

NEWS OF THE FOUR CITIES BORDERING SAN FRANCISCO BAY

COUNTY STATUTES

LEGALIZE GRAFT

Grand Jury Says Laws Enable Officials to Drain Treasury in Printing Contracts

OAKLAND, Dec. 21.—That the county government act, on the statutes of the state, legalizes graft in the purchase of printing supplies for the county government, is the opinion of District Attorney Donahue and members of the grand jury.

An instance occurring in the assessor's office gave a concrete illustration of the workings of this law and the impossibilities of affecting material savings for the county when heads of departments are in favor of the old graft.

Assessor Dalton purchased 90 books for use during the coming year, for which he paid the full price established in the schedule.

The fact then developed that Dalton would have to secure the consent of Dalton before he could have placed the order with Leidecker.

Heads of departments can absolutely shut off the advantages to be gained from the law now stands.

MISSION PREPARES FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE FIESTA

Preparations for the New Year's eve celebration in the Mission are now nearing completion.

Mission and Valencia streets from the Twentieth to the Twenty-second streets, are literally plastered with Christmas trees, Japanese lanterns, garlands and bells.

The celebration will commence early in the evening. A monster Masquerade procession will start at Mission and Sixteenth streets and move out Mission street to Twenty-second.

Cash prizes are to be awarded to the most original and elaborate costumes.

Dewey Coffin, chairman; C. H. Brown, Henry Feige, Colonel Joseph E. Kelly, James Clark, James J. Kelly, J. J. Churchill, Behrend Joist and S. J. Lazarus.

FAILS TO RECOVER ON AVENUE BONDS

Union Trust Company Loses Suit Against the State for \$1,976,000

The suit of the Union trust company against the state of California, in which the former brought an action to recover \$1,976,000, alleging that that amount was due as the principal and interest on 855 Montgomery avenue bonds held by the plaintiff, was lost by a decision of the supreme court yesterday.

The union trust company contended that the state made a contract which it broke. It was not claimed that the state promised to pay the amounts evidenced by the bonds.

The state was not named on the face of the bonds as the obligor, and, according to the contract, undertakes the performance of an obligation. The contentions of the defendant were adopted by the lower court, when it sustained the demurrer which contended that the bonds and the act authorizing the issuance of the bonds created no contractual liability on the part of the state.

PAGE IS COMING TO TEACH ROAD BUILDING

Federal Director Will Illustrate His Ideas in the Angeles Forest

Logan Waller Page, director of the federal office of public roads, will start for the coast shortly to give the citizens of Los Angeles the benefit of his recent studies of foreign roads.

Page is one of the leaders of the good roads movement in the United States, and Los Angeles has voted bonds for good roads in that section his advice in the building of the roads was sought.

He will illustrate his ideas, Page will build several miles of road in the Angeles forest, a government reserve, managed from the new forestry headquarters in San Francisco by Forester Carlton, under the general direction of District Forester Olmsted.

SIGNS ARBITRATION TREATY WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Secretary Root today signed a treaty with Minister Melia of Salvador providing for the arbitration of questions which may arise with that country. It follows the line of similar conventions negotiated with various countries.

HISTORIC BELL TO

PEAL LONG SILENCE

Bronze Blessed in Madrid Will Peal Forth in Joyous Message Christmas Day

SAN LEANDRO, Dec. 21.—An historic old bronze bell, presented to the parish of St. John in the Spanish days by Don Luis Maria Peralta, is to be tolled again, after a silence of nearly a decade, Christmas day. Yesterday it was hung in the belfry of the new church edifice with imposing ceremonies, performed by Enrique da Silva, bishop of Trajanopolis and uncle to the late king of Portugal. He was assisted by Rev. Father O'Mahoney and Rev. Father Sousa of San Leandro.

The old bell was cast in Madrid a century ago and was especially blessed. It was brought around Cape Horn by a Spanish mariner, who gave it to Don Luis Maria Peralta. Peralta then was one of the owners of the famous Peralta grant, on which Oakland, Berkeley and Alameda are built.

