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ABSCONDERS NAME THEIR OWN TERMS

Return Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars' of Securities.

Fugitive Bank Teller and Bookkeeper, However, Retain a Fortune.

Directors of the Looted Institution Show No Disposition to Arrest or Prosecute the Thieving Employees.

LOWELL, Mass., Oct. 21.—The financial troubles which have caused great suspense to the officers of the Merchants' National Bank for three days, in consequence of the disappearance of its teller, Albert G. Smith, and its bookkeeper, Lewis H. Swift, practically were smoothed out to-day.

The bank's loss, it is understood, is made up of two items: First, the stealings of the two men during the past two years, as shown now by the books, and secondly, that part of the cash included in the loot retained by Smith and Swift as the price of their bargain to return the securities.

The valuable securities which have been recovered represented bonds, notes and other negotiable papers and bunches of money, all supposed to have been taken from the bank vault just prior to the time the men disappeared on Thursday night.

Smith Goes to Montreal. Interest for the moment centers in the pursuit of Smith and Swift and to-night it was understood that United States officers had found near this city the men's hiding place.

No Disposition to Prosecute. Lawyer Burke, when asked if his clients would be in danger of prosecution, said: "I know of nothing which would indicate that the men would be prosecuted."

MOVEMENT TO OVERTHROW THE JAPANESE CABINET Marquis Ito's Party Said to Have Instigated a Gigantic Political Sensation.

YOKOHAMA, Oct. 21.—The Marquis Ito's party has initiated a strong movement to overthrow the Cabinet.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21.—"This is very surprising news," said K. Tsuchiaki, former Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, at the headquarters of Marquis Ito at the Arlington Hotel to-day, when shown the press dispatches from Yokohama stating that Marquis Ito's party has initiated a strong movement to overthrow the Japanese Cabinet.

LEADERS OF THE BOERS ARE SENT INTO EXILE Former Residents of the Transvaal Discredit Rumor of General Dewet's Death.

PRETORIA, Oct. 21.—Twelve more Boer leaders, including Commandant Scheepers, whose capture was announced October 12, have been permanently banished from South Africa.

THE HAGUE, Oct. 21.—The former residents of the Transvaal who are now in this city entirely discredit the rumors of the death of General Dewet emanating from Durban, Natal.

Land Lottery Winner Is Dead. LAWTON, O. T., Oct. 21.—James R. Woods, who drew the capital prize in the Lawson land district at the El Reno lottery last August and settled a claim valued at nearly \$50,000, is dead of typhoid fever, after a brief illness.

Immense Insurance Policy. DULUTH, Minn., Oct. 21.—The writing of an insurance policy for \$20,000,000, covering all the property of the Northern Pacific Railroad subject to fire, has been secured by a local agent.

MINERS MAKE ENERGETIC MOVE TO SECURE YUBA DAM OPTION

Sessions of the First Day Develop a Unique Episode Seekers for Ores Have Busy Time in Various Ways O'Brien Declines to Extend the Time for Taking Land Convention Raises Money Necessary to Force the Issue



PRESIDENT VOORHEIS OF THE CALIFORNIA MINERS' ASSOCIATION DELIVERING HIS ANNUAL ADDRESS AND SOME OF THE PROMINENT MEN WHO ARE IN ATTENDANCE UPON THE CONVENTION WHICH IS BEING HELD IN GOLDEN GATE HALL.

THE convention of the California Miners' Association, now in session in this city, raised \$2500 yesterday through a committee to pay James O'Brien, that the option he gave to the United States for lands needed for a settling basin in connection with Yuba River dam might not lapse.

President Voorheis had successively introduced Governor Gage and Mayor Phelan and they had welcomed the miners from the many counties of the State in well turned phrases that were pleasing and encouraging.

be granted that can be conveyed to any one. The settling basin spoken of is quite a distance from their lower barrier and I am not prepared to give them the right to bank tallings upon that land twenty feet high, as Colonel Heuer claims he would do, thus raising the plane of the river and endangering all the land I own south of the seepage.

