

OFFICIALS WANT COIN

MORE WARRANTS OUTSTANDING THAN EVER BEFORE KNOWN.

NO TAXES BEING PAID.

COMPLICATIONS CAUSED BY MAYOR SUTRO'S VETO OF THE TAX LEVY.

WOES OF TREASURER WIDBER.

HE WILL BE FORCED TO DO THREE MONTHS' WORK IN THREE WEEKS.

Practically no warrants are being paid by the County Treasurer. The Police Department, Fire Department, officials of the Golden Gate Park and in fact, all of the people on the payroll of the city, except a few heads of departments specially provided for, have received no money for two months, and it will be a month and perhaps more before they will be able to get a single cent. The whole trouble is caused by the delay in fixing the tax levy. Deputy Treasurer Louis N. Jacobs said yesterday:

We have practically shut down on paying warrants. This is because we have no money. The County Treasury fund is exhausted except the City Hall fund and the County Clerk's fund. The City Hall fund contains from \$25,000 to \$30,000. But, of course, that is to be employed only in paying for matters connected with the building, and only a few salaries come out of it. The special fee fund from the Recorder and County Clerk's offices, and brings in about \$15,000 each month. Only about \$7,000 of that goes for the City Hall, the rest going for stationery and other necessities.

Ordinarily we are constantly receiving quite large sums from taxes daily. Taxes do not become delinquent until the first of November, and the men who pay large sums generally wait till the last moment. But this year the tax levy has been made even smaller. The tax levies which they pay to the city are not being paid. As a result we are receiving practically nothing now.

The question of the tax levies cannot be settled before November 4 at the earliest. Then the matter of the Mayor's right to veto the tax levy is to be considered by the Supreme Court. In the meantime we are paying warrants as they are presented.

We have registered 4,900 warrants on the general fund. Before November 4, 1895, there was a slight trouble, 2,900 warrants were not being paid. We have considered them all, but the trouble this time has only commenced. We are receiving new warrants every day, and by the end of this week there will be at least 6,000 on the list.

At this juncture Treasurer Widber arrives. He said that the outlook was extremely ominous. He said that in the light of the revenue law of the last Legislature the tax levy would stand. Should the Mayor's position uphold he was at a loss to be able to estimate the damage that would result. He continued:

It would place the City in serious jeopardy. If the City can get no revenue the government will have to close. If a new tax levy is decided to be necessary before November 4, no collection can be received until a new set of books has been prepared by the Tax Collector. This will take at least a month. In the meantime, the tax levies already paid will have to be refunded. The entire tax levy for 1895 is \$1,500,000. It was levied in before November 25 or become delinquent. This would stop business in our department. The City would have to close. We would have to pay their taxes in time, though they might have been ready and willing. To put the City in a position to pay their taxes in time, we would have to provide with the facilities for receiving their money. This would be extremely unjust, and there would be another complication.

I think, though, that the trouble will end on November 4. I feel confident that the judges will take the matter under consideration, but will give their decision without referring. The only question is as to whether a new law will be passed. The State is binding on San Francisco. This, I am satisfied, will result in an utter overlooking of the Mayor's veto.

Under any circumstances we will not be able to cash warrants much before December. When the taxpayers do bring their money they will all come at once, and we will be able to accommodate the rush of business, since the new tax levy is \$2.25, against \$1.50 of the old year, we will be forced to care for \$2,000,000 instead of \$1,500,000 as formerly, and what is worse it will nearly all come before November 25, instead of being scattered over three months.

While Treasurer Widber told his woes, a half-dozen men and women had come in with warrants. These were registered and will be paid in their turn. All of them were very anxious to know just how long they would be forced to wait.

"It takes the time of one man explaining the state of affairs," said Deputy Jacobs during a short interval. "Some of those with warrants are very anxious to get their money and think they ought to be paid from that. Others understand readily. It is very trying, though, to be placed in the position of having to explain."

Attorney Creswell says that the Mayor's action which has caused all this trouble and annoyance is absolutely uncalled for. The matter, he contends, has been definitely passed upon many times, and he would not venture to predict how the Supreme Court would decide. He said: "The Mayor has not had anything to do with the tax levy for many years back. When the Political Code was established in 1872 it was a law that the Mayor should not have the right to interfere with the making of the tax levy by suggestion, dictation, veto or otherwise in any other way. For all I know the law was the same prior to that time. This matter of keeping a public official out of his pay is a menace to the public service. The man must live. If he can get no money from the City he will be forced to enter upon outside ventures, and thus will not be able to devote the time originally contemplated to his official duties."