Then it was gilded for some time, and several years ago the mission of St. Leandro turned it over to the new St. John's parish. In hanging the bell the workers took care yesterday that no sound was struck from it. It will break silence again with the matins of nativity day.

OPPOSES PURCHASE OF SCHMIEDELL PROPERTY

Realty Board Says Seventh and Harrison Is Not Good Site for Playgrounds

The San Francisco real estate board has petitioned the board of supervisors, asking that body to refrain from taking further steps toward the acquisition of property situated at Seventh and Harrison streets and owned by the Schmiehell family.

The real estate board sets forth in its petition that the property is not now desirable for a children's playground, for the reason of the fact that the surrounding district is no longer a residential section of the city. The board further stated in its petition that the proposed purchase would be an improvident expenditure.

RENO HAS A CLAIMANT FOR SPRINGER ESTATE

Southern Pacific Yardmaster Wants His Share of \$80,000,000 Holdings

RENO, Nev., Dec. 21.—J. F. Springer, yardmaster of the Southern Pacific company at Reno, is a third claimant for a share in the estate of Christopher Springer, said to be a German baron, who died leaving property worth \$80,000,000 in Wilmington, Del. Springer says his grandfather, the grand-nephew of Arizona and William Lyle of St. Louis, who also claim a share in the estate, were brother and sister and that he is a direct descendant of Christopher Springer. He has wired to Wilmington, Del., setting forth his claims.

CARELESSNESS OF ARMY CAPTAIN COSTS \$4,043.35

Volunteer Officer Who Failed to Keep Commissary Accounts—Must Pay Shortage

It was determined yesterday by Judge Van Fleet that John J. West, formerly a captain in the volunteers serving in the Philippines, owed the United States \$4,043.35. West while in the islands was for a time in charge of the commissary. During that time he kept no accounts of goods received and given out, there being a shortage of the amount decided on by the court. His actions were not in criminal nature, as he did not try to defraud the government, but was merely careless in his business duty.

O. R. AND N. TRAIN ROBBER SAID TO HAVE CONFESSED

William Burke, Suspect Under Arrest, Thought to Have Made Clean Breast

PORTLAND, Dec. 21.—William Burke, one of the suspects arrested in connection with the O. R. and N. train robbery, is stated to have made a confession tonight to Sheriff Stevens. The alleged confession implicated one Jack Hayes, alias Jack Walton alias "Slim," said to be an ex-convict from Folsom penitentiary and another man whose name is withheld pending his arrest. Hayes is under arrest. Burke is said to have become angered because he received only \$1.25 as his share of the loot.

VISALIA TIMES SPECIAL

Subscribers of the great Daily Times were agreeably surprised last week to receive the Christmas edition of the paper. In addition to the usual number of pages devoted to local news of Tulare county, there are about 20 pages of short stories, both for children and grown-ups, illustrated with half tone cuts. There are several pages of stories and poetry for the amusement of the little ones. There are also two pages of recipes for women who are interested in the new fashions and in cooking recipes. The outside pages are of excellent quality of paper, on which are beautiful drawings of Christmas characters.

NEW SERVICE TO MEXICO

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Consul Smith of Victoria reports that a Seattle firm has chartered two German steamers, the Ella and Erna, to inaugurate a regular freight and passenger service between Puget sound, Victoria, southern California and Mexican ports. The Mexican government is reported to have given the promoters a substantial subsidy. Service is to commence in January. The two steamers are 2,200 tons net register and have accommodations for 64 first and 24 second class passengers.

