

OW WRECKED BY A BAND OF SHEEP

Engineer William M. Wood Killed in a Railway Disaster Near Los Banos.

OAKLAND, Jan. 11.—A report was received from Ingomar to-night that the "Owl," as the San Francisco and Los Angeles limited is called, had been dived eight miles this side of the Los Banos depot, and that Engineer William M. Wood, aged 35, of West Oakland, was killed. News of the wreck was taken to Los Banos by a messenger, who had to go through the storm for eight miles to send word to the mole at West Oakland.

The "Owl" left the pier at 5:24 and was running at the rate of fifty miles an hour when it struck the curve at Ingomar. This was at about 8:30 o'clock to-night. While rounding this curve the train ran into a band of sheep, and the locomotive, the smoker and one car were thrown to one side. There is a sidetrack at this point, and the locomotive tumbled on its side into a boarding car. The locomotive and smoker were badly wrecked and the boarding car was smashed.

Engineer Wood was so badly injured that he died in a few minutes. He lived at West Oakland and was a married man with a family.

A wrecking engine was at once sent to the wreck from Tracy, but it was unable to accomplish anything. At midnight a fully equipped wrecking train left the mole and took two Pullmans to the scene. The passengers will be transferred to the Pullmans and attached to the train which left the pier at 6 o'clock, and which is tied up near Ingomar waiting for the track to be cleared.

A BILL AGAINST THE "ILLEGAL" TAX SCHEME

CALL HEADQUARTERS, SACRAMENTO, Jan. 11.—In the last six months nearly every county in the State by its Board of Supervisors has signed a contract with the San Francisco law firm of Rodgers, Paterson & Slack guaranteeing that firm a commission averaging 40 per cent of all moneys it can collect from the State for taxes alleged to have been illegally collected by the commonwealth from its counties.

The scheme worked along flourishingly for three or four months after its inception. Then it was shown up in all its details in the columns of The Call. It was shown to the different counties that they would be simply robbing their own taxpayers by permitting the attorneys to bring their proposed actions; that their motive was a purely selfish one, and that the people who pay the taxes would be out just the 40 per cent that the attorneys were to be allowed as fee or commission. The Call's thorough exposure of the whole startling scheme opened the eyes of the people at large, and since that time most of the counties have repudiated their contract. The San Francisco Board entered into the scheme after The Call's exposure. Mayor Phelan immediately with the sublime nerve of the proposition that he made a personal appeal to the board to withdraw from its contract. Here in Sacramento the Board of Supervisors, who have since that time every influence has been brought to bear to force its annulment, have given up the idea. The scheme has attained such force that to-day legislative action was begun against it in a concurrent session of the State Assembly by Assemblyman Owen Wade, of Napa, which calls upon all the Board of Supervisors to withdraw their suits and warrants them that only the taxpayers will suffer and the attorneys profit by the scheme. The resolution was given its reading and referred to its committee and will be rushed through with as little delay as possible.

POWDER EXPLOSION WRECKS A CITY

Fifteen Hundred Chinese Killed by the Blowing Up of a Factory.

VICTORIA, B. C., Jan. 11.—News of a terrible catastrophe which occurred at Hang Chow on December 18 is brought to the R. M. S. Empress of Japan. On the morning of that day the powder factory of the Chinese government situated in the center of lower city (Hang Chow is divided into three parts—the lower, upper and middle cities) took fire and some ten minutes after the explosion, many hundreds of houses were destroyed by the explosion of hundreds of barrels of newly-made gunpowder. The whole of the lower city is in ruins, street after street being nothing but a mass of fallen timbers. The upper and middle cities were comparatively unharmed. The factory is said to have been fired by the members of a Chinese secret society who are plotting against the government. A number of arrests are said to have been made by the Mandarins, and many executions will follow.

WILL BAR AMERICANS FROM OTHER DISTRICTS

British Columbia Determined to Enforce an Exclusion Act.

