NEWS OF THE BAY CITIES — OAKLAND — ALAMEDA COUNTY — BERKELEY — NEWS OF THE BAY CITIES

ARLINGTON WAS ALSO A MAN OF MANY ALIASES

Spicy Letter Written in His Cell.

SAYS HE WAS VITIMIZED

CHARGES HIS FAIR ACCUSER WITH BLACKMAIL.

Officer Bainbridge Makes a Witty Witness, Called by the Defense but Most Formidable for the Prosecution.

Oakland office San Francisco Call, 908 Broadway, Aug. 17.

The trial of Arthur Arlington, the alleged gay bunkoer of unsuspecting women, on the charge of having robbed Mrs. Minnie Maud Smith of $214 last April, which has been in progress before a jury in Judge Hall's court the past two days, grows in interest.

The star witness for the prosecution to-day was A. Bainbridge, a San Francisco police detective and officer, who was called by the defense. Before he was excused he proved a most formidable witness for the people.

It had been expected to prove by him that he, representing the detective authorities of San Francisco, had not advised the decoy letter written, as printed in to-day's Call, whereby it was intended to induce Arlington to come to Oakland, where he might be apprehended by the local authorities.

The prosecution was sustained in objections to Bainbridge testifying as to the letter, and the officer was then made a witness for the people, when he testified that he had known defendant since 1882 and that he had known him by many aliases, to wit: Charles Holman, Llewellyn Miller, S. P. Danforth, J. W. Farish, Jones, Garfield, Robinson and Arlington. Witness said that if the prisoner was a mining man "he had certainly done his mining solely in San Francisco."

Attorney Major McElrath took exception to the witness' last remark and inquired whether he intended thereby to assail the defendant's reputation. "If my answer stands open to two inferences," replied witty Officer Bainbridge, "you can take your choice. I did not think my answer would injure the man's reputation or character. I knew nothing about his being a mining man except what I heard through statements of some of his victims."

This statement Judge Hall ruled to be stricken out. Major McElrath then asked Officer Bainbridge, on cross-examination, whether he did not bear some enmity or bitter feeling toward defendant, and whether he had been brought to court to testify against Arlington.

"No, there is no personal feeling in this matter," responded witness. "I did not know why I was subpenaed, but I thought it was to prove prior convictions." He had said quite enough, and witness was promptly excused.

An interesting feature of the trial during this morning's session was the introduction in evidence of a spicy letter written by Arlington to Mrs. Richmond of San Francisco, at whose hostelry the defense claims Mrs. Smith spent the night of the day of the alleged grand larceny. The letter was written from the County Jail, and is given for what it is worth:

OAKLAND, July 9, 1899.

Dear Mrs. Richmond: This woman against me is a blackmailer and an adventuress, and her charge against me is false. She says she was not in the city with me. Now you remember the night we were at your house, April 14. I gave you a picture at the time of her sitting on my lap. We went hackriding and came back to your house * * * and had breakfast in the morning. You waited on us. The second woman left before breakfast, quite early. Will you come over to my trial and help me? You know I am not one who would do as she says. She thought I was a man of much means and family and she started in to blackmail me. She has done such things in the East. I have her record. I hope you will stand by me. Don't you remember her having money over there in her stocking? Where is that man who was there, the barkeeper? He is a good man. I will remember you all, and you will always find me true. Please write on receipt of this and let me know if you will come over to my trial. Your evidence will do me a world of good. She is a terrible liar and denies ever being over there with me. You don't want me to suffer, and you are the only one I can prove by that she was with me at your house that night, April 14. Where is Dolly? I will come out and see you when this is over. So help me God, the charge against me is a lie. You address your letter to me here. No one will read it but myself. I would have been out to see you long ago had it not been for this trouble. You know the last time I was out there I was pretty full and don't remember all I said and done. But you will always find me all right, and you know I had and do have the highest regard for you. Please stand by me in my trouble. Very sincerely yours,

A. ARLINGTON,
County Jail, Oakland, California.

Mrs. Richmond was put on the witness stand to corroborate the statements made in the letter, but while she had known Arlington by the name of Farish for some time she said she was not positive as to the identity of Mrs. Smith being the woman who was with the gay old Lothario on the night referred to.

The case went over until to-morrow, when the defense promises to produce the hackman who drove Arlington about San Francisco on the night mentioned in the letter, and by which time it is also expected that Mrs. Sarah Watkins, an important witness for the prosecution, will be on hand.

Every care is being exercised by the prosecution and the court to avoid any error that might prove material to the defense in case of an appeal should Arlington be convicted.

WANTS HEAVY DAMAGES FROM THE RAILROAD

OAKLAND, Aug. 17.—Julius Jacobs, a soda water manufacturer of Livermore, this afternoon filed suit in the Superior Court against the Southern Pacific Company for the recovery of $21,033 damages for permanent injuries. His complaint, prepared by Attorney W. W. Foote, recites that on August 21, 1897, while he was crossing the railroad track at Livermore avenue, one of defendant corporation's trains struck his wagon, hurling him to the road, whereby he sustained a compound fracture of the left leg and bad bruises about the head. Plaintiff also alleges that he was given no warning of the approaching train by bell or whistle, and that the defendant was negligent in not having a flagman at this dangerous crossing. He regards his injuries as permanent and avers that he has suffered on that account to the amount of $20,000, also $500 by reason of being unable to attend to his business from August, 1897, until March, 1898; $350 for additional hired help, $60 for medical assistance, $15 for drugs and $108 for care in hospital. His horse was killed and wagon demolished in the accident, and for these he recovered judgment in the Justice Court, but this case is now on appeal.