MARINE NEWS BY UNITED WIRELESS

Star Hoonlan, 1,500 miles from San Francisco to Honolulu at 8 p. m.; weather fine. Star Lorraine, from Kahluli to San Francisco, 1,200 miles from San Francisco to San Nippon Maru, 1,720 miles from San Francisco at 8 p. m.; all well. Monday, December 21. WESTPORT (Wash.)—Star Weaver in at 7 p. m. Star Buffalo off Cape Blanco at 4:50 p. m. Star Iron Maru, 5:30 p. m.; lat. 49 deg. N, long 125 deg. W. Star Bushman, 6 p. m.; 11 miles south of DeWitt Island, passed star St. Saloon near Whalla Island. Star Lorraine, from Eureka, Cal., 2 p. m., passed in Flattery. Star Watson, 4 p. m.; passing Cape Blanco; star Northwest wind; heavy head sea.

SUPPOSED POISON, DARING SODA

Strange White Powder Found in Mrs Martin's Cell Proves Harmless

OAKLAND, Dec. 21.—The strange white powder with which Mrs. Isabella J. Martin was thought to have attempted suicide after being sentenced to life imprisonment Saturday, is common baking soda. An analysis by a chemist disclosed that fact today and robbed Mrs. Martin's intentions of much of their terror. The fact remains, however, that the woman was in possession of the compounds, and a careful watch is being kept over her to prevent a repetition of the alarm which she gave the jail authorities after leaving the courtroom.

Mrs. Martin had her hysterics and fainting spells Saturday without the aid of either of the compounds, and a careful watch is being kept over her to prevent a repetition of the alarm which she gave the jail authorities after leaving the courtroom.

Mrs. Martin today announced her plan to write her autobiography. Since her confinement in the county jail she has written reams which it was thought she intended to aid in her defense. Little of her writing was in evidence during the trial, save a long start on the story of her life.

She confirmed the fact that she was a sister of the famous Biddle brothers, whose daring forgeries resulted in heavy losses to the Bank of England. The incidents connected with the swindling, as she remembers it, will be incorporated in her book, she said.

CENTER IS PRESENTED WITH AN INDIA BASIN

Gift to Supervisor One of Many Handed Out by Mission Promotion Association

Supervisor George Center, stanch advocate for the passage of the India basin act, now rests contented. He is the owner of an India basin of his own kind, only an India basin, but 64 block.

The basin and 64 blocks were presented to him last night by the Mission Promotion association, during the course of the annual Christmas festival of the association. Center was not the only one to receive a gift. He received a gift from Santa Claus, which part was admirably played by Meyer Clark.

James Rolph Jr., president of the association, and a great admirer of cocker spaniels, was presented with a kennel of rag dogs. Mrs. Rolph was given large chairs which she used for the express purpose of keeping Rolph at home nights.

Father D. O. Crowley was presented with a new leather bound directory. Supervisor Broderick was given a miniature peacock. Behrend Joost, who alleges that the bylaws of the association are not drawn up properly, was given a special set of bylaws. The association presented James Rolph Jr. a beautiful French clock bearing a suitable inscription. A musical program was rendered during the evening by a selected orchestra. Vocal selections were rendered by Miss Ella Vollers and Miss S. Rottanz. Miss Mae Clarke played selections on the violin.

BANKRUPTCY AFFAIRS

Creditors of the Northern California Gold Mines company filed a petition yesterday in the district court asking that the corporation be declared an involuntary bankrupt. According to the petition, the assets of the company are \$385,500. Rix compressed air and drill company \$178,100, and John A. Roebing's Sons \$207,400. The mines of the company are in Placer county and the sheriff of that county was restraining the court from selling any of the property. The case was set for hearing January 2, 1909.

Oscar Walfrid Gustafson borrowed money at 10 percent. The amount was \$681.20, and yesterday, to clear himself from the usurers, he filed a petition in the district court asking that he be declared a bankrupt. His liabilities are \$2,043 with no assets.

ISSUES CHRISTMAS EDITION

The Christmas edition of the Monitor, the official organ of the Catholic diocese of San Francisco, was delivered to its subscribers Saturday. It is replete with accounts of the birth of Christ.