In the meantime the police, the fire ladders and all the rest of the City officials are being forced to give up 2 1/2 per cent of their warrants to the money-lenders to get them cashed. A number of the boys have rigged themselves up in "hard times" costumes, and explain readily that the gaps in their shoes and the rents in their clothing will be repaired when they can get their salaries paid.

STREET OBSTRUCTIONS. Grand Jury and Supervisors Will Discuss the Problem.

The Board of Supervisors held its regular weekly meeting yesterday, Mayor Suto in the chair.

Surveyor Tilton reported that plans for a sewer system in the Sunnyside district could be prepared for \$465.

The new fire order was finally passed, and now architects and builders can go ahead with their plans. It is understood, however, that buildings are to be limited to 125 feet in height on streets 100 feet wide.

Protests were received against the following street work and referred to the Street Committee: Paving the "crossing of Sacramento and Spruce streets, also of Sacramento and Laurel streets, also of Eighteenth street, from Folsom to Harrison; grading of Montgomery avenue, from Bay street to North point; sewer in Buchanan street, from Waller to Broderick; sidewalks on Clay, east of Broderick; paving of Sacramento street, from Locust to Spruce; paving of Van Ness avenue, from Greenwhich street to

Bay; bituminous sidewalks from Valencia street to Castro; paving of Octavia street, from Green to Union; paving of Hill street, from Valencia to Guerrero.

A resolution was passed requesting the Chief of Police not to order any more obstructing street signs taken down till after January 1 next. It was also expected that the Street Committee will have framed an ordinance covering street signs. The order notifying the City Street Improvement Committee to begin sweeping the streets on November 1 on its new contract was ordered. The Superintendent of Streets will stop doing the sweeping on the same date.

On motion of Supervisor Spreckels the paving of Green street, from Leavenworth to the street with basalt blocks was ordered stopped till the Street Committee can act on the protests of the property-owners in that vicinity.

David B. Carmichael was appointed janitor of the office to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of W. Dick.

The street committee of the Grand Jury was invited to meet the Board of Supervisors as a committee of the whole next Monday afternoon and discuss the ordinances necessary to protect the streets from obstructions and signs.

An effort will be made to limit the size of signs which are erected under special permits. The ordinances on the matter are in a woeful condition. Some of them are observed and others are wholly ignored. The Street Committee is now engaged in trying to frame a simple, common-sense set of orders to govern in the matter. The Grand Jury has been gathering points in the same line and is anxious to co-operate in solving the problem.

TEA TRADE GONE NORTH. THE PACIFIC MAIL COMPANY TELLS IT SLIP AWAY TO COMPETITORS.

SAN FRANCISCO LOSES THE COMMERCE THROUGH CORPORATION APATHY.

San Francisco, the metropolis of the Pacific Coast, that once received all imports from the Orient, has at last lost its grip of one prominent line of commerce between China, Japan and America—that is, the first American port on the Pacific Ocean has been outdone in international carrying trade by its younger rivals in the Northwest in the important business of receiving and distributing tea.

Any tea merchant in San Francisco will say without hesitation that this is a serious loss. For tea is over and above all the one great staple of Oriental commerce that eclipses other factors in the trade of China and Japan, and one which for its importance has been sedulously watched by all western nations interested in the world's carrying business.

San Francisco's position—a seaport placed upon the very utter verge of Western civilization, set down by various causes on a highway of the world, and nearest of all Western ports to the Orient—the metropolis of this coast became by right a stepping-stone for commerce passing from China and Japan to all America.

As San Francisco grew in opulence and importance as an American port her trade with the Orient developed correspondingly. But there was a rival, a sturdy youngster of a port backed by wide-awake and enterprising railroad and steamship corporations, and the only port sending ships after the wealth and commerce lying beyond the vast ocean thrived apace.

These times have changed, and quite suddenly withal, even while the people of San Francisco could hardly think it worth their while to trouble about competition from such places as Tacoma or New Westminster. The times have indeed changed, and nowadays two lines of steamers and two railroads carry nearly all the tea for Canada and the United States—the 150,000,000 pounds, or thereabouts, that used to pass through San Francisco—from Oriental marts to New York and other great Eastern distributing points by new routes far away from the Golden Gate. This business is practically lost to San Francisco, and the dignity, the influence and the importance it possesses have gone with it also.

It is told about the wholesale business part of town, and it is this: The Pacific Mail Steamship Company, by its apathy, has either allowed the tea business to slip away or driven it from San Francisco by a system of tariffs that in the presence of competition are prohibitory.