VICTORIA, B. C., Jan. 11.—The new Government apparently intends to carry out its announced policy of excluding aliens from the Atlin and other British Columbia mines. The act to amend the present mining act so that it will bar aliens passed its first reading in the Assembly this afternoon. The sentiment there is strongly in favor of the passage of the bill. In fact, the Government has made the exclusion of aliens—Americans being aimed at chiefly—one of the strongest planks in its platform. That the bill will pass is certain. J. Fred Hume, Minister of Mines, said to-night to The Call correspondent that the urgency of the bill was so great that it was necessary to pass it before the present order in council would be passed to enforce the exclusion. The bill will not, however, affect Americans who already hold claims.

RUMORED DANGER OF FOREIGNERS IN CHINA

Report That Troops are Gathering for a General Rising Against Aliens.

VICTORIA, B. C., Jan. 11.—If the news received from Peking by the R. M. S. Empress of Japan counts for anything, foreigners residing in China outside of the settled cities and settlements are menaced by a great danger. The Peking correspondent of the North China Daily News says considerable additions in men and material to the troops, not only of Peking and vicinity, but also of Mongolia and Manchuria, are being made, and the explanation given for the war-like measure is that they are "to fight foreigners who, in consequence of this the rowdy measures of the north are anxiously awaiting the sig-

DREYFUS INQUIRY ALMOST FINISHED

It Is Said the Court of Cassation Will Grant Revision of the Famous Trial.

PARIS, Jan. 11.—M. Quesnay de Beaupre, the former president of the civil section of the Court of Cassation, follows up his attack on the criminal section of the Court of Cassation to-day in an article published by the Echo de Paris, in which he insinuates that Judge Loew, president of the court, went out of his way to appoint M. Bardo reporter of the Dreyfus affair because he was sure of his partiality, and that he also appointed "Dreyfusite" magistrates for other branches of the inquiry. Moreover, M. Beaupre says the rehabilitation of Colonel Picquart by Judge Loew is tantamount to an uncalculated declaration of the innocence of Dreyfus. Furthermore, M. de Beaupre claims that Judge Loew displayed hostility and aversion to the generals when the latter were testifying, and expressed approval of the attacks on the general staff in the testimony of an ex-officer who was cashiered for intemperance. The charge is also made that Judge Loew in examining the chiefs of the army and the officials of the War Office put the questions with the object of confusion, and that otherwise he frequently showed bias.

The Liberte to-day quotes "a personage closely connected with the Court of Cassation" as saying that the inquiry into the Dreyfus case is about finished; that a decision may be expected early in February, and that it will be almost unanimously favorable to a revision of the trial.

GREAT BRITAIN AND THE CANAL

Seeks Concessions From This Country.

FOR PERPETUAL NEUTRALITY

THE WATERWAY NEEDED IN EVENT OF WAR.

By Reason of Negotiations to Abrogate the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty Pauncefoot Is Kept at Washington.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

NEW YORK, Jan. 11.—A Washington special to the Herald says: Sir Julian Pauncefoot, the British Ambassador, will remain accredited to the United States for another year beginning in April. This unusual action on the part of the British Government arises from its deep interest in the negotiations for the abrogation of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty and a new treaty guaranteeing neutrality as to the proposed Nicaraguan canal, with which Sir Julian is so familiar.

Sir Julian would naturally have been retired last spring, but the British Government, as a mark of friendship and because of the critical condition of relations between the United States and Spain, determined to retain him here for another year. Negotiations with

CONTRACT DECLARED ILLEGAL AND VOID

Sacramento County Will Not Sue the State for the Collection of Back Commissions.