Haywards Y. M. I. Celebrates.

HAYWARDS, Aug. 17.—Golden State Council, Young Men's Institute, held its annual lecture and entertainment at the Haywards Opera-house last evening. Long before the hour for starting every seat was taken and the programme, which was as follows, was admirably rendered: Opening remarks, Rev. John A. Lally; vocal solo, Miss Annie Garcia; trio, Messrs. Leake, Fitzgerald and Keisdoffer, of Santa Clara College; recitation, Mrs. J. McMurtry; lecture, "The Historic Position of the Catholic Church," by Rev. Father Gleason of San Francisco; specialties, Judge E. Sweeney. The lecture by Rev. Father Gleason was a masterly effort, and his auditors were completely captivated by his instructive discourse. A social dance followed the entertainment.

BIG SURPRISES FOUND IN THE ESTUARY DEED

Park Spoiled by the Southern Pacific.

MADE BIG RESERVATIONS

HAS EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS ON THE TRESTLE TRACK.

Evidence That the People's Rights Have Been Trampled Upon to Aid a Crosstown Road to Be Built.

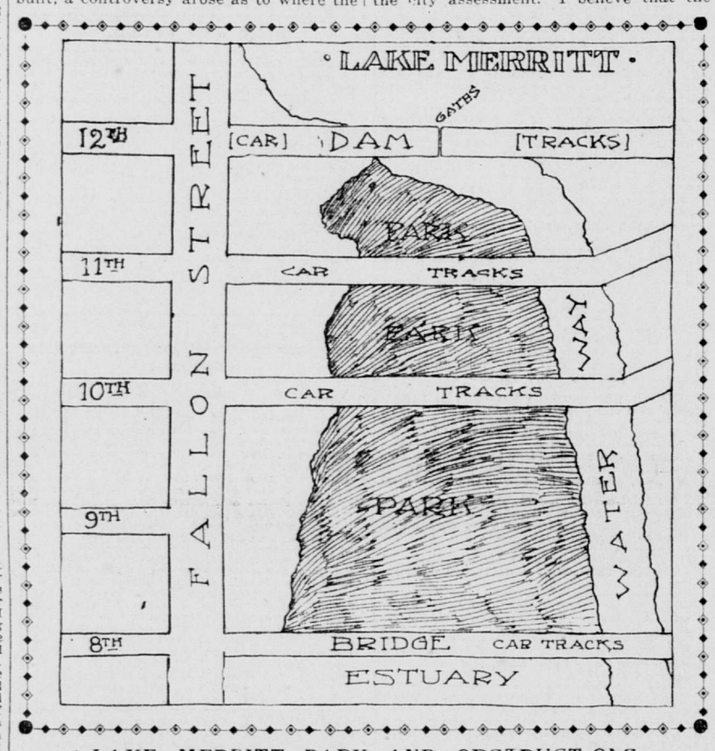
Oakland Office San Francisco Call, 908 Broadway, Aug. 17.

The City Council has just discovered that the Southern Pacific Company, through the Water Front Company, has bunkoed the city of Oakland in the matter of the proposed park west of Lake Merritt.

Not only does the city not acquire but half of the much exploited twenty acres of public park, but the piece it has obtained is split up by car tracks into three sections, and made absolutely worthless as a pleasure ground.

This is only one of the jokers in the deed, which was read for the first time by a majority of the Councilmen last night. The Southern Pacific has now an absolute right to the right of way across the estuary on the Eleventh-street trestle, now being used by its rival, the Oakland Transit Company.

The Southern Pacific could, if it chose, force its rival off the Eleventh-street trestle at any time, for the Transit Company has no franchise across the estuary. Several years ago, when the trestle was being built, a controversy arose as to where the authority was vested to grant a franchise across the estuary. City Attorney Johnson gave it as his opinion that the trestle having been built without any authority from the city nothing could be done about it, and the company continued to use the tracks.



LAKE MERRITT PARK AND OBSTRUCTIONS

The wording of the deed which has caused such surprise is as follows:

Reserving, nevertheless, to the party of the first part, its successors and assigns in the premises aforesaid, a right of way for a single or double track street railroad extending from the easterly termination of Eleventh street, as shown upon Kellenberger's map of Oakland, to the westerly termination of East Eleventh street, as shown upon Higley's map of Clinton, or in lieu thereof, at the election of the party of the first part, its successors or assigns, a right of way for a single or double track street railroad extending from the easterly termination of Tenth street, as shown upon Kellenberger's map of Oakland, to the westerly termination of East Tenth street, as shown upon Higley's map of Clinton.