Traffic Manager Curtis of the Traffic Association, who was mentioned by a member of one of the leading tea houses as fully informed on the subject, explained the reasons yesterday. Said he: "The Northern Pacific has six steamers plying between Tacoma and the Orient, the Canadian Pacific has about the same number of ships, and the Occidental and Oriental and Pacific Mail of San Francisco have only about six steamers in actual service. The local companies have a large local market and better-paying freight than tea, and consequently don't make an effort to get over to the Orient. In fact, they haven't the necessary capacity to accommodate all the trade that offers. This is another striking example of the needs of the port of San Francisco."

"From our natural position we should be the distributors of the larger part of the tea consumed in America. "In the through business San Francisco is affected indirectly. Any aggrandizement of the port in any direction benefits the merchants of San Francisco. For illustration, if there were forty lines instead of one line of steamers running out of San Francisco it would be easy to imagine the increase of business in nearly any line you can mention. The port would be increased trade in provisions and supplies, more men employed, repairs would keep shipyards busy, and the increased commerce and increase of business here toward the port's greatness. This would be an indirect benefit to all."

"How can the northern lines take the tea business from San Francisco?" was asked the other night. "Rather, why can't the Pacific Mail compete with other lines?"

NOW FOR BAD WEAT!

ANY NUMBER OF SEIZURES, BUT ONLY AN OCCASIONAL ARREST.

RECORD FOR SEPTEMBER.

THE BUTCHERS SAID TO HAVE A STRONG "PULL" WITH THE COURTS.

THE LAW IN THE CASE.

INSPECTOR BEN DAVIS TELLS WHAT HE PROPOSES TO DO IN THE FUTURE.

While the Board of Health is making a righteous warfare through Inspector Dockery against the vendors of impure milk they are not forgetting another if not still more important feature connected with the City's health—that is, a close inspection of the meat offered for sale. There is certainly magnificent oppor-



MEAT INSPECTOR BEN DAVIS. [From a photograph.]

tunity for Inspector Ben Davis to make a "record" in his particular department if the September figures now on file in the Board of Health Office amount to anything. During that time Davis and his deputies inspected 30 milk ranches, 2681 cows, and made the following seizures of meat offered for sale in the various markets: Sheep 37, calves 74, cows 5, beef 491 pounds, hogs 3, hams 20 and 3150 pounds of halibut and shark. This is not a bad showing, when it is remembered that four men are called upon to cover the entire City and County of San Francisco.

This is one feature, however, connected with this wholesale seizure of meat which Mr. Davis should not delay in remedying, and that is the arrest of the dealers guilty of imposing on the public a diseased article. He has sworn out warrants for three or four Chinese, but the main culprits of this kind of business have not been allowed to go, with a simple seizure of the meat, the offending parties paying the cost of same. Section 26 of order No. 1601 speaks very plainly on this point. It says:

"Any article or animal that shall be offered, sold or exhibited for sale, in any market, or elsewhere, as though it was intended for sale, shall be deemed offered and exposed for sale, within the intent and meaning of this order."

In explanation of this failure to arrest the guilty parties, Inspector Davis says that the wholesalers have a "pull" in the police courts that is much stronger than any complaint which he could bring against them. There have been arrests in the past, he says, in which the offenders have been allowed to pay a nominal fine of \$5. He gives as another reason, that the law is defective, and has been so agreed upon by those who should be in a position to know, and section 26 of the order referred to certainly fixes a punishment for those who violate the section just quoted. It reads as follows:

"Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this order shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$50, or by imprisonment in the County Jail for not more than six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment."

In spite of this plain statement of the ordinance such well-known houses as Uri & Co., J. Hoffman, L. D. Stone, Jefferson G. James (ex-Supervisor), Western Meat Company and F. C. Sherr, in whose establishments diseased meat was seized during the month of September, were allowed to go free on a simple payment of costs. Section 27 of the same order says:

"Any person who, in violation of the preceding sections of this order, shall bring within the City, slaughter or sell, or expose for sale any article or animal (therein prohibited from being sold or exhibited) for the purpose of food, shall forfeit the same to the City, and the Market Inspector shall seize and forthwith dispose of the same at the expense of the owner in such manner, under the direction of the Health Department, as will insure safety and health to the public; provided, that this section does not apply to the body of any animal that has died during transit to this City and County, the owner of which desires to use the hide or remains of said animal for purposes other than those prohibited herein, and who shall remove the carcass of said animal within a period of two hours from the time the same was landed in this City and County."