SACRAMENTO, Jan. 11.—The Board of Supervisors this afternoon, at a special meeting held for the purpose of considering the request of the Chamber of Commerce and others for the rescinding of the contract with attorneys for the collection of back commissions from the State, received an opinion from District Attorney Baker holding that the contract was illegal. The following resolution introduced by Supervisor McLaughlin was then adopted:

Whereas, This Board of Supervisors did on the 10th day of September, 1888, pass a resolution employing two firms of attorneys, to wit: Rogers, Paterson & Slack of San Francisco and Devlin & Devlin of Sacramento City, to assist the District Attorney of Sacramento County to collect certain commissions and charges supposed to be owing and unpaid by the State of California to the county of Sacramento; and Whereas, It now appears to us that said resolution so adopted by said Board as aforesaid, and said contract, if any, entered into by this board with the said firm of attorneys, was, and is, and the same is, and the same shall be, null and void, and the public interest of the citizens and taxpayers of Sacramento County will be prejudiced by permitting said resolution and contract to stand; now, therefore, be it Resolved, That said resolution be and the same is hereby rescinded.

MASKED MAN ROBS A SALOON-KEEPER

Enters a Pleasant Resort and Carries Away the Contents of the Till.

PLEASANTON, Jan. 11.—Manuel de Vaca, the proprietor of the Cosmopolitan saloon on Main street, was alone in his saloon at 10 o'clock last night when a tall masked man entered and, covered De Vaca with a small shotgun, demanded of him what money was in the till. De Vaca lost no time in obeying, and handed the robber a gold piece. The culprit then backed out of the saloon and disappeared in the darkness. This morning Constable Lock arrested a vagrant on suspicion. He was arraigned before Justice Quinn, who held him for trial, with bail fixed at \$400.

HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR HUGHES' DEATH

VISALIA, Jan. 11.—The Coroner's Jury has held Contractor Craycroft to blame for the collapse of the Seligman building last Friday, whereby Henry Hughes received injuries that resulted in death. Architect McCone was censured for having failed to closely inspect the construction of the building. It was recommended to the City Council that an ordinance be passed providing for strict supervision of buildings in course of erection. Craycroft may be charged with manslaughter.

CHOCATE NOMINATED

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—The President to-day sent these nominations to the Senate:—Joseph H. Choate of New York to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Great Britain; Treasury—Charles H. Brickenstein of Colorado to be Surveyor of Customs, Denver.

To Cure a Cold in One Day

Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists dispense the money if it fails to cure. The genuine is in red and white tablets.

DISCREPANCIES IN MCKENZIE'S STORY

Cook Inquest at Napa Resumed.

THE EX-SHERIFF RECALLED

PARTS OF HIS EVIDENCE ARE CONFLICTING.

The Stable Owner Admits That He Sent to St. Helena for a Picture of Cook Previous to the Tragedy.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

NAPA, Jan. 11.—The jury summoned by Coroner Kyser last Thursday night to inquire into the killing of Al Cook, the man shot that day by Jesse Walters in McKenzie's livery stable, met this afternoon for the fifth time to take testimony. Ex-Sheriff McKenzie was recalled and the discrepancies found in the statements made by him at dif-

ELECTION JUDGES AS WARD-HEELERS

Politics at the Polls in Sausalito.

CRAMER-CREED CONTEST ON

WITNESSES ACCUSE ELECTION OFFICIALS.

Voters Were Misinformed in Order That the Former Marshal Might Be Chosen Stable.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

SAN RAFAEL, Jan. 11.—The suit of Eugene Cramer of Sausalito to oust ex-Marshall John E. Creed from the office of Constable, on the ground that Creed is an ex-convict and therefore ineligible and that the Board of Judges and Election Board were guilty of misconduct, occupied the attention of the Superior Court to the exclusion of all other causes to-day. Some of the testimony adduced was of a sensational nature and showed pretty plainly that certain election officials were guilty of "doing politics" worthy of a "Boss" Buckley. So far all the witnesses called, seventeen in number, have given testimony for the contestant. It was proved by Adolph Meyers and others that instructions were given to all voters to cast the ballots for only one person or Constable, though the election proclamation and the ballots themselves specified that two should be voted for. The facts as regards Creed's sojourn at San Quentin Prison will not be presented until later.

