SHALL THE LATE COMERS BE TOLERATED?

What Theatrical Managers Think About the Nuisance.

BOUVIER HAS A REMEDY.

Mutual Distrust Is the Only Obstacle to a Pool of Managers.

RUINOUS TO FINALE EFFECT.

The Baldwin Theater May Soon Enact a Permanent "First Act" Reform.

Shall late comers be permitted to disturb the players and audience at the theaters? The great majority of San Franciscans answer with an indignant "No." The various managers look worried and say: "They should not, but what can be done?" Meanwhile careless fashionables continue to annoy their fellow amusement seekers by rustling in toward the end of the first act. With sublime indifference to the rights, not to say privileges, of stage and house they distract the attention of one and impede the view of the other. When adjusted in their seats to their entire satisfaction, which operation consumes time that is a dead loss to their neighbors, a dialogue about the story ensues. If there is no one of the party to give the required information there follows a succession of conjectures maddening to the enforced listener. If, as is often the case, the guesses deal with the "beginning" of a Shakespearean play, the entertainment they afford is perhaps equal to that presented on the board. This is, indeed, the only operation of the law of compensation in the case.

In light opera such procedure is bad enough. In high drama it is unendurable. An appreciative lover of the players' art is driven to the border of hysterics or profanity by it, this of course depending on the sex. The habitual perpetrators of this outrage of all codes of amusement ethics are of two classes—the thoughtless ones and the calloused boors. The first need only an occasional reminder, the rest a rigid enforcement of a rule for the protection of punctual seekers after the diversions of the boards. No consideration of etiquette will restrain certain products of republican simplicity from demanding a privilege within the possibilities. To reach this class the question of a theatrical combine is being agitated. Only a mutual distrust by rival managements prevents an immediate consummation of the plan.

"If we commence refusing to permit people to take their seats during the first act we shall make it a permanent rule," said Alfred Bouvier, assistant general manager of the Al Hayman Company and its resident representative. He is in control of the Baldwin and California theaters, and his management has extended over a period of several years.

"I have not thought it wise to make so radical a departure suddenly," Mr. Bouvier said, "but the way was paved three years ago, when we made such a requirement during the 'Alabama' engagement of four weeks; also by our insisting that no one shall take his seat while certain portions of the present attraction, 'Trilby,' are being rendered.

"We have had some amusing experiences in that connection. A well-known middle-aged business man of this City, whose wife is a frequent entertainer and gracious hostess, escorted his lady and two of her friends to the Baldwin for the "Alabama" performance. The party was late and the 'restraining orders' were executed as politely as possible, of course, but still according to the letter of the order, for the first act was in progress, and all late comers were informed that they must remain in the rear of the theater until the curtain fell.

"The man was enraged. He parleyed angrily with the usher for a few minutes, then rushed out, declaring he would never enter the theater again. The ladies followed, but in disgust, for their vision was clearer as to the justice of the matter than was that of their irate escort. He broke his resolution, however, for within a week he brought a party of eight, and has been a regular patron ever since.

"He was in strong contrast to the gentleman who brought two ladies, one of whom was a semi-invalid and for whom a chair was immediately brought. The party was only a few minutes late, and, considering the illness of the lady, the usher offered to conduct them to their seats. Her escort replied that he had too much regard for the success of the play in every detail to interfere even in so slight a degree with its progress. He had no financial interest, direct or indirect, in the performance.

Mr. Bouvier has a high regard for San Francisco audiences, which, he says, are not surpassed in the etiquette of the playhouse by assemblages in any city in the United States. "We may inaugurate the reform shortly," he continued, "and will certainly do so if any of our coming attractions demand it, as is likely to be the case with Richard Mansfield and Augustine Daly. When we once make the requisition we will continue it. Ninety-five per cent of the people who compose our audiences are well bred. They are perfectly amenable to any rule which the management may make for the good of the house. The other 5 per cent cause all the friction. It was on account of the small annoyances caused by the 5 per cent that the plan, adopted as a temporary expedient at the Baldwin and California three years ago, was not pursued. Very few resented the restraint as an infringement of their rights. The whispered conversation with the ushers was another difficulty.

