

The Call

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 1899

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AMUSEMENTS.

Columbia—"The Man From Mexico." California—"Pudd'nhead Wilson." Alcazar—"The Magistrate." Tivoli—"The Yellow Dwarf." Grand Opera—"The Merry Widow." Orpheum—"Vandeville." Comedy—"Uncle Tom's Cabin." The Chutes—Gorilla Man, Vaudeville and the Zoo. Olympia—Corner Mason and Ellis streets, Specialties. Central Park—"The Stepchildren." Ingleside Racetrack—Races To-day. Ingleside Coursing Park—Coursing To-day. Sherman-Clay Hall—Gerome Belmont, Violinist, Tuesday evening, January 12.

AUCTION SALES.

By William G. Lyons—This day, January 14, at 11 o'clock, Horses, Buggies, etc. at 72 Howard street. By A. W. Lunderback—Monday, January 15, at 10:30 a. m. and 2:30 p. m., Turkish Rugs, at 122 Geary street. By Madison & Burke—Tuesday, January 17, at 12 o'clock, Real Estate, at 625 Market st.

THE BLACK LIST UNCHANGED.

THERE were no names added to the black list yesterday, and it stands as it was made when Howard E. Wright, Speaker of the Assembly, cast away political and personal honor, broke his promise and his sacred pledge, to vote for Burns. There are twenty-six on the roll, Jilson and Wright having chosen the disgrace of associating with the original two dozen. These are the names:

SENATORS.

- Bettman, San Francisco.
- Burnett, San Francisco.
- Hoey, San Francisco.
- Laird, Shasta.
- Leavitt, Alameda.
- Shorridge, Santa Clara.
- Wolfe, San Francisco.

ASSEMBLYMEN.

- Arnerich, Santa Clara.
- Barry, San Francisco.
- Beecher, Shasta.
- Cobb, San Francisco.
- Devoto, San Francisco.
- Dibble, San Francisco.
- Henry, San Francisco.
- JILSON, Siskiyou.
- Johnson, Sacramento.
- Kelley, Alameda.
- Kelsey, Santa Clara.
- Kenneally, San Francisco.
- Lundquist, San Francisco.
- McKeen, Alameda.
- Miller, San Francisco.
- Pierce, Yolo.
- Rickard, San Francisco.
- Eugene Sullivan, San Francisco.
- WRIGHT, Alameda.

Wright's attempted coup was a dismal failure, not doing his owner and manager, Burns, any good, but covering the Speaker with odium and causing his friends pain and humiliation. It had been thought that when Wright made this sacrifice of his reputation he would carry the Assembly with him. But if there was ever a chance of this the faltering of his recent lips, the trembling of his voice, the flush of shame which overspread his face, instantly killed it. He did not set a pattern which a sane man with a deference to respectability, a hope of being thought honest, could imitate. The members refused to flock to share the opprobrium with him. They saw the action had excited no emotion but surprise and disgust. Now the surprise has died away, but the disgust remains. The black list is too long. To scratch it would be a pleasure. There is still opportunity for some of the erring to redeem themselves.

Another newspaper war has been opened on the poolrooms. There are reasons for fearing that it will do no good. The Call long ago made a complete exposure of the dens, informed the police as to the location of each, and there was the end.

There is something wrong with a political system which gives rewards to pickpockets and other thieves. A Police Court loses dignity when aside from the bench itself it is made an asylum for crooks.

The difference seems to be that Brigadier General Barber had honors thrust upon him, and that our Colonel Smith, being a mere soldier, is left to be satisfied with a sense of duty well performed.

Admitting Mrs. Mental to bail was a step such as the lay spectator had not expected. There had come into the community a sort of notion that the killing of a husband was a serious offense.

Either there is a strong nation behind Aguinaldo, or the man is so close to a buzzsaw that he would be scared white if he had sense enough to realize his danger.

The Astor Battery did gallant service, and is on the way home. But it did not get to Manila as soon as the First California, which isn't on its way home.

As the "new" City Hall is now so old that the roof of it fails to change the earthward course of a drop of rain, it is time to amend the title.

If Aguinaldo is really pining for "liberty or death" he will probably find the latter easier to get.

FROM DANIEL WEBSTER TO DANIEL BURNS.

