

GRAVE PROBLEM INVOLVING LAND TITLES IS RAISED BY THE DESTRUCTION OF MORTGAGE BOOKS FOR PERIOD OF ELEVEN YEARS IN RECORDER'S OFFICE

Electric Cars Crash Together on Fillmore Street and Five Persons Are Hurt



A BUSY SCENE ON FILLMORE STREET

SOME KITCHENS WILL BE PERMITTED TO USE STOVES DURING WEEK

Many Householders Not to Be Allowed Fires for a Month.

Works Board Proceeding Slowly With Chimney Inspection.

President Maestretti of the Board of Public Works announces that house-

holders will then be issued. The householder will then take the inspection slip to R. H. Par-



SOUTHERN PACIFIC SECTION HANDS LAYING TRACKS ON THE STREETS PREPARATORY TO CLEARING AWAY THE DEBRIS.

LABORERS BUSY IN SAN FRANCISCO AND GLIMPSE OF THE BUSINESS SECTION OF THE CITY.

MODERN HOTELS TO BE ERECTED

Two Class A Hostelries Will Be Built Over the Ruins at Once and Other Big Work Is Planned.

Work will soon be begun on two new hotels, one to be located south of Market street and the other at Bush and Powell streets. Both will be class A buildings, constructed of steel and stone and put up to stay.

Plans for the hostelries have been almost completed and work will be started as soon as building permits can be secured. The architectural work is being done by Miller & Colmesnil.

One of the structures will be the New Oaks Hotel, which will replace the one of that name destroyed the first day of the fire. Thomas Jennings, proprietor of the old Oaks, has decided to relocate on the old site at Third and Minna streets. The new structure will be eight stories high and is to be fitted up as a first class hotel.

Catherine Himmelstam has ordered plans for a 240-room hotel to be located at Bush and Powell streets. Work will be rushed as soon as the plans are completed. The building will be eight or ten stories high.

MacKenzie & Underhill have secured a contract from Mrs. Emily K. Latham for the erection of a six-story, class A building on the south line of Mission, west of Fourth street. The structure will cost over \$50,000. The same firm has secured contracts to build class A buildings to cost \$250,000 and \$300,000 on other business streets.

Miller & Colmesnil are also working on plans for the remodeling of the Jefferson Square Club building at Golden Gate avenue and Octavia street. They are also designing a temporary structure for the California Safe Deposit and Trust Company. The building is to be erected on the old site at Montgomery and California streets.

DEALERS IN LIQUOR WILL HAVE TO PAY MORE FOR LICENSE

Following the action of the Board of Police Commissioners yesterday revoking all the saloon licenses in the city, comes the proposition for an amendment to the charter whereby saloons, when permitted to reopen, will be required to pay a license greatly in excess of that heretofore exacted. There is no question that there will be presented to the special session of the Legislature an amendment to the San Francisco charter increasing the saloon license from \$84 a year to \$500. A sub-committee of the general committee on reconstruction has the proposition under consideration. At the time of the earthquake there

were more than 3000 licensed saloons in the city. An increase in the license required of these places would certainly more than cut the number in half. If the increase of the license operates to reduce the number of saloons from 3000 to 1000 the annual revenue derived on the basis of \$500 a year would amount to \$500,000, which is greater by \$100,000 than the sum paid into the city treasury by the 3000 saloons paying \$84 each for the privilege of dispensing liquor.

COIN IN VAULT IS UNDAMAGED

Strong-Box of the Bank of California Opened by Cashier.

The coin vault of the Bank of California was opened yesterday by S. H. Daniels, assistant cashier. The contents were found not to have been injured by fire. Some gold coins had been thrown on the floor of the vault with the trays that contained them. They were as good as new.

Central Trust Vault Opened. The Central Trust Company of California opened its coin vault yesterday and found the contents unharmed. Its general vault was opened on Friday and was found to be all right.

Aetna Company Opens Safe. The Aetna Insurance Company's safe has been opened and its contents are intact.

Music at the Park. The regular Golden Gate Park band, under the leadership of Paul Steindorf, will resume its concerts in Golden Gate Park this afternoon, beginning at 2 o'clock. A selected program of standard pieces will be prepared.

To Repair Hotel Vendome. SAN JOSE, May 12.—The directors of the Hotel Vendome, after thoroughly inspecting the building, have determined to repair it as soon as possible, and resume business. From \$70,000 to \$80,000 will be expended.

MAYOR TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF MEN EMPLOYED BY CITY

Retrenchment in All Municipal Departments Is Ordered by the Chief Executive.

Schmitz Announces That the Most Rigid Economy Will Be Enforced.

It Is Estimated That Fully 300 Persons Will Lose Portions or Part of Salaries.