On the front page of the paper is a beautiful picture showing the birth of the Saviour. The story of the nativity is also told and there are several poems among which is one entitled "Christmas Morn," a motormen's Christmas tree in Oakland.

Alexander M. MacPherson of 238 Chattanooga street filed a petition in bankruptcy. His liabilities are \$2,043 with no assets.

MARRIED AT FAIRMONT

W. L. Whelpley, manager of the San Francisco Fairmont hotel, and J. Folger & Co., was married yesterday noon at the Fairmont hotel to Mrs. Ruth Allen of Milton, Vt. The ceremony was performed in the First Unitarian church, officiated. After the marriage ceremony a wedding breakfast was served to thirty friends and the couple. They will make their home in Fresno.

THROWN FROM STREETCAR

C. H. Siegemann, 41 year old and a resident of Fruitvale, lost his balance yesterday as Union street car No. 5 rounded the sharp curve at the ferry depot, and was thrown into the street. The aged man had boarded the car an instant before it started and was just stepping inside when the curve was reached. He was thrown into the street and was found by a passerby and taken to the emergency hospital, where he was found to be suffering from a fractured skull. He is now in the hospital. McCarthy lives at 314 Hampshire street.

WANTED IN MEMPHIS

W. A. Dolph was arrested at the home of J. B. Sloane, 2818 Aetna street, Berkeley, on Saturday evening by Detectives Dave Murphy and Ben and brought across the bay to the city prison. He was a partner in the firm of Neal, Dolph and Memphis, Tenn., and it is alleged that he absconded with \$1,000 of the funds of the company. His wife arrived on Sunday evening and told him and he was through her that the detectives were able to trace him. The Memphis authorities were notified.

BANK INCORPORATES

Articles of incorporation of the International banking corporation were filed with the county clerk yesterday. It is capitalized at \$20,000 and is formed to transact a commercial banking business. The directors are William H. High, L. R. Coffey and Neal G. Evans, each of whom has subscribed for \$1,000 worth of stock.

TAKEN TO MILWAUKEE

Detective John J. Hammis of Milwaukee, Wis., left yesterday morning for that city with Albert J. Van Halren, who was arrested here some days ago by Detectives Regan and O'Connell. He was held for trial on a charge of grand larceny for stealing a diamond ring valued at \$300 and jumped his bonds.

WANTS COMPLAINT FOR FORGERY CASE

District Attorney of Alameda County Will Act Against Signor on Order

No move will be made by District Attorney Donahue of Alameda county in the forgery embroglio between Millionaire James A. Murray, Frederick B. Signor and William G. Henshaw and Tyler Henshaw until a formal complaint is laid before him. The district attorney said yesterday that he was willing to give Murray a complaint on which a warrant can be issued, if Murray asks for one. Otherwise the question will not be given consideration by Donahue.

"This is not the kind of an alleged criminal action which I can handle of my own volition," said Donahue. "It is different from a murder or a crime of this nature. It is a forgery case and the injured party will have to ask for assistance from the office of a prosecuting attorney before it can be extended to help him right his alleged wrongs. I know nothing of this case, except through the story in the paper. I am by no means certain that the forgeries of which Mr. Murray complained were committed in Alameda county. I will say this, that Mr. Murray or any party to the case can get a complaint from my office at any time he asks for one."

Donahue maintained that his attitude was the customary one in cases where proof of the commission of a crime depended upon private interests.

Murray left the city yesterday for his home in Monterey, but he said before going home that he had not given up all hope of punishing Signor and others who were suspected of being involved in the wholesale forging of his name to notes and drafts.

TEXAS RAILROAD BOUGHT BY HILL

St. Louis, Brownsville and Mexico Reported Purchased by Great Northern's Chief

AUSTIN, Tex., Dec. 21.—It is reported that J. J. Hill and associates, in addition to the coast and main line Texas and Southern lines in Texas, have closed deals for the purchase of the St. Louis, Brownsville and Mexico, which was owned by a syndicate of St. Louis men and had B. Y. Yoakum, chairman of the board, and J. M. Trumbull, executive committee, for its president. This road runs from Algoa, a station on the Santa Fe midway between Houston and Galveston, to Brownsville, situated in the lower valley of the Rio Grande, a distance of 342 miles, and has a branch line to San Port, 33 miles long. The acquired road will be extended down the gulf coast to Tampico, Mexico.