When the proposition of making a park on the west side of the lake was first broached it was stated that the land to be presented to the city would make a beautiful twenty-acre park. On this promise the Council granted everything that the promoters of the dredging of the lake and of the park desired. The tax levy was made higher than ever for the purpose of raising $80,000 to build a bulkhead and fill in the park. Now it appears that the total amount of land is just a little over eleven acres, and that the Water Front Company has reserved to itself two rights of way across it for single or double street car tracks. Should the Southern Pacific not care to use the Eleventh street right of way, which is already in use by the Transit Company, it is at liberty to parallel it on Tenth street.

The discovery that the Southern Pacific has reserved these rights, which parallel not only the Transit Company, but the tracks of the Haywards company, which has almost entirely taken away the local traffic from the Southern Pacific between Oakland and Haywards, has given rise to the suggestion that the Southern Pacific must contemplate in the near future building a cross-town road as feeders to its Broadway systems. No other interpretation can be put upon the reservation in the deed. It was generally supposed that the deed was made by the Improvement Club to the city, the club having raised the $5000 to pay for the property. In the deed there is no mention of any other parties than the Oakland Water Front Company and the city of Oakland, and as the document was accepted and recorded many months ago it is said that its condition cannot now be altered.

Yesterday the Board of Works let the contract for filling in this park property, and not till then was it known that the deed provided for splitting the property up into three little and comparatively useless pieces.

Knights of Pythias Celebrate.

OAKLAND, Aug. 17.—Live Oak Lodge No. 17, Knights of Pythias, to-night celebrated its thirty-ninth anniversary at Pythian Hall, on Twelfth street, with a musical and literary entertainment of rare and interesting numbers. Among those who took part were George Calvert, the Sawyer sisters, E. C. Muller, P. Dunworth, Miss A. Doolittle, Philip Journal and P. G. C. Morrison. Dancing and supper followed the programme. Next Sunday evening this lodge's members, with their families, will attend divine service, at the Second Congregational Church, pursuant to an invitation from Rev. W. R. Bair, who will on that occasion deliver an address on "Pythianism and Rathbone Sisterhood."

THEIRS WAS REALLY A "VERY QUIET WEDDING"

OAKLAND, Aug. 17.—A really quiet wedding in the truest sense of that term took place to-night at Emeryville, when Miss Mattie E. Daggett, daughter of S. W. Daggett, and Herman A. Holk, a wealthy rancher of Sutter County, were united, Rev. Mr. Hunter of Golden Gate officiating, and Professor Wilkinson acting as interpreter in the silent language of the deaf and dumb.

Neither the bride nor groom has spoken a word or heard a word spoken since infancy, yet both are perfectly contented. The young bride lost the power of speech and hearing by illness when a mere babe. Illness was also the cause of the groom's affliction. The couple met at the Berkeley Institute for the Deaf and Dumb, and there, without a waste of words and sweet and honeyed nothings, plighted their troth. Both are graduates of the institute.

The bride is a charming brunette, an accomplished artist in oil and water colors, and the groom, as stated, is a wealthy rancher, who appears to conduct his business affairs without inconvenience from his affliction. The young couple will spend their honeymoon at Pacific Grove.

ROWE WANTED BREED TO RAISE ASSESSMENTS

Mayor Snow Says That No Such Action Was Contemplated by Charter Makers.

Oakland Office San Francisco Call, 908 Broadway, Aug. 17.

The City Council is facing a dilemma. It has been pledged to run the city on a dollar tax limit, but when the pledge was made there was no idea that the city's assessment would be cut so low that the income from it would be inadequate for the government.

President Rowe made the statement last night that he had called upon City Assessor Breed and asked him to raise the assessment 15 or 20 per cent, when he saw how low County Assessor Dalton had fixed it.

"It would have been easy," said Mr. Rowe, "for the City Assessor to have raised the assessment to $50,000,000, and in my opinion it should have been done. He declined to do it, saying that the charter provided that the figures of the County Assessor should be the basis of the city assessment. I believe that the assessment of the city is too low for city taxation. Of course, we, as a Board of Equalization, could have raised the assessment, but, in that case we should have to send a notice to every taxpayer in the city of our intention, and they would then come and attempt to fight it. Had the City Assessor raised the assessment the taxpayers would have accepted his figures as a matter of course and there would not be any necessity for sending out thousands of notices."

Auditor Breed is not in the city to-day, but Mayor Snow explained the situation. "When the new charter was made," said the Mayor, "I was elected to the office of Auditor and Assessor. The very first occasion that arose of fixing a tax levy this question of assessments came up. I conferred with Judge Havens and others who had framed the charter as to their intentions and they told me that the idea of the charter makers was that the figures of he County Assessor should be the figures of the city assessment, and that the word 'basis' was merely used because it had been in the general law. I offered to make a test case, and went before the Council proposing that this be done. My proposition was frowned upon, and it was understood that the figures of the County Assessor should be final as regards the city. The precedent thus set has been followed right along, and personally I do not blame Auditor Breed for declining to arbitrarily raise the figures of the County Assessor. It may cause lots of trouble to the Board of Equalization to raise assessments, but it would seem that that is the proper course to pursue."