Retrenchment in all municipal departments is the order that has gone forth, and there will be a great reduction in the city's working forces within the next thirty days. Mayor Schmitz made the announcement this morning that plans already are under discussion whereby the most rigid economy may be enforced. It is estimated that about 300 city employees either will lose their positions or suffer a material reduction in salaries.

Strike Delays Funerals. NEW YORK, May 12.—Funerals in New York today were subjected to serious delay and caskets in many cases were carried to graves in plain black wagons or even on trucks, owing to the continuance of the funeral drivers' strike. Many mourners were forced to ride on street cars to the cemeteries.

Woman Dies on Overland. SACRAMENTO, May 12.—Mrs. Mary Dalton, an elderly woman, died on the overland train this afternoon between this city and Davisville, Yolo County, presumably of heart disease. She resided at 64 Lloyd street, San Francisco, and with her daughter, Mrs. Mary Gordon, was on her way to visit another daughter, Mrs. S. J. Hollarhan, of Chico.

holders in some sections of San Francisco may build fires indoors this week. Others will be compelled to cook in the streets for more than a month so come.

The supply of water and the speed of the chimney inspectors are the factors which will determine when the whole city may use its house stoves. The officials will make every effort to accomplish their task in the quickest possible space of time.

The citizens' building committee is still conducting its preliminary inspections and informing the people what is the matter with their chimneys and what repairs are necessary. Certificates of safety are given in all proper cases, but these do not permit the householder to build indoor fires until a general order is issued by the Mayor.

Permission to build fires immediately is given to hospitals, bakeries, laundries and to private individuals when there is sickness in the house. There are about 500 such permits in existence at present.

Approximately 28,000 chimneys have been inspected by the building committee. The Board of Works is hastening to engage inspectors, who will issue permits to private houses. Each applicant is examined as to his qualifications by President Maestretti, and then has to pass through a similar ordeal before the underwriters. After the full force of 150 men is secured and instructed it will be divided into fifteen squads of ten men each. The city will be districted, and each squad will inspect every chimney in its jurisdiction.

The building committee estimates that 50 per cent of all brick chimneys left standing in San Francisco will have to be either repaired or rebuilt. At present people are having a great deal of difficulty in securing the services of brick masons, which further impedes the work.

R. H. Porter, chief inspector of the fire underwriters, will have general charge of the inspection conducted by the Board of Works. The fire and insurance officials will pass upon the work of inspectors. President Maestretti says the inspectors will be at work by Thursday of next week. In sections of the city where chimneys have been properly repaired or have remained undamaged a certificate will

be given at the corner of Gough street and Golden Gate avenue, and he will issue a formal permit provided that the water pressure in the particular section of town is thought strong enough to extinguish fires. The permit must then be attached to the exterior of the house in plain view from the street, and the stove may be moved indoors and the windbreak used for kindling.

Where the water pressure is low no indoor fires may be maintained for the present. The last chimney inspection cannot be made for more than a month. Brick masons are not numerous enough to repair or rebuild all damaged chimneys simultaneously. These three causes of delay must be understood by the multitude of complainants against the maintenance of street fires.

The general public is counseled by the authorities to restrain its impatience and put up with a little more inconvenience as a matter of safety. It all were allowed to build fires indoors what is left of the town would probably go up in smoke.

Chief Engineer Schussler of the Spring Valley Company informed the fire department yesterday that he thought a sufficient supply of water to insure safety from fire would be forthcoming in less than two weeks. It is probable that Fillmore and adjacent streets and the park district will be the first to benefit by the indoor fires permits. The water pressure is light in the Potrero and Mission districts.

President Maestretti, Chief Inspector Porter and Mayor Schmitz are all firm on the proposition that no man, woman or child shall be allowed to build a fire indoors until every precaution against another conflagration shall have been taken.

University Bank Revived. The Bank Commissioners have issued a license to the University Bank of Los Angeles, which has a capital of \$100,000. The charter was issued in 1887, but in 1893 the bank liquidated its affairs and has since been dormant. J. M. Carpenter is the president; John W. Kemp, secretary, and E. W. Derbler, cashier. The bank will be open for business about July 1.

FATALITIES AVERTED BY MOTORMAN

Reverses Power and Is Racing Away When Impact Occurs.

Brakes Fail on Steep Up Grade When the Trolley Slips.

Heavy Passenger Load Whizzed Down Hayes-Street Hill.

The cool judgment and iron nerve of Motorman F. C. Miller of trolley car 1375 minimized the effect of what otherwise would have proved a terrible collision on Fillmore street near Fulton yesterday. With several others Miller was badly injured but not one life was lost. The injured are:

F. C. Miller, 1662 Haight street, left arm broken, left leg and foot crushed, face and head cut.

John Kendall, 2140 Pierce street, scalp cut, face lacerated, bone in right foot fractured.

