LAW MAKING.

Measures Under Consideration by the Legislature.

Argument on the Amendment to Abolish the Railroad Commission.

The Fire Department Bill Referred to a Committee—An Act Providing for the Parole of Prisoners.

Special to THE MORNING CALL.

SACRAMENTO, Feb. 5.—Shanahan's bill repealing the sections of the Constitution creating the Board of Railroad Commissioners came up for action in the Assembly this afternoon as the special order of business. Dibble promptly moved to postpone consideration of the measure until Monday.

Doty warned the Assembly that the measure would not down; every farmer in the State and every Farmers' Alliance in the State have declared against the worthless commission.

Dibble said he was strongly opposed to the abolition of the commission. He did not think it would be wise to precipitate a struggle over railroad rates and fares in every Legislature that meets. The commission had been created to take such discussion out of the State Legislature. The effect of repealing the commission would be to make the railroad take an interest in every election in the State, and the Legislature would be composed simply of railroad and anti-railroad men.

Mattlock said the commission had been under the control of the railroads ever since it was organized. The railroads want it because it is easier to handle a commission than a Legislature. The Commissioners stand between the rights of the people and the corporations.

Bledsoe said Dibble's attitude was one of fear. The railroad was between him and his duty. The Legislature should do right though every corporation in the State should threaten to annihilate them at the polls. Fresno, Stockton and San Jose have been discriminated against time and time again, yet could get no relief from the Commissioners. In the report of the Commissioners there is not a solitary mention of a complaint, yet there were piles of complaints before them, and whenever a complaint is considered it is considered with a tender regard for the interests of the companies.

Clark asked the Assembly to think what had called the commission into existence. Did they remember how every Legislature was debauched prior to the creation of the commission? Democratic members were clamoring for the abolition of the commission. Why did they not abolish the commission years ago when they were in a majority and had the power. It would be far better to let things remain as they are. The new Commissioners are above the imputations that have been cast upon the commission that has gone out of existence.

Galbraith said he did not want this matter to go to the people because the people, who always take up a popular cry, may act dangerously. In spite of all his opposition the new Constitution was adopted. The people clamored for it, and what is the result? Hundreds of constitutional cases are in the Supreme Court awaiting decision.

Brusie stated that every State in the Union now has a Railroad Commission, and we would not be wise to abolish ours.

Doty retorted that most of these States are sick and tired of their Railroad Commissioners and are struggling to throw them off. The party that says to the farmers of this State that they must continue to bear their burden signs its own death warrant and renders itself a subject for popular contempt. Give the people a chance to vote on this commission and you will see whether they want it or not. His opinion of the people of California differed from that of Galbraith, and he would say that every farmer and granger in the State was better posted than any politician in the House.

Lux wanted more time to consider the question. He understood that every complaint made before the present commission had been investigated, and the result of their investigations would appear in their report.

The Assembly then decided to make further consideration of the resolution the special order for Monday afternoon.

PAID FIRE DEPARTMENTS.

The Assembly next took up Daly's bill providing that every paid fire department in the State shall be under the control of a board of five Fire Commissioners, to be appointed, three by the City Council, one by the Mayor and one by the Treasurer, and repealing Buckley's act, which is entitled, An act to provide for the reorganization and better regulating the paid Fire Department of the city and county of San Francisco. The bill, as it stands, is supposed to be favored by the Kelly-Crimmins faction, while Colonel Dan Burns is believed to favor an amendment, placing the appointment of the Commissioners in the hands of the Governor. If this is the case the Colonel has won a victory that is but one step removed from defeat. When the bill had been read Bert of San Francisco moved to refer it to the Committee on Municipal Corporations, the intention being to alter the bill while in committee so that it would conform to the wishes of the Colonel. The bill was committed by a vote of 35 to 34, the San Francisco delegates voting as follows: Ayes—Arms, Bert, Dunn, Lewis—4. Noes—Barnett, Coffey, Daly, Dennis, Dibble, Glynn, Hayes, Hoey, Jones, Lux, Phillips, Steitz, Tennis, Tully, Wentworth, Windrow—16.

PAROLE OF PRISONERS.

