

OYSTER BEDS SEIZURE

Sloop Mounting a Gun Drops Anchor Off San Lorenzo.

Carries Surveyors and Men Skilled in Planting the Bivalve.

Men Who Have Held Possession for Years Said to Be Apprehensive That Titles Will Be Attacked.

Oakland Office, San Francisco Call, 1118 Broadway, July 19.

A sloop manned by armed men, with a small gun mounted on her deck, has been anchored off San Lorenzo for several days. In addition to the armed men there are a number of surveyors and oyster planters on board, and while the armed men keep the curious away, the surveyors are engaged in running mysterious lines, and the oyster planters are at work filling the waters with seed oysters.

Where the mysterious sloop came from is only a matter of suspicion with the people in this neighborhood, but the object of its visit is very certain. The sloop is evidently planting oyster beds in the interest of some firm or corporation, and the people who have held and claimed the water front between San Leandro and San Lorenzo and have planted and cultivated oysters for years see in the armed men and the warlike preparations an effort to take possession of oyster beds and lands by some big corporation.

What the invaders are doing can only be judged from observation, for no communication is allowed with the vessel, but there is a general opinion among those who have held these oyster bed titles that there is to be a wholesale jumping of these claims upon technical grounds of some kind, and this belief is strengthened by the knowledge of some of these oyster bed claimants that they have not strictly complied with the law which governs the acquisition of these lands.

EXCITEMENT AROUSED.

The mystery that surrounds the movements of the vessel and the men, the refusal to allow communication with those on board and the warlike character of the sloop has added to the general excitement. The men have nothing to do with the shore, and they are going about their work in a very business like manner. That work has now extended over a period of several days, and has been watched closely by the people who hold the original claims to these beds to inform them that the strangers are complying with the law, and that the laws governing the securing possession of this character of property.

The property that the armed sloop has seized lies just south of the claim of what is known as the San Leandro Oyster Company, and a rough estimate of what has been surveyed is that 200 acres of tide lands have been taken up. Where the lines of the surveyors run is also somewhat uncertain, but they are said to include lands now claimed by Captain Roberts of Roberts Landing, Henry Marlin, Mrs. G. Marlin and others.

Some time ago efforts were made by E. L. Daggett and L. W. Smith of San Francisco to secure some of the oyster titles in this section, and agents of these gentlemen visited the members of what is known as the San Leandro Oyster Company, composed of Socrates Huff, A. S. Gooch and T. W. Mulford, and wanted to purchase the property. They refused to sell, and it is now believed that the same gentlemen who were anxious to purchase at that time are determined to get possession of some of this valuable property if they have to secure it through force in the local titles.

PURPOSE TO USE FORCE.

When the oyster beds of this section were originally planted there was little doubt that the men who secured commercial propositions. Those who secured waterfront lands under the laws which permitted the taking possession of this kind of property in consideration of the planting of oyster beds were careless and did not strictly comply with the law. It is now said that the men who have secured the waterfront lands under the laws which permitted the taking possession of this kind of property have a careful search made of the titles to all of this property, and they have secured possession of the property which they could take possession of this land by force, and have a very good chance to hold it under the law. It is even said that a company has been incorporated under the laws of Nevada and that the seizure is being made in the name of that company, so that litigation will be taken out of the courts of Alameda County, where the property is located, and thrown into the Federal courts.

READY TO FIGHT.

Gove Roberts, the son of Captain John Roberts, said to-night: "An effort has been made to jump 1500 acres of our property, and some one supposed to be the Pacific Oyster Company, has got a sloop anchored over our oyster beds with guards on it. Some time ago E. L. Daggett and Mr. Overton, who hold two-fifths interest in the Pacific Oyster Company, came to us and made an offer for our oyster beds. They said they wished to go more deeply into the cultivation of oysters. They made us an offer, which we refused. Then a few days ago the sloop, with the armed men on board, sailed in and took possession. We were unable to get any satisfaction from the men, but we served them with a written notice to leave, in order to protect our rights. We were just considering calling upon the Sheriff to dispose them as trespassers when we received another call from Mr. Overton, who again made us an offer for the land. We are not going to stand any forcible and armed seizure of our property, and this is a very remarkable proceeding in this day."

Late Shipping Intelligence.

OUTSIDE, BOUND IN, MIDNIGHT. Schr. Advance. HILAND PORT. HONOLULU—Sailed July 19—Swedish ship Theosalus, for Port Townsend. DOMESTIC PORT. ASTORIA—Arrived July 19—Schr. George W. Elder, hence July 17. Sailed July 19—Schr. Oakley, for —. OCEAN STEAMER. SOUTHAMPTON—Sailed July 19—Schr. Barbara, from Bremen, for New York.

ORPHEUS IS AT THE GRAND OPERA-HOUSE

"In Wall Street" Is Carried by Clever Dancers.

Orpheus Presents New Line of Comedy That Pleases.

With the help of a "ticker" for local color, the Rogers Brothers are now to be found "In Wall Street" at the Grand Opera-house.

Oakland Office, San Francisco Call, 1118 Broadway, July 19.

The Orpheus presents a bill this week that has been seldom surpassed. Five new numbers are on the programme and each one is a gem. The new specialties are introduced in the holdover acts.

Claude Gillingswater and his company present a clever little comedy, "The Wrong Man." Gillingswater takes the part of "Sedgwick," an author, and George Jones, a traveling broker, is played by Reginald Barlow. Julia Jones, the latter's wife, is sustained to the best advantage by Miss Nina Lyn, and the latter's sister, Miss May Lyn, assumes the role of "Dolly," a maid. Edward McDonald, the comedian, and a broken-down tragedian. Their quartet selections are excellent.

George W. Hunter does a good turn as comedian and rascal. He was greeted with applause and received a hearty encore. Ethel Levy (Mrs. George M. Cohn) is, as she is advertised, a versatile and vivacious singing and dancing comedienne. Her songs were captivating and her dancing, which she called "Madame's," was a new and interesting feature. The biograph with many new pictures, closes the show.

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LAST NIGHT THE ALCAZAR OPENED ITS SECOND WEEK OF "THE PRISONER OF ZENDA."

This will occupy the boards for the entire week, when "The Prisoner of Zenda" will be produced in this city for the first time, beginning July 25.

AT THE COLUMBIA TO-NIGHT AMELIA BINGHAM WILL PRODUCE "THE FRISKY MRS. JOHNSON."

This play was one of the hits of the last dramatic season in New York and promises to create a furor here.

LAST NIGHT WAS THE FAREWELL PERFORMANCE OF NANCE O'NEILL AND HER COMPANY AT THE CALIFORNIA.

To-night the Central commences its third stock season with Herschel Mayall and a strong company in "Faulst." The novelty of seeing the famous family opera treated as a melodrama will be open to the public for the next week.

AN ENTIRELY NEW BILL WILL ATTRACT PATRONS TO THE CHUTES THEATER DURING THE COMING WEEK.

The new bill will be introduced by some new and novel turns by Eastern artists.

AT GRAUMAN'S A NEW BILL IS ALSO OFFERED FOR THE WEEK.

The great Zeno, Robinson and Grant and the Newmans are some of the attractions.

THINK THEY HAVE MURDERER.

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