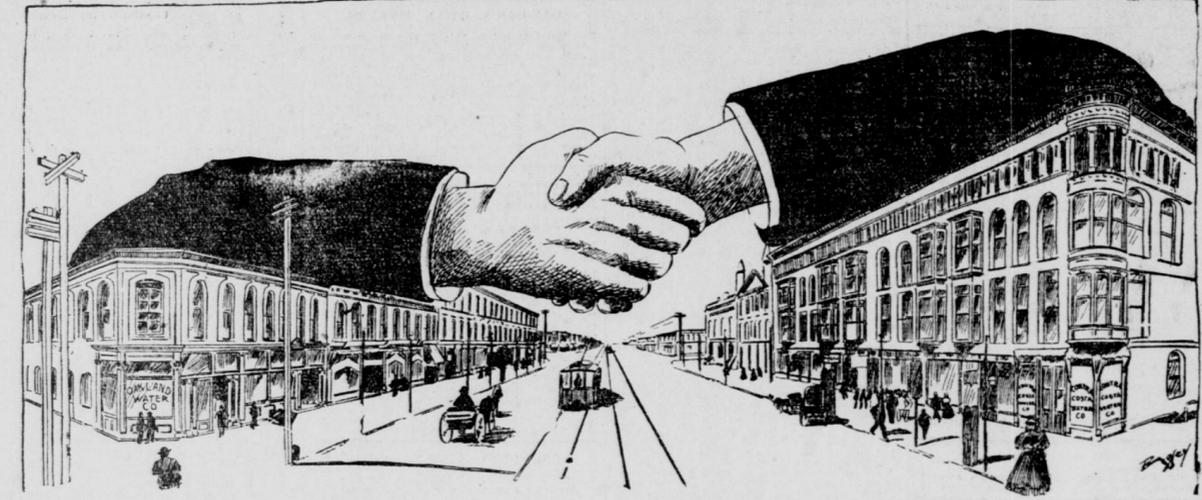


OAKLAND WATER COMPANIES JOIN HANDS

Bitter Fight Which Has Raged for Years Suddenly Ended and the Corporations Pool Issues to Get a Raise in Rates.



ONLY ASK FOR A "SLIGHT READJUSTMENT."

In an interview published in The Call on the 8th Inst., President Dinee of the Oakland Water Company said that the two companies which supply Oakland with water had reached an agreement to end the war and charge full rates allowed by the ordinance of the city.

This mild termination of the bitter fight which has been waged between the Contra Costa Water Company and the Oakland Water Company for the past three years naturally had a suspicious appearance, and led to much speculation on the part of the citizens of the city across the bay regarding the outcome of this new alliance.

Among those who were afraid that this truce boded ill for the people was W. J. Abernathy, who concluded that it might be well to take advantage of the prevailing rate and forestall any possible raise by paying for a year in advance. Much to his surprise, however, when he tendered his money to the Contra Costa Water Company it was declined, and the official refused to accept pay for more than one month. When Mr. Abernathy wondered at this, the Contra Costa Water Company president told him that there would be an adjustment of rates, and until that was accomplished the company would take pay for no more than one month.

Intentions of the two companies. In fact, there was a suspicious ignorance in both offices as to the future moves of the companies.

But while there is a disinclination to talk business on the part of water company officials, such disinclination does not reach the people, and the fear is growing that there is a deep laid plot on the part of the two erstwhile warring corporations to form an alliance which will at least be offensive if not defensive. It is also generally believed that this offensive alliance means that the people will have to suffer by having a return to the rates which prevailed before the non-partisan Council took hold of things three years ago and cut the rates almost in half.

Just how this is to be accomplished is what is puzzling the people of Oakland now, and the mystery which hedges about the actions of the companies but increases the belief that something is hatching which has for its object the benefit of the water companies at the expense of the people.

The State law is rather obscure regarding water rates, and it is this obscurity that led to the condition which prevailed when the non-partisan Council went into office and cut the rates. According to the law, it is incumbent upon the City Council to fix the water rates in February of each year, making such rates as will give a fair income upon the value of the plant.