A reduction of $7,000,000 in the city assessment from 1897 reduces the city's income just $70,000, and it is this sum that the City Council has to do without, if it be bound by its pledge to conduct the government on $1, which the majority of the members propose to do.

Rosenberg Needs Witnesses.

OAKLAND, Aug. 17.—Joe Rosenberg, the cigar dealer and saloon-keeper, is to be tried to-morrow afternoon for attending a prize fight. His attorney, H. W. Pulsifer, presented the court with the following list of witnesses he wished to have subpenaed. It is the most influential list of citizens that could be named in Oakland:

W. B. Hardy, William R. Davis, P. E. Bowles, J. Fibush, Victor Metcalf, Fred A. Campbell, Fred Kahn, M. Isaacs, Max Marcuse, Alexander Hirshberg, Joseph Harris, C. E. Crowell, J. J. Allen, Walter Mathieu, Frank C. Jordan, J. G. McElroy, Henry P. Dalton, Robert Fitzgerald, George C. Pardee, Oscar Rodgers, David H. Swain, E. M. Gibson, John P. Glascock, William H. Church, P. Bercovich, George E. de Golia, Patrick Gray, N. A. Koser, Bert Lissner, William Bowman, Abe Jonas, Ambrose Edwards, Philip M. Walsh, Fred E. Whitney, George Samuels, W. W. Camron, George W. Reed, A. W. Bishop, E. Nusbaumer, L. G. Cole, L. S. Church, W. N. Miller, J. F. Garrity, Dr. Dunn, A. P. Leach, J. G. Quinn.

Berkeley News Notes.

BERKELEY, Aug. 17.—Frank L. O'Brien died to-day at his residence, 1131 Delaware street, West Berkeley. Deceased was 65 years of age. The funeral will be held from St. Joseph's Church to-morrow morning at 9:30 o'clock.

T. J. Murphy, who was arrested a week ago for obtaining goods under false pretenses and who skipped the town, leaving his bondsmen to answer for him, has failed to put in an appearance. His case came up in Judge Edgar's court this morning and sentence was postponed till to-morrow.

Dentist Arrested for Insanity.

OAKLAND, Aug. 17.—Frank Bartlett, the dental student who was arrested for insanity last night, was discharged by the Lunacy Commissioners to-day. It appeared from the testimony at the examination conducted by Drs. Knox and Fearn that Bartlett had been carousing of late, and while very much under the influence of liquor last night entered his home at 963 Grove street and proceeded to make "rough house." It is also said that he attempted violence upon his mother and other members of the family. Mrs. Bartlett rushed from the place and summoned Officer Sill, who made the arrest. The mother, however, was too ill to attend the examination to-day and the young man was discharged.

APPOINTED HIM IN A STINGING REPRIMAND

Attorney Garrity Must Appear and Defend Hill at All Odds, Says Judge Hall.

OAKLAND, Aug. 17.—Notwithstanding a graceful declination Colonel T. F. Garrity will appear in court hereafter and defend Edward Hill from the stern realities of what the law has in store for men who abstract diamond studs from shirt fronts of other men. Judge Hall so ruled in forceful language this afternon.

Hill is accused of having stolen a diamond shirt stud from J. A. Allen of San Francisco on May 30 last at a picnic in Shell Mound Park. At Hill's arraignment Attorney Garrity appeared, but had evidently not been notified of the day set for the trial, hence when the matter came up to-day Attorney Garrity, who had been working night and day on the prizefight cases in the Police Court, failed to materialize. Judge Hall therefore directed a telephonic message to the corpulent advocate to the effect that if he did not come to court immediately he would be adjudged guilty of contempt of court.

Breathlessly Colonel Garrity rushed into Judge Hall's department and explained that he had not been notified of Hill's trial, but the court disclaimed fault for that fact and reprimanded the attorney in strong terms. "You have got to attend to your business here," rebukingly proclaimed his Honor. "In fully half of your cases in this department you do not appear when you should, and this court has been greatly exercised to find you."

"But your Honor," with bated breath replied the attorney, "I do not want to represent this man Hill. I have other cases to attend to in which fees have been paid, and I do not wish to lose time with this one." But Judge Hall called time and ruled:

"Whether you want to or not. You represented this man at his arraignment and have led him and the court to believe that you were representing him. It is the order of this court that you do represent him. The case will now be transferred to Judge Ellsworth's department for trial." And the trial was begun in the latter's department.

Later in the day Attorney Garrity met Judge Hall on Washington street. They looked daggers at each other, but the visionary blades emitted scanty sparks, and the two stalwarts who a few years ago ran on opposite tickets for Superior Judge, Hall defeating Garrity with a neat and sufficient Republican majority, went their ways in peace.

Baseball Captain Takes a Bride.

OAKLAND, Aug. 17.—Miss May Nunan, daughter of M. C. Nunan of West Oakland, and Fred W. Lange, the popular captain of the Oakland baseball team, were married this afternoon at the residence of Rev. Father Prendergast in San Francisco. Miss Genevieve Nunan, sister of the bride, was bridesmaid and William B. Moskiman was best man. The young couple are very popular here. They have gone on their bridal trip to Camp Capitola, but on their return will reside in Oakland.