"We could not lock the doors upon late comers. We have not the right to do that, for if people hold tickets they are entitled to admission. We do possess the legal right to prevent the tardy from taking seats during the progress of an act. Tickets are bought subject to the rules of the house whatever they may be.

"The tardiness is not confined to any one class. It is an individual shortcoming. The only persons to whom the regulation might work an injustice are those who are necessarily detained. For instance, owing to an accident on a Powell-street car, thirty people were nearly an hour late at one of the recent performances. Still, such cases are rare."

Mr. Bouvier showed some righteous indignation over the common practice of donning wraps and even leaving seats before the final curtain fall. "It is a piece of unpardonable rudeness," he exclaimed with vehemence. "But," he added, "it is, unfortunately, beyond our control. We cannot prevent people from leaving the house when they choose.

"The Oakland contingent is occasionally compelled to leave before the close of the play in order to catch the 11 o'clock boat, but when Oakland people leave it is always with a half apologetic air that is explanatory. The arrangement for the 11:15 boat largely obviates that difficulty."

Alfred Bouvier. Mrs. Ernestine Kreling. Harry Morosco.

J. J. Gottlob of the Columbia recognized the existence of the evil. "It isn't nice, of course," he said smilingly, "but I fear any plan to check the practice will prove impracticable. It was tried when I was associated with the California Theater, and we found the talking among those detained at the rear of the house was almost as much an interruption as seating them would be. I doubt whether any theater pool would prove a remedy. The parties to such a pool are not likely to keep faith long. After a week or two some one would be sure to slide out. Then the late-comers are the fashionable folk who dine at a late hour, and we can't afford to lose their patronage."

Mr. Gottlob thought the newspaper crusade against the large hat at the theater had been successful. "Ladies have come to see that a small hat, or none at all, is far more becoming and appropriate than the Gainsborough, and the newspapers have made them see it. Let the press inculcate a sentiment against late arrival at theaters. That's the proper thing."

"Such a plan could not be adopted at the Tivoli," said Mrs. Ernestine Kreling. "For one reason, we commence earlier than most of the theaters in order to accommodate the patronage from outside the City. There are fifty or sixty clubmen and millionaires who are in the habit of dropping in at the Tivoli to sit through one act and smoke a cigar. Next evening they see another act and so on. We could not dispense with their custom. No, the scheme is not within the scope of the Tivoli."

Harry W. Morosco, the business manager of Morosco's Grand Opera-house, thought such a measure unwise because it would antagonize the public.

"Richard Mansfield, artist that he is, plays to small houses here and elsewhere because he had the temerity to censure audiences for tardiness. The theater-going public does not want to be dictated to, and if it cannot follow its own wishes at a place of amusement it is likely to stay away. There is another factor in the question that must be considered duly," he said. "Some people like to come late to show themselves, and they must be allowed that privilege."

Mr. Morosco was also of the opinion that the press should show the people the selfishness and rudeness of the practice.

COLONEL MENDELL'S IDEA

It Is an Offense to Blockade a Navigable Stream or Slough.

One Hundred Sportsmen Will Shoot on the Teal Club's Preserve on Tuesday.

A majority of the sportsmen of this City have satisfied themselves that if the Teal Shooting Club has blockaded a single navigable slough on its preserve, it is amenable to the law.

Colonel G. H. Mendell said yesterday that the blockading of a navigable slough or waterway was certainly a transgression of the Federal law.

"You can see by this extract from the river and harbor act, approved on September 19, 1890," said the colonel, "that severe punishment awaits any person or persons who construct or cause to be constructed any obstacle that will impede or obstruct navigation."

Section 10 of the extract in question reads:

That the creation of any obstruction not affirmatively authorized by law to the navigable capacity of any waters, in respect of which the United States has jurisdiction, is hereby prohibited. The continuance of any such obstruction, except bridges, piers, docks and wharves and similar structures erected for business purposes, whether heretofore or hereafter created, shall constitute an offense, and each week's continuance of such obstruction shall be deemed a separate offense. Every person and every corporation which shall be guilty of creating or continuing any such unlawful obstruction in this act mentioned, or who shall violate the provisions of the last four preceding sections of this act, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine not exceeding $5000, or by imprisonment (in the case of a natural person) not exceeding one year, or by both such punishments, in the discretion of the court; the creating or continuing of any unlawful obstruction in this act mentioned may be prevented and such obstruction may be caused to be removed by the injunction of any Circuit Court exercising jurisdiction in any district in which such obstruction may be threatened or may exist; and proper proceedings in equity to this end may be instituted under the direction of the Attorney-General of the United States.