NO man like Dan Burns has ever made, or can ever successfully make, an open canvass in this State. The "still hunt" is the only mode in which such a candidacy can be promoted. Apart from the definite charges which have been made through the press, he stands for all the lowest and worst phases of politics. Morally and intellectually he is thoroughly unfit to represent our people in the Federal Senate. Even though the standard of that exalted body of men has declined since the days of Webster, Clay, Calhoun, Benton, Douglas, Seward, Fessenden, Collamer, Edmunds and other great men who have adorned our history, he is not knee high to any present Senator. His appearance at Washington would be like the introduction of a Police Court pettifogger to the Supreme Court of the United States. If it were practicable to subject the candidates for the Senate to a civil service examination before the Legislature, Dan Burns would either refuse to appear, or after his appearance would vanish like a spurious ghost. He could not make a speech. He could not debate a question. He could not write a report. He could hardly examine a witness before a committee. There is not one of the duties that would devolve upon him in the Senate chamber, in which, if dragged out into the open, he would not ignominiously fail.

Behind him, therefore, or in him in a political sense, there is literally nothing but trickery and corruption in their most debased forms. There are degrees even in political rascality. There are great political rascals and little political rascals. The emergence of Dan Burns from the scum of municipal rottenness reveals only the face of a tool, and not even the head of a successful boss.

His election, therefore, would be a disgrace to the State, and a lasting injury to the Republican party. His election through a combination between the railroad, the Federal brigade and the Governor would be accepted as plenary evidence that the Republican State Convention of 1898 and the press, during the canvass of that year, were completely hoodwinked, and that from the beginning Henry T. Gage was the railroad candidate—not as he may well and properly have been, after his nomination, the choice of the gentlemen connected with the railroad, but the particular candidate whom the railroad desired to aid in its undisclosed purpose of sending to the Senate a mere agent and factotum of its own.

The Republican party represented by the large majority in the Senate and in the Assembly cannot afford to be dragged into this unconscionable attitude. The railroad has rights and interests which ought to be respected and protected. But it would take demonstration to convince us that it has captured the Republican organization, or that it can dominate the disinterested and patriotic voters by whom the last election was decided. It is unquestionable that by the Republican newspapers and by the mass of Republican citizens its influence was unknown, unfeared and unsuspected. It is impossible to assume that, destroying freedom through its forms, it surreptitiously gained possession of two co-ordinate branches of the Government, and that either on the broad gauge or the narrow gauge, it can propel its creature into the seat about to be honorably vacated by Stephen M. White.

THE COMPLETED CITY HALL.

THE refusal of the Building Committee of the Board of Supervisors to accept the New City Hall, offered to them a few days ago by the Mayor, Auditor and City and County Attorney, places San Francisco in a most embarrassing predicament. In turning the building over to the Commissioners declared it was "completed." The Building Committee says that it is not completed and declines to take it. Here, then, we have the anomalous situation of a City Hall owned by a large city of which no one claims possession, and of which no one is willing to take charge.

We do not see how the City Hall Commissioners can continue to exercise their trust. The law under which they had their being has expired by limitation and with it the power to levy taxes. The Commissioners, therefore, can obtain no more money with which to carry on work on the municipal structure. The Board of Supervisors possesses authority to levy taxes and apportion them to what is known as the building fund, out of which the expense of repairs and new construction might be paid. But the Supervisors decline to undertake the duty, and so the city is in the situation of having a building for which it can obtain no managers.

But, as if this were not enough, the city architect reports that no money has ever been expended in repairing the City Hall, and that, as a consequence, the iron work is rusting away and the superstructure decaying. Another authority has informed the Building Committee that the new roof leaks, that the plaster is falling, and that other portions of the building show signs of disintegration.

We have no suggestions to make in this connection, since it appears that for a "completed" City Hall our municipal elephant is the most extraordinary animal ever produced by the tax-eaters anywhere. We have no idea, moreover, what can be done to straighten out the difficulty, unless it be that the Supervisors put up the hall at auction and knock it down to the highest bidder. Doubtless a good title could be conveyed to the land, and, as for the building, it is not worth much anyway, except for jail purposes.

The Legislature is in session, but it does not appear that it can grant any relief. Under a recent decision of the Supreme Court that body can no longer pass laws affecting the municipal affairs of San Francisco. Under the circumstances it would seem that a serious condition rather than an architectural theory is confronting us.

THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS.

AMONG the many reports submitted by various departments and commissions of the State government none will be read with more interest this year than that of the department of highways. It is very lengthy, but will repay careful study, for it thoroughly covers the subject of highway improvement, and no subject is at this time more deserving of public attention in California.

The commission points out that the first extended official attempt to institute system and economy into road work in this State failed because the laws recommended for the promotion of road work were so altered and modified by the last Legislature that the enactments were ineffective. In fact, as the report says, "nearly all the road laws passed by the last Legislature were abortive, and attempts to effect reform were thwarted."

To remedy that condition of affairs the commission recommends a comprehensive scheme of legislation, which, if carried out completely, it believes will enable the State to begin upon a systematic and economical programme of road work. All the proposed legislation is based upon a general principle of action, which the report sums up as follows:

"It should be recognized at the outset that the main

highways of the State and its counties are lines along which the travel and traffic of an indefinite future must move, and that it is, therefore, necessary to locate these lines on the most advantageous ground, irrespective of the temporary private interests, which at most can last for only one or two generations. After roads shall have been located upon these lines, no false economy and makeshift methods should be allowed; the drains, culverts and bridges should be made of masonry, the roadbed graded to true lines and a sprinkling plant provided. Finally the surface should be metalled with the best available rock. To attempt this upon all roads with the entire road fund of each county is not practicable. Existing roads, however bad, must be maintained so as to permit of reasonable use, even if that use temporarily entails heavy loss."

The commission asks the enactment of seven laws or amendments to existing laws. The measures are to be considered as a whole, and not separately, for the rejection or modification of one might seriously impair the system of which all are necessary parts. It is claimed they are not radical, that they do not subvert the method of road administration to which the State is accustomed, but that they do present practical lines along which the evils of the present system may be corrected.

It is greatly desired that something be accomplished at this session to promote the work of road improvement, and the report of the commission is so abundant and comprehensive upon every aspect of the problem that it will materially aid the legislators in devising legislation to that end.

COMMISSARY GENERAL EAGAN.

COMMISSARY GENERAL EAGAN has made two important disclosures by his testimony given before the War Investigating Board. In the first place he disclosed the fact that the charge made against the commissary department of furnishing vile beef to the troops at Tampa and Santiago cannot be answered except by vilifying the commanding general of the army, and, second, that the notorious embalmed beef supplied to the army is not more malodorous than Eagan himself.

In the report given of his testimony Eagan is said to have so far lost not only all respect due to his superior officer, but all sense of decency, that he declared General Miles to be "a liar who lied in his throat, lied in his heart, lied in every part of his body." Not content with that outburst of bad temper and worse manners, Eagan, when commenting upon the statement that the canned meat furnished the troops had been used for experimenting with chemical preservatives, said of General Miles: "He lies; lies in every hair of his head, he lies willfully and maliciously. If he lies—and I say he does—he should be drummed out of the army and incarcerated in prison."

From that exhibition of the kind of man Commissary General Eagan is the public will derive the satisfaction of knowing that the embalmed beef scandal is being probed to the bottom. The rascals who were responsible for the outrage of sending to the camps and the hospitals of our soldiers in the Cuban campaign meat so vile that it smelled like an embalmed body have evidently been reached. A little further investigation will probably disclose those who are behind Eagan and bring to light evidence sufficient to convict them.

In the question of veracity thus raised by the black-guard commissary it will be remembered that the evidence given by General Miles is supported by the testimony of many officers of the army whose business it was to inspect the supplies. The reports of several of these officers have been made public, and their statements are direct and positive. The beef was covered with a green beard, it emitted a sickening odor when boiling, and tasted so vile that even the hungriest men could not eat it.

The language of Eagan is appropriate to the cause he had to defend. Foul deeds can be upheld only by foul language. After all the evidence is in and a full hearing given, the commissary department can make no better defense than that of declaring the commanding general to be a liar.

It is reported that Miles does not take Eagan's attack seriously. When questioned upon the subject he stated that the charge hardly merited a response, and his only comment was that the use of such language is "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman." Even if that view be taken of the affair by the President and the War Department as well as by the commanding general, the case will be serious enough to demand a court-martial. Eagan's services in future will be more satisfactory to the beef contractors than to the people of the United States.

