THE MIMIC WORLD.

Midweek Notes of Business at the Different Theaters.

"The Poachers"—Epicene Shaw at the Bush. Goodwin's "Gold Mine" a Good Lead—General Mention.

Offenbach's comic opera, "The Poachers," done into "ideal English," as the announcements have it, by Oscar Weill, was presented to a very full auditorium at the Baldwin last evening. Seeing it is entirely new in this latitude, we append

THE ARGUMENT.

Monsieur de Birague, whose death antedates the beginning of "The Poachers" by some twenty years, having been fraudulently dispossessed of his estates by his cousin De Campistrous, is supposed to have taken to poaching as a means of gaining a livelihood, as well as for the purpose of annoying the said cousin, whose sole passion is the chase. Having no son, he has carefully trained his only daughter, Bibletta, to his own pursuit, and, having dressed her always as a boy, leaves to her the command of his band of poachers as well as his name, Rastamagnac, which is the terror of De Campistrous. At the opening of the opera, Bibletta—who, in her male guise, is known also as Bibletto—has, in a somewhat venturesome spirit, visited the village of Bagneres, for the purpose of being near her only confidante, Ginetta, the niece of a barber at Argeles, who is on that day to be married to Marcassou, a mule-driver. Her presence becomes known to the bridegroom, who, being naturally of a jealous disposition, and not aware that the supposed youth is in reality a woman, at once proceeds to make a scene. The wedding of Ginetta and Marcassou nevertheless takes place, and it is while the marriage is being celebrated in the village church that the Count de Campistrous and his son, Theodore, arrive suddenly at Bagneres, where they hope to find and catch the poacher Rastamagnac. Bibletta adopts at once her usual device of assuming the proper dress of her sex, in which guise she is seen by the susceptible Theodore, who falls violently in love with her. It is upon the complications arising from this dual identity of Bibletta—who is known as Rastamagnac to the band of poachers—and Bibletta, as she is called by Theodore, that the humorous situations of the opera—far too many to be even touched upon in brief space—turn; these complications being constantly heightened by the maladroit efforts of Marcassou at once to win back the confidence of his new wife, whom he has driven from him by his groundless jealousy, and to get even with his supposed rival. At the last moment matters are straightened out to the satisfaction of everybody concerned, and, let us hope, everybody made as happy as everybody always should be at the fall of the curtain on a comic opera.

Miss Juliette Corden as Bibletto-Bibletta was the principal figure in the distribution, and sang her best song, "Behold in Me a Poacher Free," with fine effect. This evening "Don Quixote" will be repeated.

Hallen and Hart

At the Bush-street, where they have assembled a very fine company, are doing good business. Their latest addition, the epicene Shaw, has quite captivated crowded audiences, and we shall hear more about the individual later on. New songs and medleys have been introduced in the programme for this week. On next Monday a peculiar mezclada called "Zig-zag" will be the feature.

Goodwin's "A Gold Mine"

Is proving, at the New California, financially, as well as dramatically, a success; made so, we may add, by the admirable comic element this accomplished actor introduces into it. The parties who are said to have written the piece have no claim to any royalty, in our opinion, as without Goodwin it would be simply a mass of turgid rubbish. The comedian gives light, life and color to all his scenes by the force of his intrinsic talent. The business outside of himself and Miss Isabelle Coe is "dull as the fat weed that grows by Lethe's wharf."

At the Grand.

Len Grover's "Lost in New York," otherwise "Cad, the Tomboy," is amusing and interesting the southsiders at the Grand Opera House. It has a drawing power yet, although it was considered at one time as having been played to death. Next week "The White Slave" will clank her chains again, Miss Julia Stuart being that interesting feminine. This melodrama belongs to the Battley Campbell repertory and has been seen here many a time and off. It may be remembered for its "Octoroon" coloring; but, at the same time, it has many original features that freshen and preserve the interest. With a good company it ought to fill the Grand.

Miss Katie Emmett

Will continue at the Alcazar, for this week, her play called "The Waifs of New York," chiefly remarkable for its scenic effects. Next week Mr. Joseph R. Grismer and Miss Phœbe Davies will play a special farewell engagement.

This Afternoon,

At 1:30 o'clock sharp, a grand special performance in aid of the Actors' Fund of America will be given at the Baldwin Theater under the combined direction and auspices of Mr. Al Hayman of the Baldwin and California theaters, Mr. B. Leavitt and Mr. J. J. Gottlob of the Bush-street Theater, Messrs. Wallenrod & Stockwell of the Alcazar Theater, Mr. John Maguire and Mr. Jay Rial of the Grand Opera House, Messrs. Gustav Walter & Co. of the Orpheum Opera House, Mr. Joseph R. Grismer, Messrs. Karl, Barnabee & Macdonald, Mr. Nat Goodwin, Mr. John Warner, Messrs. Hallen & Hart, Mr. Harry Eline, Mr. E. E. Pond, Mr. Harry Mann and Mr. Alfred Bouvier.