It has been stated by residents of Solano County that the slough which has been blockaded by the Teal Shooting Club is navigable and consequently the club can be held responsible for having driven piles in it in such a manner as to obstruct even the passage of a small sailing boat.

As regards the constitutionality of the game law—that is so far as the trespass act is concerned—it is said that 100 or probably more sportsmen from Vallejo, Suisun, Benicia, etc., will enter the Teal Shooting Club's preserve on Tuesday next to ascertain what the club members propose to do in the matter of trespassing on salt-water marsh lands.

The club members say that they will have their keepers order all hunters who will set foot upon the salted grass to vacate the premises, and should the poachers—so-called—refuse to obey the order, arrests will follow immediately and the constitutionality of the salt marsh trespass law will be tested in court.

ANNUAL HARVEST OF CARFARES.

Sworn Statement of the Market-Street Company's Income.

The Market-street Railway Company has filed the annual gross earnings of several of its branch lines with the Board of Supervisors. The returns are interesting, because before granting the franchises the Supervisors stipulated that 2 per cent of the gross earnings should be paid into the City treasury as a return for the right of way.

The roads and their receipts are as follows: North Beach and Mission line, $101,498 75; Broadway line, $1017 70; Sacramento-street line, $22,821 48; Eddy-street line, $216 10; Ellis-street line, $19,015 20; Sonoma-street line, $10,077 16; Page-street line, out from Baker, $48 90.

The returns are signed under oath by Charles F. Crocker and J. L. Willcutt, the president and secretary of the Market-street Company.

MERCED'S BANK MUDDLE

Charges Brought by Depositors Will Be Heard on the 15th Inst.

Commissioners Kilburn, Fuller and Magee May Be Criminally Prosecuted.

At the instance of Attorney-General W. F. Fitzgerald a complaint was forwarded to the County Clerk of Merced County last evening, asking that the Bank of Merced be declared insolvent. This action on the part of the Attorney-General was necessary owing to the muddle in which the bank has been placed through the arrest of the Bank Commissioners, Kilburn Fuller and Magee.

The complaint openly charges the Commissioners with violating that section of the bank act of 1895 the gist of which is, "That the Bank Commissioners, upon being notified that a bank has become insolvent, must report the said insolvency to the Attorney-General." The failure to do this is a criminal offense, and consequently comes under the jurisdiction of the Prosecuting Attorney of the respective county in which the bank failed.

Another technicality of considerable importance comes up in connection with the citation which was issued by Judge Law of Merced yesterday morning requiring Commissioners Kilburn, Fuller and Magee to appear in the Superior Court on the 15th inst. and answer the charges and show cause why they should not be deprived of their office.

Under this citation the question arises whether or not an action for the removal of a State officer will be valid if heard before a Superior Judge, and according to a decision of the Supreme Court a few days ago, if the Superior Court does see fit to remove the Commissioners no appeal will lie from that decision, as the Legislature has made no provision for further hearing, or, in other words, the Supreme Court held that an appeal from the judgment of the Superior Court for the removal of a public officer cannot be revived in appeal before the Supreme Court.

The Legislature has made a provision for the removal of district, county and municipal officers by an action brought through the Superior Court, but it does not provide for the removal of any other civil officer by this summary proceeding, and it is under these facts that the jurisdiction of the Superior Court in removing the Bank Commissioners may be questioned.

CLEAR LAKE POWER.

Another Scheme for Transmitting Electricity to San Francisco.