MORE ADULTERATIONS.

AN epidemic of grip has been raging in New York for some time, and as a result there has been a large demand for drugs prescribed by the physicians as remedies for the disease. It is now announced it has been discovered that a considerable number of pharmacists have put up these prescriptions improperly by substituting acetanilid where phenacetine was called for. As the substitute is said to cost 50 cents a pound while the phenacetine costs 85 cents an ounce, it is believed the change has not been altogether the result of mistake.

It is further reported that the substitution has been made in many cases where the result has been that physicians have been accused of incompetency and ignorance, and patients have suffered because the action of the two drugs differs considerably in certain respects. So extensive has been the substitution that the Board of Health of the city has been compelled to take cognizance of the matter, and it is now reported to be doing everything in its power to put a stop to the adulteration of medicines and the substitution of cheap drugs for costly ones in prescriptions.

Thus, while we are in the thick of a fight to prevent the adulteration of foods, we are called upon to make another fight to prevent the adulteration of the medicine prescribed to cure the ills caused by the impure foods. It looks as if we would never get to the end of the evils which science enables dishonesty to cause in the world until we clothe honest science with full power to act summarily in dealing with them.

Honest pharmacists, like honest producers of pure foods, will of course cordially co-operate with the law in suppressing the dishonest practice. With their aid a resolute public sentiment should be able to grapple with the evil and overcome it. Up to this time no loud complaint of adulterated medicines has been heard in any city except New York, but of course that is not the only place in the Union where such adulterations and frauds are practiced.

Other Eastern cities, profiting by the exposure made in New York, are urging their Boards of Health to make an inspection of the drug business. The adulteration of medicine is a serious affair, and since the fraud is so easily practiced a little legal and scientific supervision would be wholesome in all parts of the Union.

Commissary General Eagan has been accused of many things, but it will be a long time before anybody will charge him with being a gentleman.

THE CHARTER AND OFFICE-HOLDERS

To the Editor of The Call: I observe in the morning papers that several of the officials and employees of the city government have met for the purpose of opposing the approval of the charter by the Legislature on the ground that it seeks to limit their term of office to one year from the 1st of January. It is true that the charter provides for a separate municipal election every two years, beginning next November, and that officers thereafter will be elected for a term of only two years, and it is intended that the present officers shall go out of office after serving one year unless the courts decide to the contrary. This was understood when the nominations were made and accepted. Therefore if the office-holders oppose the adoption of the charter on that ground they are acting in bad faith and contrary to the expressed provisions and pledges of the platforms upon which they stood. The fact that the term of office is abbreviated this year should not for a moment affect the judgment of the Legislature in a matter of so much importance to the city and county of San Francisco as the adoption of a new organic law, carefully prepared and ratified after practically eighteen years of public debate, discussion and agitation. This charter is a deliberate act of the citizens of San Francisco. The municipal and legislative platforms of all political parties in this city strongly indorsed it, the Legislative nominees were pledged to vote for it, and in State convention both political parties formally requested or required their Legislative nominees to recognize the principle of home rule and approve of charters regularly adopted by the people.

Now, addressing myself to my colleagues in the city government, I desire to say that their opposition, if it is serious, is violative of the professions they made to the people as the representatives of their political parties, and that the adoption of a new organic law is a first necessity for the existence, I might say, not only of good government, but of practically any government in the city of San Francisco.