Senator McGowan has introduced a bill for the creation of a Board of Commissioners for the parole of prisoners at San Quentin. The salaries of the Commissioners shall not be more than $300 per annum each. The Commissioners shall meet at stated times at San Quentin, and any prisoner who has served the minimum term prescribed by law for the crime of which he was convicted, or has served one year for a crime for which there is no minimum prescribed, or who has served six months of a term so prescribed, or five years of a sentence for life, when there is no minimum term prescribed, shall be given an opportunity to appear before the commission and apply for his release on parole, and in like manner prisoners at Folsom may apply for release on parole. If the Commissioners believe the applicant for release on parole has reformed and will be able to support himself and will obey the law, then his release on parole shall be authorized; but he shall be under control of the board and subject at any time to be returned to prison. If the prisoner paroled shall leave the State he shall be deemed an escaped prisoner and may be arrested as such.

CHINESE EXCLUSION.

Senator Maher has introduced a Chinese exclusion act similar to that which was introduced by Mr. Young in the Assembly yesterday, and of which an extended report was given in yesterday's CALL. The most prominent feature of the bill is a provision that all Chinese in the State shall be registered and given certificates of residence, and any Chinese found after a stated time without such certificate shall be deported. Another provision of the bill prohibits the captain or owner of any vessel from landing Chinese at any port in the State; and also prohibits any railroad or stage company from bringing Chinese into the State. Senator Maher believes the bill is constitutional, and if passed will accomplish the object for which it is intended. Senator Maher says he introduced the bill at the request of a Government official. This may account for the extended visit Collector Phelps paid the capital at the opening of the session.

Senator Simpson has introduced a bill to extend the jurisdiction of the Board of State Harbor Commissioners over East street, San Francisco, between Pacific and Folsom streets, and withdraw the same from the jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors.

HYDRAULIC MINING.

The hydraulic miners displayed their strength in the Assembly this afternoon. Early in the session Clark introduced a concurrent resolution calling upon the Government to appropriate $1,000,000 to improve the navigation of the Sacramento River and protect dwellers on its banks from overflows. The resolution, as introduced, stated that the river was being choked by mining debris, and against this statement the hydraulickers lifted up their voices and protested. In committee the resolution was amended to read that the river was becoming unnavigable and was a menace to property through the neglect of the National Government. This afternoon when the resolution came up there was a minority report in favor of the resolution containing the obnoxious words "mining debris," which had been carefully eliminated from the resolution as formed by the majority. There was a long debate over the matter, and the Assembly, by an almost unanimous vote, adopted the resolution of the majority, but amended it to read that the trouble was caused by neglect of the National Government and "other causes."

Gould's Investigating Committee, on account of the absence of a member, did not meet to-night. Gould has obtained from Camron the name of one of the lobbyists who approached him for the sack.

COUNTY SCHEMES.

Bruner introduced in the Assembly this morning a bill designed to throw obstacles in the way of enterprising individuals and associations who are at present expending their mental energy on schemes for cutting the State up into little counties. This bill provides that whenever the people of a certain district desires to organize their territory into a county they must first send a petition signed by 500 qualified electors residing in the district, who must also be taxpayers. This petition shall set forth the boundaries of the proposed county, and state the number of inhabitants, which must be not less than 5000. The petition must also show that the creation of the new county will not reduce the population of the old county from which it is taken or of any of the counties from which it is taken below 8000. The Governor shall then appoint a commission of three disinterested persons. These Commissioners shall divide the proposed county into election districts and a special election to decide whether the new county shall be organized and the location of the county seat shall be held, and if two-thirds of the ballots cast are in favor of the new county it shall be organized. The proportion of the indebtedness of the old county which the new county shall bear shall be determined by a Board of Commissioners appointed for that purpose, and if there is any property in the new county belonging to the old its value shall be added to the portion of the indebtedness of the old county which the new county must pay.

DEFINING PAWN-BROKERS.

Ames has introduced into the Assembly a bill which classes among pawn-brokers many who do not now aspire to that distinction. The bill provides that any person, corporation or firm who loans money on deposit or pledge of personal property, or other valuable things other than securities or written or printed evidences of indebtedness, or who deals in the purchasing of personal property or other valuable thing on condition of selling the same back again at a stipulated price, or accepts or exacts personal property on deposit or pledge as security for the payment of a promissory note or other evidence of indebtedness, is declared and defined to be a pawn-broker.