LEAGUED FOR IMPROVEMENTS

OAKLAND, Aug. 17.—The Associated Improvement Clubs is now fully organized and ready for business. The following officers have been elected: Dr. N. K. Foster, president; George W. Drake, vice president; James S. Naismith, secretary; C. A. Chichester, treasurer; N. J. Herby, marshal.

The association consists of five delegates from each of the improvement clubs of the city, and its purpose is to work harmoniously for any desired public improvement and prevent factionalism that might be developed as the result of location. The delegates are as follows;

Linda Vista Club—J. H. Naismith, E. M. Walsh, R. M. Lyman, A. F. Coffin, R. M. Price.

PRESIDENT N. K. FOSTER.

Adeline Club—C. E. Towne, J. A. Thompson, J. R. McGregor, L. Zuanich, J. G. Hill.

The delegates from the other clubs have been already published.

The following executive committee has been elected: J. C. Bullock, West Oakland; J. S. Wixson, North Oakland; H. D. Burns, Golden Gate; C. W. Emory, Twenty-third avenue, Boulevard and Peralta Heights; B. H. Welch, Linda Vista; A. F. Coffin, Adeline Improvement Club; J. R. McGregor.

Membership committee—A. R. Dewar, Dr. Teague and Charles Towne.

Dr. N. K. Foster, the president, is a resident of Twenty-third avenue, and has always been an ardent worker for public improvements.

WANTED MEN TO ROAST THE DOLE MINISTRY

Strange Work of E. P. Stoddard.

TALKED LOUDLY OF MONEY

PLAYED A MEAN TRICK ON A BARBER.

Seeking for Journalists Who Would Receive Large Pay and Do Nothing But Pander to Royalists.

Oakland Office San Francisco Call, 908 Broadway, Aug. 17.

Several people from Haywards would like to meet Edward P. Stoddard, who credited himself with being the son of a wealthy plantation owner in Hawaii. A few months ago Mr. Stoddard took up his quarters at the Haywards Hotel. He made many friends by his pleasant manner and the ease with which he talked of his father's vast wealth. A few days ago Mr. Stoddard left Haywards and several people would now like to meet him. He is credited with always paying his debts and so far as is known left no unpaid loans behind him. But he was possessed of a mania for engaging people to go and work in the islands for fancy salaries, at the same time promising his gullible acquaintances that the hardest work would be to draw their salaries.

Manuel Simas is a barber of Haywards. He was honored with the privilege of shaving the wealthy young Stoddard. Finally Mr. Stoddard confided to his barber that he was looking out for a good man to go down to the islands. He would pay $75 a month, give board and lodging, while the only services to be performed would be to shave his uncle, trim his aunt's hair and occasionally run a mower over his uncle's lawn. Simas thought this was a great deal better than shaving for a precarious income at Haywards, so he accepted the offer and invested quite a little sum in purchasing the necessary apparel to enable him to become chief lawn mower and hairdresser to Stoddard's unce and aunt. Simas was to go to Honolulu by the steamer which sailed on the 10th inst., but on that date Mr. Stoddard was not on hand, although Mr. Simas had vacated his job and packed his valise.

Stoddard also announced that it was his intention to go to the islands in the interests of a plantation owner named Churchill and establish a newspaper in Honolulu which should be rabidly royalist. "There is a little purpose in this scheme of ours," said Stoddard. "Mr. Churchill lost heavily when the Dole Ministry took office, and he has appropriated $200,000 for this newspaper enterprise, his sole desire being to get even with those who did him up. The whole thing is in my hands. I will engage a complete staff for all departments and we will all go down to the island together and teach those people that the loyalist faction is still alive."

With these ideas Mr. Stoddard visited many newspaper men and created the impression that the intention of his principal was to create a revolution in the islands. Of course, there were plenty of journalists who could create a revolution to order on the salary of about $250 a week, but when they attempted to nail Mr. Stoddard down to facts he made all manner of excuses and promised to return in a few days prepared to make definite offers. One man he spoke to nearly caused him to faint by telling him that before he would proceed any urther he (Stoddard) must deposit $1000 in a local bank as evidence of his good faith. Stoddard never came back, and now everybody is wondering why he should have indulged in such peculiar pastimes.

If Mr. Simas of Haywards could now meet Mr. Stoddard the meeting would not be conducted under Marquis of Queensberry rules.

CAKEWALK CARNIVAL CLOSES SATURDAY NIGHT

Major Waters Walks for Points and Is Voted a Success—Many Youthful Artists.

OAKLAND, Aug. 17.—The international cakewalk carnival at the Exposition building has been a remarkable success in all ways. The opening house exceeded in point of pay attendance any similar event held in the city recently. Cakewalking seems to have caught on, not only in San Francisco, but in Oakland, judging from the interest evinced and the sale of tickets. The second night of the carnival exceeded that of the first night. The match contests were between Professor McKilliken, a local champion of considerable renown, who with his partner walked for points against Everett A. Brown and Miss Annie Kelly, the winner of the Pacific Coast diamond badge championship medal at the San Francisco carnival, and John and Martha Steward, the colored champions. Major Waters had a very lively contest for points with George Steward.