RATIFIERS ROAD'S SALE

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—Directors of the Colorado and Southern railroad company today ratified the sale of the road to the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad company.

Edwin Hawley, principal stock holder of the Colorado and Southern, said that actual transfer of control would take place today. President Trumbull of the Colorado and Southern says the transaction would be advantageous for both roads.

Hawley said that the Burlington purchased practically all of the common stock of the Colorado and Southern, which he and his associates had held. It was understood that Hawley controlled the Colorado and Southern stock and had preferred stock, and that President Trumbull retains his interest in that property.

MILITIA OFFICERS ARE IN CONFERENCE AT CAPITAL

National Guard Laws to Be Changed to Conform to Act of Congress

SACRAMENTO, Dec. 21.—A conference of officers high in the militia of California was held at the office of Adjutant General Lauck this afternoon for the purpose of drafting in compliance with the Dick act of congress, a new set of laws governing the national guard of this state.

President Colonel Thomas Wilhelm, assistant inspector general, Judge Advocate General George C. Phipps, Colonel Winslow Anderson, surgeon general, and Colonel A. W. Bradbury, assistant adjutant general, were present. The Dick act places the militia second to the regular army and requires that it be governed by the same rules and regulations in force in the regular army.

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HAWAII WINS DECISION

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The supreme court of the United States today decided in favor of the territory the case of L. L. McCandless vs. Governor Carter of Hawaii involving the right of the governor to exchange 47,000 acres of the public island of Lanai for other lands. McCandless holds the land on a lease and opposed the trade.

SANTA FE OFFERS REWARD

STOCKTON, Dec. 21.—The Santa Fe has offered through Superintendent J. W. Walker of this division a reward of \$100 for the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who dynamited a caboose last Friday night in the local yards.

CHANCE WILL JOIN THE STATE LEAGUE

Report That Captain of Chicago Cubs Will Desert to "Outlaws"

[Special Dispatch to The Call] FRESNO, Dec. 21.—That Frank Chance, captain manager of the Chicago Cubs, will desert to the ranks of organized baseball and join the California state league is the substance of a statement given out late tonight by a director in the Fresno club of the state league, who for many years has been one of Chance's closest friends. The director states that Chance will center his interests with the San Francisco club in the effort to make it a leading feature in the league.

Chance, according to the announcement, intends to make California the greatest baseball state in the country, and realizing that this only can be accomplished by "outlaw" ball, he will forsake the organization to better his ends.

The fact that Chance has had and admits having had trouble with President Murphy of the Chicago club is said to be a leading factor in his move.

Harry Pulliam, president of the national league, arrived in Fresno tonight, and when asked what he thought of the report said that he knew nothing about it.

The director who made the statement concerning Frank Chance said further that more surprises were to be sprung on the coast and major league managers within the next 30 days—surprises which would cause consternation in more than one camp.

Frank Chance's purpose in coming to California was to size up the baseball situation with a view to align himself with outlaw ball, was the concluding statement of the director.

STEEL MEN AFTER PREFERENTIAL RATE

Plan Fight to Secure Special Freight Tariff From Points East of Mississippi River

A fight to secure a preferential freight rate on structural steel and plate materials from points east of the Mississippi to Pacific coast terminals was inaugurated yesterday at a meeting held in the assembly room of the structural steel and ornamental iron branch of the California metal trades association in the Hooker & Lent building in Market street. The meeting was attended by iron and steel manufacturers of the Pacific coast and presided over by J. M. Robinson of the Keystone boiler works. The meeting was under the auspices of the California metal trades' association, of which Edward J. Fowler of the Pacific foundry is president.