RELIEF MEASURES.

A bill has been introduced in the Assembly providing for the appropriation of $5000 to recompense Jose Ramon Pico for money expended in recruiting Companies A, B and C of the First Batallion of the California Cavalry during the years 1863 and 1864.

The State Bar Association's amendment to the Constitution for the relief of the Supreme Court made its appearance in the form of an Assembly bill this morning.

ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS.

Baughman has introduced an apportionment bill which is supposed to represent the views of the country members. It divides the State into eighty Assembly Districts as follows: First, Del Norte and Siskiyou; Second, a portion of Humboldt; Third, the remainder of Humboldt; Fourth, Shasta and Modoc; Fifth, Lassen, Plumas and Sierra; Sixth, Tehama and Trinity; Seventh, Butte; Eighth, Colusa; Ninth, Mendocino; Tenth, Sutter and Yuba; Eleventh, Nevada; Twelfth, Placer; Thirteenth, El Dorado; Fourteenth, the First and Third Wards of Sacramento; Fifteenth, the Second and Fourth Wards of Sacramento; Sixteenth, all of Sacramento County not included in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth; Seventeenth, Yolo and Lake; Eighteenth, Napa; Nineteenth, a part of Sonoma; Twentieth, the remainder of Sonoma; Twenty-first, Solano; Twenty-second, Marin; Twenty-third to and including Fortieth, the city of San Francisco, to be divided according to the views of the San Francisco delegation; Forty-first, San Mateo; Forty-second, Santa Cruz; Forty-third to Forty-eighth, the county of Alameda, to be divided by the Alameda delegation; Forty-ninth, Contra Costa; Fiftieth, the city of Stockton; Fifty-first, all of San Joaquin not included in Fiftieth; Fifty-second, Amador; Fifty-third, Calaveras; Fifty-fourth, Tuolumne and Stanislaus; Fifty-fifth to Fifty-seventh, Santa Clara; Fifty-eighth, Merced and Mariposa; Fifty-ninth, San Benito; Sixtieth, Monterey; Sixty-first and Sixty-second, Fresno; Sixty-third and Sixty-fourth, Tulare; Sixty-fifth, Albine, Mono and Inyo; Sixty-sixth, San Luis Obispo; Sixty-seventh, Santa Barbara; Sixty-eighth, Kern and Ventura; Sixty-ninth to Seventy-fifth, Los Angeles; Seventy-sixth, Orange; Seventy-seventh and Seventy-eighth, San Bernardino; Seventy-ninth and Eightieth, San Diego.

SENATORIAL DISTRICTS.

The State is divided by the bill into forty Senatorial districts, as follows: First, Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity; Second, Siskiyou, Shasta, Modoc, Lassen; Third, Nevada, Yuba; Fourth, Plumas, Sierra, Butte; Fifth, Placer, El Dorado; Sixth, Tehama, Mendocino; Seventh, Lake, Napa; Eighth, Colusa, Yolo, Sutter; Ninth, Solano; Tenth, Sonoma; Eleventh, Marin, Contra Costa; Twelfth, Amador, Calaveras, Mono, Alpine; Thirteenth, Sacramento; Fourteenth, Tuolumne, Mariposa, Merced, Stanislaus; Fifteenth, San Joaquin; Sixteenth and Seventeenth, Santa Clara; Eighteenth to Twenty-sixth inclusive, San Francisco; Twenty-seventh, San Mateo, Santa Cruz; Twenty-eighth, Twenty-ninth and Thirtieth, Alameda; Thirty-first, Monterey, San Benito; Thirty-second, Fresno; Thirty-third, Santa Barbara, Ventura; Thirty-fourth, Tulare, Inyo; Thirty-fifth, Thirty-sixth and Thirty-seventh, Los Angeles; Thirty-eighth, San Luis Obispo, Kern; Thirty-ninth, San Diego; Fortieth, San Bernardino and Orange.

Assemblyman Bruner has introduced a bil providing that Coroners may employ a stenographer while holding an inquest.