O. E. Moore of Lakeport, Lake County, has sent a report to the Manufacturers' and Producers' Association relative to utilizing the waters of Clear Lake for electrical purposes. After describing the lake and the possibilities of obtaining enough water to operate an electric plant for the transmission of electric energy to San Francisco, Oakland and the towns along the line, Moore tells of a corporation of Lake County property-owners that proposes to use the waters of the lake for the purpose stated. The organization is called the Clear Lake Electric Power Company. He says that the trustees have filed water rights on Cache Creek, the outlet of the lake, and are now at work securing the right of way for transmission through Napa, Vallejo, Benicia, Berkeley, Oakland and San Francisco. He says that the corporation has no money to construct the works, but that the trustees desire to protect the lake in its present status and to negotiate for capital on terms satisfactory to the people of Lake County.

In conclusion Moore says that power in almost unlimited quantity can be transmitted to San Francisco at one-third the cost of steam power at the present price of coal.

AT 997 Market street to-night interesting lecture by Dr. Agnes Winzell, the electrician, illustrating her work by diagnosing diseases and treating the afflicted. *

ALBORA'S LITTLE BILL.

An Account That Is Creating Stormy Times in the Italian Colony.

TO-NIGHT'S MASS-MEETING.

So Turbulent a Time Is Expected Dr. Perrone Will Not Invite the Consul.

The rumpus in the Italian colony over the 20th of September funds is expected to reach a climax to-night at the mass-meeting in the Garibaldi Hall. There, in the face of the colony, Dr. Perrone stated yesterday that he and his friends expected to stamp out and annihilate the futures of the members of the executive committee who persisted in indorsing L. A. Albora's excess of $250 on the sum he was allowed for decorations.

On the other hand, friends of Calegaris, president of the executive committee, declared that the call to hold a mass-meeting was instigated by envy, hatred, malice and all uncharitableness, and that Albora's bill was only made an excuse to create a rumpus.

Calegaris, in describing the situation, said yesterday: "When the festival was to be celebrated the Consul called the presidents of the various Italian societies, because it has been proved that when the colony is called collectively time is lost in talking and nothing is accomplished. Although I was invited to that meeting, I did not go. An executive committee was appointed, but the subsequent meetings were poorly attended, and the president, A. Nardini, resigned. Several members asked me individually to accept the presidentship—they begged me, in fact, to do it. I was the only one who could save the situation, they said, and organize a decent parade. Let the people who saw the parade judge whether I succeeded.

"I accepted conditionally. I wanted to enlarge the committee to forty members. That was done, and we decided to celebrate from the 20th to the 23d. At this point some of those fellows whose names you see on the programme started a movement to celebrate the 20th under the pretext that that was the date of the occupation of Rome. To avoid a conflict I met their president, Dr. Perrone, at the Consul's office. We met and he agreed to submit this proposition to his adherents:

"'That the school and the poor of the colony should have the 20th and that the committee of the school, joining our committee, should celebrate the 20th, 21st and 22d in harmony.'

"Dr. Perrone said, "If they don't accept I'll resign,' and I added, 'If my committee will not accept I'll resign.'

"His committee refused and my committee accepted, but he did not resign. In other words, I had the right to say he did not keep good faith, but to avoid discord I said, 'Let us abandon the 20th to them.' My committee even helped to make their 20th a success. We bought lots of their tickets. We declared, when we gave them the 20th, that our principal object was to make a grand celebration, we also added that if there were any profit we would give it to the poor and the school.

"Certainly we had counted on a certain sum, and when we came to pay we found the bills considerably more than we had anticipated. Albora came up with a bill of $555 for decorations, etc., when he had been allowed $280, but he has bills for it all, and what were we to do? We could not go to court.

"While I disapprove of his action I cannot say he was dishonest. At the meeting when his bill was presented some of the members objected, but he took the floor and explained, and Valenti, the man who had disapproved most, made a motion to pay in full. As an individual I was in favor of not paying; as chairman I was obliged to put the motion to a vote and the vote was carried."

Dr. Perrone, the president of the school committee, had a very different tale to unfold. Said he: "It is true that Calegaris wanted the two committees to put in their money together, but it is false that I consented—I know them too well. They would have squandered it. The aim of the celebration was to make money for the school and the poor. There were to be some demonstrations, it is true, but they were to be kept within bounds. If that had been done they would not now have been in debt, and the poor— Alas! the poor will receive nothing from that executive committee. Albora and Cavagnaro nearly came to blows at their meeting.