It is this question of value of the plant which is expected to cut a big figure in the coming effort to have the rates "readjusted." Old time Councils were complaisant and accepted the figures of the Contra Costa Water Company as being the true value of the plant of that company, but when the non-partisan Council started in on the question, it decided that it might be well to investigate values a little, and the result was that instead of being valued at a little above \$6,000,000, it was cut down to the more modest sum of \$2,124,659.62, and then, to make all possible allowance for mistakes, the sum of \$300,000 was added, making a total valuation of \$2,424,659.62 as being full and ample for the entire plant of the company. With this valuation the rates were so fixed that the company could obtain an income of 5 per cent of

this amount, this being deemed a just and equitable income on the investment.

But the Oakland Water Company made its appearance about this time, and it was discovered that the Contra Costa Water Company could sell water at a lower rate than that fixed by the Council, for a cut was made, and for the past three years the people of Oakland have profited by the effort to drive a rival from the field.

That this was a ruinous war there is no doubt, and, while the officials of the company will not admit that the company was losing money, innocent owners of Contra Costa Water Company stock have suffered in that they have received no dividends for the past two years. This is notably the case with the Old Ladies' Home at Temescal, which holds a block of the Contra Costa Water Works' stock, the income of which helped maintain that institution until the unfortunate war began, and since then there has been a deficit in the treasury of the home because there have been no returns in the way of dividends from its stock.

There are several elements of danger to the people of Oakland in the situation to-day. The Contra Costa Water Company affirms that its plant has a valuation of \$6,059,962.23. The Oakland Water Company affirms that its plant has a valuation of a few dollars less than \$6,000,000.

These valuations are reached by that peculiar process of figuring known to corporations which are compelled to comply with laws, and unless the City Council is careful and painstaking these figures may be accepted as the basis upon which to fix the rates. Until the Non-Partisan Council took its seat these figures of the Contra Costa Company were accepted, and the result was that with 15 per cent less population than at present the people of Oakland gave that company an annual income of \$407,926. But when the new Council investigated matters it found that the valuation was rather high, and the result was that in three years these exorbitant figures were reduced until the combined income of both companies for the year 1897 amounted to but \$242,338, a difference in favor of the people of \$165,588.

There is a little history connected

with the present ordinance which was passed last year that may throw some light on the future. When the retiring Council followed the usual custom and prepared its ordinance fixing the water rates the measure was passed to print, and then two days before the expiration of the Council's term President Mott called a special meeting to pass the ordinance. It was announced by the clerk that the ordinance had not been printed the stated number of times as required by law, and an investigation showed that the column advertisement had actually been left out of the Tribune several times, thus vitiating the ordinance and throwing it over to the new Council.

President Mott saw the danger and made such a vigorous attack upon the scheme that if any were intended it was not pressed and the new Council passed the ordinance as prepared by its predecessors. Whatever may have been the intention at that time it was frustrated by the timely action of President Mott, but the fact remains that the water companies, or some one interested in the matter, had things so fixed that the new Council, which is the one that will fix the rates next month, could try its hand at rate fixing.

The water companies will file their statements next Monday afternoon and will make a showing of a combined valuation approaching \$12,000,000. The City Council will fix the rates for the ensuing year at the meetings during the month of February. If the Council takes the valuation set by either company as a basis the present rate will be doubled. If there is a combination of companies and the total rate is used as a basis the rate will be quadrupled. If the Council accepts the valuation of the investigation of the former Council, which showed that the valuations set by the companies are absurd, the rates will remain as at present. But the danger is that the combined arguments of the two companies will lead the members of the Council to believe that the valuations set by the former Council are too low and the City Fathers will attempt "a little readjustment of rates" that will end to the satisfaction of the water companies, but not to the benefit of the people of Oakland.

