WRIGHT FOR SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY

Choice of Southern California.

CAUCUS AT LOS ANGELES

LEGISLATORS UNANIMOUS IN HIS SUPPORT.

Colonel Otis' Newspaper Again Assails Colonel Burns as the "Gang" Candidate for the Senate.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 29.—Every Republican Assemblyman from Southern California will cast his vote for Assemblyman H. E. Wright of Alameda County for Speaker. This decision was reached this afternoon at a caucus of legislators from seven Southern counties. Every Assemblyman was present except Meruth of Santa Barbara. An organization which will be permanent was perfected by the election of W. S. Melick of the Seventieth District as chairman, and Assemblyman Crowder of the Eightieth District as secretary. As to the Speakership there was no dissension, and the unanimous decision to support Mr. Wright was reached at once.

The caucus indorsed L. H. Valentine of the Seventy-fourth District for chairman of the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means.

An informal discussion was indulged in during the caucus as to the positions of several members from this section desired on committees. Mr. Wright, in discussing the matter, said:

"There are sixty Republican members of the Assembly, and there are but thirty-five chairmanships of committees to give out. If I am chosen Speaker I shall give preference in chairmanships to such members as I believe can best perform the duties that will be committed to their charge. This I believe to be the part of wisdom, and in my judgment the business of the session will thereby be greatly expedited.

"I feel highly complimented by the action of the Republican members from Southern California in indorsing me for the Speakership. I shall endeavor, if I am chosen, to give to the interests of this section of the State every consideration I possibly can."

The Times this morning discussed Colonel Burns' Senatorial aspirations editorially as follows:

If a serious and concerted effort is to be made to foist Dan Burns upon the people of California as their representative in the Senate by Huntington's henchmen or by any other clique or faction, the Republicans of the State cannot too soon rally for the defeat of so unwise and impolitic an object. The antecedents of Dan Burns are such that it is impossible to have confidence in his integrity of purpose. His reputation is that of a political boss and intriguer, and his political methods are always open to distrust. He is a professional politician, a believer in gang politics and an unscrupulous practicer of gang politics. He is utterly unfit for the high and responsible office of Senator of the United States, and his election to that office would be a great misfortune not only to the State of California, but to the country at large.

STEAMER DETROIT STRIKES A REEF

Passengers on the Alaska Craft Escape to Shelter Island's Bleak Shore.

JUNEAU, Alaska, Nov. 25 (by steamship Cottage City to Victoria, Nov. 29).—Three men, drenched and bedraggled, walked into Juneau to-night, bringing the news of another lost ship. Shipwrecks continue to pile up in Alaska like driftwood on a beach. The men were Purser Bush and two of the crew of the steamer Detroit, a local boat running between Juneau and Lynn Canal ports. The furious windstorm which has been blowing for nearly a week, in which the steamer Utopia narrowly escaped becoming a total wreck, subsided on Tuesday night, and was succeeded by a snowfall so thick that it was impossible to see much more than a ship's length. The Detroit left Juneau for Haines Mission and Skaguay a week ago. She usually goes up one day and comes down the next. Fears have been felt for her safety ever since she left here, owing to the violent storm, but she lay under the lee of an island until the storm had spent itself and then started again for Skaguay. She made Skaguay in safety, only to be wrecked on the return trip scarce thirty miles from her dock.

The Detroit struck at about noon on Thanksgiving day. The snowfall being unusually thick, Captain Latham, instead of being well out in the channel, was close in to Shelter Island. This island is surrounded by reefs. In less time than it takes to write it the ship was tearing and grinding on a reef hidden by high tide. The passengers were thrown from their seats to the floor and panic spread through the ship. But the Detroit was hard and fast and did not sink, though she filled rapidly with water.

The position of the ship alone saved the passengers from drowning like rats. They were put ashore in the ship's boats and as much of the ship's stores as had not been ruined by water were saved. The Detroit left Skaguay with twenty-three passengers. They are now camped in the timber of Shelter Island, poorly protected from the weather and short of provisions. A tent was rigged of a tarpaulin and the blankets and bedding taken ashore. At last accounts passengers and crew were shivering around a fire, eating cold food and trying to make coffee. Their situation was very critical as well as uncomfortable. The Detroit lies in a bad position and it is doubtful whether she can be saved. She is owned by the Seattle Land and Wharf Company, is about seventy feet long and a double decker.

