NEWS OF THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

DEATH SOLVES THE MYSTERY

The Disappearance of Jose Leveira Is Explained by Effort to Secure Estate

EXPIRES NEAR HIS KIN

Dies at Antioch While Family Supposed He Had Returned to Native Land

Oakland Office San Francisco Call, 1016 Broadway, July 29.

A petition for special letters of administration on the estate of Jose Leveira filed with the County Clerk here to-day by Martin Leveira, accompanied with the allegation that he died at Antioch four days ago, clears up the mystery of the sudden disappearance of the deceased from his home at San Leandro about a year and a half ago.

The old man had been having trouble with his wife, who was suing him for a divorce, when he suddenly disappeared. It was afterward discovered that he had secured $10,000 by mortgaging some of his property and it was generally believed that Leveira had returned to Portugal and that he was spending the remainder of his days there in peace.

From the action taken to-day by Martin Leveira, his son, it shows that the old man went no farther away than to Antioch, where he took up his residence with his son, who had sympathized with him in his trouble. Leveira and his wife had been married since 1854, but of late years she accused him of cruelty and pleaded twenty-eight charges against him. One suit was dismissed and then another begun. There were eleven children and they took sides.

The contest took on such proportions that in order to escape it all Leveira quietly slipped away, taking enough money with him to supply his needs. Mrs. Leveira was granted her decree and given the homestead at San Leandro, valued at about $10,000. The interlocutory decree granted her a year ago has not become final and she will now be able to have it set aside and claim a widow's portion of the estate, which is valued at about $30,000.

Special letters were granted to Martin Leveira, the bond being fixed at $30,000.

SMALL BOY SETS FIRE TO NEIGHBOR'S BARN

Charles Newell, Four Years Old, Practices With Matches and Is Caught Burning Structure.

BERKELEY, July 29.—Charles Newell, the four-year-old son of D. A. Newell of 1910 Ninth street, set fire to a barn belonging to Charles Hadlen, his father's neighbor, this afternoon while playing with matches.

The child touched a lot of matches to two little piles of wood that he had gathered and when the owner of the barn arrived to see where the smoke was coming from the boy was in great glee over the success of his first attempt at incendiarism.

Hadlen put the fire out with a garden hose and then sent the child home to be spanked. The Fire Department was called out, but its services were found unnecessary.

Propose to License Dairies.

OAKLAND, July 29.—The Board of Health has prepared a proposed ordinance to license dairies, the measure providing for close inspection of dairies, looking toward enforcement of proper sanitary regulations. The bill will be introduced Monday night at the meeting of the City Council.

Kentz Under More Charges.

OAKLAND, July 29. — Formal charges were filed to-day against Policeman C. E. Kentz with the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners. Kentz is accused of unofficerlike conduct at Shell Mound Park last Sunday. Gus Nelson has sworn to a complaint charging Kentz with battery and offensive conduct.

Says Man Pursued Her.

OAKLAND, July 29.—Mrs. Marion Sheardin, residing at 956 New street, caused the arrest to-day of Augustus F. Miller, a carpenter, who, according to Mrs. Sheardin, pursued the woman into her house, after she had refused to talk with him outside.

BENNION PLACED UNDER ARREST AT INDIANAPOLIS

Branch Manager of Conservative Life Insurance Company Wanted on a Felony Embezzlement Charge.

Chief Wittman received a dispatch yesterday afternoon from C. L. Kruger, Superintendent of Police, Indianapolis, that Frederick Bennion was in custody there and asking that the requisition papers be brought as soon as possible. The Chief will have them prepared at once and an officer will be sent with them to bring Bennion back.

Bennion was manager of the Geary-street branch of the Conservative Life Insurance Company. A warrant charging him with felony embezzlement was sworn out before Police Judge Fritz late Thursday afternoon by F. B. Morris, inspector of accounts for the company. The amount alleged in the complaint is $202 75, but the total of the alleged defalcation will, it is said, exceed $1000. Rennion had been connected with the company for about a year and as he was a hustler his income was large. Poker and horse racing are said to have been the cause of his downfall. He disappeared last Monday.

WANTS BUSINESS DIVIDED.—OAKLAND, July 29.—Suit was brought to-day to decide the ownership of a saloon at the corner of Seventh and Kirkham streets. Antonio Marques claims that he owns a half interest in the place with Peter Flexel and wants a receiver appointed and the business divided.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Pears'

Few people know the comfort and beauty of perfect natural skin.

Have you used Pears' soap?