President Dinee of the Oakland Water Company was seen yesterday regarding the rumors which have been current that there would be an attempt on the part of the two companies to have the Council raise the rates during the coming month. He was also asked whether the present truce between the companies meant a possible consolidation.

President Dinee has an affable smile and a polite manner, and when he turns them both loose upon an inquisitive visitor he of an inquiring frame of mind may rest assured that while he has been courteously treated by Oakland Water Company's president he has gained no information on the lines of his research. Both the affable smile and polite manner were in evidence yesterday, and beyond the fact that the companies would ask the Council for "a little readjustment of rates" nothing was elicited regarding the plans and

intentions of the two companies. In fact, there was a suspicious ignorance in both offices as to the future moves of the companies.

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A HEMP FACTORY FOR THIS CITY

Manufacturers Take Hold of an Important Coast Industry.

Some of the Capital Is Already Raised - Importers' League.

Two important matters were considered at the meeting of the directors of the Manufacturers and Producers' Association on Thursday. One was the question whether or not the body should continue its support of the Manufacturers and Importers' League, and the other related to the establishment of a factory for the manufacture of crude hemp. It will be remembered that the association was the father of the league mentioned. It, by offering free transportation to the merchants in the country, induced many to come to this city and make their winter and spring purchases. This aroused the antagonism of many of the manufac-

turers of Stockton, Sacramento, Los Angeles and other large cities on the coast. Secretary Mead A. Sbarboro on the other took the position that the association was not formed for the purpose of favoring any one locality, but to protect the interests of the whole State. The fate of the league was finally left to a committee consisting of J. R. Brown, T. Everett and A. Sbarboro to report next Thursday.

The question of a factory for the manufacture of hemp promises to be an important feature in the debates of the association. President Kerr gave an outline of what was added, making a total of \$2,424,659.62 as being full and ample for the entire plant of the company. With this valuation the rates were so fixed that the company could obtain an income of 5 per cent of

MINERS HEAR ABOUT DAMS

The Chief of Engineers Writes That Things Will Be Hushed.

Good Prospects for a Secretary of Mines Reported to the Miners' Association.

After long and weary waiting on the part of the California miners, the Federal Government has at last officially heard from concerning those restraining dams that are not being built, and for which Congress and the State have each appropriated \$250,000, besides other appropriations for river improvements.

Communications from General John M. Wilson, Chief of Engineers at Washington, relating thereto were made public on Friday at a meeting of the executive committee of the California Miners' Association in the rooms of the Union League Club.

The Chief of Engineers reviews the Congressional legislation, mentions the preliminary report on the improvement of the Lower Sacramento River, made five weeks ago by the Federal engineers here, and says:

"A report for the Upper Sacramento and Feather rivers will be submitted at the earliest day possible. He observed that this State has appropriated \$300,000 for river improvement, that he knows of no law connecting Government agents with its expenditure, and that a report on plans submitted by the Commissioner of Public Works of California will soon be made.

As to dams, it is declared that the California Debris Commissioners are pushing surveys and researches as rapidly as consistent with thorough investigation, etc., and the communication winds up as follows:

"The magnitude of the work will be fully appreciated by those who have been familiar with these troublesome and conflicting questions for so many years. It appears that the work upon which the California Debris Commission is engaged cannot be materially advanced by an increase of force, nor can a definite date be fixed for the presentation of the report. The importance of advancing the work assigned to them by law as rapidly as is consistent with its importance.

The matter was referred to the committee on dams, of which A. Caminetti is chairman.

They L. Ford made an encouraging report on the prospect of getting a department of mines and mining at this ses-

sion of Congress and the committee was authorized to expend \$500 in promoting the cause.

A committee was appointed to arrange programs for miners' day and other special days at the fair, the committee consisting of W. C. Ralston, J. J. Crawford, J. E. Parks, Mark E. Kerr, T. L. Lape, J. H. Tenbroek and Thomas Clark.

Much interest in the fair was shown and an adjournment of the committee went in a box to be received by the Native Daughters.

