the work was let and was accepted by the board, and is the rock used in all large classes of work of concrete, both by the Government and the municipal authorities. It stands the test both of Government experts and the expert appointed by the Governor. With regard to myself, the chief engineer owning the quarry, this is a fact; but the rock taken from the quarry does not belong to me, and if the foundation were never built I would still receive my monthly rental, whether one pound of rock were taken off or the whole were taken off in one month. In fact, it is rather to my advantage to have the rock remain than otherwise. This opinion was given to the board by F. S. Stratton, attorney for them, at the time when the contract was first let, and the fact that the rock was sold to Gray Brothers, sub-contractors, about a year before the plans and specifications for the ferry foundations were made would show that there was no contemplated collusion on the part of the parties owning the rock. Governor Budd has also given it as his opinion publicly to the various newspaper reporters that the fact that I owned the lot from which the rock is taken for the foundations does not in the slightest degree have any bearing upon the case.

"With regard to C. J. Stilwell, we challenge the Grand Jury, or any member thereof, to show where one of Mr. Stilwell's statements, kindly given to the public by a prominent member of the Grand Jury, has been proven to be true. Consequently we see no reason why he should be whitewashed. I notice also in the report that he speaks of the rock not being washed nor clean. The jury had ample evidence that the dirt was a benefit rather than a detriment, and for this reason it was not washed. All authorities show that the finer particles of rock not only add to the strength of the concrete, but tend to fill the interstices. This was plainly shown in the sample submitted, and which for density was far above the average."

Curry Indignant.

Speaking of the last paragraph of the report relating to his office, County Clerk Curry expressed strong indignation. The paragraph reads:

Several men have been rewarded with positions in his office who acted as clerks or inspectors at the last election in the precincts where the grossest frauds were committed, and in the interest of the County Clerk. Comment is unnecessary.

"There is not a single man in my office coming under the head indicated," said Mr. Curry. "George Lee was in the office and when he was under suspicion of having perpetrated fraud during the elections, I suspended him. When he had been tried and exonerated of all blame in the matter, I reinstated him.

"The Grand Jury had every opportunity to discover the facts for themselves, but they refused to look at my books as I offered. They have attempted to throw a slur on an office where the service is more efficient and more accommodating to the public than ever before. I can only say of the Grand Jury as they have said of my office, 'Comment is unnecessary.' "

Henry Mayer Talks.

"My name has been attached to the Grand Jury report," said Henry Mayer. "I objected to this report and I consider it in some instances a political scheme. The ferry foundation evidence has been heard in the Grand Jury room and it has never been shown that the work has been improperly done. The experts have expressed perfect satisfaction and it has been built strong enough to carry the Alpine mountains. The report was signed without my knowledge. In regard to the County Hospital, if the committee would examine it properly they would find its management the very best, and it looks as if the whole complaint is a political scheme. The Police Department in general is the very best of any large city on the continent. I have been treated by this man Gagan shamefully and disrespectfully.

"I also state regarding the concrete block presented to the Grand Jury for investigation that it was pronounced by Mr. Sinon, a witness before the Grand Jury, as the very best he ever saw. The plan on the Grand Jury seemed to be to cast discredit on the Republicans. This was evident when the ferry foundation charges were brought up. It was then said that spikes could be driven into the concrete. Of course with fresh concrete this is possible. Regarding the cement delivered by Spreckels very hard work was done to cause Spreckels to deliver inferior cement, but the experts have denounced these stories as false. It is a fact that a block of cement submitted to the Grand Jury stood a test of 112 tons to the square foot, or 52 tons above the average for concrete of that age. It seems they wanted to oust Mr. Holmes to make room for a Democrat."

Found Another Indictment.

The first and last work done by the Grand Jury which passed out of legal existence at 3 o'clock yesterday was to find an indictment. Some weeks ago the jury found an indictment against A. J. Witeman, the forger, who was then under arrest in New York. Witeman was brought back to San Francisco, and his attorneys have been making a desperate effort to secure his release. The former indictment was faulty and so District Attorney Barnes determined to secure another, but on different grounds. With this object in view he appeared before the jury yesterday afternoon and in less than twenty minutes the required paper was granted, and Witeman has another charge to answer.

WILLIAM H. GAGAN, FOREMAN OF THE GRAND JURY.

TO AVERT A STOCK PANIC.

Shareholders of the Bodie Mine Make Charges of Fraud.

THEY IMPLICATE DIRECTORS.

An Old Time Scheme to Get Rich at the Expense of Those Who Hold Shares.

Several dissatisfied stockholders of the Bodie Consolidated Mining Company met yesterday in the office of C. L. Patton, 319 Pine street. They were singularly enthusiastic and not at all backward in their condemnation of the directors, whom they charged with serious offenses in connection with the management of the mine. The burden of their complaint was that the men known as the "inside"—that is, the directors and others in control—have made false returns of the Bodie's yield, with the apparent purpose of creating a panic among stockholders and then buying in really valuable stock at greatly re