Sold all over the world.

UPHOLDS LOWER COURT DECISION

Alameda Local Referendum Ordinance Is Regarded as Not Being Mandatory

TRUSTEES FREE TO ACT

Municipal Legislators Are Not Required to Submit Public Matters to Voters

ALAMEDA, July 29.—In a decision rendered to-day the State Supreme Court sustains the action of the Superior Court of this county, which held that the local municipal referendum ordinance was not mandatory upon the City Trustees and that the latter could act on matters of public interest that came before them properly without first having to submit the questions to a general vote.

The decision of the higher court was the result of an appeal taken from the lower court by Henry Rosenthal, Green Majors and others, who sought through injunction proceedings to prevent the City Trustees from granting railroad franchises to the Southern Pacific Company nine months ago without first obtaining a sentiment of voters by a special election. When the Superior Court held that the referendum ordinance did not in any way bind or prevent the municipal legislators from acting on the franchises the Board of Trustees granted the franchises asked by the Southern Pacific Company.

Rosenthal and Majors carried the matter to the Supreme Court and endeavored to procure a permanent injunction until a decision could be had, but their request was denied.

UNIVERSITY EVENTS

BERKELEY, July 29.—Professor William E. Ritter, head of the department of zoology, has returned from Coronado beach, where, since the semester closed, he has been directing the activities of the marine biological laboratory and the summer school work in zoology on San Diego Bay. Under Professor Ritter's guidance the students of the summer school have been devoting themselves to investigation of the animal life that abounds in the waters of the bay, which every year yields new specimens. The scientists who have been assisting Professor Ritter are Professor Charles A. Kofoid, Dr. Harry B. Torrey, Calvin O. Esterly, Loye H. Miller, Robert D. Williams, Miss Margaret Henderson, Miss Effie J. Rigden, Mrs. A. L. Evans and O. H. Robertson.

The reception to teachers this evening was largely attended, Hearst Hall being crowded. Besides the teachers there were many members of the summer school faculty and of the Pacific Theological Seminary present.

Frederick D. Weber, '04, has been called to a responsible position with the Westinghouse Electrical Manufacturing Company and left to-night for Pittsburg, where he will be stationed hereafter.

Fruitvale Teachers Elected.

OAKLAND, July 29.—The trustees of Fruitvale school district have elected the following teachers:

Fruitvale School, No. 1—Miss A. J. Swazey, principal; teachers, Miss L. Donovan, Miss M. Madden, Miss Lucy Forsythe, Miss Tanner, Miss Erma Crowley, Mrs. J. Hearsey, Miss Grubb, Miss Brower, Miss Hauck, Miss McGaw.

Fruitvale School, No. 2—Paul Martin, principal; teachers, Miss Ida Hammond, Miss Sarah Cooper, Miss Marian Brownley, Miss Dewink, Miss Agnes Thompson, Miss Julia McLeod, Miss Florence Hay, Miss Farno.

Fruitvale School, No. 3—Miss Alice Baxley, principal; teachers, Mrs. Belle Flaherty, Miss Espee.

Truant officer—C. K. Garrison.

Declares Tax Rate Too Low.

ALAMEDA, July 29.—In speaking before the West End Improvement Association last night City Trustee W. M. Bowers reiterated the statement he made at a session of the municipal legislators last month that there would have to be an increase in the next tax levy. The present rate is $1 25, which Bowers declared is not sufficient to meet the expenses of the city government for the coming fiscal year. He figures that the new rate should be close to $1 31.

Judge Melvin Returns.

OAKLAND, July 29.—After a tour of the Eastern States with his wife Judge Henry A. Melvin returned today from a trip lasting more than a month. Next week he will take his turn at hearing the cases on the different court calendars. Judges Greene, Hall and Ellsworth are away and Judge Ogden has been doing the work for the last week, while Judge Greene took the first two weeks of the vacation term.

Marriage Licenses.

OAKLAND, July 29.—The following marriage licenses were issued by the County Clerk to-day: Joseph T. Farrar, over 21, and Cecil M. Hearns, over 18, both of Berkeley; William S. Oxley, 21, and Genevieve A. Southard, 19, both of Oakland; Dennis O'Connor, 25, and Mary Walsh, 23, both of Oakland; John O. Blanchard, 38, San Francisco, and Elizabeth C. Hooper, 30, Berkeley; Benjamin H. Lewis, 44, and Annie Allen, 39, both of Oakland.

Youth Swallows Eye Lotion.