CALIFORNIA FRUIT GROWERS AT FRESNO

Twenty-Third Convention Called to Order by President Cooper.

FRESNO, Nov. 29.—The twenty-third convention of the Fruit Growers of California, held under the auspices of the State Board of Horticulture, was called to order to-day by President Ellwood Cooper. B. E. Hutchinson of Fowler and Alexander Gordon of Fresno were elected vice-presidents. The address of welcome was delivered by Dr. Chester Rowell of this place. He was followed by President Cooper, who delivered the president's annual address.

Under the head of "pure foods," President Cooper suggested that a resolution be adopted asking Congress to pass the Brosius interstate pure food law. The convention was advised of the importance of having the Legislature make an appropriation for the California exhibit at the World's Fair to be held at Paris in 1900.

After the reading of the president's address the following committees were appointed:

On Resolutions—William Johnson of Courtland, chairman; Dr. I. S. Eshelman, Fresno; J. F. Bogue, Yuba City; T. A. Rice, El Rio, Ventura County; George Bray, Santa Clara.

Legislation—Frank H. Buck, Vacaville; E. W. Hutchins, Marysville; V. W. Blanchard, Santa Paula; W. J. Hotchkiss, Healdsburg; V. C. Howard, Woodland.

Marketing, transportation and freight—R. D. Stevens, Sacramento; A. Block, Santa Clara; Alexander Gordon, Fresno; A. D. Cutts, Live Oak; R. J. Blower, Woodland; Edward Burwick, Pacific Grove; W. B. Gester, Placer; Frank H. Buck, Vacaville; H. P. Stabler, Yuba City.

At the opening of the afternoon session of the Fruit-growers' Convention B. M. Lelong read the annual report of President H. W. Weinstock of the California Fruit Growers' and Shippers' Association. The report showed that the severe drought of the past season had caused a shortage of but 9 per cent in the shipment of fresh deciduous fruits as compared with the season before.

At a meeting of the County Horticultural Commissoiners to-night the vine-hopper and remedies for its extermination were discussed.

MAY HAVE BUT ONE INAUGURAL BALL

Prospect of Harmony in the Entertainment of Governor-Elect Gage at Sacramento.

SACRAMENTO, Nov. 29.—A peace conference between the inaugural ball committee, appointed as a result of a meeting of citizens, of which R. T. Devlin is chairman, and Mayor Land, representing the rival faction, was held this afternoon. As a result there is a prospect of harmonizing the entertainers of the Governor-elect and giving him a ball which will be of such brilliance as to make the head of the executive swim.

It will be remembered that Mayor Land found fault with the manner in which the movement was started, insisting that he he should have been chosen chairman because of his official position. Mr. Devlin, chairman of the committee, however, proceeded to name his associates, of whom the Mayor was designated as one. The Mayor would not have this and called a meeting of his own, which proclaimed itself the only authorized body to proceed with the inaugural.

The impracticability of having two inaugural balls and putting the Governor-elect to the necessity of being at both at the same time induced the Mayor and Mr. Devlin's committee to confer to-day, with the result that each side assured the other of its distinguished consideration; but after an executive committee is publicly named it is hard to dismiss it, and Mayor Land does not need all of Mr. Devlin's committee in order to complete his own.

The Mayor's faction was to have met to-night, but both sides adjourned until Friday night, by which time all hands will doubtless be posted as to what will be good form in such a social exigency as the present.

INTERESTS THE COAST.

Army Orders, Postoffice Changes, Pensions and Patents.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.—By direction of the Secretary of War, Lieutenant Colonel John A. Hull, judge advocate United States Volunteers, is relieved from duty as judge advocate of the Fourth Army Corps, and will proceed from Huntsville, Ala., to Manila, and report to the commanding general of the Pacific for assignment to duty to relieve Lieutenant Colonel Charles L. Jewett. Lieutenant Colonel Jewett, upon being thus relieved, will return to the United States, proceed to his home and report by letter to the adjutant general of the army.