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

The Assembly Committee on Roads and Highways recommend the passage of the bill appropriating $50,000 to build a free road from Mariposa to the Yosemite Valley.

The Assembly Committee on Claims will report favorably on the bill authorizing the Board of Supervisors of San Francisco to pay John J. Comlin $54,015 due him on contracts for work done and materials furnished in improving the public streets.

The House Committee on Elections and Apportionment will report the Apportionment Bill and five election bills before it to the Assembly to-morrow without recomendation.

The Assembly Committee on Reformatories will favorably report the bill changing the name of the Whittier Reform School to the State School of Industry and Agriculture.

The Senate Committee on Corporations has amended the bill requiring all telegraph, telephone and electric light wires placed underground. It shall be discretionary with the Boards of Supervisors whether the wires be put underground or not.

The committee also heard what Sam Shortridge had to say against mutual insurance bills, but took no action. Shortridge also spoke against the Assembly insurance bills before the Assembly Committee on Corporations.

The Senate Judiciary Committee played a rough joke on Assemblyman Dibble last night. He had passed through the Assembly a bill providing that every elector is eligible to the office for which he is an elector, except where otherwise specially provided; and no person is eligible who is not an elector, except where otherwise specially provided. This act differs but little from one now in the Code, but in the Code the word "such" appears before the word person in the last clause. The committee could not penetrate the air of mystery that surrounded the omission of the word, and they voted to amend the bill by reinserting it.

The Judiciary Committee will recommend the bill providing that the Attorney-General may appoint a clerk, a phonographic reporter and thirteen deputies.

The Senate Judiciary Committee also recommended the bill authorizing the Attorney-General to dismiss actions pending in the Superior Court of San Francisco, in which W. A. Phillips, W. H. Knight and William Blanding are defendants, on paying to him for the use of the State such amounts as by the cash-books of the Harbor Commissioners appear to have come into the possession of such board, and have not been paid to the State, or to accept in lieu from each defendant his just proportion of said amounts.

The Assembly Committee on Insurance will report favorably to-morrow the bill providing that insurance companies must pay the full values of their policies.

Before the Assembly Committee on County and County Boundaries delegates representing citizens who desire the creation of the counties of San Jacinto and Riverside joined issue, and agreed that the territory which was to have composed San Jacinto should be joined to the territory to comprise Riverside. No action was taken by the committee.

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE.

The Senate.

SACRAMENTO, Feb. 5.—The Senate met at 11 o'clock this morning.

The following bills were introduced:

By Ostrom—To declare the bridge across the Feather River at Marysville a free bridge; also, to reorganize Swamp Land District 70, of Sutter County, and to provide for the construction, maintenance and repairs of levees thereon.

By Simpson—To extend the jurisdiction of the Board of State Harbor Commissioners over East street, San Francisco.

By Maher—To prohibit the coming of Chinese persons into this State, whether subjects of the Chinese Empire or otherwise, and to provide a registration and fix the status of all Chinese persons now resident of this State.

By Wilson—To provide for the organization and government of districts, to cut through ridges, to allow a rapid flow from upper ponds down through troughs adjacent to our great navigable rivers to tidewater.

By G. J. Campbell—Relating to mortgages and leases in certain cases.

A joint resolution memorializing Congress to pass an act forfeiting to the General Government the lands patented to certain railroads, because of non-compliance by them with the acts of Congress granting said lands, was taken up out of order and passed.

An effort was made to suspend the rules and take up a bill drawing the lines of the law closer upon vagrants.

De Long said that the way the law now stood vagrants could escape if they carried a pail of water and got 10 cents for it once in ten days.

Berry spoke against the bill and said it gave designing constables too much latitude.

Ostrom believed that it was a case of urgency.

The resolution to suspend was carried. The bill was then read the first time.

The Vagrant Bill was passed finally.

Recess till 1:30 o'clock.

The Senate was called to order at 1:30.

The bill increasing the police force of San Francisco came up on third reading. As it had not been printed since it had been amended, it was laid over till to-morrow.

Considerable time was taken up in the Senate this afternoon over an act to repeal an act to declare Klamath River navigable. It was finally made the special order for 2:30 Monday next.