The electric cakewalk as given in Oakland exceeds in points of beauty anything ever attempted in this line in the country. The management has had two of the tiniest sets of storage batteries, carrying twenty lights, ever made in this country, and they are worn by little Harry Mangels and Etta Aronson, two of the best juvenile cakewalkers in the world. The little children take naturally to the beautiful evolutions and take great pride in their accomplishments. Master Harry is a native son, residing in San Francisco, and little Etta is an Oakland miss and native daughter. The children have been secured by the State Agricultural Society for their appearance at the Sacramento State Fair in conjunction with two local champions and Miss Pearl Hickman, drum major. They will give the electric cakewalk, and the citizens of Sacramento are promised something extra good.

The first appearance in Oakland of John and Martha Steward created a sensation, although many favored the walking of Louis and Rosie Williams, the young colored couple from San Francisco, who have just started out professionally. Lorraine Langstreth and Miss Myrtle Guids and Harry Caro and partner and Miss Edna Honn and partner were selected by the judges, and competed again last night in the finals for the society State championship.

A. M. Stone of the Olympic Club of San Francisco put on a very novel and beautiful fire and electrical act, swinging flags and lights of fire balls, like Indian clubs, to the delight of all those present. Mr. Stone has one of the most novel acts that has been seen around San Francisco in some time.

Lim Kin and his Chinese cakewalkers made their first appearance last night, creating unbounded applause. Miss Pearl Hickman will give the Dewey dance on Saturday afternoon for the children, and little Alma Ferris will repeat her Irish jig and reel dance, in which she made a great hit on the occasion of Thursday's matinee. The matinees are proving very popular, not only for the children, but for the older people. The children will be out in full force on Saturday, as that is a holiday. As there are two sets of medals, the juveniles have been divided into two classes, commencing this (Thursday) evening. The finals of the juveniles, both classes, will probably be decided Friday night. Dr. Metcalf of San Francisco, Charles Hoen of San Jose and James L. Flannigan of Sacramento, who are unacquainted with the children, will judge the finals, arriving in the city on Friday morning.

Death of a Pioneer Butcher.

ALAMEDA, Aug. 17.—Philip L. Gauchner, a pioneer butcher of the West End, died last night at 9 o'clock at his home, 1612 Webster street, after a lengthy illness. Deceased was a native of Ohio, aged 50 years. Mr. Gauchner settled in Alameda nearly twenty-four years ago, establishing a meat market at the West End. He was a charter member of Whilden Hose Company and of West End Lodge No. 175, A. O. U. W. Mrs. Florence A. Gauchner, his wife, and two children, Elizabeth C. and Filbert L. Gauchner, survive him.

ALAMEDA COUNTY NEWS BREVITIES

OAKLAND, Aug. 17.—Edith Agnes Horan, through her attorney, F. W. Sawyer, commenced suit against Denis Horan for a divorce on the ground of failure to provide.

George B. Hoagland to-day filed suit against Harry Pitman of Berkeley for the recovery of $492 50, claimed due for medical services rendered defendant's wife during each and every day from March 2 to April 28, 1899, and no part of which has been paid.

The Hibernia Savings and Loan Society filed suit to-day against Sarah H. Knox, William E. Palmer, et al., for the foreclosure of a mortgage on property on Simpson avenue, near Telegraph avenue, given to secure payment of a $7200 note dated August 20, 1894, of which there is still due $6200.

J. B. Lanktree, J. Henry Glas and Clarence Crowell filed an appraisement to-day of the estate of David G. Alexander, who died suddenly in San Francisco about four months ago, showing a total valuation of $23,764 65, consisting chiefly of moneys and stocks. The widow, Isabella R. Alexander, is the sole heir.

J. H. Coffin, who is being sued for a divorce by Ester T. H. Coffin, has given notice that he will on next Monday move the Superior Court for an order directing D. B. Channell, the receiver in charge of his "Favorite candy store" in San Francisco, to pay him the sum of $12 per week out of the proceeds of said business for his support pending the divorce suit.

Christopher Murr to-day applied for letters of administration on the estate of his wife, Amelia Murr, who died in December, 1887, leaving real estate in San Francisco and a 160-acre tract in Ventura County.

It is probable that the schools of this city will be closed on the day of the arrival of the First California Regiment. Many inquiries to the matter have been made by parents in various sections of the city, and although Deputy School Superintendent York says that no action has as yet been taken it is quite likely that the proposition will be disposed of favorably.

The McElrath thirty-acre property in Alden has been purchased by W. H. Martin at a reported price of $30,000. Martin is closely associated with the Realty Syndicate. It is understood that the mortgages held by the Oakland Bank of Savings, given by Major McElrath, will be assumed by the purchaser. Mrs. Alden-McElrath has a homestead located in the center of the tract.

Carl Mideck, a prominent butcher of Haywards, was quietly married to Miss E. Schneider last evening at the home of the bride. The happy couple departed on a honeymoon to Lake Tahoe and will remain away a couple of weeks. They will make their future home in Haywards.