Richard Garrity, the Democratic candidate, received 318 votes; Creed, running independently, 232; and Cramer, the Republican nominee, 151. If Cramer succeeds in getting the vote of Sausalito Precincts 1 and 2 thrown out the vote will stand for the remaining precinct: Garrity 135, Cramer 120 and Creed 117. Realizing that Cramer had a good case, Attorney J. W. Cochran, representing Creed, asked Judge Angellotti to leave to amend his answer, so that he would be able to prove that both Tiburon and Belvedere "did politics" in the same way, but against Creed's interests, as they also yet thrown out the vote will stand: Garrity 72, Creed 77 and Cramer 63. He was given until next Monday to amend the complaint.

The case threatens to develop into a wholesale exposure of the political methods employed in the southern part of Marin County, and is exciting a good deal of interest. An incidental fact brought out, which brought forth adverse comment from Judge Angellotti, was that the official returns on elections have been thrown carelessly around the County Clerk's office. Nobody is blamed for these practices, as no provision has ever been made by the county for the care of the official returns. The envelope inclosing the returns from Sausalito Precinct 1 was not even sealed.

SKELETONS FOUND IN A PLANTATION WELL

Spanish Guerrillas Accused of Being the Authors of Terrible Cruelty in Cuba.

HAVANA, Jan. 11.—A Discussion describes the finding of fifty human skeletons in a well on a plantation near Manguito. The writer of the story asserts that these people were undoubtedly thrown in while alive. He says that in some cases the finger bones are severed and the supposition that this is due to the efforts of the victims to raise themselves out of the pit. The case of Senor Pedro Alayon, a prominent Cuban, who disappeared mysteriously during the insurrection, has been mentioned. The guerrilla chief, Sergeant Juan Peres and Vicente Zaigo, a school-master, of being the authors of the terrible crime. All are said to be in Havana.

GOVERNOR OF THE HOME.

General Lagrange to Have Charge at Santa Monica.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—General O. H. Lagrange will be appointed Governor of the Soldiers' Home at Santa Monica, vice Smith, whose term of office expires March 30 next. Mr. Lagrange is now in New York city. Sen. Perkins says he has a fine record as a soldier of the Civil War, and is in every way qualified for the position. Perkins has received a large number of telegrams and letters urging this appointment.

CLAIMS MANY ISLANDS.

England Gives Notice of Her Seizures in the Pacific.

HONOLULU, Jan. 4.—The British Consul at Samoa under date of December 8, 1898, publishes this notice:—

Take notice that the nations of Russell and Stewart Islands, the Santa Cruz and Reef groups, the Island of Tuolupa, Trevanion, Anuda and Fataka Islands, the Reef (or Wings) group have been incorporated in the British Solomon protectorate and that the jurisdiction of the British Government extends over the said islands and places, as also over Pitcairn Island, and all persons within the limits of the said Order in Council govern themselves accordingly.

LILIUOKALANI'S PETITION.

Former Queen of Hawaii Asks Congress to Restore Her Lands.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—A petition from former Queen Liliuokalani of Hawaii was presented to the House to-day protesting against the United States' asserted ownership of the crown lands of Hawaii as a taking of property without due process of law, and appealing to the President to issue a proclamation for a restoration of these lands. The same petition was presented to the Senate.

MARIE BARNARD SAILS.

California Prima Donna to Sing at the Beyruth Festival.

NEW YORK, Jan. 11.—Marie Barnard, the American prima donna, was a passenger on the St. Paul. She is a daughter of the late Judge Edward M. Barnard of the California Supreme Court, and for the past year has been singing at the Court Theater at Coburg, Germany. Miss Barnard is to take leaving parts in the Wagnerian festival at Beyruth next August.

Two Fishermen Drowned.