As they know the only power possessed by the city or any other municipality without a freholder's charter is that which has been granted to it by the Legislature, and anything done or performed, or person employed, in excess of such power is without authority of law. Now, as a matter of fact, there is no law for much that is done in San Francisco, and for many of the places that are filled by appointment and the Auditor could be enjoined at any moment from allowing the numerous demands affecting persons and acts which would perhaps surprise those who now feel secure in the possession of offices or interested in the advancement of public works. Our city government, therefore, is one of expediency or subsuffrage, which will completely break down as soon as the word is spoken, and is not based upon law, power or authority. This is caused by the city, perhaps, outgrowing the law or the gradual assumption of unauthorized power, tolerated by indulgent officers, believing, justly or unjustly, that certain work should be done and chances taken. But under this system contractors, mechanics and tradesmen, as we have seen in the past, lose their compensation for work done or materials supplied and the Auditor, as the financial head of the city's government, and his bondsmen, who are responsible, are constantly in peril. There is no way of remedying this condition except by the adoption of the charter, for this reason: The Legislature has a constitutional duty to adopt and enforce the charter, and the Legislature cannot increase the powers of the Board of Supervisors, nor give legal validity to those conditions which exist in excess of the powers of the government, with which I am familiar and to which I have just referred. If the charter fails to be adopted, then it is necessary to pass laws affecting the city in its "municipal affairs." Therefore, this Legislature cannot increase the powers of the Board of Supervisors, nor give legal validity to those conditions which exist in excess of the powers of the government, with which I am familiar and to which I have just referred. If the charter fails to be adopted, then it is necessary to pass laws affecting the city in its "municipal affairs." Therefore, this Legislature cannot increase the powers of the Board of Supervisors, nor give legal validity to those conditions which exist in excess of the powers of the government, with which I am familiar and to which I have just referred. If the charter fails to be adopted, then it is necessary to pass laws affecting the city in its "municipal affairs." Therefore, this Legislature cannot increase the powers of the Board of Supervisors, nor give legal validity to those conditions which exist in excess of the powers of the government, with which I am familiar and to which I have just referred.

JAMES D. PHELAN, Mayor.

RAICH AND RURAL LIFE.

There is before Congress a pure food bill which has features of great interest to California producers. It prohibits and punishes the false labeling or branding of articles to mislead the consumer as to their quality or the place of their production. It is known to our local canners that it is the practice of Eastern canners to pack culis and brand them California fruit. Our State label is used on fruit grown in Illinois, Michigan, Delaware and New Jersey. It is not used on the first class fruit of those regions, but on such inferior qualities as injure in the market the good product that appears under the same label. This is a matter involving the rights of trademarks, and as it affects the interstate relations of commerce comes under Federal jurisdiction.

We have heretofore spoken of the disposition of our own fruits of inferior quality to a market. It is used as pie and sauce goods in minor class boarding houses and hotels, in lumber and mining camps. But it should be labeled for what it is and not for what it is not. The pending act of Congress will protect the distillations of California against such frauds as the shipment from a bonded warehouse in this city of bogus brandy, made of raw corn high wines from Nebraska, but labeled "Old California Grape Brandy," and will aid our honest producers, packers and driers of fruit in the principles of commercial honor.

The January rain has dispelled all doubts about the crops of this year. The average fall for the whole State was 2 inches. That means an average of 678 tons of water to the acre, or 135,600 gallons. The surface had been prepared for the absorption of this vast quantity of water by the moisture that preceded the main storm. It is probable that never before did so large a percentage of a heavy rainfall go into the ground and so little run off.

STATE NOTES.

The sale of the San Joaquin and Stanislaus irrigating canal has been effected and ends the entanglements and complications that have beset the property so long. With the prospect of abundant water this plant will now be used to make fertile a large area of land and add to the full crop the State will produce this year.

Down in Tulare County they are discussing the raising of bamboo. This forms a large importation into this country and can be grown in this State as well as in Japan. The giant and medium sorts should be planted as wind breaks and border trees around orchards and vineyards. It is one of the most beautiful exotics in form and foliage and more attention should be paid to it.

This is to be a year for the California fig. The Greek crop has a shortage of 75 per cent.

The agricultural department of the State University at Berkeley is to experiment with a new breed of sheep, a cross between the Merino and the Persian sheep. The fine carpet wools are Persian, and the sheep producing them is very large and fine for mutton. The result of the experiment will be watched with interest by flock masters.

California apples from the foothills have been extensively shipped to England this season.

The Fresno Republican says that the San Joaquin Valley counties propose to promote the publication in convenient form of circulation of a comprehensive statement of the resources of that valley and the inducements offered to settlers. This is well. But we wish to say that the daily, constant, vital and intelligent attention given to rural and industrial interests by the Republican itself is a write-up that should by no means be forgotten by those who wish to induce settlers. The local country paper is the best medium known for the spread of information valuable to the interests in the midst of which it is published. Experiments in this State are said to prove that eggs can be produced at an average cost of 6 cents a dozen, expended for food for the hens. Yet we do not produce all the eggs and poultry that we consume.

