HOMESICK SOLONS.

Legislators Anxious to Take a Holiday.

Judge Shafter's Speech Against the Barry Court Contempt Bill.

Spirited Debate in the Senate Over the Eight-Hour Question—Citizens Protest Against Pool-Rooms.

Special to THE MORNING CALL.

SACRAMENTO, Jan 23.—The Legislature evinced a decided preference for getting home to-day, and it took the most determined efforts of the "whippers in" to keep them in line long enough to agree to meet to-morrow morning and read bills for the "first time." The listening to the reading of the bills will undoubtedly prove a hardship upon some of the statesmen whose only self-imposed duties thus far have been to find out to what particular committees their respective bills have been referred. The fear of the power of the House as represented by the Sergeant-at-Arms has been sufficient to curb some of the members looking for adventure, but when the roll of the Assembly is called to-morrow there will, it is said, be some of the boldest members absent.

THE EIGHT-HOUR LAW.

In the Senate this morning there was a spirited debate on the eight-hour question, and on Maher's bill providing that eight hours shall constitute a day's work, where the work is performed under the direction of the State. Crandall and Ostrom said there is a clause in the bill that they feared would force contractors to make and record every contract which would have to be made with every laborer who worked even a few hours. Crandall claimed that unless these petty contracts were made the laborer could not recover his wages. Ostrom remarked that he belonged to a class—the farmers—who had to work from sixteen to twenty hours every day. Campbell of Solano then replied to Crandall and Ostrom, whom he characterized as exponents of opposite political parties—the Republican and Democratic—both of which hugged the workingmen to their bosoms during political campaigns, but turned from him the moment a measure for his benefit was proposed in the Legislature. He said these friends of labor might propose to expunge the eight-hour law from the statute books, so that a record might be made and the laborer know his true friends.

Maher, who introduced the bill, said that the measure did not deny the privilege asked by De Long, its only object was to make the eight-hour law good.

It was finally agreed to refer the bill with its amendments, and the bill to retain its place on the file.

AGAINST THE POOL-ROOMS.

The following copy of the petition signed by San Francisco citizens asking that the bill to close the pool-rooms be passed was presented to the Senate this afternoon by Senator Campbell:

THE CALIFORNIA SOCIETY FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF VICE,
604 Merchant St., San Francisco, Jan. 15.)

To the Senators and Members of the Legislature of California—GENTLEMEN: We, the undersigned, respectfully represent that a great and growing evil throughout our State, more especially in the large cities, is the existence of public pool and betting rooms.

Complaints of these establishments are being constantly made to this society and we consider efforts to restrict this evil as one of the duties of this society. And it is predicated upon us that not only do young men and others yield to the temptation to wager their own money, but in many cases the money of their parents or employers.

There is no doubt that these institutions lead with unerring certainty hundreds of our young men to the commission of crime and to ruin.

Being advised that there is no existing law under which they can be suppressed, we most earnestly ask your honorable body to pass some act that will effectually abolish this pernicious and growing evil. And your petitioners will ever pray, etc. Signed,

Ira P. Rankin	W. C. Bonsfield
J. S. Hutchinson	Herman Wittenmyer
Joseph G. Eastland	William Alvord
George W. Gibbs	N. S. James
Louis Sachs	J. Crowley, Chief of Police
R. H. McDonald Jr.	John Short, Captain of Police
R. H. McDonald	William Y. Douglass, Captain of Police
George T. Hawley	Robert Dinsmore
Charles Holbrook	Madison & Burke
Charles J. O'Neil	La Sesta Horse-breeding Ranch, Menlo Park
N. H. Thomson	J. M. Hellman
A. S. Hallidie	R. W. Waterman
Charles Montgomery	James G. Fair
George A. Donohoe	Charles A. Laton
Asa R. Wells	A. Schuller
Nathaniel Hunter	J. Sutro
George A. Moore	Joseph Bernhard
W. W. Montague	Adam Grant
A. C. Bonnell	N. Ashenheimer
James B. Stetson	James R. Garniss
William M. Cubery	N. W. Spaulding
J. R. K. Nuttall	J. C. Green
James K. Wilson	A. W. Myer
J. Grey Jewell, M.D.	W. S. Duval
Thomas W. Mulford	E. T. Mormardt
Alexander Watson	S. P. Young
J. D'Arcy Osborne	George A. Newhall
C. G. Taylor	H. D. Bacon
Charles C. Haven	D. E. Miles
Phil Barth	Charles Sutro
F. O. Wegener	Gustav Sutro
George W. Merritt	H. G. Kuhl
Adolph Sutro	A. M. Roberts
Charles L. Story	J. W. Hilton
E. G. Brown	W. D. Moore
C. W. Grant	W. T. Y. Schenck
W. J. Callingham	Baker & Hamilton
E. N. Carpenter	Castle Bros.
George Theobold	Charles Ashton
Balfour, Guthrie & Co.	Goodall, Perkins & Co.
J. B. Warner	Sachs Bros. & Co.
Nathan & Kingston	Dodge, Sweeney & Co.
H. L. Read	Root & Sanderson
Louis R. Parrott	A. Chessebrough
John McKee	Samuel W. Backus
John Partridge	Albert Miller
W. J. Weatherly	A. C. Hammond
E. C. Conroy	L. S. Sherman
G. Mason Kinne	Cunningham, Curtis & Welch
Langhorne Heath	D. J. Staples
Kastner, Bell & Co.	E. B. Beck
E. C. Morton	Columbus Waterhouse
George W. Spencer	Irvin Ayres, San Miguel Stock Farm
Hugh Craig	August Helbing
Alfred Stillman	H. C. Swain
Frank McMullen	George D. Darwin
E. E. Dutton	N. H. Gordon
F. Dassonville	Charles Cushing
W. F. Whittier	Christian de Guigne
H. S. Safford	A. J. Ralston
William Ireland	Edw. Donohoe
W. G. Fulford	J. A. Donohoe Jr.
E. E. Simmons	S. A. Marshall
J. C. Downey	J. Perry Jr.
J. B. Benchey	Manheim, Dibbern & Co.
G. W. Kaelb	Franklin Bangs
Ferdinand C. Peterson	O. H. Ferguson
William J. Landers	A. F. Sewell
John Kimball	Montgomery Godley
Samuel Foster	L. S. Pease
Siegfried & Brandenstein	J. W. Flood
Weilman, Peck & Co.	M. J. Rodrigue
Robert J. Tobin	J. W. Farren Jr.
M. Ehrman & Co.	Abner Doble
Lovell White	C. H. Reynolds
C. A. Murdock & Co.	
Joseph Britton	
V. J. A. Rey	
M. P. Jones	
Raphael Weill & Co.	
Albert Gallatin	
H. H. Somers	