ALAMEDA, July 29.—Louis Prusso Jr. of 1709 Walnut street became disgusted because of the troubles of his parents, who secured a divorce yesterday, and in an endeavor to end his worry last night swallowed a bottle of eye lotion, which he thought contained enough poison to kill him. Prusso afterward submitted to a stomach pump operation and to-day was glad to be alive.

Says Caller Was Drunk.

OAKLAND, July 29.—Joseph Corden, a plumber, tried to make a call last evening on the daughter of Mrs. Kate Adler, residing at 617 East Sixteenth street. Mrs. Adler objected to the visitor, asserting that he was drunk. She ordered him away. Corden created a disturbance, so Mrs. Adler charged. She caused his arrest to-day.

Settlement Elects Officers.

BERKELEY, July 29.—The West Berkeley Social Settlement directors have elected the following officers: President, Louis Titus; vice president, Thomas Dowd; secretary, Hart Greensfelder; treasurer, J. W. Richards; finance committee—F. W. Richardson, Thomas Rickard, Christian Hoff, J. T. Renas and J. W. Richards.

Increase Prey for Poundmen.

OAKLAND, July 29.—The City Council has decided to amend the pound ordinance to include all dogs running at large without license within its provisions. Hitherto pups six months old and under have been exempt from the poundman's noose.

TAKES A TRIP AFTER GILPIN

Former Treasurer's Business Associate Departs on a Journey to Colfax

BANKER HAS WRITTEN

Creditor Awaiting Advices From the Absent Man as to the State of Affairs

Oakland Office San Francisco Call, 1016 Broadway, July 29.

George W. Johnson, partner of former City Treasurer Z. B. Gilpin, in the Standard Wood Company at First street and Broadway, has hastened to Colfax for a conference with his associate. Yesterday Johnson was busy over the books of the concern. He has said the conditions are such that he desires to have a talk with Gilpin, to the end that an adjustment of their affairs may be reached.

Johnson's attorney, B. F. Woolner, said to-day that his client had taken no action in the matter of referring his business relations with Gilpin to the courts.

No further attachments were filed today against any of the property found of record in the name of Gilpin or of his wife. It is said that the claim of Dr. W. D. Huntington for $3600, attachment pending, represents loans of money that were made to Gilpin by the physician. Dr. Huntington and Gilpin were close friends.

Frank H. Brooks of the California Bank, which holds Gilpin's paper, has written to him at Colfax concerning their loan. There has been no secret about Gilpin's location. When the bank people desired to locate him several days ago members of the family did not hesitate to give information as to the former Treasurer's whereabouts.

UNIVERSITY REGENTS CONSIDER FINANCES

Committee of Governing Body Does Not Take Up Question of Appointment of Secretary.

BERKELEY, July 29.—The finace committee of the Board of Regents of the University of California met this afternoon and considered many important matters in connection with the funds of the university.

There were many rumors that the members of the finance committee had selected a candidate for recommendation to the Board of Regents for the vacant position of secretary to the board, but this was positively denied by the members of the committee.

The Board of Regents will meet on August 9 to adopt the recommendation of the finance committee as to the appointment of a secretary to the board.

PERSONAL.

Dr. T. M. Todd of Auburn is at the Lick.

Oscar Lawler of Los Angeles is in the city.

Rev. Father Vaughan of Angels is a guest at the Lick.

H. A. Stabler, a fruit man of Yuba City, is at the Lick.

Dr. and Mrs. F. J. Jansen of New York are at the Grand.

Dr. E. P. Herbert of Santa Barbara is a guest at the Palace.

Alfonso Meyer, a banker and coffee grower of Guatemala, is at the Palace.

J. E. Stubbs, president of the Nevada State University, is at the Palace.

G. S. Holmes, the well known hotel man of Los Angeles, is at the Palace.

E. P. Dunn, proprietor of the Arlington Hotel of Santa Barbara, is at the Palace.

Fred A. Hines, a well known insurance man of Los Angeles, is at the Palace.

T. Y. Anderson, a railroad man of Salt Lake City, and his wife are at the Occidental.

J. C. Ainsworth, one of Portland's leading bankers, is registered at the St. Francis.

William Uridge, a well-known fruitgrower of Fresno, arrived at the Palace yesterday.

Judge J. W. Mahon of Bakersfield is spending a few days in this city and is registered at the Lick.

Major Starr of the adjutant general's department, U. S. A., is in the city on his way to Manila.