PROGRAMME.

Grand overture from "William Tell," Rossini.
Grand orchestra of thirty.
Under the direction of S. L. Studley.
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Grismer
And their Dramatic Company in the third act of "The Burglar."
Selection from the Orpheum Specialty Company.
The Bostonians English Opera Company,
In the grand second act of "Pygmalion and Galatea."
Also selected solos by artists of the Bostonians Company.
Mr. Nat C. Goodwin
And his excellent company in the second act of "A Gold Mine."
Hallen and Hart
And members of their splendid company in a scene from their great success "Later On."
Carl Bishop King,
The Grand Opera House Company
In the 4th act of Shakespeare's "Henry IV."
Mr. John Jack as Falstaff.
The Dare Brothers,
The famous acrobats.
Grand Hungarian march.
Grand orchestra under the direction of August Hinrichs.

Such a programme as the foregoing ought to crowd the theater to its utmost capacity.

General Mention.

Signor Eurico Campobello's society concert will be given at Byron Mauzy's Concert Hall tomorrow evening, 18th, with Miss Grace Porter, Mr. Charles Thrower, Professor Charles Goffrie and Signor Sigismundo Martinez assisting. The new valse and the original ballad "The Book of Life" will be produced on this occasion.

At a recent concert given at a famous "Sing Akademie" Hall in Berlin, Nathan Landsberger, a young violinist, virtuoso and a native of San Francisco, created a sensation by his wonderful performance of Mendelssohn's E minor concerto. He was recalled four times, and the Berlin critics speak in the most enthusiastic terms of the young Californian. Mr. Nathan Landsberger is well known in this city, and at an early age evinced a remarkable musical talent. He has been studying at the Conservatory at Leipzig, where he gained a prize, afterward with the great Leonard in Paris, and now with Emil Sauret in Berlin, who is considered one of the very greatest violinists of the world.

May Cooper-Lando, formerly of the Alcazar Theater, was granted a divorce from Albert Lando on Thursday, February 20th, in the Circuit Court at Portland, Oregon, Judge Stearns presiding.

The box-sheet for the first of J. Lewis Browne's symphony concerts opens at Sherman & Clay's this morning. The subscription list is very large, and Mr. Browne promises to make a success of the initial in the symphony concert line in this city.

"The Drum-Major's Daughter" is drawing good houses to the Tivoli.

Lentod's Vaudeville Aggregation is the attraction at the Orpheum.

The Original Fisk Jubilee Singers, now en route to this city from Japan, will, on arrival, give a short season at B'nai B'rith Hall.

Miss Jessie Bartlett Davis of the Bostonians has accepted an invitation from Mr. Bosworth, the organist of Grace Church, to sing the offertory next Sunday morning. She will render the contralto aria, "But the Lord Is Mindful of His Own," from Mendelssohn's "Elijah."

A forcible evidence that negro minstrelsy is fast losing the flavor of popularity is found in the fact that many of the best burnt cork performers are drifting into the dramatic profession. Carroll Johnson, one of the cleverest endmen and black-faced comedians that minstrelsy possessed, is starring in "The Fairest Well." Mr. Lester of the old specialty team of Lester and Allen throws away the box of burnt cork to become a farce-comedy star, and Milt Barlow, another minstrel celebrity, is this week playing Uncle Tom in a revival of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" at a New York theater.

Charles H. Hoyt's new comedy, "A Texas Steer," will be produced for the first time on April 26th at New Bedford, Mass. Tim Murphy will play the leading comedy part, and Flora Walsh (Mrs. Hoyt) will be in the cast.

The parents of Miss Zenzius of St. Paul, having refused their consent to her marriage with Adolph Grethen, composer of the opera "Manitou," for the reason that the alliance would be consanguineous, as they were first cousins, Grethen became insane, and is now in a mad-house. It is likely the parents saw further and clearer than their child, and their foresight was lucky for her.

The trial of the suit brought by Fannie Aymar Mathews, author and owner of the play called "Washington Life," to recover $50,000 damages from Daniel Frohman of the Lyceum Theater, and David Belasco and Henry C. de Mille, writers of the plays, for the production of "The Wife," which she claims is an infringement upon her play, was begun March 25th, in the special term of the Supreme Court of New York, before Judge Beach.

Minnie Seligman is suing her husband, Dr. Eugene Kauffmann, in a New York court, for divorce. The lady, once a fashionable amateur, has been connected with many traveling theatrical companies.

Cinqueville, the great legerdemain man, has undergone a surgical operation that has impaired the cunning of his digits and he will juggle no more.

Dave Belasco has left the Lyceum and signed with Charley Frohman to produce a number of new plays. What would dramatic New York do without Belasco?

Nadage Dorce (poor little Nelson Decker's wife) began her season at Catskills, N. Y., April 7th. There are no more seasons and very scant time, it would appear, left for her husband.