BARRY'S CONTEMPT BILL.

The Senate Judiciary Committee met this evening and at first reported against the Barry contempt bill. This action was due mainly to a speech made by ex-Judge Shafter.

The bill has been passed by the Assembly. Judge Shafter defined his views regarding the bill and was strongly opposed to its passage. The Judge cited opinions to strengthen his views, and after a long discussion the committee decided to report the bill back unfavorably.

Just after Judge Shafter had concluded his remarks James H. Barry of the San Francisco Star appeared before the committee. He made a strong and impressive speech, and his earnest arguments proved very convincing to the committee.

BARRY'S ADDRESS.

During his address he said that he was much opposed to undue interference with proceedings of the courts, and deprecated the practice of certain newspapers which criticize actions while pending, for no good purpose and for no other motive than to influence either the jury or court.

"The law," he said, "as defined by the courts, prohibits the press from criticizing a judge whether an action is pending or not, and whether the judge be corrupt or not," and as an instance Barry cited his own case where he was sent to jail and fined for making a criticism on Judge Lawler of San Francisco after the decision had been rendered.

"How could Barnard or Cardozo, the New York Judges, be driven from the bench if the press had not exposed their infamies?" said Mr. Barry. He had already made criticisms on the actions of two Judges while cases were pending and neither Judge would cite him for contempt. "The press and the people," Mr. Barry said, "have demanded a change of the statute, clearly defining the law of contempt," and he asked the members of the committee to consider the matter and weigh it before acting.

RECONSIDERED THEIR REPORT.

During his report Mr. Barry was frequently interrupted by questions from the members of the committee. His answers were convincing, and the committee, without opposition, decided to postpone their report on the bill until the next meeting.

The Committee on Labor and Capital reported favorably on the bill providing for the creation of a Board of Labor consisting of three members from labor unions, one from persons interested in the matter and one from a disinterested party. The committee also considered the Eight-hour Bill relating to compelling contractors on all public buildings, or buildings under course of construction, to allow their men only eight hours' work per day.

Shanahan offered a substitute to his back-tax bill, and the committee agreed to return it without recommendation. His substitute provides for a relay on all taxes delinquent since 1881, and makes Sheriffs receivers, and they are to pay to the State out of the net earnings of corporations.

The Senate Elections Committee met this evening and commenced the reading of testimony in the Senatorial contest between P. J. Murphy and J. H. Mahoney.

The Senate.

SACRAMENTO, Jan. 23.—The Senate met at 10 o'clock, Reddick presiding.

The Committee on Public Buildings reported favorably on two bills, one relative to the non-insurance of property against risk of damage or destruction by fire; also on bill to authorize and direct sale of the site and buildings of California Home for the Care and Training of Feeble-minded Children in Santa Clara County.

The Committee on Education and Public Morals reported favorably on the following bills: To establish a State Normal School in San Francisco; also the bill by Simpson relative to the duties of Boards of Education; also McComas' bill to enable cities of the fifth class to issue bonds for the purpose of raising money to purchase of school lots and construct school buildings; also Campbell's bill closing San Francisco pool-rooms.