Rev. Dr. R. F. Coyle is expected home from his extended trip through Europe and the East in time to occupy his pulpit at the First Presbyterian Church in this city by the first Sunday of next month.

A movement is on foot to establish a free evening class in high school subjects, where an opportunity will be afforded young men and women who are employed in the daytime to enjoy educational facilities at night.

L. H. Briggs obtained a permit to-day to remove his two-story house from the northeast corner of Clay and Thirteenth streets to Twenty-first and Brush. On the cleared lot he proposes to build a three-story business structure.

At the conclusion of an interesting programme by the Young People's Society at the Swedish Lutheran Church last evening a genuine surprise was created when Rev. A. J. Rodell called for order and joined in wedlock Miss Anna Rudolphi and Albert Peterson Rudolphi, who before the ceremony were not related.

Charles L. M. Wolf, who was charged with bigamy by his second wife, was examined to-day before Justice Quinn and was held to answer for felony. It is alleged that he has a wife and three children in Delaware, from whom he is not divorced. He married the plaintiff in Sacramento.

CITY MAY LOSE A PARK THROUGH INDIFFERENCE

OAKLAND, Aug. 17.—The heirs of A. M. Larue are seriously considering suing the city for the return of Independence Square in East Oakland. Twenty-seven years ago A. M. Larue deeded to the city of Oakland two whole blocks for the purpose of a public square. These two blocks are to-day in the same prestine condition as they were when given to the city. The understanding at the time of the making of the deed was that the property should be improved and used for the purposes for which it was given. Up to this time the city has made no effort to improve the property and the heirs are seeking to find out whether under the circumstances the property should not revert to them. In order to prevent such a public calamity Councilman Rowe of East Oakland is seeking to induce the Council to immediately appropriate $5000 for the improvement of this long neglected property. Independence Square is on the side of a hill and one of the prettiest pieces of property in East Oakland.

Alameda News Notes.

ALAMEDA, Aug. 17.—The marriage of Miss Anna Koerber, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Koerber, and Carl H. Edsen of San Francisco was solemnized last evening at the residence of the bride's parents, 2100 Pacific avenue. Rev. A. Jatho of Oakland officiated.

A baseball nine composed of members of Halcyon Parlor will cross bats with a team of ball tossers from Athens Parlor of Oakland next Saturday afternoon.

W. A. Bissell, assistant manager of the Santa Fe Railway, and family will occupy their residence at Alameda avenue and Union street about September 1.

Cards are out announcing the coming marriage of Miss Minnie Kastering to A. H. Kriete, to take place Wednesday evening, September 6, at the Emanuel Lutheran Church, on Lafayette street.

A meeting of lodge committees to devise plans for the reception of the Alameda members of the First California Volunteers was held in Foresters' Hall last evening. C. S. Robinson acted as chairman and Arthur Mock was selected as secretary. Another meeting will be held next Saturday night at 8 o'clock, at which time all societies and clubs of this city are expected to have representatives present. The following committee on halls was appointed: Alameda Boat Club, C. H. Smith; Pawnee Tribe, I. O. R. M., H. Stewart; Yosemite Council, D. of P., Miss H. La Fou; Spruce Camp, W. O. W., F. R. Royle.

Will Play Charity Ball.

ALAMEDA, Aug. 17.—On next Saturday afternoon the "Sore Heads" and the "Square Heads" will play a game of baseball for the benefit of the fund for the reception of the First California Volunteers. The game will be played at the West End cricket grounds, commencing at 3 o'clock sharp.

Following is the line-up of the two teams:

Sore Heads—Catcher, G. Goggin; pitcher, G. Dinsmore; first base, S. Bissell; second base, C. Allen; third base, J. Robinson; shortstop, A. Groth; left field, R. Robinson; center field, McCurdy; right field, T. Pollard.

Square Heads—Catcher, G. Lamb; pitcher, F. Hamma; first base, F. Teller; second base, H. Steiger; third base, T. Murdock; shortstop, C. Teller; left field, C. Gibbs; center field, G. Searles; right field, H. Page.

Umpire—J. R. Oncladed.

Had No Sights.

ALAMEDA, Aug. 17.—The new vehicle light ordinance was enforced for the first time last night. J. W. Thornford, a Haywards farmer, was the first victim. He was allowed to go on his own recognizance. John Featherstone, a dairyman, was also arrested for failing to have a light on his vehicle. Featherstone deposited $5 bail and was allowed to depart.

MUCH MYSTERY ENVELOPS J. W. WALTON'S DEATH

Remains Found Floating in the Bay.

NO EVIDENCE OF FOUL PLAY

AUTOPSY PHYSICIANS SAY HE WAS DROWNED.

Coroner's Jury Could Not Decide Whether It Was a Case of Suicide or Accidental Death.

OAKLAND, Aug. 17.—The waters of the bay have given up another mystery which has proved too deep for a Coroner's jury to unravel, and the indications point somewhat to a murder preceded by robbery.