By direction of the Assistant Secretary of War, Private Alpha Kenyon Jr., Company L, Fourteenth United States Infantry, and Private Eliphaleth Blatchford, Troop E, Fourth United States Cavalry, now at Manila, will be discharged from the service of the United States by the commanding officer of the station. Private Alloran L. Barnard, Battery E, Third United States Artillery, Fort Mason, Cal., is discharged from the service.

A postoffice was to-day established at Hodson, Calaveras County, Cal., with Luther Everett as postmaster.

W. B. Treadwell of San Francisco was to-day admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court.

Pacific Coast patents were issued today as follows:

California—Rebecca Alexander, Fresno, curtain hanger; James P. Call, Redondo, hydrocarbon burner; Wilber E. Cummings, Los Angeles, shoe salesmen's foot rest; Charles G. Hainline, Anderson, combination cushion and pneumatic boot or shoe heel; James C. Holloway, San Francisco, assignor of four-fifths to J. F. Cunningham, grain pearing machine; James Journeay, New Hope, combination stretcher, neckyoke and singletree; John H. Martin and D. Ormand, Riverside, machine for constructing irrigating or other flumes; John Parkinson, Los Angeles, shutter operating system; John W. Peterm, Banta, railway rail; Casper Zimmerman, Santa Rosa, tree protector.

Oregon—John F. Venner, Brownsville, vehicle propeller.

Washington—John C. Poetz, Spokane, assignor of two-thirds to C. L. Clark and others, hose coupling; Ed Parrott, Goldendale, carbureter; Amos Fox Cumner, gold separator.

Pensions for Californians—Original, Joseph E. Cook, Soldiers' Home, Los Angeles, $8; Francis M. Griffin, San Francisco, $8; Guy R. Camp, Santa Rosa, $6; John R. Trask, Columbia, $6; Horatio N. Doyle, Perrys, $8.

Oregon—Increase, James H. Doty, Yaquina, $6 to $8.

Washington—Original, Albert W. Kelley, Seattle, $6; increase, John W. Otis, Spokane, $10 to $12.

FAMOUS HORSES GO CHEAPLY.

Buck Massie Sold for Only $850 and Spokane for $170.

LEXINGTON, Ky., Nov. 29.—The second day of the Woodward & Shanklin thoroughbred sales included consignments of horses in training, brood mares and stallions. The great racehorse Buck Massie brought only $850. Spokane, who defeated Proctor Knott in the American and Kentucky Derbies, went for $170. Forester, the sire of Lieber Karl, was knocked down for $15. One hundred and seven head sold during the day for $20,270, an average of $180. Following are the best prices brought by horses in training:

Consignment of W. H. May & Son—J H C, b. c., 4, by imp. Pirate of Penzance, dam Lilly B; W. B. Ratterman, Nashville, Tenn.; $1850.

Ed Tipton, b. c., 2, by imp. Deceiver, dam Mary Harks; Woodford & Buckner, Paris, Ky.; $550.

Air Blast, b. c., 6, by Patron, dam Peggy Morrill; W. E. Jordon, Lexington; $1800.

The Devil, b. c., 3, by Major Richards, dam Patagonia; owned by T. F. Sellers; sold to R. T. Holloway, Lexington; $2800.

Miss Josephine, b. f., 2, by Hayden Edwards, dam Vibration; owned by W. J. Matthews; sold to J. F. Davis, Marysville, Mo.; $600.

Kitty B, ch. m., 5, by The Minstrel, dam Minnie May; sold to W. E. Jordon, Lexington; $850.

Buck Massie, br. h., 6, by Hanover, dam Triana; owned by J. M. Murphy; sold to W. H. McCorkle, Lexington; $850.

Best sales of brood mares—Wampsutta, br. m., 12, by Longfellow, dam Sierra Nevada; owned by H. H. Owsley; sold to Eugene Leigh, Lexington; $1900.

Princess Bowling, ch. m., 12, by imp. Prince Charles, dam Katie Bowling; sold to Sidney Paget, New York; $750.

RAIN IN THE INTERIOR.