The Committee on Hospitals reported favorably Simpson's bill relative to the preservation of public health.

There were a few bills introduced, but all were trifling amendments to the codes.

The discussion of the bill providing for semi-annual payment of taxes was continued. The bill was finally passed, and so was Carpenter's bill relating to chattel mortgages.

Second reading of bills was then taken up.

The Eight-hour Bill came up for discussion on second reading. The bill was introduced by Maher, and has a clause which forces the contractors out of the old law. Ostrom and Crandall of Santa Rosa opposed the measure.

The bill was finally referred back to the Committee on Labor and Capital, with the understanding that it was not to lose its place on file.

Recess.

At the opening of the afternoon session of the Senate, Ragsdale offered a bill to erect a monument in Golden Gate Park to General Vallejo. It provides for an appropriation of $10,000.

A petition signed by San Francisco citizens was presented to the Senate, asking that Campbell's bill closing pool-rooms be passed.

After the reading and adoption of rules the Senate adjourned till to-morrow.

The Assembly.

SACRAMENTO, Jan. 23.—The Assembly met at 11 o'clock.

The bill providing for electric railroads was up for discussion on a motion for reconsideration.

Robertson had one objection, and that was the bill did not restrict the running of wire overground. He said if something of that kind was not put in the measure the network of wires overhead would become as great a nuisance as it was in Eastern cities. He was in favor of electric roads if they could be operated without greater obstructions to street than was the case with cable roads.

Shannahan had another objection, and it was that he had heard there was a movement on foot to knock out the free trains in Oakland by substituting an electric road instead of the steam road now in operation. If anything of the kind was intended he wanted to know it.

The bill was reconsidered by a vote of 63 to 4. It was made the special order for next Wednesday at 2 o'clock.

The following bills were introduced:

By Garvey—To appropriate $100 to pay the claim of A. B. Dibble, for services in the case of The People vs. O. P. Dobbins.

By Wentworth—Providing for the formation and government of mutual building and loan associations.

By Black—To appropriate $957 to pay the expenses of the Examining Commission on Rivers and Harbors.

By Bruner—Relating to husband's control and disposition of community property.

By Johnson—An act to further secure the purity of the ballot and to provide means to pay the widow of General Vallejo $300 a month.

By Bledsoe—Regulating the qualifications of voters.

At the opening of the afternoon session of the House a resolution was introduced calling for the Election Committee to report on the Colusa County election contest between Eakle and Campbell. Democratic members entered that they had not had time to render a report yet.

In the midst of Shannahan's argument to have the resolution reconsidered a motion to adjourn prevailed.

SUFFOCATING MINERS.

The Supply of Air Suddenly Cut Off From Over 200 Men.

EVANSTON (Wyo.), Jan. 23.—By the burning of Fan-house 5 in a coal mine the supply of fresh air was cut off from over 200 men working below. The limited supply in the shafts and anterooms was soon used up and all began to smother.

The rush of the frantic men for fresh air was something awful. In the rush for the entrance the men grew weaker at each step, and gasped for breath. It is thought all escaped. The mine will be closed for some time.

Mrs. Davis' Book.

NEW YORK, Jan. 23.—Mrs. Jefferson Davis' book about the personal and political life of her husband is about ready for issue in two large volumes, and is dedicated to the soldiers of the Confederacy.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The number of telephones now under rental by the Bell Telephone Company is 478,725, an increase of 38,885 over the same time last year.

About 500 veterinary surgeons in Great Britain signed a paper condemning overhead check reins as painful to horses and productive of disease.

A Chicago man, who for five years had slept with a revolver under his pillow as a protection against burglars, found it was not loaded in all that time.

Within sixty-two years Mexico has had fifty-four Presidents, 1 regency and one empire, and nearly every change of government has been effected by violence.

Two Havana journalists are in jail, one for mentioning the formation of a new political party, and the other for advocating annexation to the United States.

A New York husband was so insanely jealous that he would take his wife's shoes with him when he went to work so that she could not go out in his absence.

Farmer Meall, who lives near Cawker City, in Mitchell County, Mo., cleaned his well out last week and found 39 big bull snakes and 25 bull frogs. The reptiles were alive.

A number of French manufacturers have warned the Government of their intention to remove their factories to places abroad if heavy import duties are imposed on raw material.

The Academy of Sciences of Cracow has just published a poem of the sixteenth century which treats of the same subject as "King Lear." The copy has but lately been discovered.

India and Ceylon are increasing their production of tea to such an extent that it is expected they will furnish 75 per cent of the amount consumed in Great Britain this year. China is a great sufferer from this change.

Different classes of substances have been found to affect the organs of taste in the following order: Bitters, acids, saline substances, sweets and alkalies. The taste nerves are nearly 2000 times as sensitive to quinine as to sugar.

A remarkable petition is on its way from India to Queen Victoria. It is more than 60 feet in length and is signed by more than 10,000 women in India, who are anxious to have the legal marriage age for girls raised from its present limit of 10 to 14 years.