Stacy W. Bray, a well-known capitalist of St. Louis, and his his mother are registered at the St. Francis.

Al McCabe, secretary of the California delegation to the Democratic National Convention, is home again.

F. J. Shepard, general superintendent of the Santa Fe at Los Angeles, arrived at the St. Francis yesterday.

R. D. Cranston, who left for Aetna Springs several weeks ago, will return to San Francisco probably some time in August.

Charles W. Clark, son of United States Senator Clark of Montana, arrived in this city yesterday and is staying at the Palace.

Acting Governor Alden Anderson and Alex Brown of the State Board of Equalization are in San Francisco. Governor Pardee will return to California early next month.

J. A. Naugle, assistant general manager and general freight and passenger agent of the Sonora Railway, arrived here yesterday from Guaymas and is staying at the Palace.

Californians in New York.

NEW YORK, July 29.—The following Californians are registered in New York:

From San Francisco—J. Y. Barber, at the Ashland; J. S. Dunigan, at the Hoffman; F. W. Eckstein, at the Gilsey House; F. E. Hartegan, at the Vendome; D. Hecht, at the Belvidere House; Mrs. McGrath, at the St. Denis; J. Marcus, at the Herald Square; B. Nasson, at the Broadway Central, and G. Uhl Jr., at the Gilsey House.

From Los Angeles—T. J. Darmody, at the Bartholdi; J. E. Brink and wife, at the Imperial; J. F. Edwards, at the Hotel York; G. B. Johnson and Dr. M. Johnson, at the Murray Hill, and A. T. Koll and wife, at the Normandie.

Thrown From His Horse.

Isador Eissinger, a hide and wool merchant living at the Palace Hotel, was seriously injured while out riding yesterday. When near the entrance to Golden Gate Park at Fulton street and Sixth avenue his horse became frightened, shied and threw him to the ground. The injured man was picked up and taken to the Park Emergency Hospital, where it was found that he was suffering from a compound fracture of the left leg.

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TRIES TO SAVE FRIEND'S NAME

Lieutenant White Wants to Relieve Smith From Guilt in Angel Island Carousal

The military trial of Lieutenant Charles F. Smith, who was mixed up in the Angel Island carousals, was again taken up yesterday at the Presidio. As during the preceding sessions of the court martial, all the doors were tightly barred and no one outside of those directly interested in the case was allowed in the building.

The chief witness of the day for the defense was Lieutenant W. W. White, who participated with Smith in the orgies. White's testimony, it is reported, was mainly directed so as to shield Smith and draw all the blame on his own shoulders. From what could be learned it smacked of a sort of Damon and Pythias affair. White was willing to take all the onus of the bringing of the "ladies" into the camp upon himself, and wished the court to believe that he and he alone invited the "ladies" to come there. As far as the grand final escapade at the discharge camp was concerned it was made to appear that Smith simply happened in while the "ladies" were calling on White and joined the party to help the evening along.

Other witnesses who gave testimony yesterday were Privates McClatsky, Driddle, Barrett and Barry. These were all guards who were on the premises during the evening of the last orgies.

The court adjourned at 3 o'clock, to meet again on Monday morning at 10. This will probably be the final sitting of the court. So far it has occupied nearly three days.

Immediately after the court adjourned yesterday Lieutenant White was taken back to Angel Island under guard.

The target practice which has been going on for the last week at Ord barracks will be finished on next Tuesday.

The three batteries of field artillery, under command of Captains C. A. Bennett, John L. Hayden and Ira A. Haynes, are enjoying an extensive practice at Camp Atascadero. The big ranch affords them ample opportunities for long distance targets.

Among those going on the transport Logan, which will sail for Manila on Monday, will be Lieutenant Colonel T. C. Prince; Lieutenant J. L. Hines, wife and child; Commander Edward Stone, master of the launch Seattle; Lieutenant Colonel John McClellan and Colonel J. B. Girard of the medical department and his two daughters.

Reports come from Camp Atascadero that the weather there during the day is hot, the thermometer registering anywhere from 103 to 110 degrees. The nights, however, are cold.

Brigadier General T. McGregor, retired, registered at headquarters yesterday. He is at the Occidental Hotel.

PREPARATIONS ON FOOT FOR BIG CELEBRATION

OAKLAND, July 29.—Tentative plans were outlined to-night at a joint meeting of the Alameda County and San Francisco committees on the State celebration of Admission day, which will be held under charge of the Native Sons of the Golden West in Oakland.