Signor L. Albora, Secretary of Finance, Who Exceeded the Sum Given for Decorations.

"Albora and Calegaris had been enemies before, now they are friends. Why? I answer, the price of that friendship was the payment of Albora's bill."

The doctor added that though he was a member of both committees, being no orator, he had always been declared out of order when he had made any protestations, and that Calegaris and his friends had carried all before them by declaring all their adversaries out of order when they had attempted to take the floor.

"But these people think the Consul is with them. They are mistaken. He is an honest man, and has authorized me to represent him at the mass-meeting—he will not pander to the rich, and he certainly disapproves of their proceedings. To-morrow we shall present circulars to all the members of the executive committee, asking, 'Do you indorse Albora's bill?' If the answer be in the affirmative, we shall blight their career in the colony."

The Consul, F. Bruni Grimaldi, emphatically denied having authorized any one to represent him at the meeting. "If I want, I can go myself," he exclaimed. "I have told Dr. Perrone that I disapprove of the action of the committee in indorsing Albora's bill. I say so again. A sum was allotted to him; he exceeded it by $280. What right had they to give him the $280? That sum was already allotted to the school and the poor. No: I cannot indorse that action of the committee."

G. Almagia, one of the editors of L'Italia, and E. Patrizi, his associate, are, like the editors of La Voce del Popolo, friendly to the executive committee. The editors of L'Italia said yesterday: "It is all envy of Calegaris and the others who made the festival a success. At the death of President Carnot it was the same, but the misfortune is that this time Albora's bill makes a good excuse. He justifies himself by saying that late on Saturday afternoon he saw the decorations in Washington Square were insufficient and he ordered others, because there was not time to consult with the committee.

"There is one thing that the rabble that is creating this disturbance forgets. If there had been a deficit who would have had to pay?—the executive committee, of course."

"Dr. Perrone's committee was 'for the school and poor,' but the scope of the executive committee was to celebrate. Look at this," and Editor Patrizi showed the subscription list, the printed heading of which was, "Executive committee for the commemoration of the XX September."

However, it is thought that the question is to be fought out and it will doubtless be a turbulent one, as Dr. Perrone stated yesterday that courtesy forbade him from entreating the Consul to witness the stormy scene.

THE DURRANT TRIAL.

[Continued from Ninth Page.]

to open unless he was convicted. For one brief moment Durrant hesitated before replying, and then, with the utmost nonchalance, said he had not.

This was enough, however, to set aflash again rumors long dormant because of newer sensations and theories advanced both by the prosecution and the defense. That there is some foundation for Mr. Barnes' very pertinent question, even that gentleman does not deny, though he is cautious enough not to say anything which can be positively construed as an admission that the prosecution is in possession of such important evidence.

"I do not care to talk about the matter at the present time," Mr. Barnes said last night. "The question may have been asked at random or it may have been a prearranged plan. It would not be right to talk about the matter just now, though I do not mind saying that if the cross-examination is continued any further on this line it may be assumed as true that the prosecution is standing on fact and not theory."

In consequence of this equivocal statement the cross-examination, which continues this morning, will be listened to with absorbing interest.

Just what testimony will be introduced in rebuttal is of course not known, though it is generally thought that an attempt will be made to show that Durrant is possessed of more than ordinary strength and quite capable of carrying the body of Blanche Lamont to the tower under the conditions which are supposed to have existed at the time of the murder.

It is common talk in the Mission of a fight he had some months ago while going to Oakland in company with George King and G. W. Fontaine. On that occasion a waiter offered an insult to Fontaine, which Durrant immediately resented, and in a way that left no doubt as to his strength and skill. The waiter, who is a man considerably larger than Durrant, was knocked down by the latter. The only weapons used by the young medical student on that occasion were his fists.

MRS. VAN COTT IN TOWN.

A Famous Methodist Evangelist Who Disapproves of Bloomers.

She Thinks the World Was Better Before Women Clamored for the Ballot.