Go to O'Brien & Sons' for modern style, high grade suits, Phaetons and Buggies at low prices. Corner Golden Gate Avenue and Folk Street.

Jewish Folklore.

Miss Ray Frank, when delivering her lecture at Mrs. Sloss' residence yesterday, spoke of the various theories concerning the origin and distribution of myths, legends and tales, explaining the difference between a myth and a legend. Her remarks showed study, and were delivered in the pleasing manner that makes Miss Frank's lectures so popular. She said that philology had thus far done more than any other science to determine the meaning and kinship of legends. The phenomena of nature had undoubtedly originally given rise to the myths and legends of the people.

At St. Mary's Church.

To-morrow the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle will be solemnly observed at St. Mary's (Paulist) Church, California street. Masses will be read at 6:30, 7:30 and 9 a. m. Solemn high mass, Coram Episcopo, will be sung at 11 a. m. His Grace the Most Rev. Archbishop Riordan will preach at the last mass. A splendid musical programme has been arranged. The choir will render God's "Messe du Sacre Coeur," with orchestra and organ accompaniment.

Will Sit to Bank.

At a meeting of the Judges of the Superior Court, held a few days ago, it was decided that all appeals from judgments rendered by the Police Courts would in future be heard by the three Criminal Judges of the Superior Court sitting in bank. In this way certain days can be set aside for the hearing of the appeals and the work of the higher courts will not be seriously interfered with. An opinion rendered by three Judges will also be much more satisfactory than if rendered by one, and will undoubtedly save the Supreme Court much work as appeals, it is thought, will seldom be taken from the judgment of the Superior Court in bank.

Figel Transfers Property.

Theodore Figel, who is accused of the murder of Isaac Hoffman, is evidently in need of funds to carry on his defense, for a deed of his property on McAllister street to the Anglo-Californian Bank was recorded yesterday.

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Steal Valuable Property During the Absence of the Crew.

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Was Knocked Down and Severely Beaten by His Assailants.

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A young man named John Dugan went into a grocery store on Third street, near Folsom, last night, and, drawing a policeman's fear, ordered the clerk to "shell out." Fearing that he intended to injure him, the clerk sought protection behind a sugar barrel. Dugan then opened the cash drawer, taking the contents, amounting to 50 cents. On leaving the store he was arrested by Policemen Van Kuren and Riley, who had been summoned by a citizen who witnessed the transaction.

At the City Prison Dugan was charged with carrying a concealed weapon, petty larceny and disturbing the peace. The money which he took was found in his possession, and he was booked as evidence against him.

Laborers Win Their Wages.

The suit of Jeremiah and John J. Mahoney, contractors, against William Lange Jr., assignee of O'Connell & Lewis, insolvent foundrymen, was decided by Judge Slack on Thursday morning in favor of the plaintiffs. The plaintiffs were awarded a contract by the defendants to erect certain iron work in two buildings on Powell street, and when the labor was complete the contractors were unable to get their money. An assignment of \$1000 of the account against the foundrymen was made to the laborers in favor of the suit against the assignee. The foundrymen for them. Judge Slack held in favor of the plaintiffs and gave judgment

FOUGHT TO A DRAW.

Hot Contest at the Excelsior Athletic Club Last Night.

Five hundred sports saw Pat Lynch and Joe Kane, both members of the Excelsior Athletic Club, try to settle a long-standing grudge at the rooms of the club at Eighth and Folsom streets last evening. The contest was for six rounds and was as clever and savage a battle as has been fought in this city for many days. Both men were in splendid condition, Lynch being looked after by Joe Kennedy, Fred Maynard and Jim O'Leary, and his opponent by Billy Hogan, Charlie Turner and Jack Hall. Joe Reay acted as referee and Jimmy Higgins, president of the club, as master of ceremonies.

The fight was a very serious one throughout the six rounds. Lynch, who weighed 150 pounds, being the stronger and more aggressive, and Kane, who weighed 145 pounds, the cleverer.