Committees appointed at yesterday's meeting will today confer with George W. Luce of the Southern Pacific, Edward Chambers of the Santa Fe and other resident railroad officials in an effort to secure a differential rate between plain and fabricated steel and plate material.

A large delegation will be sent to the meeting of the Transcontinental freight bureau, which convenes in Chicago in January.

FALLEN TREE BLOCKS AN ELECTRIC TRAIN

Passengers Finally Reach Sausalito to Find the Ferry Boat Gone

CORTE MADERA, Dec. 21.—Italian wood choppers at the mouth of the Corte Madera tunnel of the Northwestern electric railroad, a fallen gum tree and the block system caused a general tieup of the electric line this morning. One of the quality trees felled by the wood choppers crashed into the electric lines which carry the current to operate the block signals. A down train was stopped on the other side of the tunnel by the danger signals suddenly going up. For twenty minutes conductors and engineers waited for another train to emerge from the tunnel, but it did not come. The block signals were out five miles, finding Duffy insane and committing him to the state hospital for the insane at Paton.

DUFFY FOUND TO BE INSANE

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 21.—Trembling with nervousness and the effects of a nervous disease, Henry J. Duffy, who killed his son and daughter in this city some months ago, sat in Judge Jamison's court today while five physicians and experts testified that he was insane. The trial on the charge of murder was put aside and the examination as to his sanity was substituted. The jury was out five minutes, finding Duffy insane and committing him to the state hospital for the insane at Paton.

DEED OF HANBURY TO WIFE RECORDED

"For Love and Affection" is Consideration for 867 Acres in Napa County

NAPA, Dec. 21.—"For love and affection" 867 acres of the most fertile land in Napa county, known as Island No. 2 and valued at \$100,000, became the property of Mrs. David T. Hanbury, the deed having been filed in this city today by Judge J. H. O'Leary, legal adviser to David T. Hanbury, the multimillionaire. This is only a small portion of the big Christmas gift the former Benicia hello girl has received. Mrs. Hanbury, in effecting a reconciliation, turned over valuable properties estimated at \$4,000,000. Upon her husband's death, the former Berkeley "college widow" will come into full possession of the vast estate, among which is a large brewery in England, summer homes in this state, champagne wineries in France and England and vast mining interests on this coast.

Owing to the fact that the legal residence of the Hanburys is in this county, the deed was recorded here. The document recites that the multimillionaire gives the land to his wife, Mrs. Marie Eleanor Hanbury, "for love and affection that he bears for her and for her better support and maintenance." The deed by Judge O'Leary, 1908, and has been in possession of O'Leary and Charles Paddon, the millionaire's private secretary, for two months.

It had been reported that relatives of Mrs. Hanbury who were hostile to the marriage would take immediate steps to prevent the transference of the valuable property to the young woman, but when the deed was filed today no protest was entered.

Searchers of records in this city have been preparing abstracts of other parcels of valuable land included in the Hanbury possessions, and additional instruments conveying the property to Mrs. Hanbury will be filed soon.

RESCUES DROWNING HUNTER

[Special Dispatch to The Call] VALLEJO, Dec. 21.—Rare presence of mind and courage exhibited afternoon by Leo McCuddin, a Vallejo capitalist, saved Joels Carey of this city from drowning. Carey was hunting ducks from a small skiff in the channel when the craft capsized and strong current drove the skiff against a strong current. McCuddin, who was also on a hunting trip in a small launch, jumped into the icy water, swimming to Carey and rescuing him. McCuddin swam back to his launch with Carey. The latter weighed 200 pounds and made McCuddin's return trip difficult.

RECORD DAMAGE SUIT

RENO, Dec. 21.—A. Labelle, father of George Labelle, an employe in the logging camp of the Verdi lumber company at Dog Valley, today filed suit for \$30,000 damages resulting from the death of his son, who was killed in a wreck on the log railroad. The amount claimed is the largest personal injury claim filed in the history of the state.