The Senate finished the day with the first reading of bills and adjourned till to-morrow.

The Assembly.

SACRAMENTO, Feb. 5.—The Assembly met at 10 o'clock this morning.

After receiving the reports of committees, two deficiency bills were taken up, ordered engrossed and passed to third reading. One was for an appropriation to pay $600 for work done by Journal Clerks, and the other an appropriation for ballot paper.

The bill providing for appropriating $300,000 for the World's Fair was taken up from the special file.

Brusie wanted it laid over till Tuesday.

Bruner opposed this, and would only consent to laying it over for twenty-four hours.

The matter was finally made a special order for Tuesday next at 11 o'clock.

Baughman introduced an apportionment bill, which is supposed to represent the wishes of country members.

The resolution appropriating $300,000 for the World's Fair was finally passed.

A constitutional amendment abolishing the Railroad Commission was next discussed.

Bruner and Dibble argued against it, and Shanahan and Bledsoe favored it. Matlock of Tehama said his constituents were in favor of abolishing the commission, as it is antagonistic to the rights of the people.

After consuming the afternoon in a discussion of the Railroad Commission amendment, it was made a special order for Monday next, and an adjournment was taken till to-morrow.

THE COTTONWOOD TRAGEDY.

Examination of E. H. Hale for the Murder of Mrs. McDowell.

LOS BANOS, Feb. 5.—The case of the people of the State of California vs. E. F. Hale, in the matter of the murder of Mrs. Perry McDowell, near Cottonwood, January 8, 1891, was before the court to-day. Turner of Modesto and Fowler of Merced are attorneys for the prosecution; Breckinridge and Peck for the defense.

The first witness, T. F. Middleton, being duly sworn, testified as follows: That on the 8th day of January, 1891, an unknown person approached the house of Mr. Middleton, near Cottonwood, and shot through the window and instantly killed Mrs. Perry McDowell, daughter of Mrs. Middleton and wife of Perry McDowell.

Dr. Snediger then being sworn testified that Mrs. Perry McDowell came to her death from hemorrhage, which was caused by the bullet wound inflicted on the night of January 8, 1891.

A. A. Bither, Constable of the Third Township, testified that on the night of January 8th T. F. Middleton came to his house and told him that his sister, Mrs. Perry McDowell, had been shot and killed, and that he (Bither) went home with Middleton and upon examination found that a bullet had passed through the west window and through two doors, and had lodged against the mop-board of the second room; that upon the morning of the 9th they examined the premises and found tracks leading in a northeasterly direction from the house of Mrs. Middleton, and upon following up the tracks they led to the house of E. H. Hale, and also that in one of the tracks they found a rock that had marks of copper tacks, and that a warrant was then given him (Bither) for Hale's arrest, which he served, and took Hale to Los Banos and lodged him in jail; that Hale's boots were brought back from Los Banos and found to fit the track that led to Hale's house from the house of Mrs. Middleton.

The rock with the three marks on was then given as evidence by the prosecuting attorneys. It was claimed the marks on the rock were made by the copper tacks in Hale's boots. This rock was objected to by the defendant's attorney as evidence, as the marks were very dim and the defendant's attorney claims that the rock showed streaks of mica instead of the marks of boot tracks.

Q.—What conversation took place between you and Mr. Hale after you had made the arrest? A.—He said he would like to go over to his brother's to get some one to stay with his wife.

Q.—Did he ask you why he was arrested? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Where did you then go? A.—I started to the house of Mrs. Middleton.

Q.—Did Hale say anything about going to that house? A.—Yes, sir. He said he was willing to go if they would give him something to protect himself.

Q.—Did you go to the house of Mrs. Middleton? A.—No, sir. I went within about half a mile and Mr. White, who was with us, went to the house and got his team and came back to us and took Mr. Hale to Los Banos.

Q.—What about this rifle that was found? A.—I asked Mr. Hale if he had a rifle about the place, and he said he did not. After Mr. White started for Los Banos I came back to Hale's place and found a rifle in a back shed behind some bales of hay.

Q.—What rifle was it? A.—It belonged to Johnny Edwards, Hale having borrowed it the day before.

The court then adjourned.