When the letter had been read the delegates to the convention were of the opinion that they would like to hear what Mr. O'Brien would say to questions to be asked to define his exact position.

O'Brien Makes Statement. Secretary Benjamin also had a surprise in store for the convention. He had received a letter from O'Brien, and this he read. It was dated at Smartsville, October 9, 1901, and set forth that O'Brien was as anxious as he ever had been that the dam should be built, but he also described his grounds for raising an objection to the conditions that he thought were detrimental to him, as follows:

Any lands which I own or are owned by any companies that I represent can be used by the United States Government for the purpose of building barriers free of charge. No rights will

take a recess to 2 o'clock, but this answer of O'Brien's and the belief that the option might lapse before the convention could act unless something was done at once put the delegates in favor of meeting again at 1 o'clock and of appointing a committee to try to raise the \$2500 needed to secure O'Brien's option up securely. There was some discussion concerning parliamentary procedure at this point, but the convention adhered to its plan of having the necessary committee named at once and President Voorheis appointed W. C. Ralston, L. P. Pence and A. Caminetti as the members of the committee.

For Benefit of Miners. To the President and Members of the California Miners' Association, Gentlemen: Your committee begs leave to report that the limited time assigned it was impossible to visit many merchants and citizens who would have donated to this fund had they had the opportunity. The following named firms and citizens contributed the amount set opposite their respective names:

North Bloomfield Mining Company, \$500; California Powder Works, \$500; Eureka Lake Mining and Water Company, \$250; Joshua Hendy Machine Works, \$100; Calaveras M. W. and P. Company, \$100; Miller, Sloss & Scott, \$200; Dunham, Carrigan & Hayden Company, \$200; Baker & Hamilton, \$200; Harrold, Rickard & McConne, \$100; Henshaw, Bulkeley & Co., \$100; John Hoobling Sons Company, \$100; Mining and Scientific Press, \$100; W. W. Montague & Co., \$100; A. Caminetti, \$100; William Nichols Jr.,

\$100; F. R. Wehe, \$100; J. M. Gieves, \$100; W. C. Ralston, \$100; Colonel George Stone, \$100. Total, \$3150. W. C. RALSTON, L. P. PENCE, A. CAMINETTI. Seeking for O'Brien. On motion of Judge Belcher of San Francisco the committee received the thanks of the convention and was instructed to pursue the matter further. It was necessary to visit the California Debris Commission, and this the committee did at once. There the date of the expiration of the O'Brien lease was discussed. The committee was authorized to find O'Brien and to offer him the \$2500, and the committeemen went out on that mission immediately after the adjournment of the conference in Colonel Heuer's office. A report will be made to the convention to-day as to the success of that part of the work of the committee.

There were two sessions only of the convention yesterday. In the usual course of things committees on credentials and resolutions were appointed. The former committee reported that there were 573 delegates who were entitled to seats on the floor as representing county associations and commercial bodies, and these were apportioned as follows:

Nevada County, 67; San Francisco, 70; Shasta, 90; Amador, 42; Calaveras, 44; Placer, 42; Sierra, 24; Alameda, 21; El Dorado, 21; Butte, 20; Yuba, 14; Tuolumne, 5; Plumas, 5; Santa Clara, 5; Kern, 5; San Bernardino, 5; Fresno, 5; Solano, 5; San Luis Obispo, 4; Marin, 5; Siskiyou, 5; Mariposa, 5; Inyo, 5; Santa Barbara, 1; Southern California Branch Association, 7; Southwest Mines, 5; California Petroleum Miners' Association, 10; San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, 5; California State Board of Trade, 5; Sacramento Chamber of Commerce, 5; Fresno Chamber of Commerce, 5; Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, 5; California State Mining Bureau, 5; California Debris Commission, 3; Trinity, 3.