They are now calling Charles McGeachy the "King of theatrical advertisers," since he invented, in Richard Golden's (Jed Prouty) interest, the big black map of the Pine-tree State.

Campanini is described as making his daily patrol up to ear-shot of the Metropolitan Opera House, on Broadway, New York, and then back again to some macaroni lair on the East Side. "There's an example of fallen fortunes," quoth a looker-on. "Poor devil! He's only got three notes left!" "Yes," said the other fellow, "and there isn't a 5-dollar one in the three?"

OWENS' OUTING.

Another Victim of a Woman Short in His Accounts.

The reported disappearance of John K. Owens, cashier and book-keeper for the hardware firm of George W. Gibbs & Co., 33 Fremont street, has subjected the members to so much annoyance from outside parties running after them for information that they positively refuse to say a word about the matter.

From other sources it is ascertained that the reorganization of the company made it compulsory for the books to be experted once a year, and that when the books were placed in the hands of an expert last Thursday Owens left his desk, and has not been seen by any member of the firm. Since then it is alleged that a shortage in his accounts amounting to $10,000 had been discovered, and this may be largely increased as the examination progresses.

It is said that Owens became infatuated with a divorced woman some eighteen months ago, with whom he assumed marital relations, and upon whom he has spent large sums of money. Other women are also mentioned in connection with his name. That he was spending money far beyond his income was known some time ago, but the eminent respectability of his family was a sufficient reason for keeping the matter quiet, and he was only warned.

It is reported that he has fled to South America, taking with him the woman who was the cause of his ruin. The affair has not yet been made the subject of police interference, and only friendly measures have been adopted to induce the fugitive to return.

F. A. Gibbs, however, is reported as having said that even if he did return, if he did not explain the discrepancies in his accounts to the satisfaction of the firm he would be sent to the State Prison.

LABOR AND LABORERS

Plumbers Secure a Reduction of Working Hours.

Thirteen Hundred Dollars Given to the Strikers—The Industrial Army Obtains Funds—Hackmen Organize.

Several members of the Iron-founders' Association are making preparations for the reception of another batch of Eastern molders, which, it is said, will arrive at an early date.

More bunks were put up in the Risdon Works yesterday, and at other foundries preparations were made indicating the belief of the proprietors that more men were on the way. The utmost secrecy is maintained as to the present whereabouts of the expected molders, and the strikers claim to have no information of their movements.

An assessment of $10,000 has been levied on the members of the Manufacturers' Association for the purpose of importing more Eastern men.

Arbitration is discussed whenever a group of strikers is formed. President Valentine is in favor of holding a conference with the molders and thinks that an amicable settlement may yet be effected. He says that the union will appoint a Committee on Conference if the manufacturers will do likewise.

The strikers received on Tuesday $1000 from the treasury of the International Union and yesterday received $100 from a union at Victoria, as much from a union at Virginia City, Nev., and $50 from an Oakland union.

Over 2800 tickets have been sold for the ball at the Pavilion on Saturday evening, April 26th, and the strikers will be sorely disappointed if 10,000 tickets are not disposed of before the event occurs.

The Executive Committee of the Federated Trades is busily engaged in securing speakers for the indignation meeting to be held at Metropolitan Temple on Saturday evening. They will make no special effort to obtain professional orators, but will content themselves with clear-headed workingmen.

WHITE LABOR LEAGUE.

The Police Condemned for Aiding the Iron-Founders.

A meeting of the Boot and Shoe Makers' White Labor League was held last night, at which five candidates for membership were initiated.

The union hopes, with the assistance of the Federated Trades, to make goods manufactured by Chinese unpopular.

Two hundred prizes have been secured for the picnic.

The following resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS, The men imported by the Engineers' and Iron-founders' Association are protected by a system of police surveillance upon their arrival, which for unprovoked and offensive officiousness in favor of the Engineers' and Iron-founders' Associations is not equaled outside the borders of Siberia and Russia. Be it

Resolved, That we hereby condemn the action of the municipal authorities in permitting the police to be used for the protection of the interests of employers as against employes, especially when said employes are acting lawfully and struggling for a fair day's pay for a fair day's work.

THE COOPERS.

It Will Be Decided To-Night Whether to Strike or Not.

The Coopers' Union will decide to-night whether the coopers employed at Petsold's shop on Chambers street will be ordered to strike.

The trouble between Petsold and his employes was caused by the refusal of one of the latter to work with men who he claimed were laboring for wages below the union standard.

When the proprietor of the cooperage was visited by representatives of the union on Tuesday he promised to treat all his employes alike; but as soon as the committee had departed he discharged the man who had complained to the union.

It is stated that after discharging the union man he went to the proprietor of another cooperage and attempted to induce him to disregard the union's schedule of wages.

AN EASY VICTORY.