Light Showers Reported From Various Sections of the State.

STOCKTON, Nov. 29.—Rain began falling here at 10 o'clock this morning. The precipitation has been light so far, but indications are favorable for more rain tonight.

SAN JOSE, Nov. 29.—Morning brought clouds and a south wind. There has been a mere trace of rain, but conditions seem favorable for a good downpour.

SUISUN, Nov. 29.—Rain commenced falling here early this morning and continued for several hours. Severe frost is looked for to-night. Farmers in this vicinity are very much discouraged, fearing another dry year.

MILTON, Nov. 29.—Rain began falling here at 6 o'clock this morning and has been falling at intervals since. This afternoon the indications were good for a continuation of the storm, which is much needed.

SANTA CRUZ, Nov. 29.—Rain fell nearly all day. It will result in great benefit.

JOHNSTON IS CAUTIOUS.

Would Be Sure of His Ground Before Opening State Printing Office.

SACRAMENTO, Nov. 29.—State Printer Johnston was seen to-night in reference to the statement telegraphed from Los Angeles to the effect that the members of the Legislature there were taking steps to have the State printing office opened and as many as possible of the official reports printed before that body meets. Mr. Johnston said he would assume no responsibility in the matter of setting men to work unless a majority of each branch of the Legislature would guarantee to see that the money should be provided.

NECESSARY REFORMS IN THE PRISONS

State Board Makes Recommendations.

PAROLE SYSTEM APPROVED

CLASSIFICATION OF CONVICTS URGED.

Opium Traffic in California Penitentiaries Attributed to the Legislature's Failure to Act.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

SAN RAFAEL, Nov. 29.—The biennial report of the State Board of Prison Directors for the two years ending June 30, 1898, to which Director Wilkins has been devoting a good deal of time and careful consideration for several weeks, was finished and forwarded to Governor Budd to-day. The document is exceedingly important in its nature and supplies interesting reading, inasmuch as attention is drawn to various reforms needed at both Folsom and San Quentin.

The attention of the executive is drawn to the fact that, while the discipline enforced at the two prisons will compare favorably with that of any similar institution in the country, various reforms are possible which cannot be put into operation under existing conditions. The chief of these, a classification of prisoners, is spoken of as follows:

Foremost among these is a careful classification of prisoners and the absolute segregation of the totally depraved class from those who are young in vice and with whom there is a reasonable hope of final reformation. To carry out our views in this direction would involve the construction of new cell buildings, the introduction of new industries and a heavy expenditure of money. Probably it is a larger question from a financial standpoint than the people are prepared to regard favorably in their present mood.

In connection with the reformation of prisoners we call your attention to the parole law. We have exercised the authority conferred upon us by this act with the utmost caution and have endeavored to expand its provisions to applicants worthy of our confidence. It is true that our expectations have been disappointed in some instances, but on the whole the results have been most satisfactory. Fully 80 per cent of paroled prisoners are leading industrious and honorable lives, a fact that should go far toward removing the remaining prejudice against a proper exercise of this law.

The opium traffic, toward which public attention has been frequently attracted by The Call, the directors are frank to admit is still carried on in spite of the utmost vigilance on the part of the prison officials. On this subject the report reads:

A mischievous and demoralizing factor with which we are forced to contend is the prevalent opium habit among large bodies of convicts, especially at San Quentin prison. Your board has made the most strenuous efforts to suppress the traffic in this drug, in which we have had the hearty co-operation of subordinate officials, yet we must confess that we have not been wholly successful. It is due in a large part to the fact that our Legislature has failed to make the introduction of opium into our prisons a penal offense, though repeatedly urged to do so. Were a sufficiently severe punishment certain for those detected in the nefarious business, we would be in a much better position to deal with this great evil.

The board earnestly advocates as a question of pressing urgency proper accommodations for the care of the criminal insane and details the results of the conference with a committee from the State Lunacy Commission. Folsom is selected as the preferable site for the construction of a ward for the criminal insane, because it offers the advantages of free light and water and because the granite quarries there and the presence of a large force of unemployed convicts will tend to make the cost of construction a comparatively small item.