The festival will begin the night of September 8, when the San Francisco parlors will visit Oakland in a body, marching in parade through Market street to the ferry. On this side the parlors will keep open house. Band concerts, fireworks and other forms of entertainment are in hand. At this meeting Grand First Vice President J. L. Gallagher, Grand Marshal W. H. Squires and Grand Trustee E. Emmet Hayden gave assurance that the twenty-five parlors in San Francisco would be represented in large numbers.

The local committee in a two days' canvass has raised $1000 of the $6000 that will be required for the celebration.

Recorder Files Annual Report.

Recorder Godchaux filed his annual report with the Mayor yesterday, showing that during the year ending June 30, 1904, there were 37,337 documents filed, an increase of 2225 over the fiscal year 1902-1903. The receipts were $57,537 45 and the expenditures $43,900, leaving a net profit of $13,637 45. There were filed 10,621 deeds, 4655 marriage certificates, 1535 building contracts and 656 affidavits of Chinese births. The fact that the affidavits are not filed until many years after the births opens an easy opportunity for fraud, Godchaux says. A search of the records shows that the births of thousands of white children are not registered. Godchaux asks that a system of compartments for the storing of building contracts be provided.

PURSE SNATCHER SENTENCED.—OAKLAND, July 29.—A. M. Phin, who snatched the purse of Mrs. P. Whitney, containing $22 50, was sentenced to San Quentin for a year and a half by Judge Ogden this morning. He pleaded a good army record and the fact that he was hungry in extenuation of his crime, and Judge Ogden stated that he was inclined to lighten the sentence somewhat on account of the showing made.

WANT TIES SEVERED.—OAKLAND, July 29.—Suits for divorce were begun to-day by John J. Byrne against Helen C. Byrne for desertion; Cora M. Lewis against F. W. Lewis for cruelty.

AGED MARINER ANSWERS CALL

Captain Charles Oakland, a Veteran Shipmaster, Dies at King's Daughters' Home

FIFTY YEARS A SAILOR

Pioneer Skipper Known in Seaports All Over World as "Kid Glove Charlie"

Oakland Office San Francisco Call, 1016 Broadway, July 29.

Captain Charles C. Oakland, a veteran master mariner, known in fifty seaports as "Kid Glove Charlie," died to-day at the King's Daughters' Home, aged 63 years.

For several years the pioneer seaman had suffered severely from rheumatism, which had incapacitated him. In search of health Captain Oakland had traveled in warm climes, but without much relief. A few months ago, feeling that he required constant attention, the old shipmaster entered the home, which proved to be his last port.

Tinged with romance and alive with stirring incident is the life of the pioneer sea captain. He was born in Finland and began his career before the mast when he was a boy. During his youth he went to New England and made his first deep water voyage out of Boston half a century ago.

During the Civil War, Captain Oakland had many thrilling experiences in blockade running.

He came to California years ago and sailed out of San Francisco. His sobriquet of "Kid Glove Charlie" was because he was a stickler for careful and tasteful dressing whenever he was ashore. Captain Oakland leaves a widow, who is visiting in Boston. She has been notified of her husband's death. The funeral arrangements await her instructions.

PETER C. ALLEN DIES IN EAST

Well Known Musician Passes Away After Brief Illness at East Aurora, New York

ONCE CHOIR LEADER

His Abilities Remembered Here Because of Work at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

OAKLAND, July 29.—Peter C. Allen, husband of Florence Sharon Allen, and once a musician and composer of note in this city, died suddenly to-day at East Aurora, N. Y. Young Allen had been ill for a short time, having contracted a severe cold that was followed by organic troubles. His death was unexpected.

The marriage four years ago of the brilliant young musician to Florence Sharon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Sharon, at their Piedmont villa, was an event of the season in a society way. The young couple traveled after the wedding. A year ago Mr. and Mrs. Allen went to New York, where the young man was engaged in professional work. He possessed considerable creative ability in his art.

The Allens had intended to return to Oakland next month on a visit. Mrs. Allen was with her husband at his death. She will come home after the funeral, which will be held at East Aurora. The body will be cremated.

Before his marriage, Allen was leader of St. Paul's Episcopal Church choir.

One child, Frances, survives. She is with her grandparents at Piedmont. Allen was 36 years old, a native of California. His mother, Mrs. F. A. Allen, resides at College Park. Robert Allen, a brother, is at Kings City. Chetwood Allen, a brother, is a student at Stanford University. There is another brother, Moses Allen, and two sisters.