The committees were made up as follows:

Credentials—W. H. McClintock, Tuolumne County; C. H. Weatherwax, El Dorado County; S. J. Hendy, San Francisco; W. F. Englebright, Nevada County; A. G. Meyers, Siskiyou County; William Nicholas, Placer County; A. H. Ward, Mariposa County; J. M. Gieves, California Petroleum Miners' Association; A. Ekman, Butte County; J. P. Parks, Amador County; A. R. Briggs, Fresno County; W. C. Ralston, Calaveras County; Joseph Durfee, Yuba County; A. W. Bishop, Alameda County; M. E. Dittman, Shasta County; Frank R. Wehe, Sierra County; L. E. Aubrey, Southwest Mines' Association; A. G. Lightner, Kern County; and H. J. Osborne, Northern California.

Resolutions—W. C. Ralston, chairman; W. F. Englebright, Nevada; E. A. Belcher, San Francisco; J. H. Tibbitts, Shasta; W. A. Fritchard, Amador; Jacob H. Neff, Placer; Frank R. Wehe, Sierra; A. W. Bishop, Alameda; H. E. Pickett, El Dorado; A. Ekman, Butte; Joseph Durfee, Yuba; W. H. McClintock, Tuolumne; S. S. Taylor, Plumas; Thomas Derby, Santa Clara; A. T. Lightner, Kern; Frank Monaghan, San Bernardino; A. R. Briggs, Fresno; A. C. Holly, Solano; Victor H. Woods, San Luis Obispo; John F. Boyd, Marin; A. I. Myers, Siskiyou; A. H. Ward, Mariposa; J. J. Gunn, Inyo; J. H. Harrington, Santa Barbara; L. E. Aubrey, Southern California; H. Z. Osborne, Southwest Mines' Association; J. M. Gieves, California Petroleum Miners' Association; R. H. Herron, Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce; J. F. Parks, State Mining Bureau; A. C. Hinkson, Sacramento Chamber of Commerce; Thomas Rickard, San Francisco Chamber of Commerce; Craigie Sharp, State Board of Trade; John McMurray, Trinity; William Thomas, California Water and Forest Association; Colonel Heuer, California Debris Commission; J. S. McBrink, Nevada; James Irving, Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

Adam I. Moore and Frank Yale were elected sergeants-at-arms. The speechmaking of the day brought out many statements that were pleasing to the miners. The address of principal importance to the delegates was that made by President Voorheis, which was somewhat in the nature of a report and contained recommendations for the good of the association. He suggested the appointment of a committee to revise the by-laws of the association, so that every member who contributes annual dues to carry on the work shall be entitled to take part in the association's annual conventions in this city.

The President's Address. President Voorheis said: Gentlemen of the California Miners' Association: Ten years ago a number of hydraulic miners met in the city of Auburn, Placer County, to see if some means could not be devised whereby hydraulic mining might be resumed without material injury to the farming lands and navigable rivers of the State. The outgrowth of that meeting was the organization of the California Miners' Association, and this meeting to-day is the tenth annual convention.

It is estimated that more than \$300,000,000 in gold is locked up in the gravel hills of Placer, Nevada and Sierra counties which could be liberated and put into circulation if some means could be devised to prevent injury to the adjacent lands. The first steps taken to aid the miners was by the State Legislature in making an appropriation of \$250,000, and the national Congress appropriated a like sum for the construction of barriers to restrain the debris already in the ravines and channels which feed navigable rivers, and also to permit the resumption of hydraulic mining under certain restrictions. The Federal engineers comprising the Call-

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BOLD RAID ON CHICAGO POSTOFFICE

Burglars Tunnel Under a Vault and Secure a Fortune.

Stamps Valued at \$74,610 Are Secured and Safely Carted Away.

Robbers Crawl Under the Building for Three Hundred Feet and Cut Their Way Through Brick Walls.