Mrs. Maggie Van Cott, the noted Methodist evangelist, who has just arrived in this City, is a remarkable woman in many respects. She has been a public speaker for over thirty years, yet she does not hanker to wield the ballot, she thinks bloomers are unladylike and has absolutely no sympathy for the new woman.

In appearance Mrs. Van Cott looks as if she had stepped out of the frame of a picture of some old-time Puritan dame tall and stately. Her severely picturesque gown is relieved by little bands of white at the neck and throat, and on her curls is a crisp white cap. Her one ornament is the little gold cross that glitters on her breast. As for her manner, it is as quaint and old-world as her dress, and it seemed natural to hear her, reply simply in answer to a question about her journey:

"I came from New York and am going to heaven. Where are you going?"

Mrs. Van Cott will stay in San Francisco several weeks, holding meetings at the Howard-street M. E. Church, where she will make her first appearance next Sunday morning. It is seventeen years since she was here before, and she remembers the city with a good deal of affection. When questioned about the progress made by women during that time she said:

"I thought then and I think still that there is no place more glorious for a woman than her home, no calling more beautiful than shaping the character of her children. God intended that woman should rule the world—you will laugh at me, no doubt—but I do not think it was to be by the ballot-box, but in her home.

"I was the first woman to be made a local preacher in the M. E. church, and that was in '68; but, though I heartily approve of more preaching and praying, I do not think women should be in church conferences; there is nothing to be gained by their being there. This land was better years ago than it is to-day, and yet here the women have been talking and ranting and raving over this ballot-box question all the time; gadding about and attending to everything but their own children."

It is strange that with all her old-time views respecting women Mrs. Van Cott took the reins of her husband's business when she was little over 20 years of age, and during his lingering illness of thirteen years she was the bread-winner for the family, and earned the bread by doing a man's work in her husband's office.

After she became a widow she took to evangelical work and was made a local preacher, but in all the years that she has been going through the land she has never been led to indorse the ballot, the bloomer or the new woman.

"Bloomers! Ugh! I consider them unladylike," she said yesterday. "A child or a young girl might wear them, but a woman of my years, for instance, never. I pity and feel sorrow for a manly woman, I feel disgust for a womanish man, and the woman who wears bloomers is losing some of the gentle dignity of her sex."

Charles Moody's Funeral.

The funeral of Charles Moody, who committed suicide several days ago, was held yesterday. Deceased was at the time of his death a member of Troop A, N. G. C. A guard of honor took charge of the body from Wednesday night till yesterday morning, when the remains were taken from the undertaking parlors on Fifth street to the Oakland mole, escorted by a platoon from the troop under the command of Lieutenant Jenks. The remains were then put on the train for Wheatland, where the parents of the deceased reside. The Naval Battalion and the National Guard were represented at the funeral services.

Festival of Nations.

At the meeting of the joint committee of the Congregation Ohabai Shalome and the Auxiliary Association of that synagogue, held Wednesday evening, it was decided to hold the grand festival of nations in aid of the building fund of the Bush-street temple, at Union-square Hall, during the week commencing October 28, the festival to conclude with a grand ball Saturday evening, November 2.

Transferred to the Southern District.

The case of Robert Hayes, the counterfeiter arrested recently by Secret Service Agent Harris, has been ordered transferred by Judge Morrow of the United States District Court to the Southern District of California. The specific charge on which Hayes will be tried will be the passing in Los Angeles of a $2 bill which had been raised to $20.

WAR AGAINST PILOTAGE.

The Ship-Owners' Association Wants to Abolish It in This Port.

AN APPEAL FOR STATE LAW.

Reasons for the Action Stated in a Letter to Business Organizations.

The Ship-owners' Association of the Pacific Coast has decided that pilots are not a necessity for the port of San Francisco.

In order to obtain their object the association wants the people of the State educated so that when the Legislature is elected next year men will be sent there who will pass the necessary relief measures. The assistance of the Manufacturers' and Producers' Association, the Traffic Association, the Half-million Club, the Employers' Association, the Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Trade is asked, and in order to gain it the following letter was sent out yesterday to the president of each of these societies:

THE SHIP-OWNERS' ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC COAST, 42-44 STEUART STREET.
SAN FRANCISCO, October 10, 1895.