Plumbers and Gas-Fitters Gain an Eight-Hour Day.

The Plumbers' and Gas-fitters' Union added last night its number to the toilers of the city who will work but eight hours a day after May 1st. The struggle for a decrease of the hours of labor was for them a bloodless one and their victory is complete.

The union met last night with the representatives of the Masters' Association, and after a friendly discussion of the journeymen's demand for a reduction of working hours, the employers promised them that on and after May 1st they would be obliged to labor but eight hours per day.

The reduction of labor will not be accompanied with any reduction of wages. At the close of the discussion the union was addressed on the benefit of the eight-hour system by M. Robbins.

Hack-Drivers' Union.

A number of carriage-drivers met last night in Police Court 1 and organized the Hack-drivers' Protective Union. Thomas O'Neill was chosen temporary Chairman and Charles O'Neill temporary Secretary. Twenty signatures were attached to the roll of membership. The object of the organization is to protect bona fide and licensed hack-drivers against the encroachments of boys and unlicensed men who are employed by several stables. Another meeting will be held at the same place on next Wednesday night.

Butchers' Association.

A meeting of the San Francisco Butchers' Association was held last night at which the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the San Francisco Butchers' Association desires to thank the Federated Trades for the courteous and patient hearing to this organization. While the association feels that it had no right to ask, and did not expect to receive any cooperation in the matter of peddling wagons, it does hope for the sympathy and good will of the Federated Trades and of every individual of the unions that are therein affiliated.

Stone-Cutters' Union.

The stone-cutters report a brisk demand for workmen. The union will not demand an eight-hour day on May 1st. The members at present work nine per day.

Brick-Layers' Union.

The Brick-layers' Union last night donated $50 to the Industrial Army and appropriated $100 for the burial of a deceased member.

The Hickory's Donation.

The Hickory Club adopted last night a resolution of sympathy with the strike of the molders and subscribed $20 for their assistance.

Rev. Dr. J. A. Messing.

More than thirteen years ago Rev. Dr. J. A. Messing was rabbi of the congregation B'nai Shalom of Chicago, at that time a small and struggling congregation which has since that time grown to such an extent in wealth and influence as to be able to build a magnificent temple. When Rabbi Messing came here he was chosen to serve the Turk-street temple, a position which he has since occupied so much to the satisfaction of his people that a year ago he was chosen for another term of ten years. Word is now received that he has been given a call from his former congregation in Chicago, and has been elected its rabbi for the ensuing five years.

Wilson Filed His Bond.

Marion A. Wilson, Clerk of the Justices' Court, has filed his bond for the term to which he has been reappointed. His sureties are Jacob Levi Jr. and William Kreling, each of whom qualified in the sum of $10,000.

ACROSS THE BAY.

Litigation Concerning Coleman's Borax Companies.

Another Bursted Newspaperman—A Flank Move by the "Solid Six"—Building of the Creosote Works.

J. A. Brain has sued A. L. Tubbs, assignee of the Harmony Borax and of the California Chemical companies, also J. Murray Bailey, the two companies named and William T. Coleman, to compel a conveyance of the property of the companies, according to an agreement alleged to have been entered into on the 6th day of December, 1889, by which plaintiff agreed to pay and the defendants to convey all the property, real and personal, of the companies for the sum of $350,000. The agreement was, according to the plaintiff, that $10,000 should be paid at the execution of the agreement, $150,000 on the 15th of February, 1890, $95,000 on the 1st of June, 1890, and $95,000 on the 1st day of December, 1890. On the payment of the $150,000 he was to receive a deed and give a mortgage to J. Murray Bailey for the balance. Brain alleges that he paid the $10,000, and has been ready and willing to make the other payments, but that defendants have failed to keep their agreements. He asks the court to compel performance of the agreements. The real property are the borate mines in the Calico mining district, San Bernardino County, lots in Daggett, San Bernardino County, and the borax works in Alameda. F. M. Smith has recently purchased the latter.

THE EMPLOYERS WERE NOT LIABLE.

The case of Henry Thiede against Theodore Tomanski and Henry Fieze, to recover $10,000 damages, was tried before Judge Gibson yesterday and a judgment given for the defendants. The defendants had a restaurant and bar at Long Wharf, and among their employes was a boy aged 14 years. A pistol was kept lying on one of the shelves, and while Thiede was in the place the boy took it down to exhibit to his cousin, a new arrival. The cousin did not want to see it, and told him to put it up. In doing so it was discharged, the bullet going through one of his fingers and striking Thiede in the breast. The evidence showed that the boy had been forbidden to touch or handle the pistol.

C. S. McMullen, Deputy City Clerk of Oakland, has filed his petition in insolvency. The amount of liabilities is put down at $2192 and were incurred while running a weekly paper in Oakland.

The estate of Mary E. Murphy has been appraised at $35,481 34, of which $31,200 is cash in savings banks of San Francisco and Oakland.