Lynch's foul tactics in striking Kane below the belt on several occasions caused much comment. He was warned for a time to stop the bout, but the referee allowed the contest to proceed and at the end of six furious rounds declared the contest a draw.

A number of three-round bouts were fought as follows: George Savage, of the Excelsior Club, vs. Fred Hinkle, Imperial Club; Jimmy Bozeman, San Francisco Athletic Club, vs. Fred Hinkle, Imperial Club; Henry Smith and Joe Kennedy, both of the Excelsior Club; Tom Dineen and Fred Hinkle, Imperial Club; Tom Dineen and Fred Hinkle, Imperial Club. In addition to the boxing there was a pie-eating contest, some vocal music and a slackwire exhibition.

FED STARVING THOUSANDS.

Distribution of the City of Everett's Cargo in India.

A letter has been received from Rev. Rockwell Clancy, secretary of the Bishop Thorburn special fund for India, dated at Allahabad, November 19, 1897, in which he gives some interesting information regarding the great famine in India and comments very favorably upon the supplies sent from America by the City of Everett. In his letter Mr. Clancy says: "I am glad to tell you that the great famine is practically at an end, though there is still much suffering, and millions have lost everything. The famine was the worst of the century. India's terrible suffering has touched the heart of the world. Among the gifts none was more appreciated than America's gift of grain. From the time the City of Everett sailed from San Francisco until she entered the Hoogly and anchored at Calcutta plans were being made for the distribution of grain. Railroads offered to carry the grain free of charge, and when the grain arrived at the various centers of distribution thousands of hungry people were eagerly waiting for a share. Many persons on receiving the grain from the City of Everett were so grateful that they sent the City of Everett the place of distribution. Dr. Hobbs, who came with the City of Everett, visited the worst famine district and was fairly worshipped by the people.

Wills Filed for Probate.

The will of Bartolomeo Ferragloro, who died February 15, 1891, was filed for probate yesterday. Property estimated to be worth \$6000 was left by the deceased. Half of the estate will revert to the widow, Assunta Ferragloro, and the remainder will be equally divided among the testator's children.

The will of Eliza Choje, disposing of property valued at \$2000, was filed yesterday. The entire estate was bequeathed to the testator's daughter, Mrs. A. M. Manning.

F. E. Heincke, who died January 25 of this year, left an estate valued at \$3500, and it will be divided as follows: Edmund Heincke, a nephew, \$1000; Caroline Burmeister, \$800; Fritz Heincke, an inmate of the Stockton Insane Asylum, \$200; Emma Jensen, \$100; P. H. Hink, \$100. The residue, if any, will be divided among the nephews of the deceased.

Knocked Down by Mistake.

William Barnett, 279 Mission street, swore to a complaint in Judge Campbell's court yesterday for the arrest of Tom Jones, a plumber, on a charge of battery. Jones was arrested at a restaurant at Twenty-second and Mission streets Friday night, eating a tamale, when Jones came up to him and, with an oath, struck him in the face, knocking him down. He was attempting to strike again when Barnett, to defend himself, drew a knife and Jones was hustled out of the place by the proprietor and waiters. The proprietor afterward told Barnett that Jones had mistaken him for another man.

Sues for Heavy Damages.

Benjamin P. Sheyer, through his guardian, A. W. Linforth, has commenced suit against N. A. Lowell and John A. Beckwith, owners of the Eagle Warehouse, 17-19 Davis street, to recover \$10,000 in damages for injuries received from a fall down an elevator shaft in the building owned by the defendants.

Wants the Furniture.

Marion Torres, as executor of the estate of the late Henri T. Windel, has commenced suit against the Union Trust Company of San Francisco to recover possession of certain household property at a Burrill street, which she claims is the lawful possession of the defendant.

PIMPLE-FACES

Pimples, blotches, blackheads, red, rough, oily, mothy skin, itching, scaly scalp, dry, thin, and falling hair, and baby blemishes prevented by CUTICURA SOAP, the most effective skin purifying and beautifying soap in the world, as well as purest and sweetest for toilet, bath, and nursery.