The indeterminate sentence system, as employed in other States more advanced in the science of penology, is recommended for favorable consideration by the Legislature. It is asserted that in California men are released from prison daily who have learned no lesson from confinement or discipline and confessedly go out to prey again upon society. It is thought that in the majority of cases a much better result would be attained if sentences were not for a fixed limit, but were made within certain limits, dependent upon evidence of reformation.

The jute industry is mentioned as on a most satisfactory basis, but 3,000,000 bags have been carried over on account of short crops. Enough have been marketed to fill the revolving fund of $100,000 and permit the retention of enough money for present operating expenses.

The board regrets to be obliged to mention the fact that the rock crusher at Folsom has had so few orders that business may be deemed at a minimum. The necessity of providing profitable employment for the prisoners is urged, and it is recommended that experience with a small tract of arable land demonstrates that it would be a wise move on the part of the Legislature to purchase a large tract of land near the prison, the working of which would give the convicts employment and go far toward making the prison self-supporting. The board does not believe this would interfere with free labor, for such staple products could be raised as would not compete in price with anybody.

Nearly eight miles of the Tiburon boulevard have been completed by convict labor. The board is especially proud of the showing made on that road.

The board takes pride in the fact that the prisons have been conducted on lines of strict economy, so far as the best interests of the State would permit. Not only has that body lived within the appropriations made by the Legislature, but it has saved enough to make a number of much-needed permanent improvements, among which are mentioned the new kitchen, with modern cooking plant, and the new prison wharf.

PARALYZED BY A DIVE.

Son of San Diego's Mayor Dies After a Lingering Illness.

SAN DIEGO, Nov. 29.—Bert C. Reed, son of Mayor D. C. Reed of this city, died this afternoon as the result of injuries sustained on the 14th of last August at La Jolla, near this city. He made a dive of 100 feet and struck bottom. He was paralyzed and has since gradually wasted away to a mere skeleton. He was 22 years old.

FATAL POLITICAL ROW.

One Man Killed and Three Wounded at Chicago.

CHICAGO, Nov. 29.—An attempt to break up the annual meeting of the Eighteenth Ward Republican Club at Bricklayers' Hall at Peoria and West Monroe streets this evening resulted in the death of one of the attacking party and the wounding of three of those who participated in the fight.

Charles Lattimer, a bricklayer, was instantly killed.

The wounded are: William Mahoney, policeman at the Desplaines street station; shot in both arms and in the side; will recover. John W. Landers, laborer, finger shot off. John Prince, janitor of the building, shot in left leg; serious.

OAKLAND TO GET A NEW POSTOFFICE BUILDING

Good Prospects of Congress Acting on a Bill for the Necessary Appropriation.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.—Representative Mercer of Nebraska, chairman of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, says he expects Congress to authorize several new public buildings at the coming session. There are scores of bills for new buildings, but Mr. Mercer says an effort will be made to authorize structures where there is a very pressing demand for them. He will call a meeting of his committee early in the session.

During the last session this committee refused to report a single bill for new buildings. This was attributable to the lack of funds in the treasury, but now that the coffers are full, Speaker Reed will probably give his consent to more liberal appropriations of this kind. Senator Perkins has already passed through the Senate several times a bill for a new postoffice at Oakland. Congressman Hilborn, although a member of the committee, did not succeed in getting the bill reported from the House committee, but hopes to be more successful this session.

MORE RAIN IS NEEDED.

Weather and Crop Conditions in Southern California.

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 29.—The climate and crop bulletin of the Weather Bureau for Southern California for the week ending November 28 follows:

Cool, fair weather prevailed all the afternoon of the 24th, when light showers fell in some of the southern sections, and snow in the mountains back of Redlands. The rain was followed by a severe "norther" during the night of the 24th and the greater portion of the 25th. The greatest force of the wind was experienced in the foothills region, though high northerly winds prevailed generally. The reports from the sections where the "norther" prevailed state that damage resulted from the high wind to trees and citrus fruit, but on the whole the injury was light.

Farm work generally continued inactive, awaiting good, soaking rains to put the soil in condition for cultivating, though some dry seeding is being done in the hope of sufficient rain later to mature a crop.