YIELDS TWO MILLIONS FROM ITS WELLS OF OIL

A good showing is made for the immeasurably rich oil sands of the Kern River field. It is reported that the annual earnings of that oil field alone, notwithstanding that the price for oil at the wells is very low, amount to $2,000,000 a year. The conditions have not been encouraging to develop new ground extensively. There are hopes that the price for crude petroleum will rise again, new and greater demands being constantly made for it. In due time the $2,000,000 annual output will be very largely increased.

A good showing is made for the imnorthern part of the State are extending. A considerable tract has been acquired on Clear Creek, in Shasta County, for operation with large machines.

A northern quartz mining company reports earnings for six months amounting to $305,000.

The Bakersfield Echo, describing the operations in the Kern River oil field during the past year, says:

Of the companies operating in the Kern River field nine pay regular monthly dividends, amounting to $74,500, or $894,000 per year. The aggregate land owned by these nine companies is about 950 acres, about one-fifth of the proven territory of the field, and less than one-quarter of this 950 acres is developed. Appropriately speaking, there are 5000 acres of proven oil land in the Kern River field, and there are considerably less than 1000 producing wells. One well is supposed to drain the oil from about one acre of land, so that it is evident that the same ratio of development holds good throughout the entire field. The largest factor in the Kern River field is the Associated Oil Company, and the Associated has not yet declared any dividends. This by no means indicates that the Associated is not making fully its share of the money, and it is conservatively estimated that if the directors chose to distribute the earnings of the company to the shareholders, instead of investing them in improvements and development work, its dividends would amount to 5 per cent on its 20,000,000 shares, or $1,000,000 per year. In addition to the Associated and the nine companies first referred to, is the Petroleum Development Company, which is owned by the Santa Fe Railroad, and the profits of which do not appear in figures accessible to the public. There are also a number of companies that pay quarterly and semi-annual dividends, and those also are left out of the account. With the profits of these companies added to the amounts already given in it is evident that the net returns from the Kern River field in the present depressed condition of the oil industry does not fall so very far short of $2,000,000 per year. These figures are for net profits with cost of operating, deterioration and betterments taken out. They are made, too, on the basis of the prices which the companies have been getting for their oil, which is probably not above 20 cents. If the price of oil can by any means be made to rise to something near its actual value the increase will be just so much clear money in the pockets of the producers, as the operating and other expenses would not be any greater than now.

DREDGING IN SHASTA.

The Gibson ranch of 158 acres on Clear Creek, Shasta County, will be worked by W. L. Leland with gold dredging apparatus, according to the Redding Free Press, which says:

John White and Joseph Kahny secured the Gibson place for $8000, paying $400 down and the balance of $7600 to be paid by May 2, 1905. They in turn enter into an agreement with Leland to sell him the place for $12,000, receive $400 down and the balance of $11,600 to be paid by April 2, 1905. The two agreements were filed for record Monday afternoon. The land is described as the northeast quarter of section 33, township 31 north, range 5 west, and containing 158 acres. The deal includes also the water ditch and water right of what is known as the Townsend's Flat Water Ditch Company, and the stock thereon.

The Prince mine in Altaville, Calaveras County, has been bonded by the owners to Charles H. Bean, of Los Angeles, and J. F. Hamby, of Calaveras. The gravel property owned by R. Wise, of Oakland, and situated on Poverty Flat, a short distance from Whisky Slide, is developing. The mill of the Melones mine at Melones is running day and night on ore. A new mill will be installed in August by the San Andreas Gold Channel Mining Company.

The Tuolumne Independent says:

William Olson of Carters has agreed to sell to W. C. Stanley of San Jose the Josiah and Venezuela quartz mines situated half a mile from the junction of the North Fork and main Tuolumne rivers. The purchase price is $15,000. The agreement is dated June 2, 1904. On the 12th instant the option was assigned to the Mona Gold Mining, Milling and Power Company. A. L. Ellis, A. B. Tryon, S. J. Mayock, J. M. Palmer and George E. Stayton have entered into an agreement to sell to the Jerome Canon Copper Company of Arizona the Badger quartz mine, situated about five miles west of Jamestown and near Bear Creek. The purchase price is $12,000, payable before June 16, 1905. The purchasers are to pay to the present owners 20 per cent of the products from working the mine, which is to apply on the purchase price. The management will install a 110-light dynamo at the Draper mine to light the surface works. Three stamps are being added to the mill at the Longfellow mine, making eight in all. Charles Zany has deeded to Domenicio Peri the Santa Mara quartz mine, situated one and a half miles north of Hughes station, Moccasin Creek district.