The royal Saxon collection of china, the finest lot of Dresden china in the world, has just been greatly increased by the addition to it of the 14,000 pieces of Dr. Gustav Spitzner. The museum now contains about 34,000 pieces from the Meissen factory.

The strength of spider silk is incredible. Size for size it is considerably stronger than a bar of steel. An ordinary spider's thread is capable of bearing a weight of three grains, while a steel thread of the same thickness would support less than two.

The most precious bit of dog flesh outside of a coursing greyhound is going to quit England for America. The noble animal is the St. Bernard, Sir Belvidere, sold by T. H. Green to E. B. Sears of Boston for $6500. This dog has not as yet left a prize untaken.

"King Marie I of the Sedango" will be one of the special features in The Sunday Call to-morrow.

MORROW'S FEARS.

The Accounts of an Old Murder Yet Unsettled.

The Four Shots May Have Been Fired by a Brother of the Victim.

Further Litigation Over Seattle's Water-Front Property—Pure Water for the City of Portland.

Special to THE MORNING CALL.

SACRAMENTO, Jan. 23.—Joseph Morrow, an account of whose mysterious shooting at Elk Grove was published yesterday, has been taken to the County Hospital. He has four wounds, none of which are fatal. The shooting was done with a pistol of small caliber. One of the bullets passed through one of Morrow's hands, another is buried in his shoulder, a third struck the back of his head, but did not penetrate the skull, and was extracted from the back of one of his ears, and the fourth hit him on the forehead and glanced off. Had the weapon been larger Morrow would have been killed.

About ten years ago Morrow killed a man at Chico named Daubenspeck. He was sentenced to eighteen years in the State Prison. Then his sentence was commuted to five years, and about a year ago, through the influence of Senator Jones, it is said, he was pardoned out. Morrow says he is certain that his assailant was a brother of the man he killed. He says he resembled Daubenspeck, and besides he was informed that the brother of the dead man was on his track. The man who did the shooting has so far eluded capture, though the constables have scoured the country in the vicinity of Elk Grove.

SEATTLE'S HARBOR.

Litigation Over Water-Front Property Transferred to the Supreme Court.

SEATTLE, Jan. 23.—The celebrated Seattle Harbor-line cases, involving over $8,000,000 worth of property, were decided in the Superior Court here to-day. The State Constitution provides for a Harbor-line Commission, to be appointed by the Governor, to locate and establish harbor lines in the cities fronting on the navigable waters of the State. The lines located included numerous wharves, mills, factories, railways and other property built on trestles and piles along the shores of Elliott Bay in the city limits of Seattle.

A number of writs of prohibition were sworn out in the Superior Court to prevent the commission from establishing the harbor lines located.

Attorney-General Jones, in behalf of the State, moved to quash the writs of prohibition in order to enable the Commissioners to complete their work. The court to-day denied the motion to quash the writs, and the case now goes to the Supreme Court.

Among the plaintiffs in these cases is Henry Yesler, one of the pioneers who homesteaded the land on which the business center of Seattle now stands. The Northern Pacific, Puget Sound Shore, Columbia and Puget Sound railways are also plaintiffs in these cases.

SOUTHERN IMPROVEMENTS.

A New Narrow-Gauge Line From Ontario to Chino.

ONTARIO, Jan. 23.—The Southern Pacific Railroad began work this morning on the Chino extension. Pomona failed to secure a free right of way, and as Ontario offered favorable terms Manager Towne decided to build from here. The new road will be an independent narrow-gauge line and will be completed to Chino immediately. It is believed that the road will soon be extended south to Temecula, Riverside, Perris, Elsinore and San Diego, and Ontario will be made a junction town. There is great rejoicing here. A delegation of prominent citizens of Anaheim visited Chino yesterday to confer with Richard Gird concerning the extension to Anaheim of the narrow-gauge line now connecting Chino and Ontario. Orange County promises to plant 2000 acres in sugar beets for the Chino factory in case the road is built.

WRANGLING EVANGELISTS.

Two Clergymen and Four of Their Supporters Held for Riot.

ALBANY (Oregon), Jan. 23.—The six men who were arrested for participating in the recent Evangelical Church riot at Sweet Home were to-day bound over to await the action of the Grand Jury on a charge of riot. The defendants are Rev. H. I. Bittner, Presiding Elder of the Bowman faction of the church; Rev. C. A. McElroy, George Slaven, Rudolph Spring, Samuel Nothinger Sr., and Samuel Nothinger Jr. All gave bail. It was shown that the church-door was barred and guarded by the Trustees of the church, and that Rev. Mr. Bittner and his followers procured a stout pole and broke in the door. Threats of bloodshed were also made. The riot grew out of a rupture over the possession of church property.

EXTREME MEASURES.

Idle Workmen Drive Chinese Out of Several Northern Towns.