Some oranges are being shipped for the holiday trade, though they are not yet ripe.

DE YOUNG DWELLING ENTERED BY BURGLARS

Unsuccessful Attempt to Loot the Editor's Summer Home at San Rafael.

SAN RAFAEL, Nov. 29.—An unsuccessful attempt was made this evening by two burglars to loot the summer residence of M. H. de Young. The attempt was frustrated by the presence of John Meyer, a gardener.

Meyer sleeps in a room in the lower part of the house. He was awakened by hearing the men ascending the stairway to the upper floor. He slipped out through the front door, which had been left opened, and saw a light in an upper room. Meyer hastened to Coroner Eden's residence and summoned officers.

Marshal John Healy and Night Watchman Peter O'Brien responded to the call. When they reached the residence the burglars had gone, having taken alarm from the noise made by Meyer on leaving the house.

Meyer is unable to state whether or not the burglars obtained any booty.

WANTS THE EDUCATORS.

Tacoma's Efforts to Secure the National Convention.

TACOMA, Nov. 29.—Tacoma is making strenuous efforts to secure next year's meeting of the American Educational Association, which is expected to bring 20,000 educators to the Pacific coast. As matters now stand Los Angeles is the only other contestant. The executive committee of the national association will meet in Chicago on December 15 to decide whether the convention shall come to Tacoma or go to Southern California. Tacoma has nearly raised the $20,000 needed to entertain the convention. Arrangements are complete for the erection of a pavilion of 5000 seating capacity, made necessary by the recent burning of the Exposition building. Hotel accommodations will be augmented by throwing open thousands of homes if the convention comes here.

JOHNSON AS PLAINTIFF.

Sues for Damages Because He Was Robbed at a Hotel.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.—The suit of Grove L. Johnson, a former member of Congress from California, against George W. Cochran, proprietor of the Hotel Cochran, for $1257, alleged damages for losses suffered by the former while a guest at the hotel, was begun to-day in the Circuit Court.

The suit is the result of Johnson's rooms at the Hotel Cochran being robbed on the evening of December 11, 1896, while he and his family were at supper. During his absence from his room $453 in cash, and jewelry belonging to his wife valued at $804 was stolen from his apartments.

The defense is that the proprietor of the hotel is not liable for goods lost, because in the rooms occupied by Johnson and his family there were notices posted calling the attention of guests to the fact that he would not be responsible for the safety of valuables unless left with the clerk of the hotel and locked in the safe.

PRIVATE HOLT WILL DIE.

Sentenced to Be Executed for a Murder Committed While Drunk.

HUNTSVILLE, Ala., Nov. 29.—Private Lindsay P. Holt, Troop F, Tenth United States Cavalry, now encamped here, is resting under a death sentence, the result of a court-martial, at which it was proven that he was guilty of murder. The origin of this man's trouble is easiest told in the words, "bad whisky and a pistol." His best friend was his victim, and the unfortunate man's remorse is awful.

This is the first death sentence passed upon an enlisted man since the beginning of the war and for many years previous. It is attracting widespread attention.

SENT TO AN ASYLUM.

Unfortunate Condition of Attorney Darwin of Vallejo.

SUISUN, Nov. 29.—Charles Ben Darwin, a well-known attorney, has been committed to the State Asylum at Napa. Darwin was for forty years a resident of San Rafael and was for many years a partner of D. J. Murphy, District Attorney-elect of San Francisco. At one time he was one of the most noted lawyers in the State, and figured in several prominent cases. He compiled three or four codes in Iowa. Darwin had resided in Vallejo for a few months, and his mind showed symptoms of derangement. Medical testimony attributes his unfortunate condition to pressure on the brain.

GERMAN ARMY INCREASED.

Answer to the Czar's Disarmament Proposal.

BERLIN, Nov. 29.—The details of the new army bill just published show the Prussian peace contingent will be increased by 11,414 men and 2530 horses. The Saxon contingent will be increased by 2073 men.

Herr Eugene Richter, the Radical leader, calls this "Germany's answer to the Czar's disarmament proposal."

Boy Killed by a Train.