The Rescue gold mine in El Dorado County, near Rescue, is reported by the Placerville Nugget to have been sold.

OFFICIAL RETURNS.

The Grass Valley Tidings says that the North Star mine has produced $305,000 in six months. A report by James D. Hague, the president of the company, is published, in which the following statements are officially made:

During six months ending June 30, 1904, the North Star Mines Company produced about $305,000, at an operating cost of $142,000, with an operating profit of $163,000, from which may be deducted about $53,000, expended for general development of the North Star mine (including the deeper workings of the central shaft), thus leaving a net surplus of $110,000 over the total cost of current operations and general development, as above set forth. Further outlays during the same period for other developments, mainly at Gold Hill, amount to $27,000, reducing the above-stated surplus to about $83,000. Deducting therefrom the sum of $59,000, required for the payment of a 2½ per cent dividend on outstanding stock, there remains a balance of $24,000 available for improvements and other outlays properly chargeable to capital accounts. During the half year these expenditures, mainly for new mill construction and other equipment and including about $4000 for property purchased, have amounted to $61,000, whereof about $37,000 will have been drawn from the surplus fund, which amounted to $224,000 at the beginning of the year and is now thus reduced to $187,000. The construction of the new mill was long delayed by unfavorable weather during the winter and spring. It is now nearly ready for operation. A substantial increase in production and profit may be expected from that source during the current half year.

The pioneers in the Yukon country will celebrate in August the anniversary of Discovery Bay in the Klondike. All who were north of the sixty-sixth parallel or on the Edmonton trail before January, 1898, are included in the "sour doughs" who are entitled to take part in the celebration. The celebration is in charge of the Yukon Order of Pioneers.

The Nome Gold Digger reports that the Champion Mining and Trading Company has installed three hydraulic elevators on Dorothy and Divide creeks and is preparing to perform extensive work. The same journal claims to have unearthed a scheme for giving away the townsite of Nome.

ON COMSTOCK LODE.

The Mining and Scientific Press publishes some general statements about the condition of the mines along the Comstock lode. Three or four years ago the lode was practically dead, almost every mine along its entire length of 20,000 feet being idle. There is some improvement. The Yellow Jacket shaft, 3000 feet deep, was abandoned when a flood of water rushed in from the Exchequer mine. The machinery is at Butte City, where it was sent after the flood disaster. The shaft will probably never be reopened. At the Ward shaft the work of restoration has progressed to the 1700-foot level, and a large compressor plant is going in to operate drills and to raise the water from the bottom of the mine to the Sutro tunnel level. The article continues:

Beginning at the north end of the lode, a crosscut is being driven in the Utah mine on the 600 level. The Sierra Nevada and Mexican mines are connected with the Union shaft, through which they are to be operated. East of the Union lies the Scorpion, in which prospecting is being vigorously prosecuted on the 1600 level, being also worked through the Union shaft. The Union has been overhauled and placed in good condition and extensive development planned, but the burning of the works on the 14th inst. has put a stop for the time being to all this work. At the Union shaft was at one time some of the heaviest pumping machinery in the world. The great Cornish pump, with a stroke nearly nine feet long and a pump rod eighteen inches square and 3000 long, was one of the heaviest on the Comstock. Previous to the fire referred to, this pumping machinery was being dismantled and broken up to be recast into machinery of modern design. The Ophir mine, one of the noted properties of early days, and the one upon which the original discovery which caused the "rush to Washoe" was made, is being worked on the 1800, 1900 and 2000 levels and stoping is in progress on a vein of ore, from which about $250,000 has recently been paid in dividends. In the Con. Virginia and California the water is down below the 2350 level.

Recently the Best & Belcher Co. built a 75-ton plant. The mill has been leased to the C. Butters Company. At the Gould & Curry nothing is being done. The intention is to reopen the Savage, Gould & Curry, Chollar-Potosi, Bullion, Alpha and Exchequer through the Ward shaft of the Bullion mine. The Imperial, Challenge, Confidence and Yellow Jacket are operated in a small way through the old Yellow Jacket shaft. Some prospecting is also being done in Belcher and Crown Point through the Belcher shaft. These two mines are worked through the Overman shaft and ore is being broken on the 1200 level. American Flat, once a prosperous little city of several thousand inhabitants, has been absolutely dead for years. The heavy machinery and buildings have all been removed, the shafts allowed to cave and the outlook for a prosperous future is not bright.