PENDLETON (Oregon), Jan. 23.—All Chinese laundrymen and laborers have been driven from the towns of Weston, Athena and Adams by a mob. At Milton one Chinaman refused to leave and was dragged for some distance with a rope around his neck. Reports from Hilgard say that discharged white section-hands raided the Chinese houses there and compelled the inmates to leave the place. It is rumored that a party of white men who raided the Chinese quarters in the other towns are on their way here and will drive out the Chinese tonight.

CONVICTED OF MANSLAUGHTER.

The Defense of Jose Baros, Who Murdered Joaquin Yturiaga.

SAN JOSE, Jan. 23.—The trial of Jose Baros for the murder of Joaquin Yturiaga at New Almaden ended this evening with a verdict of manslaughter. The crime was committed last October. Yturiaga went to a saloon where Baros was drinking and asked for the return of $1 loaned Baros several days before. A row ensued and Yturiaga walked out, closely followed by Baros. When the latter reached the door he fired three shots, all of which took effect and resulted in the death of Yturiaga. The defense was that Baros, with good reason, was in deadly fear of his life.

AN ILL-TIMED ARREST.

A Newly Married Couple Separated After the Marriage Ceremony.

SALT LAKE, Jan. 23.—While W. H. Wagner and Mary Jane Ferrer were being married to-day a deputy United States Marshal appeared to arrest the groom just as the Judge of Probate pronounced the final words. Wagner is charged with stealing $2800 from an old can that was buried by a miser in an Evanston (Wyo.) cellar and coming with the plunder to Salt Lake. Considerable money and a ring belonging to the miser were found on Wagner.

THINKS HE WAS SLANDERED.

A Chicago Detective Brings a Libel Suit Against a Salt Lake Paper.

SALT LAKE, Jan. 23.—Jesse D. Barton, a Chicago detective, who was hired by the Mormon Church through ex-Inspector Bonfield of Chicago one year ago to "shadow" Liberal candidates for the February Salt Lake City election and produce evidence, real or alleged, that would damage their character, began a libel suit against the Tribune this afternoon for $100,000. Barton asks $5000 damages for each paragraph in the Tribune attacking him.

Accidentally Shot Himself.

CHICO, Jan. 23.—While hunting rabbits on Butte Creek, about nine miles from this city, this morning, a gun in the hands of Volna Bateman exploded, terribly lacerating his left hand and tearing a hole in his face. He was brought here for medical treatment. He is in a critical condition, but the attending physician thinks Bateman may recover.

Ask for a Searching Trial.

WILLOWS, Jan. 23.—The examination of the Willows Election Board of Precinct 1 was held to-day. The testimony consisted of the statements of four men, who swore they did not vote in Willows, yet were recorded as voting at this precinct. The defendants offered no testimony, and their attorney asked to be given an opportunity to have a searching trial in the upper court. The Magistrate made an order holding each to answer, and stated that while, in his opinion, no bail was needed to insure the appearance of the defendants, yet to satisfy the clamor of the "Colusa contingent," he would require bail of $2000.

An Ex-Official's Trouble.

SAN DIEGO, Jan. 23.—Proceedings for the recovery of the deficiency of ex-County Clerk M. D. Hamilton were commenced this morning and a warrant issued for his arrest. Immediately after the service of the warrant Hamilton appeared in court and asked that he be allowed to go on his own recognizance. The Justice refused to grant the request and ordered that his bonds be fixed at $2000, which security was given.

An Ex-Convict Held for Trial.

SONOMA, Jan. 23.—Joaquin Hansen was to-day committed, in default of $5000 bail, by Justice Cheney, to answer a charge of felonious assault committed on Louis Bosques, a boy 18 years of age. Hansen is an ex-convict, and was discharged from San Quentin less than three months ago, having served a thirteen years' term for the commission of a felony.

An Editor Fined.

PORTLAND, Jan. 23.—In the United States District Court to-day Charles Nickell, proprietor of the Jacksonville Times, was indicted for advertising the Louisiana lottery. He entered a plea of guilty. He said that the advertisement was "dead matter," and that his foreman had accidentally placed it in the forms to fill up. On this understanding the Court sentenced him to pay a fine of $25.

Tom Fitch's Gold Mine.

CARSON, Jan. 23.—The report that Tom Fitch has acquired title to a gold mine for which he has been offered several millions, and that he is coming into the next Senatorial fight, is creating great excitement here. Many are already declaring themselves for him. At the Republican caucus of last night Jones was the unanimous choice.

Better Water for Portland.

SALEM (Oregon), Jan. 23.—The bill allowing the city of Portland to issue bonds for the purpose of bringing water into the city from the Bull Run River has passed both Houses of the Legislature. The Governor will not sign the bill, but it is said he will allow it to become a law without his signature owing to the urgent demand of the people of Portland for better water.

Bakersfield Sport.

BAKERSFIELD, Jan. 23.—The field trial ended to-day and everybody is satisfied. The proprietor of one of the hotels here gave the visitors a banquet to-night. A few visitors left to-day and the greater part of them will remain until Sunday.