SANTA ANA, Nov. 29.—Oscar Davis, a 13-year-old lad, met a horrible death today while attempting to board a moving freight train. Together with several other boys young Davis attempted to swing on to the train as it was pulling out of the depot, but missed his hold and fell under the wheels, more than half the train passing over him.

EATING THREE MEALS A DAY AS OF YORE

Absence of Famine at Sacramento.

SILLY NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

DECLARED WORKINGMEN WERE STARVING.

Citizens Angered by an Examiner "Pipe-Dream" Following the Recent Fire in the Carshops.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

SACRAMENTO, Nov. 29.—A space writer in the San Francisco Examiner last Sunday covered an entire page with an industrious effort to have the public believe that Sacramento is likely to overlook the celebration of the approaching Christmas because a fire at the railroad shops of the Southern Pacific Company recently destroyed a small portion of the plant and temporarily threw out of employment a fraction of the force of mechanics. The story is luridly illustrated, an attempt being made by the artist to depict such a scene of domestic misery as might be encountered among the striking coke burners of Pennsylvania, but which nobody but a hysterical illustrator for a yellow Sunday supplement could locate in a prosperous community like Sacramento.

As a matter of fact, as has been told in dispatches to The Call, the effects of the fire have not been such as to cause any serious distress. Nearly all of the men whom the fire compelled the railroad company to drop temporarily from the payroll were skilled mechanics, earning good wages and living in comfortable homes. Putting a speech in the mouth of one of these citizens about the dreaded poverty which the winter is to bring down upon his household, and, inferentially, upon the households of his hundreds of co-workers, may answer for rhetorical purposes, but this is not appreciated by the people of a city like Sacramento, which has always prided itself on its ability to weather far greater calamities than the destruction of a couple of the many buildings at the railroad shops. The effect of the circulation of such a publication is, of course, disadvantageous to the city, and, naturally, where the article has not been laughed at here, it has aroused a measure of resentment.

The Bee to-night, referring to the story in last Sunday's Examiner, says:

The article was altogether misleading, as the facts are decidedly otherwise than those the article sought to convey. The truth is that by far the larger part of the men who were temporarily made idle were put at work within a day or two after the fire and have been kept at work ever since. Those who have not been able to return to work are in the minority, and as many of these own their own homes and not a few have bank accounts, there is no likelihood that their Christmas will be very heavily curtailed.

In conversation to-day H. J. Small, superintendent of motive power and machinery, stated that 200 of the 300 men temporarily thrown out of work by the fire were now being employed in the temporary shops erected pending the completion of the new buildings, which were under way.

The citizens of Sacramento, as well as the men at the railroad shops, do not consider the fact that 100 men out of a daily force of 2400 are out of employment waiting for the new shops to be finished warrants the publication of a story whose pictures, headlines and general character are intended to make the public believe that Sacramento is in the throes of a poverty so intense as to make necessary a postponement of the holiday season.

ASKS THAT HIS CHILD'S BODY BE EXHUMED

Round Mountain Resident Suspects His Daughter Did Not Die a Natural Death.

REDDING, Nov. 29.—Mary Rhoades, the 16-year-old stepdaughter of George Manley, died recently at Round Mountain and was buried on Friday. Yesterday Coroner Earnest received a letter from the dead girl's father requesting that the body be disinterred and the stomach be subjected to analysis. The parent avows that his daughter died under suspicious circumstances. Coroner Earnest, Dr. P. P. Mitchell and District Attorney Rose left to-day for Round Mountain to carry out the request of the father.

Rumors are in circulation and have been published to the effect that the young lady had been badly treated by her stepfather, having been cruelly beaten on more than one occasion. What clew the father has for suspecting that his daughter died other than a natural death would not be divulged by the authorities.

Supposedly Incendiary Blaze.

SUISUN, Nov. 29.—The residence of R. V. Silveria, in Fairfield, was destroyed by fire at 3 o'clock this morning. The cause of the fire is unknown, but it is thought to have been the work of firebugs.

FINDLEY STOLE MANY THOUSANDS

Shortage May Reach $45,000.

NO CLEW TO THE FUGITIVE

BELIEVED TO HAVE FLED TO CHINA.