During the afternoon session F. W. Rolley testified to the finding of tracks commencing within thirty feet of the murdered woman's house, at intervals, to within fifteen feet of the gate of Hale's house, and Hale's boots exactly fitted the tracks; he also noticed a peculiarity in the walk which extended the entire length of the tracks.

T. F. Middleton, brother of the murdered woman, testified that the curtain of the window through which she was shot was up.

John Edwards testified that he loaned a Winchester rifle, loaded, to Hale, on the afternoon of the killing, and saw it the day after, and then it had the appearance of having been oiled and fired recently, although the rifle was fully loaded.

The court then adjourned.

RUINED HOMES.

Sequel to the Elopement of a Married Man and Woman.

VINCENNES (Ind.), Jan. 5.—Sanford B. Whaland and Mrs. Lillie Hampton, who eloped from Harrodsburg, Ky., a few months ago, he leaving a wife and three children, she a husband and three children, were arrested here this morning, where they have been living. After the arrest the woman shot herself and fired at Whaland, exclaiming, "Let us die together." Mrs. Hampton cannot live. Whaland was not hurt. Mr. Hampton has become insane because his wife deserted him and has wandered away and been lost.

Mining Company Incorporated.

WEST BEND (Wis.), Feb. 5.—The Silver Queen Mining Company has filed articles of incorporation here. The incorporators are E. E. Warner, H. W. Sawyer, J. C. Dennison, D. F. Terrel, W. R. Curtis, F. S. Reynolds, A. T. Anderson and A. K. Delaney, and the capital stock is $1,360,000. The headquarters will be Hartford in this county, while the operations will be carried on in Alaska, according to the articles of incorporation.

Brutal Prize-Fight.

PITTSTON (Pa.), Feb. 5.—A brutal prize-fight occurred last night at Archibald between Jeremiah Slattery, a pugilist of some note from Butte, Mont., and a man named McReynolds of Forest City. Slattery made a chopping-block of his opponent, pounding him in an awful manner. In the third round he put McReynolds to sleep with a terrific blow on the neck. Physicians say he probably will die.

A SHAPELESS MASS.

Fatal Accident to a Sailor on an American Ship.

Thrown From Aloft by a Lurch of the Vessel and Instantly Killed.

The Body of a Laborer Found Hanging to a Bridge—A Resident of Milbrae Charged With Arson.

Special to THE MORNING CALL.

ASTORIA, Feb. 5.—The American ship Reaper arrived to-day, 167 days from New York, with a general cargo. The vessel encountered some heavy weather off Cape Horn and was forty days in getting round. The passage up the coast was a good one. While rounding the Horn one of the sailors met with a terrible death by falling from aloft. The accident occurred on the morning of December 26th. The sailor, a Dane named Peter Smith, was out on the mizzen-gallant sail-yard, when a sudden lurch of the vessel caused him to lose his hold, and he fell to the deck and was crushed into a shapeless mass before the eyes of his comrades. He struck on the poop-deck, his elbow striking first and penetrating the deck as though he had been fired from a cannon. He was dead when his comrades reached him. The body was buried the following day.

HANGING FROM A BRIDGE.

Suicide of a Swede After Spending His Money for Liquor.

STOCKTON, Feb. 5.—E. P. Ericcson, a Swede, who has been employed as a carpenter on Williams & Bixler's dredger on Union Island in this county, committed suicide to-day by hanging himself from a stringer of the bridge across Middle River, on the road to Union Island. He was paid off ten days ago and came to Stockton with $80 in all his money and selling his blankets and tools for liquor he started out for work, arriving at the ranch to-day. The foreman told him there was nothing for him to do now and he left to return to this city. This afternoon a boy discovered the body hanging from the bridge and notice was telephoned to the Coroner. The deceased was aged about 56 years, and is believed to have a son in Colusa.

MURDER TRIAL.

Examination of Witnesses Commenced in the Lee Don Case.

SAN RAFAEL, Feb. 5.—The case of Lee Don, charged with murder, was resumed this morning before Judge Murphy. Contrary to expectations a jury was obtained before noon. This afternoon, when it became known that a jury had been impanneled, the court-room was crowded, Mrs. Shentong, widow of the murdered man, and several other ladies being in attendance. Several witnesses for the prosecution were examined. John Franetta, the prosecuting witness, gave facts substantially as at the preliminary examination. The court adjourned until 10 o'clock to-morrow. It is expected that the testimony will be all in and the argument begun before noon to-morrow.