COLLIDED IN THE DARK.

A Downieville Stage Demolished by a Freight Train at Marysville.

MARYSVILLE, Jan. 23.—An accident took place this morning in which several persons barely escaped death. As the north-bound freight train left the depot about 6 o'clock it struck the Downieville stage containing five passengers. The stage was demolished and the occupants thrown 30 feet. Mrs. P. P. Carter was badly bruised about the head and limbs, but her three months' old baby was uninjured. E. J. Meyer of Downieville received a long gash on the forehead and other injuries that may prove serious. The other passengers were considerably bruised. It was dark, and the engineer claims he could not see the stage. The passengers say the bell was not ringing, and that the engineer with the responsibility, Dave Quadlin, the driver, did not see the train till the horses were across the track. He secured another wagon and went on to Downieville.

A PACKMAN'S STORY.

He Had a Close Call and Barely Escaped Being Murdered.

Campbell Hardy, a jeweler from Boston, is at the Grand Pacific, and yesterday, when in his apartments at the hotel, related some of the experiences he had when in New Mexico, ten years ago, says a writer in the Chicago Herald. Mr. Hardy made the money that gave him a start in life when a packman. He traveled through all the far Western States, but the most exciting time he had, he says, was in New Mexico.

"One day, when much fatigued and hungry, I stopped for dinner at what appeared to be a pioneer's cabin," he began. "The house was miles from any other habitation. I had about $800 worth of stock and $1200 in money. When I entered the house I found the occupants to be a man of about 60, his twenty-five-year-old son and two women. The appearance of the old man caused me to mistrust him, and I heartily wished I had not visited the place two minutes after I entered it. Of course the men and women wanted to see what I had for sale, and the women purchased about $3 worth of goods. The old man, whose name was Moody, was particular to ask me whom I had last seen, and to learn whether or not I had any friends in the country. Afterward I found out he wished to learn if I would be missed if he made away with me.

"Just before I sat down to dinner I happened to look out of the window and I saw the son go into the barn with a shotgun in his hand. His stealthy manner put me on my guard and I took good care that my gun was within reaching distance. I cannot say I enjoyed the meal. I quickly swallowed a cup of coffee, took a few mouthfuls of bread and slipped what I could into my pocket. Then I prepared to leave.

"'But you must see the blooded stock I have before you go,' said Moody. 'Probably I can trade one of the animals for a silver watch.'

"But I knew if I ever went into that barn I would never come out of it alive, so I made some weak excuse and started down the road, keeping a sharp lookout from behind. The old man was much enraged at my not falling into the trap, and just as I stepped out of view I saw him enter the barn. I determined to watch and went into a grove a little farther down the road, and I stood where I could see what was going on at the barn. I saw Moody and his son come out, each armed with a rifle. They walked into the woods not far from where I was hid, evidently meaning to head me off farther down the road. I am certain they meant to lay in ambush for me and shoot me down as I passed. But I made up my mind to fool them, and, instead of going the way I intended, went in the opposite direction, passing the house in the woods so the women would not see me. I kept close to the road and when about half a mile from Moody's I saw two trappers walking in my direction.

"They looked like honest fellows, and I confided my suspicions to them. The first comment one of the men made was: 'I always believed that old wretch was a murderer.' As I was not in search of adventure I declined to return to Moody's house and in the trappers' presence demand an explanation. All I asked was their protection for a mile or two. For an old silver watch they consented to accompany me, and we started. I did not suspect Moody or his son were within a mile of me, but when I suddenly walked out from a little clump of trees a bullet went whizzing past me and lodged in the trunk of a hickory. I jumped back into a thicket of underbrush and was almost scared to death. I got out my revolver, however, and prepared to defend myself. I lay there about five minutes. Suddenly there was another loud report not far from me. The shot was immediately followed by another, and then I heard one of the trappers, who had taken up positions near me as soon as the first shot was fired, say: 'I think they are done for.'

"My trapper friends called me from my hiding place, and lying behind a fallen tree were the bodies of Moody and his son. The old man was shot through the temple when he was looking over the log for me, and the son's back was broken, he having started to run away after his father was killed. The bullet passed through his stomach. Both men were dead when we reached them. We then returned to the house, but they had empty looked into the barn and there found the two women in a big cellar under the building digging a grave—my grave. We found no less than twenty skeletons in the place. That old wretch and his son had killed every stranger who had visited that part of the country for years. There was no end of excitement when the news of the ghostly finds in the den went abroad, and before I left the country the two women were strung up to a tree. Moody's remains and those of his son were also strung up as a warning on a tree near the side of the road. The old pioneers in that part of the country can tell you a much more thrilling story about Moody's den than I have."