A FLANK MOVEMENT.

It is charged that a resolution, introduced by a member of the so-called "solid six" in the City Council with reference to the Oakland water front and the abandonment of suits brought in the name of the city against the Water Front Company some years ago, is a flank movement against the Citizens' Committee of One Hundred, which includes several of the officials of the city at the time of the abandonment of the suits. Councilmen Evans and McAvoy of the special committee appointed to investigate the matter spent one hour or more examining the papers in the County Clerk's office yesterday afternoon.

John P. Cahill yesterday petitioned for letters in the estate of William Cahill, who died in May, 1878. The widow, Johanna Cahill, took out letters in July, 1878, but died in December, 1889, without rendering any report other than an inventory in January, 1879. William Cahill left a personal estate of the value of $6000.

The jury in the case of Ah Him, on trial for attempt to bribe, failed to agree and was discharged by Judge Ellsworth. The case was continued to be reset.

On May 1st 129 liquor-saloon licenses will be due, and will aggregate the city $12,900 for the quarter ending August 1st.

WISSMAN'S TESTAMENT.

The last will and testament of Gerard F. Wissman was filed yesterday afternoon. The estate is valued at $17,688, and is devised $1000 to Mrs. Jeannette Decoto; $10,000 in trust for Edward Niehaus, he to receive the income of the same during life and to draw one-third of the principal at any time he may need the same. The sisters of the deceased, Mrs. Lizzie Niehaus and Mrs. Katie Niehaus, wives of Henry and Frederick Niehaus of Lincoln, Neb., and Miss Julia Wissman of St. Louis, Mo., are residuary legatees. They will succeed to the trust legacy of Edward Niehaus. Henry Dusterbury and Edward Niehaus are nominated as executors without bonds.

Another Chinaman, Ah Juey, has been convicted in Oakland of selling lottery tickets. The jury was out about one hour yesterday. Oakland is becoming a bad place for Chinese lottery joints. The landlords are refusing to rent to them for fear of prosecution under the code for renting for illegal purposes, and juries can be found who will convict.

The insolvency proceedings of Joseph H. Dorety have been dismissed. Mr. Dorety has turned his property over to his creditors in trust and will be allowed to resume business.

A musicale will be given at the Hopkins Academy this evening under the direction of Professor Flessner.

The Directors of the Oakland Young Men's Christian Association have decided to open the new building on May 1st.

THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC'S CREOSOTE WORKS.

The Southern Pacific Company has decided to rebuild its creosote works for the purpose of covering piles on the marsh near the foot of Peralta street. The works have been located at San Pedro, but were destroyed by fire last January. Niles Searle Jr., in charge of the works at San Pedro, is in Oakland arranging for the erection of the necessary buildings, and states that the only delay to immediate construction is caused by waiting for the machinery. The Union Iron Works is repairing the machinery that was damage by fire at San Pedro.

Public Administrator Stanley has found the sister of William Lockerman, who died recently near Fruitvale. Her name is Mary Jane Bingham, and she resides at Newport, N. J. Her first husband's name was Roberts, and after his death she married Frederick Bingham. In a few years they separated, and although divorced she resumed the name of her first husband, Roberts. She is in destitute circumstances and upward of 70 years of age. Lockerman's estate is worth nearly $33,000 and she is the only heir, as far as known.

John W. Pearson, who was nonsuited in an action that occupied about thirty court days, has brought another suit against Louis Messmer and John F. Woodward to recover $15,712 50, expended for furnishing the United States Hotel at Los Angeles. The former suit was over the same matter, but was for $18,000 and $10,000 damages.

The ladies of the W. C. T. U. have resolved to ask the Council to enforce the Curfew ordinance to keep the boys off the streets at night.

F. L. White, an Oakland livery-stable keeper, yesterday filed a petition in insolvency. His liabilities are $1465; no assets.

Alameda.

St. Agnes Guild, connected with the Christ Episcopal Church, will give a "high tea" this afternoon at the residence of Mrs. Swayne, on Alameda avenue.

The masons commenced yesterday to lay the foundation of Boehmer's Block, at the corner of Park street and Central avenue.

The ladies of the Presbyterian Church have arranged for a bonnet party to take place next Monday evening at the residence of Mrs. Westerdahl, on Broadway.

J. F. Woodrum, a well-known young man of this city, was seized with a severe attack of rheumatism about two months ago and went to a well-known resort for invalids in Contra Costa County, but failed to receive any benefit. He is back in Alameda, and his condition seems to be growing worse.

A tub race between Louis W. Schroeder and Fritz Boehmer will be an amusing feature of the exhibition which the Alameda Boat Club will give next Sunday afternoon on the estuary. There will also be a rowing match, in which Boehmer and Schroeder will row against Harry Transue and Louis Scneeman.