PROTECTING PACIFIC COAST COMMERCE

UNCLE SAM WILL DEMAND FAIR PLAY IN ECUADOR.

No Discrimination Favorable to Chile Will Be Permitted Without Some Danger of a Rupture.

Some time ago one of the United States Consuls in South America sent to the manufacturers of this city a copy of a proposed treaty between Ecuador and Chile which if carried into effect would work a great hardship upon the commerce of this country, and especially to the interests of this coast. By its terms many of the articles of commerce were to be admitted into Ecuador duty free. This would have the effect of killing a growing industry in the line of exportation of flour, lumber, etc., that is springing up between this district and South America, and the Manufacturers and Producers' Association held special meetings and forwarded to Washington memorials asking the Pacific Coast representatives and the Secretary of State to demand that the treaty be null and void in this country in the interests of the coast.

Before anything could be done the following dispatch was sent here by the Eastern press: "Consul General de Leon, at Guayaquil, reports to the State Department that a reciprocity treaty is proposed between Ecuador and Chile, and has already been ratified by Ecuador. He says that the treaty is favorable to Chile in many respects, in some ways at the cost of the United States' commerce, and principally in the direction of flour, lumber and other California products."

This led local shippers to believe that the valuable trade of Ecuador and Chile was lost to them. However, there is still reason to feel confident that Uncle Sam will see that if there are any favors to be bestowed he will have his share, or know the reason why. Steps to this end have already been taken, as may be seen by the letter received by the Manufacturers and Producers, in response to one sent to the Secretary of State: "DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Washington, January 7, 1899. Gentlemen—Your letter of the 20th ultimo, addressed to the Secretary of State, has been referred to this office for attention. The department has been already advised by its agents of the reciprocity treaty proposed between Chile and instructions given for the draft of a convention between Ecuador and the

UNITED STATES WITH A VIEW TO SECURE THE BEST TERMS POSSIBLE FOR ALL PACIFIC COAST PRODUCTS

This office hopes that the awakened commercial interests will find a way for regular communication by United States steamers from San Francisco to the various ports of South America. Respectfully yours, JOHN A. KASSON, Special Commissioner Plenipotentiary.

A HUNDRED POLICE WILL KEEP ORDER

PREPARATIONS FOR THE RECEPTION OF GENERAL SHAFER.

It Will Not Be Attended by Any of the Confusion Witnessed When Hobson Was Here.

The reception to be tendered Major-General Shafter on his arrival here next week will be a public one, so says General R. H. Wardfield, who is one of the members of the reception committee appointed by Mayor Phelan to make all necessary arrangements. The reception, as published in the Call, will be held at the Palace Hotel. It will be similar to the one tendered Lieutenant Hobson, with this exception—there will be a larger police force present to prevent the crowd getting out of line and causing the crush and confusion that happened when Lieutenant Hobson was the city's guest. There will be one hundred policemen on duty the night of the reception, and they will be thoroughly instructed as to what they are to do.

The reception will be held in the main parlors of the Palace, and the public will be invited to attend. It is probable that General Shafter may make a short address, but this part of the programme will depend entirely on his wishes in the matter.

NEW YORKERS DELAYED.

Some of Them Wandered, So All Were Retained Here. Thirty-seven of the men of the New York Regiment who were left here in the hospital were to have been sent home yesterday, but will not be got away until this evening. General Merriam had made all the necessary arrangements for the men to leave, and they came into the army headquarters in charge of a hospital steward. While the men were having their final papers put in proper shape they were delayed by a letter from the city, which was sent to the steward to leave they could not be found. The rest of the detachment had to return to

the Presidio. They will start East tonight if the five wanderers can be rounded up in time.

General Merriam stated yesterday that the Astor Battery would be sent East early next week. The battery will be quartered on board the Senator until arrangements have been made for its transportation to New York.

Surgeon Major Guy L. Edie, who is to wed Miss Kip of this city, was yesterday assigned to the duty of superintending the construction of the new general military hospital to be built at the Presidio. First Lieutenant Thomas M. Moody of the Twentieth United States Infantry, which is to arrive here on the 25th inst., reported for duty at army headquarters yesterday.

ATTORNEYS WITHDRAW.