In The Sunday Call (to-morrow) will be published the answers of Cardinal Gibbons, Senator Dolph, Terence V. Powderly, Senator Edmunds, William M. Evarts, Bishop Potter, Wade Hampton, Senator John Sherman, John Wanamaker and Senator Ingalls to the question, "Will Our Present Form of Government Last 100 Years Longer?"

THE PARISIAN PAWNBROKERS.

A Place Where Valuables Are Pledged Described.

How the Wonderful Mont-de-Piete System Is Carried On Under the Management of the French Government.

M. Liekhatscheff, Mayor of St. Petersburg, and Privy Councilor of the Russian Empire, has lately returned home from Paris. During his stay here he visited a number of public functionaries and public institutions; but what appeared to interest him most was the Paris Mont-de-Piete system, and to this, I hear, writes a contributor to the London Graphic, he paid very special attention, going so far as to make repeated visits, not only to the chief office in the Rue des Blancs-Manteaux, but also to various of the offices in different parts of Paris, so as to be able to convince himself on the spot as to the working of the system. On the whole he expressed himself satisfied as to the public utility of the Paris pawnbroking system under Government management, and stated that he should use his best endeavors to have a similar institution founded in St. Petersburg, where, as is well known, the business of lending on pledges is to-day in the hands of a number of private individuals, with whose character and methods of business the terrible novel of Dostoiewsky, "Crime and Punishment," has made us familiar. I had the advantage of accompanying M. Liekhatscheff on two of his expeditions. The first was on his visit to the Rue des Blancs-Manteaux, and the second, a day or two later, was to a pawnshop in the Rue Buffault, which, situated in the midst of a very busy quarter of Paris, offers the most characteristics.

We arrived there at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, and after climbing three flights of stairs and going down a long passage, found ourselves in a large room divided into two parts by a long wooden counter. The part reserved for the public was simply furnished with a low wooden bench, in the center stood a stove, and against the walls, colored in distemper, were various notices referring to sales of pledges. The counter was divided into two departments by means of a low rail. Each department was labeled, the one "Engagements," the other "Degagements"—that is, the one for the pawning and the other for the redemption of pledges. The office was very full when we entered, and so, while waiting for a more favorable opportunity for watching the proceedings, M. Richard, President of the Municipal Council of Paris, who was doing the honors, explained to M. Liekhatscheff the working of the sales announced on the above-mentioned posters. "These sales continue all the year round," said M. Richard, "and are held in rooms at the Rue des Blancs-Manteaux establishment, specially designed for the purpose. They are, of course, supposed to be public, but as a matter of fact, it is quite useless for anybody

OUT OF THE BROKERING RING

To attempt to do any business. The sales are attended by regular gangs of brokers, who combine together when any stranger tries to bid, and then buy the article cheap for what he wants that he never attempts the experience a second time. It is only when the brokers consider a bargain not worth taking that an outsider can get a chance to do business.

"These sales are one of the curious sights of Paris, and it is a pity that you will not be able to see one, for the types of the habitues are characteristic in the extreme. The doors usually open at 9 in the morning, but long before that hour you can see a crowd of seedy-looking individuals waiting about outside. These men make a specialty of their business, which consists in getting hold of the best places—that is, those nearest to the auctioneer's desk—and selling them to late comers. In cases of sales of any importance, such as on jewelry days, good places fetch as much as 4s or 5s, while even on ordinary days 2s or at least 2 francs can be earned by this business."

"How long are pledges kept before being sold?" asked Mr. Liekhatscheff.

"About fourteen months—that is to say, when no interest has been paid. Toward the end of the fourteen months the pledge is considered forfeited and is marked for sale. It usually comes under the hammer about three months later."

"But if the interest is paid?"

"The pledge is kept for a long time. There are some pledges in the store-rooms at the Rue des Blancs-Manteaux which have been there for years and years. You have heard the story of the umbrella that was pledged in 1864, and the interest of which has been paid regularly every year since. This is quite a true story, and the umbrella is there still, for when the old man who owned it died it had got so shabby and was so old-fashioned that, rather than sell it, the then Director of the Mont-de-Piete redeemed it out of his own pocket and has kept it as a curiosity. Nobody ever knew why the old gentleman never redeemed it or why he went on paying in yearly interest six times the value of his pledge. Some eccentric, doubtless, as there are thousands in Paris. On one occasion a visitor to the Mont-de-Piete, hearing of his story, sent a message to the owner to say he would redeem the umbrella for him, an offer which was most indignantly refused."