Eli S. Dennison, of the firm which has the contract to improve Pacific avenue, states that the work of macadamizing will commence about the middle of May. The cars will be loaded with the material at the crusher, which is located at Laundry Farm. On the cars will be wagon-beds large enough to hold a yard and a half of crushed rock, and the trains will be run into Alameda, where the loaded beds will be transferred to wagons by means of a derrick. Arrangements have been made with the Southern Pacific Company by which their track will be used, and side-tracks will be put in on Railroad avenue where necessary.

Charles Lenmon, employed in Bigler's livery stable, met with a painful and peculiar accident last Sunday night. He was driving with his family along the Webster-street roadway, when his vehicle was run into by a wagon of the Oakland Gas, Light and Heat Company. He perceived the danger and cried out to the driver of the wagon to stop his team, but the driver was unfortunately deaf, and kept on driving, not noticing the vehicle in which Mr. Lenmon and family were seated. When the collision took place, the horses which Mr. Lenmon was driving gave a sudden jump to one side, breaking away from the carriage. Mr. Lenmon held tightly to the reins and was dragged several yards, receiving severe bruises about the body, while his family escaped harm, but was badly frightened. Mr. Lenmon was removed to his home, corner of Oak street and Encinal avenue, and medical aid summoned. Yesterday he was able to leave his bed.

Berkeley.

The election ordinance read for the first time at the last meeting of the Trustees, calls, among other things, for the election of a Justice of the Peace, notwithstanding the fact that this officer should be elected at a general election.

THE GUMP PICTURES.

Paintings From the Paris Salon Sold in Irving Hall.

Irving Hall was crowded last evening at the first night's auction sale of pictures of the Gump collection. There was quite a good number of wealthy persons present, although the bidding at first was rather timid and reserved.

After an hour had been occupied in selling the smaller paintings, some of which were gems in rich framing, the regular order was laid aside and high-priced pictures, far back on the catalogue, were placed on the easel and brought big prices, which had a good effect.

The lowest price was $37 for "The Mischievous Housekeeper," by Reggianini, Florence, and from that the figures took a leap to an average of $75, then to $100, to $150, to $200. "The Rest," by Tuber-Buhler, Paris, sold for $255; "The First Lesson," by Paul Wagner, Munich, for $875; "Mother's Pet," by the same artist, for $1100, and there were several other valuable paintings sold at prices in the thousands.

The sale promises to be a success, and will be continued to-night and to-morrow evening, when the famous paintings will be offered.

NO DIVISION CAMP.

The State Troops Will Be in the Field as Three Brigades.

The meeting of the Adjutant-General, Major-General and Commanders of brigades and battalions to decide upon the time, place and character of the coming summer encampment of the State troops will take place on the 24th inst. in this city, having once been postponed, because as stated the General of the Southern Brigade could not attend.

It is common report among the military in this city that the project of a division encampment, which has been spoken of for two years, has gone by the board. The backing and filling in connection with the meeting would seem to lend color of truth to the report so generally circulated and apparently emanating from some authoritative quarter.

Considering that an encampment of the Second Brigade was held two years ago, and that last year nearly all the regiments went into camp individually, it is well known that the money left over from the appropriation of two years ago for encampments will not be sufficient to pay for the transportation and other expenses of a division encampment of sixty companies, coming as some of them must from the northernmost as well as the southernmost portions of the State.

It seems to be tacitly understood that instead of one division encampment there will be three brigade encampments this year during the summer, the First Brigade, comprising the Seventh and Ninth regiments, in the southern part of the State; the Second, comprising the troops in and about San Francisco, somewhere on the seashore in the vicinity of Santa Cruz or Monterey, and the other four brigades, comprising the First Artillery and the Sixth Infantry regiments and the Eighth and Tenth battalions, probably somewhere north of San Francisco.

MILLIONS OF FEET.

Quantities of Lumber Sawn for Packing Boxes.

Interesting Facts About This Important Coast Industry—Demands of the Fruit and Produce Trades.

Fifteen to twenty millions of feet mean quite a tidy stack of sawn lumber. Anyway, it means as much as thirty odd vessels of 600 tons apiece would get away with. And yet this is somewhere about the amount that is yearly sawed up by the five factories in this city into packing boxes. Not, however, are all nailed or put together here, for those required by the salmon canneries, for example, are shipped as "shook," that is, as loose sides and ends, and tops and bottoms, to be put together at their destination. In this city Oregon spruce, and in the country district mills sugar pine, is the wood mostly used.

The supply for the salmon canneries is just finished, March and April being the great preparatory months in this line, while the demand for the fruit season is just commencing. To enable one to form an idea as to the requirements of these several branches of trade, it will be of interest to remember that last year 1,050,000 cases were needed to pack the salmon catch in, while what number of boxes the fruit trade absorbed, what with packing and canning and drying, it is utterly impossible to guess or gauge.

While almost every one is aware, generally, of the great strides California is making in the putting up of her fruits in various shapes, it is not every one who stops to reflect how the growth of this important branch of commerce is reflected on such comparatively side issues as the manufacture of boxes.