MARINES FOR HONOLULU

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The cruiser Buffalo will leave San Francisco early in January with a battalion of marines, officers and men for Honolulu.

DESTINATION OF MAINE A MYSTERY

Battleship Sails Under Sealed Orders and May Be Bound for Venezuela

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—A deep mystery surrounds the destination of the battleship Maine, which left Norfolk today under sealed orders.

Neither the state nor the navy department officials will make any statement on the subject more than to say that the vessel has gone on "a cruise," and they will neither deny nor affirm rumors that the ship is bound for duty in Venezuelan waters. The American government is without any naval representation in that immediate section and should an outbreak against the existing government occur such American interests as exist in the ports of La Guira, Port Cabello and Maracaibo would have to appeal to the navies of foreign nations for protection.

The Maine is equipped with wireless telegraphy and this offers a ready method of communication with the United States if necessary. The Maine is commanded by Rear Admiral Conway H. Arnold, who was in Washington in conference with the naval officials. This conference, it is understood, was followed last night by a talk between Secretary Root and Secretary Newberry.

SARGENT ESTATE IN \$200,000 DEAL

Empire Construction Company Buys 8,000 Acres in San Joaquin Delta

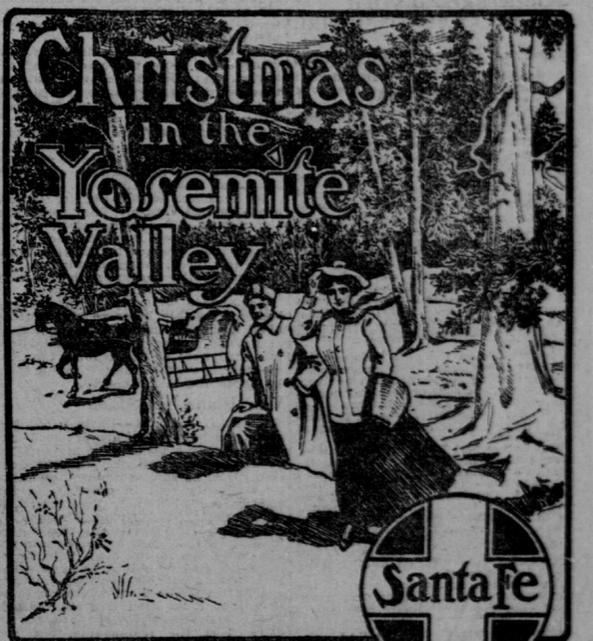
STOCKTON, Dec. 21.—The Empire construction company, a corporation of Los Angeles capitalists, of which Lee A. Phillips is president, has bought from the estate of R. C. Sargent a tract of 8,000 acres of un reclaimed land, considered by experts to be one of the best holdings in the San Joaquin river delta and located 10 miles north of Stockton. The deal was made by Phillips with A. Le Levinsky, attorney for the estate, and involves \$200,000.

The land has deep waterways on three sides which are navigable and near the main river, and the soil is a rich sediment carried from the uplands to the east.

The purchasing company owns five monster dredgers and will commence the reclamation at once. This will call for an expenditure of \$300,000, as there will be 25 miles of levees. The transaction will reclaim about the last large overgrown tract in San Joaquin county and greatly add to the volume of business on the river and in Stockton.

WIFE MURDERER SENTENCED

BELLINGHAM, Wash., Dec. 21.—Denying a motion for a new trial, Judge Nettler in department 1 of the superior court today sentenced J. K. Thomas to life imprisonment for the murder of his divorced wife July 19 last. Thomas killed his wife, slept beside the corpse from midnight till dawn, then buried the body in the woman's garden, where it was discovered two months later.



Advertisement for Santa Fe Yosemite Valley. Text includes: 'This Year you can spend the Holidays in YOSEMITE VALLEY', 'Santa Fe Holiday Rates will be very