Cuticura

Is sold throughout the world. Preps. D. & C. Co., Sole Prop., Boston. 67-71 How to Beautify the Skin. Free.

Permanently Cured by CUTICURA REMEDIES.

BLOOD HUMORS

Ten cents for a bottle of Low's Horse-Head Cough Syrup. 471 Sansome st.

NEW TO-DAY.

Gail Borden's Eagle Brand

Condensed Milk HAS NO EQUAL AS AN INFANT FOOD. "INFANT HEALTH" SENT FREE ON APPLICATION. NEW YORK CONDENSED MILK CO.

NEW WESTERN HOTEL, K. EARLY AND WASHINGTON STS.—RE-modeled and renovated. KING, WARD & CO., European plan. Rooms 50c to \$1.50 daily, \$5 to \$8 week, \$8 to \$10 month. Free baths; hot and cold water every room. Fire escapes in every room; elevator runs all night.

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GLOVES!

A Glove sale to-day! A Saturday snap to liven business. 500 pairs of Ladies' and Misses' Biarritz Kid Gloves, in perfect condition. Fine soft kid, Ladies' in sizes 5, 5½, 6, 6½, 7, 7½, and 8, in tans, browns and blacks. Opera shades in sizes 5½ to 6½. Misses' in tans and browns, sizes 5½ to 6½. The sale price is:

59c Pair. SALE BEGINS AT 8 A. M. TO-DAY.

A Sale of Children's Jackets.

American tots are the best dressed children in the world. The American mother takes a pride in her little ones. A jacket, perhaps, for this snappy, chilly cold weather. We've reduced them for to-day. Here's our list:

CHILD'S REEFER JACKETS—A natty little garment, neat as wax, navy, tan or red, large waist, trimmed sailor collar, the \$1.50 line; 98c on sale. Each

CHILD'S DOUBLE-BREADED JACKETS—Tans, blues, browns, blue, turn-down collar, perfect fit, warm as toast. \$1.50 each. Each

CHILD'S WINTER JACKETS—Green or tan, Empire or plain reefer effect, braided, trimmed, blue sailor collar, jaunty jacket for little misses. \$2.00 Each

CHILD'S MILITARY JACKETS—Trimmed with military braid, large collar, silver buttons, a stylish little jacket for fashionable boys and misses. \$2.00 Each

Hale Bros. (INCORPORATED) 937-945 Market Street, SAN FRANCISCO.

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The fight was a very serious one throughout the six rounds. Lynch, who weighed 150 pounds, being the stronger and more aggressive, and Kane, who weighed 145 pounds, the cleverer.

Lynch's foul tactics in striking Kane below the belt on several occasions caused much comment. He was warned for a time to stop the bout, but the referee allowed the contest to proceed and at the end of six furious rounds declared the contest a draw.

A number of three-round bouts were fought as follows: George Savage, of the Excelsior Club, vs. Fred Hinkle, Imperial Club; Jimmy Bozeman, San Francisco Athletic Club, vs. Fred Hinkle, Imperial Club; Henry Smith and Joe Kennedy, both of the Excelsior Club; Tom Dineen and Fred Hinkle, Imperial Club; Tom Dineen and Fred Hinkle, Imperial Club. In addition to the boxing there was a pie-eating contest, some vocal music and a slackwire exhibition.

FED STARVING THOUSANDS.

Distribution of the City of Everett's Cargo in India.