CHICAGO, Oct. 21.—A sensational robbery, which netted the perpetrators \$74,610 in stamps, was discovered here this morning when the wholesale stamp department of the postoffice was opened for business. A rapid investigation developed the fact that the burglars had crawled under the flooring for about 300 feet, bored a hole in the bottom of the vault, secured the stamps and escaped, carrying their booty in a wagon.

The work of forcing an entrance to the vault had evidently been going forward with the greatest patience for many days. It is believed, however, that the intention of the thieves had been to enter the cashier's vault, in which there was \$35,000 in money and stamps valued at hundreds of thousands of dollars. The bottom of the vault is of steel, half an inch thick. In this ninety-seven holes were bored until a space eighteen inches square—just enough to allow the entrance of a man's body—had been so weakened that it was possible to take out the whole plate without difficulty. A dry goods box stood over the hole thus made and concealed the work of the robbers while it was in progress. When discovered to-day the finger marks of one of the burglars were still discernible on the dust of the box, which he had pushed to one side.

Raid Is Carefully Planned. So carefully had the job been planned that men working in other parts of the building had not the slightest inkling of the daring robbery being worked almost under their noses.

The robbers drove up to the southeast corner of the postoffice in a wagon, the tracks of which could be plainly seen to-day. The building is a temporary affair and the men had only to open a little door to admit themselves under the flooring. To reach the vault it was necessary to crawl about 300 feet over odds and ends of boards which littered the way. The route evidently had been carefully studied, for a detective who went under to-day without knowledge of locations became lost and was nearly overcome by the foul odors before assistance reached him. Having secured their plunder the robbers loaded it into the wagon, drove across a vacant lot and turned into Washburn avenue in front of the Art building.

Of the \$74,610 in stamps taken \$4712 were in "postage due" stamps and \$2600 in special delivery stamps. So the convertible stamps amounted to \$77,322, but of these \$4825 were Pan-American stamps of 8 and 10 cent denominations.

Discover the Robbery. C. F. Spaulding, chief clerk of the wholesale stamp department, discovered the robbery when he opened the vault at 7:30 o'clock. The safe had been locked with contents apparently secure at 5 p. m. Saturday. Spaulding notified Postoffice Inspector Stuart, who hurried from his home and at once began an investigation, assisted by his deputies and a squad of detectives from the City Hall. After completing the search the inspector said:

"It was the largest stamp robbery ever done in the history of the postal service in this country. To get to the vault the men entered through a trap door. A few feet in they encountered a brick wall, which they dug through rather than crawl around looking for a clearer route. The wall, like others under the building, is of flimsy construction and it could not have taken them long to pick their way through it. A hundred feet or so farther on they ran against another wall and this they also dug through. On the way they also encountered a number of pipes, and as the floors are but two feet and in some places three feet above the ground, they tunneled under the pipes. Their whole course is plainly marked in this way. The wholesale stamp vault, like the cashier's vault and the money order vault, is supported by a brick wall. It forms a square, and before the robbery was airtight.

Burglars Make Air Holes. "In this the robbers broke two holes, possibly to secure more air, for the place undoubtedly was very foul, or to have an extra place of egress in case of discovery. For light they used dry batteries, one of which they left behind. This battery one of my men discovered. It and the wagon tracks are the only clues we have at present.

"The space under the vault is large enough to allow a man to stand upright, and their work must have been comparatively easy with the drills and steel saws which they used. The stamps were arranged in twenty-pound bundles, and the weight of the load they carried off must have been 500 pounds. Evidently one man handed the packages down to others waiting below. As their progress must have been slow carrying even one bundle through all those tunnels, crawling on all fours, I judge they worked for hours getting their booty to the wagon. "Evidently they felt perfectly secure, though somewhat disappointed at missing the cashier's vault, where there was \$35,000 in cash and a great quantity of stamps. I cannot tell how many men worked at the job. Every effort will of course be made to recover the property and capture the men who took it."