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 11.—During the storm yesterday Orlando Vidovich and B. Felands, Italian fishermen, put out from San Pedro in the sloop Gnato to look after nets. The sloop was capsized and the two men were drowned. Vidovich was well known and owned several boats, and did the largest fish business at San Pedro.

ENGLAND BLOCKS A RUSSIAN COUP

Naval Demonstration in Chinese Waters.

WARNING TO CZAR'S AGENTS

HAD DISPATCHED TROOPS TO THE CITY OF PEKING.

They Were Hastily Recalled When the British Asiatic Squadron Steamed Into the Gulf of Pechili.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

VICTORIA, B. C., Jan. 11.—The R. M. S. Empress of Japan, which left Yokohama on December 30, brings a sensational story from Tientsin of how a naval demonstration by the British Asiatic fleet under Admiral Seymour caused the abandonment of a coup on the part of Russia. Had the Russian plans been carried out, they would, without doubt, have caused a war between the two great powers struggling for the mastery in the far East. The Tientsin correspondent of the North China Daily News, files of which were received by the Empress, has the following in this regard:

"A significant bit of information has just come to me, for the accuracy of which I am prepared to vouch. At the time of the demonstration of the British fleet off Shan Hai Kuan, in the Gulf of Pechili, the Russians were preparing to send 5000 troops, mostly Cossacks, by forced marches overland around the Gulf of Liao Tung to the Chinese capital.

"When the British squadron steamed through the straits into the Gulf of Pechili from Wei-Hai-Wei in two lines, orders were at once rushed to the 5000 Russians, who had already started for the Chinese capital, ordering them back to Port Arthur. The demonstration had prevented their dispatch. The meaning of all this is unquestionably this: "That Russia knew what was preparing in the palace at Peking and was sending the troops to the support of the Empress Dowager. The calling of the troops back from Shan Shi and other places in the early part of the season could not be explained at the time, but their presence within easy distance of Peking in now made plain by the coup d'etat. Possibly had the Russians reached Peking the native soldiers would not have been ordered to the capital, but, in any event, the forces would have cooperated against any other foreign force that might have been sent to Peking in case the status of those in possession, which meant Russia, was objected to by any other power.

"A Peking correspondent interviewed Sir Claude McDonald, the British Minister, at the Chinese capital in this connection, and he said that had Russia dispatched the 5000 troops to Peking that would undoubtedly have precipitated a clash between Britain and Russia.

"Russia is daily strengthening her position in Chinese waters," says the Peking and Tientsin Times. "She has now demanded the inclusion of the Miao Tao group of islands at the entrance to the Gulf of Pechili and commanding the entrance to the gulf in her Port Arthur sphere of influence. Great Britain will protest against the cession of these islands to Russia. Should Russia push her claim, it is understood, Britain will make a fleet stand, and, according to her Minister at Peking, fight if necessary."

NEWLY WEDDED PAIR VICTIMS OF A JOKE

"We Have Just Been Married; Hand Us Tenderly," the Legend on Their Trunks.

CHICAGO, Jan. 11.—Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Nance, a newly wedded pair from San Francisco, registered at the Auditorium Annex this morning and conducted themselves in such a matter of fact way that they excited no suspicion in the minds of clerks and bellboys that they were not man and wife of several years' standing. Their trunks arrived an hour later, labeled in large letters, which could be read a block away: "We have just been married; hand us tenderly," and lavishly decorated with white ribbons and mottoes.

Collum's Case Goes Over.

WOODLAND, Jan. 11.—The date of the retrial of Phil Collum, once convicted of incendiarism but granted a new trial by the Supreme Court, was to have been fixed to-day; but Judge Hart is said to have by consent the case went over to January 25.

Advertisement for CORN MEAL, SODA CRACKERS, and CLEVELAND BAKING POWDER. Includes prices like 17 1/2c Sack, 10 lbs. and 29c lb.