A letter has been received from Rev. Rockwell Clancy, secretary of the Bishop Thorburn special fund for India, dated at Allahabad, November 19, 1897, in which he gives some interesting information regarding the great famine in India and comments very favorably upon the supplies sent from America by the City of Everett. In his letter Mr. Clancy says: "I am glad to tell you that the great famine is practically at an end, though there is still much suffering, and millions have lost everything. The famine was the worst of the century. India's terrible suffering has touched the heart of the world. Among the gifts none was more appreciated than America's gift of grain. From the time the City of Everett sailed from San Francisco until she entered the Hoogly and anchored at Calcutta plans were being made for the distribution of grain. Railroads offered to carry the grain free of charge, and when the grain arrived at the various centers of distribution thousands of hungry people were eagerly waiting for a share. Many persons on receiving the grain from the City of Everett were so grateful that they sent the City of Everett the place of distribution. Dr. Hobbs, who came with the City of Everett, visited the worst famine district and was fairly worshipped by the people.

Wills Filed for Probate.

The will of Bartolomeo Ferragloro, who died February 15, 1891, was filed for probate yesterday. Property estimated to be worth \$6000 was left by the deceased. Half of the estate will revert to the widow, Assunta Ferragloro, and the remainder will be equally divided among the testator's children.

The will of Eliza Choje, disposing of property valued at \$2000, was filed yesterday. The entire estate was bequeathed to the testator's daughter, Mrs. A. M. Manning.

F. E. Heincke, who died January 25 of this year, left an estate valued at \$3500, and it will be divided as follows: Edmund Heincke, a nephew, \$1000; Caroline Burmeister, \$800; Fritz Heincke, an inmate of the Stockton Insane Asylum, \$200; Emma Jensen, \$100; P. H. Hink, \$100. The residue, if any, will be divided among the nephews of the deceased.

Knocked Down by Mistake.

William Barnett, 279 Mission street, swore to a complaint in Judge Campbell's court yesterday for the arrest of Tom Jones, a plumber, on a charge of battery. Jones was arrested at a restaurant at Twenty-second and Mission streets Friday night, eating a tamale, when Jones came up to him and, with an oath, struck him in the face, knocking him down. He was attempting to strike again when Barnett, to defend himself, drew a knife and Jones was hustled out of the place by the proprietor and waiters. The proprietor afterward told Barnett that Jones had mistaken him for another man.

Sues for Heavy Damages.

Benjamin P. Sheyer, through his guardian, A. W. Linforth, has commenced suit against N. A. Lowell and John A. Beckwith, owners of the Eagle Warehouse, 17-19 Davis street, to recover \$10,000 in damages for injuries received from a fall down an elevator shaft in the building owned by the defendants.

Wants the Furniture.

Marion Torres, as executor of the estate of the late Henri T. Windel, has commenced suit against the Union Trust Company of San Francisco to recover possession of certain household property at a Burrill street, which she claims is the lawful possession of the defendant.

BAY PIRATES ROB A TUG

Steal Valuable Property During the Absence of the Crew.

James Dunn, an Old Man, Attacked by Two Footpads on Third Street.

Was Knocked Down and Severely Beaten by His Assailants.

Two bold pirates boarded the tug Water Witch yesterday morning while the crew was asleep and got away with a quantity of clothing and several articles of jewelry.

The heaviest loser was H. A. Rodgers, the engineer. The pirate entered his room and breaking open his trunk stole several suits of clothing, two overcoats, several shirts and a watch and chain which he prized very highly.

Last night Rodgers visited police headquarters and informed Chief Lees of the occurrence. He gave a description of the stolen property, and Detectives Bee and Harper were detailed to find it.

During the past few weeks a number of vessels have been visited by pirates and a large amount of valuable property has been stolen. Owing to the numerous complaints received from ship owners of the depredations of pirates Chief Lees has specially detailed two of his best men to arrest them.

Detectives Gibson and Wren last evening arrested two crooks who were said to be clever pickpockets. Their names are Thomas Gaelling and Barney Goldstein. They were detected working the crowd which attends at a review of the troops at the Presidio yesterday afternoon.

Goldstein, it is said, is one of the cleverest pickpockets in the country. He was caught in the act of picking a woman's pocket, but before he could secure her purse he saw the detective and started to run away. He was captured after a short chase, and after he and his pal were handcuffed together they were taken to the City Prison and their names registered on the "small" book.

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