FOUND IN THE BAY.

A Missing Registered Mail Bag Cut Open and Rifled of Its Contents.

VICTORIA, Feb. 5.—The missing registered mail bag from this city for Port Townsend, which was lost January 5th, has been found in the harbor here, cut open and rifled of its contents. Everything of value was taken, and the letters returned to the bag. A piece of iron was placed therein, and the bag was thrown into the water. The thief secured about $50, and is supposed to have been an employe of the steamer Olympian, who had access to the mail-room.

CHARGED WITH ARSON.

A True Bill Found by the Grand Jury Against a Resident of Milbrae.

REDWOOD CITY, Feb. 5.—Charles Barbeau Jr. of Milbrae was arrested last evening, charged by the Grand Jury with arson. He is accused of setting fire to the house of Mrs. Fanny Taylor, at Milbrae, last fall. The Grand Jury investigated the case and found a true bill against him. The Taylor fire was one of the many near Milbrae supposed to be of incendiary origin. A reward of $750 had been offered for the conviction of the guilty party.

Charged With Arson.

SAN MATEO, Feb. 5.—For several days the County Grand Jury has been investigating the cause of the numerous fires at Milbrae, when D. O. Mills' property and the schoolhouse were burned. A private detective was employed on the case, and on Tuesday the Grand Jury found a true bill against Charles Barbeau, a young man of Milbrae. He was arrested yesterday, and upon examination was held to answer before the Superior Court on a charge of arson.

The Abandonment of Fort Lowell.

TUCSON (Ariz.), Feb. 5.—A telegram from Secretary of War Proctor states that the order to abandon Fort Lowell was issued on the recommendation of General Grierson and commanding General McCook and cannot be recalled. Fort Lowell is now held by a detachment of twenty men. Much indignation is felt over the action of the War Department.

Chinese Visitors.

VICTORIA (B. C.), Feb. 5.—An American sloop, believed to be from Port Angeles, arrived in Cadbaro Bay yesterday and landed fifteen Chinese, who walked into the city. It is thought that the Chinese, who are of the better class, have come to spend New Year with friends and will return to the American side by the same means of transportation.

A Fatal Blow.

MARYSVILLE, Feb. 5.—The Coroner's inquest over Mike Landers, who died at the hospital Saturday, was concluded last night. The verdict rendered was that the deceased died from the effects of a blow on the eye, in front of the Honcut Saloon, by an unknown person. Suspicion against the proprietor is strong, but there is no positive evidence.

Knights Landing Railroad.

MARYSVILLE, Feb. 5.—The first regular passenger train over the Knights Landing road arrived at 10:40 o'clock last night and left at 4:15 o'clock this morning. The opening of this road is of much interest and importance, particularly to Sutter County. An excursion to Woodland will be run next Sunday.

Suicide of a Disappointed Lover.

SPOKANE FALLS, Feb. 5. — Frederick Pfeiffer, a young man aged 22 years, committed suicide in his room at the Home Hotel this afternoon by sending a bullet through his head. Diappointment in love was the motive.

Without a Fire Company.

MERCED, Feb. 5.—Eureka Fire Company, No. 1, the only fire company in the city, disbanded last night because of dissatisfaction between the trustees and the members of the company.

The Gila Canal Scheme.

TUCSON, Feb. 5.—Ex-Governor Wolfley has arrived in the Territory with a party of Illinois capitalists, who propose to push the Gila Canal scheme.

REDUCING EXPENSES.

Sweeping Reduction in the Force and Salaries of Railroad Employes.

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 5.—Superintendent McGurgan of the western division of the Wabash has surprised his employes with orders for a sweeping reduction in salaries and force, in order to cut down expenses. Twenty-five men at this point have already been discharged, which will save about $19,500 a year. It is reported an order will be issued that the salaries of the station agents, or a majority of them, will be reduced.

FRUIT DISEASES.