Will Not Press the Claims for Over a Million Dollars Back Taxes.

The way was made clear yesterday by the law firm of Rodgers, Paterson & Slack for the Supervisors to withdraw from the litigation in favor of the collection of taxes alleged to be due the county. Van R. Paterson and Charles W. Slack represented the firm.

They said that if any county is dissatisfied with the contract into which it entered they would do with them as with any client who did not wish to continue litigation. They would have no client of theirs dissatisfied. They had no desire to force an unconscionable contract upon the city and withdraw from the case. They declined to accept any compensation, releasing the board from any claim whatsoever.

They disclaimed any knowledge originally of the amount of money involved and were astonished to learn after they had taken the matter in hand that it ran into the hundreds of thousands. A resolution of the Finance Committee before the attorneys were heard stating that the board was satisfied the firm had no knowledge of the amount involved in the litigation. They simply had to do with the law in the case, the firm of DeWitt & DeWitt, who were instructed to ascertain from the latter firm the amount it actually expended on behalf of the city before their action be taken on the resolution employing them.

The counties throughout the State are rescinding the contracts into which they entered in this matter. It was found that the amount involved was nearly a million and a half dollars. Of this the county would get half and the attorneys the other half. It would come out of the State treasury, and the State would not be able to pay the counties. Thus the counties would in the end be out just half the money they raised to pay the State.

A SINGULAR FORGERY.

Michael Broderick Arrested for Signing His Own Name.

Michael Broderick, an idle young man residing with his mother at 126 Liberty street, waived an examination before United States Court Commissioner Heacock yesterday and signed a postal note for \$1000 in the name of the Grand Jury with bonds at \$1000. The prisoner was committed to jail in default of bail.

Broderick is charged with forging a postal money order. His case is a peculiar one. A letter addressed Michael Broderick and containing a postal money order for \$100 arrived at the San Francisco Postoffice several days ago. It was taken to a Michael Broderick, who said it was not his name. He was then taken to Michael Broderick, the prisoner, at his residence, 126 Liberty street. Michael's mother opened the letter and saw that it was not intended for her son. She had to leave the house at once to attend a sick friend, leaving the letter behind. Michael, in her absence, took up the note to the Postoffice with a friend to identify him, and signed his own name to the note. The danger to the valuable contents of the building. At that time also the hours of employment were shorter and short days were not infrequently the result of the business of the office. It is expected the Supervisors will act favorably in the matter.

Recorder Berther Wants Light.

A petition was presented to the Supervisors yesterday, asking that steps be taken to properly light the Hall of Records either with gas or electricity. The petition was signed by Recorder Berther, his deputies and by the searchers of records and attorneys whose business takes them to the big dark building. Originally lights were not provided because of supposed danger to the valuable contents of the building. At that time also the hours of employment were shorter and short days were not infrequently the result of the business of the office. It is expected the Supervisors will act favorably in the matter.

Estates of the Dead.

The will of John S. Morgan, president of the Morgan Oyster Company, who died recently, was filed for probate yesterday. As the deceased transferred most of his property to his wife prior to his death an estate valued at \$9000 was all that was left to be disposed of by testament. This was devised to Sophia E. Morgan, widow of the testator. The will of John Schaefer bequeaths an estate valued at \$5000 to Katharina Schaefer, deceased's widow. The will of Francis Gamba, who died December 27, directs that her estate, which is valued at \$2500, be distributed among her immediate relatives.

More Deputies for Dr. Dodge.

Dr. Washington Dodge, the Assessor, made five additional appointments yesterday, the number including M. C. Haley, Fred C. Galt, George W. Galt, John A. Henry Dale Jr., E. B. Howerton, Herman Gustad, Albert Morgenstern and M. C. Haley. The list of deputies is not yet complete.

Special Sale to-day of Palace mixed candies.

Special information supplied daily to business houses and public men by the Press Clipping Bureau (Allen's), 510 Montgomery street. Telephone Main 1842.

Treat your friends to Townsend's California grape fruits; 50c lb. in fire etched boxes or Jap baskets. 627 Market st.

"Pauline is still crazy about soldiers." "How do you know?" "A fellow was talking dinner she wouldn't eat any of the turkey but the drumstick."—Detroit Free Press.

Dr