Dear Sir: The Ship-owners' Association of the Pacific Coast requests you to appoint a committee of ten from your association to meet with like committees from other commercial organizations and the members of this association to devise ways and means to educate the people of this State to a full appreciation of the necessity for the removal by legislation of the heavy burdens which are now unnecessarily borne by the shipping belonging to and trading with the citizens of this State. The time and place of the meeting in question will be announced in the immediate future.

The pilots collect annually about $250,000 from vessels passing in and out the Golden Gate. For all the actual practical good received from this expenditure the money might nearly as well be dumped into the sea. In point of fact, there is no need for pilots in the harbor of San Francisco. There was a need for pilots once when the harbor was less known, when the vessels had to sail in and out, when there were no tugs, no soundings, no buoys and no charts. To-day nearly every vessel passing through the Golden Gate does so in the tow of a tug. The vessel has to pay the tug in any case; why should it pay the pilot besides? The sum paid for pilotage is simply an additional burden laid on commerce.

The contention that pilots are necessary to the vessel's safety is not founded on fact. The best pilot in the harbor cannot take a vessel through the heads as safely as can a tug. The tugs cruise continually outside the heads, and seldom does a vessel sail in without one.

The State of California is many years behind the times respecting the taxation of shipping. Ships are floating property; they cannot be imprisoned in one place. If there be unnecessary burdens upon shipping in one country they will disappear from that country and reappear in another where the burdens are lighter. The process may be slow, but it is nevertheless absolutely sure. It has been a matter of much speculation as to why the shipping of the United States has declined while the shipping of European countries has increased. One reason, at least, is very plain. Great Britain has no direct taxes on her ships. Germany has no direct taxes on her ships. France has no direct taxes on her ships. Austro-Hungary has no direct taxes on her ships. Italy has no direct taxes on her ships. The Netherlands have no direct taxes on their ships. Even China and Japan exempt vessels from taxation. In the United States alone each State seems to vie with each other in seeing how rapidly it can drive its shipping out of existence by heavy taxation.

It is true that some States are awakening to a realization of their folly. New York has exempted from taxation all vessels engaged in the foreign trade. Delaware exempts from taxation all classes of vessels. Pennsylvania has no direct taxes upon vessels, but derives a small indirect revenue from them. Massachusetts taxes some vessels less than others. Connecticut taxes some vessels less than others. Alabama exempts vessels engaged in the foreign trade. The other States tax everything in sight, and California leads in the procession. So long as California taxes its shipping we cannot hope to develop a ship-building industry. A vessel built to trade between here and New York can afford to pay the New York shipbuilder 20 per cent more upon its purchase price than can be paid in San Francisco, simply because of the difference in taxation.

We beg that you will appoint the committee asked for at as early a date as possible, and that you will transmit to us the names and addresses of its members. With great respect, we remain, yours, etc.,

SHIP-OWNERS' ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC COAST.

POLICE APPOINTMENT.

Warrant Out for the Arrest of M. P. Terrill for Fraudulently Obtaining Money.

H. Kiley, 1705 Devisadero street, appeared in Judge Campbell's court yesterday, and swore to a warrant for the arrest of M. P. Terrill on the charge of obtaining goods and money by false pretenses.

Kiley in his complaint stated that on May 22 Terrill called upon him, and represented that by reason of his friendship and influence with John Daley, the milkman on Valencia street, he could secure an appointment on the police force, and if Kiley wanted to have a man appointed, Terrill would obtain the appointment for any man he might name on payment of $50, which he would hand over to Daley.

Kiley gave Terrill the $50, and has since then been anxiously waiting for the promised appointment. As it did not materialize, he called upon Daley and ascertained to his surprise that Daley was not acquainted with Terrill, and did not know anything about any appointment on the police force. He accordingly swore to the warrant for Terrill's arrest.

Watson Wants His Salary.

Ambrose A. Watson, clerk in the Police Court, has applied to the Superior Court for a writ of mandate to compel Auditor Broderick to audit his salary demands, amounting to $1000.

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Emma Calvé

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