THE RAISIN TRADE.

Especially is this exemplified in the raisin trade. Raisin boxes are not turned out at every factory, the country mills doing the lion's share of manufacture in this line. Fresno this season is seeing some large mills built to run entirely on raisin boxes. At this moment there are orders in the market for 100,000 raisin boxes; in fact mill-owners see now that unless orders are placed ahead there will be considerable disappointment to the raisin men. In the vicinity of Fresno the demand for raisin boxes is doubling every year, so many large vineyards that were set out about four years ago just coming into full bearing, and eager buyers of boxes propose that they will want more than double again next year. And yet about one-half of the raisins cased in this State and shipped East are sent forward packed in sacks, presumably to save freight charges, a system which entails a stupid loss to growers, as what would rank as "firsts" if packed in boxes fetch there only the price of "seconds" on account of such a slovenly habit.

Once more to illustrate the growth of the fruit trade. When four years ago an order for 100,000 boxes would have sounded large for any of the southern districts, now it is nothing for just one district—say Riverside—to send an order for 500,000 for her own needs. This year everything points to a big run on boxes for dried fruit, especially prunes, etc., the market being fairly bare here and in the East, and favoring growers. One party alone, again, down Riverside way, talks of requiring 300,000 himself.

But fruit and canned goods are the biggest items, are by no means the only packing boxes turned out at these factories. In the first place think of the enormous home demand for cracker, starch, soap and dozens of other boxes for packing purposes. Quite large quantities, too, are used for gunpowder boxes, the Truckee Mill Company shipping ten or twelve car-loads every month for this purpose.

FOR FOREIGN FIELDS.

Then, again, there is the export trade—a very important item, too—whereby cracker, sugar and general packing boxes are shipped even to Salt Lake City (a surprising bit of news to a good many), while the last six weeks have seen in connection with the Mexican demand for sugar, soap, candle and lime boxes, fully 200,000 feet of lumber shipped in boxes to that point.

For the butter trade, the demand is not so heavy, as butter boxes are filled and refilled, handled and rehandled, to and fro and made to do duty over and over again, just as long as they will stick together. Indeed, till a year or so ago, the same system used to be pursued with fruit, which was mostly all shipped in return boxes. But when it got noised abroad that it was in this way that the codlin moth was introduced and carried about every district, the custom suddenly ceased.

From a city standpoint, the canneries are undoubtedly the best customers of the box-manufacturers, while taking the State as a whole the biggest consumption of packing boxes certainly lies, pretty evenly divided at present, between oranges and dried fruits.

SISTER VS. SISTER.

Justice Murasky Decides a Suit Over a Restaurant.

The suit of Mrs. Elizabeth Brunson against her sister, Mrs. Louise Worthington, to recover $200 balance on the selling price of a Montgomery-street cafe, was decided yesterday by Justice Murasky in favor of the plaintiff.

The defendant claimed that the purchase price was $400, and that a bill of sale, which had been given, would confirm this, but that the bill had been lost. The plaintiff contended that the sale was for $600, $400 down and the balance in four installments.

All the probabilities convinced the Justice that the plaintiff is entitled to judgment. It did not seem likely, he said, that she would bring suit and set up a claim which could be easily disputed by a bill of sale, which was supposed to be in the defendant's possession.

Another fact which tended to confirm the claim of the plaintiff was that the defendant claimed to have lost the bill of sale, which alone could have refuted the plaintiff's demand.

A Wharf-Collector Avenged.

About three months ago Collector Cleary at Mission-street Wharf ordered some sailors who were creating a disturbance off the wharf. One of the men, named T. Thompson, came up behind Cleary, and taking him unawares struck him a fearful blow on the side of the head, cutting his face and knocking him down. Since then Thompson has not been seen around the dock.

Yesterday forenoon he went on the dock for the purpose, as he said, of seeing what kind of sailors were on the W. W. Case. Cleary ordered him off, when Thompson, as is alleged, put his hand behind him as if to draw a weapon. A longshoreman named J. Clark saw the movement and knocked him down, and when he got up thrashed him until he cried for mercy and then ran away. Thompson lost two teeth in the melee.

Adam Black's Will.

The Superior Court has been petitioned to admit the will of the late Adam Black to probate and also for issuance of letters testamentary. The estate is valued at about $10,000. Five dollars is left to a daughter of deceased, Annie Matilda Geesenkerchen. One-half the remainder of the property was left to the wife, Ann Black, and the other half to the two sons, John Alexander and William, share and share alike.

Unwarranted Liberty Taken.

The four Chinese girls taken into custody on Tuesday at the instigation of the Society for the Suppression of Vice were discharged yesterday from the City Prison, as they could not be identified, and their arrest was an unwarranted liberty taken by the society's agent. Chief Crowley was very indignant about the matter when he heard of the excuse given for depriving the women of their liberty.