It was to remedy this section that the Board of Health, at the suggestion of Dr. Lovelace, issued the following communication to the Board of Supervisors:

September 3, 1895. To the Honorable Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco—DEAR SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th inst., in which you request that I should issue general orders of the Board of Supervisors, and called "Forfeiture of the carcass of Market Inspector," and request the repeal of that portion of the section beginning with the words, "from the time the same was landed in this City and County." Dr. Lovelace claims that this proviso annuls the efficiency of the order inasmuch as the Market Inspector is powerless to seize the remains of animals that die in transit, and the owners are free to dispose of said diseased meat in open market. Trusting you will make such amendment to the order as will fully empower the Market

inspectors to act with authority, I beg to remain, dear sir, yours truly, EDWARD GOUGHAN, Secretary.

It appears, according to the statement of Inspector Davis, that the City guardians were about to adopt an order complying with the request of Dr. Lovelace when the Hon. Charles Jefferson G. James appeared on the scene. He told them that any beef that died in transit was worth \$3 to its owner on account of the hide, etc. The Supervisors thereupon indefinitely postponed the action on the communication from the Board of Health.

This in brief is the meat inspection situation as it stands to-day. That Davis and his assistants are doing excellent work in the way of condemning diseased meat no one who takes the trouble to examine the record will deny. But seizing the meat does not by any means stop the evil, but as a matter of fact gives a sort of license to those engaged in that class of business. To continue it, if the dealers have a "pull" with the courts the matter should be investigated, and that, too, without delay. It is evident that the mere condemning of meat will not stop the practice, for so long as there is no fine attached to the crime dishonest dealers will offer for sale diseased meat, hoping that a portion or all of it will escape the eye of the Inspector.

Mr. Davis now proposes to test the strength of the "pull" which the dealers are popularly supposed to have with the courts. He intends to enforce section 26, in both letter and spirit, and just see where and how this influence comes in.

"While I have made a great many seizures since coming into office," said Mr. Davis yesterday, "there have been but few arrests, on account of what I deemed correct flaws in the law. It is my purpose now, however, to test sections 26 and 27, by arresting all parties who have diseased meat on their premises. The Board of Health endeavored to have the Supervisors annul certain parts of section 27, so as to allow me to seize and condemn animals lying in transit. James appeared before the board, however, and knocked it

TRICKED ON A MORTGAGE.

BITTER LAWSUIT OVER A CLEVERLY SUBSTITUTED PAPER.

SEVERAL SURPRISES SPRUNG.

A FINAL VICTORY IS GAINED IN COURT BY THE WIDOW BLAKE.

"Swindling" is the expression used by Justices of the Peace Groezinger and Carroll yesterday in summing up the way Sadie M. Nichols had treated Mrs. Elizabeth S. Blake in a mortgage transaction. Of course Miss Nichols was greatly wrought up over the matter. So was her lawyer, A. S. Newburgh. He threatened all sorts of restraining orders and appeals on her behalf. But the court never paid any attention to his voluble protests.

The case has been a very bitter one. That is the reason Justice of the Peace Groezinger called in Justice of the Peace Carroll to sit with him on the bench.

The Nichols woman lives at 214 Ellis street, and all the trouble arose out of the way she mortgaged her household furniture to Mrs. Blake for \$150. Mrs. Blake is over 60 years of age. She had known the woman she charges with robbing her for a long time, and hence trusted her in a way. The latter took an active interest in the drawing up of the mortgage.

When the original copy was ready for signing she told Mrs. Blake that it was necessary to sign the paper in duplicate. The second paper she cleverly adjusted beneath the first paper so that its contents could not be seen. The places for the signature on the two papers were thus brought close together, so there was no occasion to lift the upper paper. Mrs. Blake, without question, accepted the woman's statement that the under paper was a copy of the mortgage. The papers were accordingly signed and the money turned over to the latter. When the note became due the maker took particular pains not to pay it. Then the trouble began.

Mrs. Blake, however, was bound to have her money and set her lawyer to capture it after the most approved legal tactics. He began suit and tried to foreclose on the furniture. But the woman got wind of the approach of the Sheriff's deputies and smuggled it out of the house at 9 o'clock of the night before they descended on the place.

Then Mrs. Blake asked the court to appoint a receiver to capture the furniture and hold it till the dispute for its possession was settled. Before her lawyer captured the furniture all right, only to meet with another surprise in the bitterly fought case.

Miss Nichols produced a release of the mortgage, sealed and delivered by Mrs. Blake. The widow stoutly denied that she had ever signed any such paper.