"What is done with the funds realized by the sales of unredeemed pledges?" "The balance, if any, that remains over after all expenses have been paid,

THE AMOUNT OF THE LOAN

And the interest thereupon having been deducted, is handed to the borrower. This money is called a boni and is payable about six months after the sale of the pledge and until within about eighteen months of this sale. After that it is forfeited to the establishment, a very rare occurrence." "Are these boni ever very considerable?" "Very rarely. The amount lent usually represents the market value of the article, allowing for the interest, the expenses of the sale and the natural deterioration that the pledge must undergo. In many cases there is no boni at all. The brokers bid too low for that. At the same time, there are occasional surprises at these auctions as at all others, and occasionally a pledge is known to fetch really more than it is worth." "How much is usually given?" "The valuers, as a rule, estimate a pledge at about one-third of its real value—that is to say, that is the amount that they recommend the paying clerk to advance. In cases where the pledges are gold or jewelry, and where there is less fear of loss—for I must tell you that sometimes, far from leaving a surplus to be paid over in the shape of boni—the Mont-de-Piete loses by the sales at auction—a more liberal estimate is made, and perhaps about three-fourths of the value advanced. But listen, here is just a case in point." As he spoke a man stepped up to the pledging counter and handed a gold watch to the pledging clerk. The clerk handed him a number printed on a piece of ivory and took the watch into the adjoining room, the door of which remained open. He then returned to his seat at the desk behind the counter. "He has taken it to the valuer; you will hear him call out his estimate in a minute or two."

"What surprises me," said M. Liekhatscheff, looking round, "is the extreme respectability of most of the people here and the entire sans-gene with which they transact their business. In London and in other European cities a sort of ignominy is supposed to attach to these transactions. People are ashamed of being seen in the pawnshops, and what is here quite a public traffic is there clandestine and hidden." "Oh, here in France," said M. Richard, "nobody is ashamed of dealing with the pawnbroker. Tradesmen in a small way will come here to make up the amount of a pressing bill; the small manufacturer uses it as a bank—it is indeed, the only credit establishment to which the poor can apply. The money is by no means always wanted for actual necessaries of life or to make up for waste. Many people borrow here for the purposes of small commercial speculations. As I say, the Mont-de-Piete is the poor man's bank. Last year, just before the exhibition, thousands of additional

TRANSACTIONS WERE REGISTERED.

And in almost every case the pledges were redeemed after the close of the exhibition. That meant that hundreds of people wanting money for various speculations connected with the exhibition came here for the necessary funds, succeeded and then withdrew their pledges, paying for the capital advanced to them very much less than they would have done anywhere else."

"What is the rate of interest?"

"All considered, it amounts to about 9 per cent per annum, payable at the end of the year, and this rate will be still further reduced as soon as it is possible to do so."

"And the profits?"

"The profits, which are by no means very large, are paid over to the Director of Public Assistance and go in charities."

Just as M. Richard had finished speaking we heard the voice of the appraiser call out through the open door:

"Number seventy-eight, a gold watch; 63 francs."

"Sixty-three francs," repeated the paying clerk, looking toward the man with the ivory number in his hand.

"It's very little," grumbled he, rising and stepping up to the counter. "Couldn't you make it seventy?"

The clerk stepped into the valuing-room and presently came back and said: "Sixty-five, if you like, but not a penny more. It is very thin."

"Oh, tant pis," said the customer, "I take it."

He was then requested to give his name and address, and these having been registered, he was asked to show his papers. "Papers?" he cried, "what papers?"

"It is a rule here," said the paying clerk, "that before advancing any sum superior to 15 francs we be satisfied as to the identity of the pledger."

"I haven't any papers," said the man, "so you had better give me back my watch."

"No, I cannot do that," said the paying clerk; "that is against the rules. We are obliged to detain this pledge until you satisfy us as to your identity. Then we will advance you the money or return the pledge, as you choose. The law is formal."

The man grumbled very much, but at last acquiesced and departed, carrying with him a receipt for the pledge. "Try and bring us your papers at once," cried the clerk after him, "or, if you have no papers, bring two certificated persons who know you to speak as to your identity." M. Liekhatscheff watched this scene with great interest. "A wise precaution," he said; "but come, 65 francs seems very little for such a handsome watch." "Oh, watches are literally a drug in the market. Do you know that on an average 1200 watches are pawned every day in Paris, giving a total of over 400,000 in the course of the year?"

WORLD'S EXPOSITION.

States Getting Ready—Tower of Babel to Be Rebuilt.

Special to THE MORNING CALL.

CHICAGO, Jan. 22.—Anxiety has reigned among the officials of the exposition this week. The probable legislation of Congress is troubling the officials. The report of the Congressional Committee, under Representative Chandler, has brought about this cloud. The general opinion is that this committee has done no good, but on the contrary has caused more apprehension and accumulated more misinformation than any other agency identified with the fair. President Palmer, Director-General Davis and General Handy went to Washington to look after the interests of the fair and make any explanations that might be necessary to kill any erroneous report. They have also laid before Congress their first annual report.

They estimate the total expenses of the National Commission for the coming year to be $153,000; Board Lady Managers, $50,000.

Accompanying this report is a document setting forth the regulations for foreign exhibits.

A joint resolution has passed the House and Senate at Nashville, Tenn., to appoint a committee of fifteen to provide for a Tennessee exhibit at the World's Fair. Governor Eagle of Arkansas has recommended a $100,000 appropriation. Delegates from all parts of the State have petitioned for $250.

The Executive Committ