The remains of a man believed to be John W. Walton, late of Albuquerque, N. M., were found floating in the bay near Stewart's boathouse, West Oakland, this morning by a young man named O. Olsen. Coroner Mehrman was promptly notified, and Deputy Coroner Joe Mottell removed the body to the morgue. It had been necessary for the deputy to wade into the water some distance to where the body was pounding upon the rocks, and the head and face of the dead man had been badly bruised, but the features were quite recognizable. From appearances the body had not been in the water long. It was that of a man of fine physique, six feet in stature, full featured, with dark brown mustache, clothed in a suit of black diagonal clothes in good condition.

In the pockets was found a wallet of red leather containing a visiting certificate from Fidelity Lodge, I. O. O. F., of Gallup, N. M., showing that John W. Walton was a member in good standing on January 24, 1899, and was entitled to draw $7 a week sick benefits and $50 funeral expenses. There was another certificate entitling the holder to obtain the password from any lodge he desired to visit, also a receipt showing the subscription paid to the Daily Citizen, published at Albuquerque, N. M., and a bill of fare of the steamship Corona, dated August 11. There was also found a new memorandum book with morocco cover, bearing the address of "John W. Walton, 2131-2 West Railroad avenue, Albuquerque, N. M." Four nickels were all the money found.

Whether the man was murdered, committed suicide or met death accidentally the jury at the inquest was unable to determine. Young Olsen testified to the discovery of the remains, and aside from him the only witnesses were Deputy Coroners Mottell and Quelian and Dr. J. L. Milton, who asserted positively that death had been due to drowning. Wounds on the dead man's head were declared superficial, and no broken bones had been noted by the doctor, who had examined the corpse carefully. The jury accordingly brought in a verdict of death by drowning, "but whether the result of suicidal intent or from accident we are unable to determine from the evidence produced."

From the bill of fare found it is evident that the dead man had been a passenger on the steamer Corona, and in view of the absence of money or valuables the theory prevails that Walton, if it be he, was robbed and thrown into the bay, while others hold the opinion that the scarcity of funds fortifies the suspicion that Walton had become despondent from lack of finances and ended his life. The Odd Fellows of this city have now taken temporary charge of the remains, awaiting orders from the secretary of the New Mexico lodge as to its disposal.

Child Badly Scalded.

OAKLAND, Aug. 17.—The infant son of William Livingston was frightfully scalded in a tub of boiling water at the family residence on Ellis street, in Lorin, yesterday. The mother was preparing the child's bath. She had poured boiling water into the tub on the floor and the child fell from a chair close by. The little one's abdomen, right arm and hands were seriously scalded and Drs. Oberg and Selfridge, who are attending the case, are not very sanguine.

Lighting the County Road.

OAKLAND, Aug. 17.—The committee having in hand the proposition of lighting the county road from this city to San Leandro, and perhaps to Haywards, met at the rooms of the Merchants' Exchange here to-night and reported favorably as to its feasibility. But one bid was received, that of the Haywards Electric Railway, which corporation offers to furnish arc lights at $4 80 each per month.

Fay Is Loved in Durance Vile.

OAKLAND, Aug. 17.—A dismissal of the divorce suit of Mrs. Laura Fay against Charles H. Fay was entered to-day at the request of the wife, who declares now that she does not want a legal separation. The suit was based on the grounds of cruelty and failure to provide, and Mr. Fay, who is a dairyman of Berkeley, is at present serving a six months' sentence in the County Jail for beating his 14-year-old daughter.

FIVE MILLIONS IN BONDS.

Standard Electric Company Authorizes an Immense Issue of Stock.

The stockholders of the Standard Electric Company have approved of the $5,000,000 bond issue. The bonds are to be 5 per cent securities, paying interest semi-annually.

Prince Poniatowski, president of the company; W. Frank Pierce of the Blue Lakes Water Company, and W. R. Eckart left Wednesday evening for the East for the purpose of letting contracts for machinery, pipes and all the pharaphernalia necessary for the carrying out of the great enterprise they are promoting. The company has now in the hills between four and five hundred workmen engaged in constructing dams, and this large force will probably be greatly increased when the necessary supplies from the East arrive.

The enterprise of the Standard Electric Company has already been published in the columns of this paper. Briefly, it is an immense electric plant that has for its object the supplying of all the electric power needed in an immense circuit stretching from Blue Lakes in Alpine County to the southern part of the State and embracing in its scope all the mining plants, towns and cities, including Stockton, Oakland, San Francisco and San Jose, that lie within this immense stretch of territory.

The company already has its service in Stockton. It expects to reach Oakland next spring and San Francisco and San Jose a few months later.

H. F. EMERIC'S FUNERAL.

The funeral of Henry F. Emeric will take place on Saturday afternoon at 2 p. m. from the hall of the B. P. O. Elks on Sutter street, where the full services of the order will be held. The deceased will be cremated in the full dress uniform of a lieutenant colonel of the division staff, N. G. C. The division staff, the local cavalry troop of the National Guard and the Oakland company of the National Guard will escort the remains to the Odd Fellows' Cemetery, where they will be cremated.

The Elks will be represented by Pallbearers W. J. Golcher and H. B. Hosmer; the division staff of the National Guard by Colonel Thomas Cluff and Lieutenant Colonel D. E. Miles.