San Luis Obispo County's Supervisors Refuse to Declare His Office Vacant or Offer a Reward.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Nov. 29.—All day experts have been figuring on the amount of the defalcation of missing Tax Collector S. M. Findley. F. C. Cherry was appointed by the Board of Supervisors to do the work. So far it is impossible to arrive at the exact amount of the deficiency, but it is generally figured that it will reach about $45,000.

The Board of Supervisors' refusal to declare the office vacant has caused the Fidelity and Deposit Company of Maryland, which holds Findley's bond, to determine to take charge of the office. The Supervisors left the office in charge of Miss Nellie Nesbitt and Miss Maud Scott, who were Findley's deputies. They, with the expert, are to remain in charge until the first of the year, when H. H. Carpenter, Tax Collector-elect, will take office. Carpenter does not desire to take the office at this time, in its present condition, should the place be tendered him by appointment.

So far no clew has been discovered as to the whereabouts of the missing official. Some think that he is en route to China, having departed from San Francisco on the first steamship to sail after his arrival there.

A few weeks before the election Findley was very free with coin in betting. He wagered most of his money on Charles A. Barlow, fusion candidate for Congress in the Sixth District. Barlow being defeated, he of course lost. He also was lavish in spending money for candidates who were his friends, and the supposition is that he was short several thousand dollars before he conceived the idea of fleeing from the county.

The Board of Supervisors has refused to offer a reward for his apprehension, claiming that the surety company which held Findley's bond should exert itself to capture the fugitive, independent of the efforts of the county. The surety company is displeased, as it requested that a reward be offered.

MARGARET CODY ON TRIAL FOR BLACKMAIL

Alleged Attempt to Extort Money From Miss Helen and George Gould.

ALBANY, N. Y., Nov. 29.—Mrs. Margaret Cody's trial on the indictment for blackmail was begun in the Albany County Court before Judge Gregory to-day. It is alleged in the indictment that Mrs. Cody wrote letters to Miss Helen and George Gould on February 11 and March 9, 1898, respectively, asking them to call on her and promising them that she would give them what was alleged to be valuable information to enable them to effect a compromise or discontinuance of the action pending against the heirs of the late Jay Gould to establish the dower rights of Mrs. Angell, on the ground that she was the first wife of Jay Gould.

Miss Helen Gould and her aunt, Miss Elizabeth Palm, were present at the trial to-day. After the jury had been impaneled George Gould was placed on the stand as the first witness. He identified two letters from Mrs. Cody, which were received by him in February, 1898, and September, 1895. These letters suggested that Mrs. Cody had means for discontinuing the case of Mrs. Angell against the Gould heirs. He had never had a personal interview with Mrs. Cody.

Mrs. Angell, who alleged that she was married to Jay Gould when he was a young surveyor, and who afterward confessed that she had no basis for her statement, has been summoned as a witness on behalf of Mrs. Cody. Mrs. Cody has been confined in the Albany jail since her arrest in New York City in May last just as she was about to sail for Europe, whither she was going to represent American claimants in the Shepard estate in England.

WIDE FIELD OF DUTY.

Archbishop Chapelle's Mission Includes the Philippine Islands.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.—Archbishop Chapelle of New Orleans, the lately appointed apostolic delegate to Cuba and Porto Rico, made a lengthy visit to the State Department to-day, and conferred with Secretary Hay on the religious future of those islands. Monsignor Chapelle caused much surprise among the church people here by announcing to the State Department officials that his mission included the Philippines as well as the Spanish West Indies.

Volunteer Officers Discharged.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.—The following named officers of the volunteer service have been honorably discharged: Major William Cook Daniels, assistant adjutant general; Lieutenant Max L. Meiers, Third Georgia Volunteer Infantry; Captain John C. Michl, First North Carolina; Lieutenant F. J. Cronin, Sixty-ninth Infantry.

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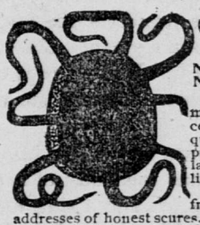

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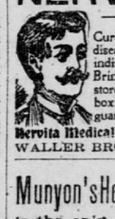

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