"You did," insisted Miss Nichols. The signature was undoubtedly that of Mrs. Blake, but the lady was stout that ever in her assertion that she had never signed a release.

Gradually proof came out that the paper which had been represented to be a duplicate mortgage was nothing less than a release of the mortgage that covered it at the time.

Miss Nichols stuck fast to the assertion that she came honestly and fairly by the release, but all the evidence in the case was against her.

In summing up the evidence the court said that she could not be believed in the testimony she had offered in the case. The court stated that there was only one contract to be placed on her actions in the matter, and that was that she had deliberately tried to swindle Mrs. Blake.

Judgment was accordingly entered for the widow, and the chances now are that she will either get the money or the value of the furniture sold at Sheriff's sale.

The Nichols woman has been in trouble with the courts before. There is a charge of grand larceny now pending against her in the criminal department of the Superior Court. In this case \$30 is in dispute. It once belonged to a gentleman who left his card at the defendant's house, but had no intention of leaving his \$30, so he says.

THE STONE NOT LAID.

The California Bible Association's New Building Not Ready.

The laying of the cornerstone of the California Bible Association's new building on McAllister street, which was to have taken place yesterday, has been postponed till Tuesday, November 5. The delay was occasioned by the inability to obtain granite.

An interesting programme will be participated in by visiting delegations from Churches in Oakland and Alameda and other towns. The new building will be a handsome and comfortable one, and completed that will reflect credit on the enterprise of the association.

NO ALIEN FLAG WANTED.

SERIOUS TROUBLE ANTICIPATED ON THE SIXTH-STREET DUMPS.

PATRIOTIC AMERICANS ANGRY OVER THE DISPLAY OF RUSSIAN COLORS.

An ugly feeling that may end in bloodshed has arisen among the hotshots and jetsom of humanity that have established their winter quarters on the dumps between Sixth and Seventh streets.

The cause of the trouble is a Russian flag, that waves in the breeze above a hut occupied by Peter Scavali and Louis Kowalski, which is an eyesore to the patriotic Americans.

John Manning, Jim O'Brien and George Eastman occupy shanty no far from the two Russians. The hut now occupied by the latter was empty up till Saturday night, and when Manning, O'Brien and Eastman awoke on Sunday morning and went outside for a "brace" before breakfast they were amazed to see the flag of the czar floating from a pole on top of the hut. They discussed the situation all day and at night decided to visit the neighboring hut and insist upon the obnoxious flag being lowered.

Manning was the spokesman, and when the three reached the hut he said to Scavali, "We want you to pull down that Russian flag, and if you want to hoist a flag it must be the Stars and Stripes."

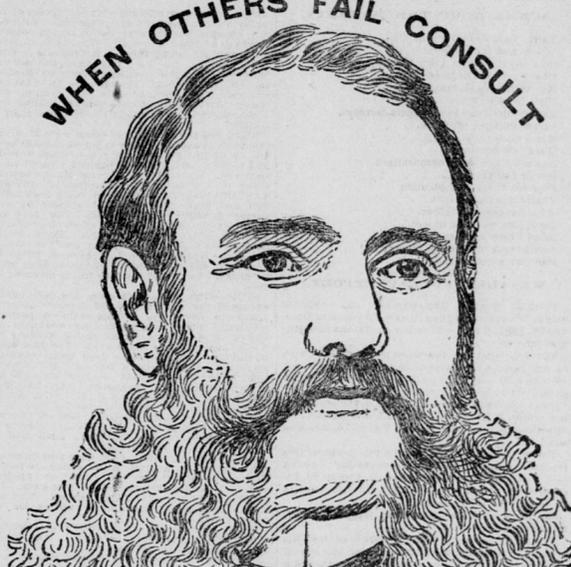
"That ain't a Russian flag," said Scavali; "it's an American flag."

"Where's the stars?" asked Manning. "Oh," replied Scavali facetiously, "you see them when the clouds roll by."

This remark angered the three Americans and they made a dash at the flag. "Stop," said Scavali in a menacing tone. "If you lay a finger on that flag we'll bore you."

The three, being unarmed, stopped suddenly and beat a judicious retreat. Yesterday they discussed the situation with other Americans on the dumps and it was decided to hold a mass meeting on the march on mass upon the Russian shanty and tear down the flag, unless meantime the Russians save them the trouble. Manning, O'Brien and Eastman had the front of their shanty decorated with the Stars and Stripes yesterday and several others followed suit. They are determined that no other flag shall float over the dumps, and serious trouble is feared.

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