Mrs. Mary A. Quick, 2428 Haste street, Berkeley, head lacerated.

O. F. Palmer, 64 Valley street, Oakland, face lacerated and finger broken.

F. Ruter, 189 Chattanooga street, lacerations and bruises.

The accident was due to the fact that Motorman Mat J. McDonald of car 1354 lost control of his brakes while proceeding south on the steep grade on Fillmore street near Hayes. When half way up the hill the trolley on his car slipped off the wire. In an instant his car started backward. He applied the air brake but without result and the heavy car was soon speeding at a terrific rate down the hill.

On the same track and also southward bound was car 1375 with Miller at the controls. Car 1354 had just started on its car backward and when the inevitable collision came it was under good headway. This fact alone prevented the two cars from splintering into bits.

Miller stood firmly at his controller until the crash of the cars hurled him forward into the mass of broken timbers and shattered glass. Conductor S. Riga, of car 1375, did everything in his power to control his passengers. Those on the forward dummy were hurried to the rear, with the exception of Mrs. Quick. She became confused and had just arisen from her seat when the collision occurred. Some of the passengers jumped and Kendall met his injury in this manner. He was on the car that rushed down the hill and when it neared Fulton street he climbed over one of the side guards and leaped to the street. After he struck he rolled some distance and was picked up in an almost unconscious condition.

The people on Fillmore street for blocks saw the collision and rushed to the scene. The injured were carried to nearby stores and their wounds hurriedly bandaged. Automobiles were then summoned and all were removed to hospitals.

The cars, which telescoped about three feet, were dragged apart and taken to the Turk street car house, where they are now being repaired. An examination of the shattered condition of the cars only increased the wonder that a score were not killed when the impact came.

To Hold Annual Election. The annual election of San Francisco Typographical Union, No. 21, will be held at 425 Fifteenth street, Oakland, Cal., on Wednesday, May 16, 1906. The election for I. T. U. officers will be held at same time and place. Polls open from 12 M. to 7 P. M. GEORGE A. TRACY, President. H. L. WHITE, Secretary-Treasurer.

UNOFFICIAL COPIES IN EXISTENCE

Valuable Documents Go Up in Smoke in City Hall.

Recorder's Office Shy Papers Covering Long Period.

Search Companies Have Records From the Early Days.

The mortgage books that were in the San Francisco County Recorder's office were, with few exceptions destroyed by fire. The records of deeds down to 1895 were preserved. Such is the report that has been given currency by searchers of titles in this city. According to this there is a space of eleven years that must be bridged in some way to furnish a basis for titles to real property.

There were complete transcripts of all the records in the possession of two corporations in this city that dated up to April 18, 1906. The corporations are the Title Insurance & Guaranty Company, of which A. J. Casmary is the manager and the California Title Insurance and Trust Company. If their records are accepted in court it will be possible to duplicate the public records that were lost at the City Hall. Of course there is a question about the acceptance of the title companies books. They are accepted by the banks and trust companies as the basis of insuring titles and the banks loan money on the searches based upon them.

Manager Carmany of the Title Insurance and Guaranty Company said yesterday that his corporation saved all its records back as far as 1847 and also 2500 to 3000 maps, which makes it possible to trace titles back for the uses of the banks, individuals and others concerned, to the Spanish grants.

TROOPS OF SULTAN TO EVACUATE TABAH AT BRITAIN'S BEHEST

CAIRO, Egypt, May 12.—The Turkish government has agreed to evacuate Tabah and all other places in Egyptian territory which have been occupied by the Sultan's troops.

CONSTANTINOPLE, May 12.—The Turkish government has accepted the demands of Great Britain conditionally and it is expected that this is only preliminary to the complete acceptance of the British demands in regard to the Tabah boundary question.

The change in the Sultan's attitude must have taken place very late last night or early today for the Grand Vizier's visit to the British Ambassador, Sir Nicholas R. O'Connor, at 11 o'clock last night had no immediate result except to emphasize the fact that the attempts of Turkey to arrange a compromise were useless. The Grand Vizier's proposals were unaccepted as were those of Tewfik Pasha, the Foreign Minister on the previous day and Sir Nicholas again pointed out the futility of suggesting modifications of the British demands which constituted the absolute minimum.

LONDON, May 12.—The Foreign Office has not yet received advices that the Porte has definitely acceded to the British demands, but the latest official dispatches in Constantinople indicated that the Sultan was preparing to submit. It is said at the Foreign Office that there can be nothing "conditional" in the acceptance, as the demands of Great Britain are the irreducible minimum.