On the Silver City branch of the lode the most important mines are the Justice, Silver Hill, Dayton and Kossuth. The Justice and Silver Hill are working and several small properties are being exploited for rich surface ores in the vicinity of Silver City, mostly under the leasing system.

In Six-Mile Canyon the large plant built by the Charles Butters Company of London to treat the tailings pile near the mill is idle. Several small cyanide plants were seen in Six-Mile Canyon and in Gold Canyon and the remains of one on the Carson River. Generally speaking, these plants have not been successful, probably partly due to the fact that the tailings which most of them treat have been worked and reworked until the values contained are too low to afford a profit under the existing metallurgical difficulties. Near Dayton a plant is in operation in which the chloro-cyanide process is said to operate satisfactorily. This plant is run for most part on ores and not on tailings.

The Meister group of mining claims in Nevada County has been bonded to people from Utah. There are four claims in the group, extending 6000 feet and embracing about eighty-two acres of land. Fritz Meister is the owner.

ASSESSMENTS ARE CUT DOWN

The Board of Equalization Makes Big Reduction in Valuation of S. P. Company

FRANCHISES LOWERED

Follows the Precedent Set Last Year and Takes Off $800,000 on Them Alone

Oakland Office San Francisco Call, 1016 Broadway, July 29.

The Board of Supervisors, sitting as a Board of Equalization, to-day reduced the assessment on the ferry-boat franchises of the Southern Pacific Company from $800,000 to $15. It also made an aggregate reduction on the other properties of the company of $83,500. The company was represented by E. Black Ryan, while Assessor Henry P. Dalton appeared before the board and opposed the reductions asked for. The entire morning was spent in listening to arguments and the matter was finally disposed of by ordering the reductions as stated.

In regard to the ferry franchises Ryan contended that they were a myth, and that the franchise granted by the State included in it a franchise to run a ferry as well as a train. The board cut the three franchises, aggregating $800,000, down to a nominal value of $5 each last year, and on motion of Supervisor Kelly it did the same again this year, Supervisors Mitchell and Horner voting aye, while Supervisor Rowe voted no. Supervisor Talcott was absent.

In regard to the reductions of the other properties, upon the request of Ryan the assessment of the ferry-boat Amador was reduced from $10,000 to $1500. It was pointed out that the boat was old and fit only for scrap iron. The assessment on the railroad yards at West Oakland was reduced from $225,000 to $200,000, the realty improvements from $50,000 to $40,000. The assessment on the yards at Fourteenth and Franklin streets was allowed to remain at $178,000, while the improvements there were reduced from $75,000 to $50,000. The block signal system of the company was reduced from $100,000 to $75,000.

The board decided to assess the ferryboats plying between San Francisco and Oakland on the basis of one-half valuation, the other half being assessed in San Francisco. The valuation will be fixed at to-morrow's session.

Reductions allowed private persons are as follows: F. P. Cutting, furniture, from $1500 to $300; Minnie Roeder, house in West Oakland, from $1250 to $800; James Potts, two lots in Alameda, from $2700 to $2000; T. A. White, realty in Butters tract, from $3000 to $2000; R. S. Farally, mortgage on property in East Oakland, from $21,821 to $21,125; S. Livingstone, improvements at Fifth and Washington streets, from $1000 to $600; B. F. Woolner, mortgage, from $2100 to $2000; Mrs. E. B. Hitchcock, Livermore realty, from $3200 to $2200; R. A. Whittaker, property in Linda Vista tract, from $1300 to $1100; Charles H. Hale, mortgage in Haywards, from $4100 to $1250; D. Kanabe, lots in East Oakland, from $2300 to $1250.

Servants Rob Employer.

OAKLAND, July 29.—For several months past Mrs. Thomas Mein, wife of the late Thomas Mein, the mining millionaire, has been missing articles of wearing apparel from her wardrobe. She finally reported the matter to the police, who located the guilty parties in the persons of two female servants employed by Mrs. Mein. They had succeeded in stealing clothing from their employer valued at $1000, which they gave away to their friends. The police recovered it all. Mrs. Mein refused to prosecute the servants and the case has been dropped.

An Estate of Paper.

OAKLAND, July 29.—An appraisement of the estate of the late Bernard McGinnis was filed with the County Clerk this afternoon and shows his estate to be valued at $31,814. Of this amount $8728 76 is cash. There is a little realty, valued at $1772 80, while the balance of nearly $25,000 consists of promissory notes of small amounts.

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