The boom in Astoria has been so profitable that the town is to have a yacht club and a new bank this summer.

COCOANUTS.

A Large Number of Them Imported Here Each Year.

What Is Done With Them—Stripping Off the Husks—Opening the Shells—Peeled and Ground in the Mills.

The barkentine City of Papeete is now about due here from Tahiti. She is one of the regular line of packets that trade directly between this port and the Society Islands, in the South Pacific, carrying passengers, freight and the French mails. One of the vessels of the line leaves here for Tahiti, under contract to carry the mails, on the first day of each month.

From here the packets take full cargoes of general merchandise, luxuries and necessaries, for sale or barter among the islands of the Tahiti Archipelago. On the return voyage they bring here consignments of mother of pearl, oranges, vanilla, a little cotton, edible fungus and cocoanuts and copra, the latter forming always the chief part of the cargo.

Few people who see the fresh cocoanuts exposed for sale at all the fruit and vegetable stalls throughout the city, or who use the desiccated article in pastry and confectionery, have any idea of the large number that are imported here every year. Last month 70,000 cocoanuts were imported here, and the aggregate importations for the past twelve months was 1,143,000. They were handled by three firms, who control all the shipments to this port, and who supply the market as far East as the Mississippi.

The nuts sell here on arrival at $25 to $30 a thousand.

PREPARED FOR THE MARKET.

When the arriving vessel is discharged the nuts are piled up on the dock and a number are sold to dealers, who take them with the husks. The rest are taken to the importers' warehouses where they are prepared for the market. The first thing necessary is to take off the thick external husk or rind. This is done by a man called the "husker." The husker stands up at his work. Before him he has firmly fixed upright in a frame a sharp-pointed steel instrument about four feet long. It is flat on the side and looks something like a harpoon. On this he impales the nut and so tears off the husk. The work is quite laborious, as the fibrous covering is very tough and stringy. It would take a novice about ten minutes to husk one nut, but an experienced husker can strip the rind off of about 1200 in one day. A husker is paid $2 per day.

After being husked the good green nuts, that is, those that have not sprouted, are sold to the retail fruit-dealers who sell them for about ten cents apiece.

The sprouted ones are next taken into an adjoining room where they are prepared for the market. They are first put into a steam chest for the purpose of softening the hard, woody shell in order that it may be more easily broken by the "opener." The steam chest is about six feet square, and in it are placed from 1500 to 2000 nuts at a time. They are kept three an hour or an hour and a half, and are then taken while warm to the opening bench.

OPENING AND PEELING.

The "opener" takes the nut in his left hand and strikes the shell several smart raps with his opening-knife, an instrument something like an oyster-opener on a large scale. This cracks the shell, which he then proceeds to remove, taking great care not to injure the nut. A good opener can open 100 in an hour.

The kernel or nut is then taken to the "peeler," who, with a spoke-shave, peels off the brown skin, leaving the white meat. A peeler can peel from sixty to seventy-five in an hour.

From the peeler the nuts go to the washtubs, where they are thoroughly washed in hot water. They are then cut in quarters and taken to the mills, which are worked by machinery. These mills are three in number, and from them the nuts are turned out in seven different forms. The three kinds principally turned out are the desiccated for family use, another coarser for bakers' use, and strips which are used by candy-makers.

After leaving the mills a certain amount of granulated sugar is mixed with the ground nuts in strips, which are then laid in large, shallow pans and placed in the driers, a series of large wooden boxes heated by steam pipes. Here they remain for twelve or fourteen hours, being carefully watched meanwhile, and when thoroughly dried are placed in barrels, boxes or tins and are then ready for the market.

THE HUSKS BURNED.

The external husk from which is obtained the coarse fiber which is largely used in some parts of the world in the manufacture of ropes, cordage, brushes, door-mats, etc., is only used here as fuel for the furnace. Several attempts have been made to utilize it in this State for various purposes, but without success.

The importers state that they have to leave the husk on the nuts on the voyage or the nuts would otherwise spoil.

Copra is the kernel of the cocoanut which is broken in pieces and then allowed to dry in the sun. It is estimated that 1000 full-sized nuts will yield upward of 500 pounds of copra, from which twenty-five gallons of oil can be obtained. The oil is a white substance with a peculiar, rather disagreeable odor, and is used chiefly in the manufacture of candles and soap.

There are two companies on this Coast, both located in this city, who express the oil from the copra. They work up about 1000 tons of copra annually, while the annual importation is about 1200 tons. The surplus is shipped to Europe.

After the oil has been pressed from the nut, the residue is sold for cattle and chicken feed.

CONSTIPATION, which gives rise to many graver troubles, is cured and prevented by Carter's Little Liver Pills. Try them; you will be convinced.*

In 1886 Vancouver, B. C., only had 600 population. Now it has 15,000 and is the terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railroad.

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