An Investigation of California Orchards to Be Made.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—The House Committee on Agriculture has decided to place at the disposal of the Secretary of Agriculture $15,000 to be expended in making an investigation into the diseases of fruit in California. It is understood that the Secretary will appoint special agents to make an investigation this year and submit to the next committee of the House a full report on the diseases of fruit, and also report the remedies to be applied in each case, and also offer suggestions for the benefit of those engaged in the business. It is understood the Secretary will place the work in the hands of two men who will submit two reports, one on Northern California and the other on the southern portion. It is also said that the Secretary has expressed the opinion that the appointees should be Californians and well acquainted with the fruit business.

LIGHT SHOWERS.

Farmers Highly Pleased at the Prospect of Good Crops.

SANTA MARIA, Feb. 5.—It rained heavily last night and it is still showery, with prospects of a good fall. Everybody is happy.

AUBURN, Feb. 5.—It commenced raining about 3 o'clock this morning. The rain is very welcome. Our farmers in the western part of the county have gotten in a larger area of grain than ever before. The weather has been good for seeding, but great apprehension was felt if the rain should fail to come. A good downpour will insure good crops.

CAYUCOS, Feb. 5.—Another rain commenced here shortly after midnight and 0.72 of an inch has fallen in the twelve hours since. This, with continued warm weather, will suffice to thoroughly advance all forms of seasonable growth and gladden the hearts of dairymen and farmers.

VACAVILLE, Feb. 5.—There was a slight rainfall last night and this morning, not exceeding 0.11 of an inch. There was sufficient, however, to moisten the surface. Orchard work has progressed favorably and slight showers at intervals will insure a bountiful crop. At the Steiger orchard in the valley apricot trees are reported in blossom.

MODESTO, Feb. 5.—Rain began falling early this morning and at noon measured 0.25 of an inch. It is still cloudy. Growing grain will be much benefited.

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Feb. 5.—There was a good rain last night, measuring .41 of an inch, and making 7.89 inches for the season. The farmers are entirely satisfied. An immense area of ground has been sowed, and the best season the county has ever known is assured.

MERCED, Feb. 5.—Rain commenced to fall this morning about 6 o'clock and continued to fall in light showers throughout the day. The crops are looking well, but the rain is welcomed by the farmers.

GILROY, Feb. 5.—The prognostications of the Signal Service proved correct this morning, and a welcome rain commenced falling, the gauge registering a quarter of an inch at 8 o'clock. A broad smile graced the granger's face, for the season has been a perfect one to date. The crops are largely benefited by the present action of the weather clerk. The sky and wind both foretell that there is more to come before blue sky reigns supreme again.

HOLLISTER, Feb. 5.—A quarter of an inch of rain fell here last night, and it has continued raining at intervals all day, with a prospect of continuance during the night. Crop prospects are very fine.

NAPA, Feb. 5.—A slight rain fell here today amounting to 0.16 of an inch. This makes the rainfall for the season 5 inches, against 38 inches to the same date last year. It is still cloudy and the farmers are hoping for more rain.

STOCKTON, Feb. 5.—A light rain, measuring .06 of an inch, fell here early this morning, making a total of .11 of an inch for the month and 2.76 inches for the season. The wind to-night is from the rain quarter. Crops are not suffering, and a good rain within two or three weeks will make a large yield.

SAN RAFAEL, Feb. 5.—A light rain fell here last night, and for the past twenty-four hours 0.11 of an inch, and for the season 8.02 inches. The weather is slightly cold and cloudy.

HEALDSBURG, Feb. 5.—A slight shower of rain fell in this locality last evening, which has made the prospects of a good crop doubly sure. The weather for the past month or six weeks has been unusually fine and some fears of a drouth affecting the crops were expressed.

THE PENSION BUREAU.

A Reduction of $10,000,000 on First Payments as Compared With Last Year.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—The Commissioner of Pensions has submitted to the Secretary of the Interior a long statement of the operations of the bureau for the past seven months. He figures that the total first payments under the new law during the fiscal year will show a reduction of $10,000,000 on the first payments as compared with last year, and that the predictions of an extraordinary deficiency in the appropriation for the present and next fiscal year, will not be realized. He declares the practical operation of the act of June 27th last, will be to materially reduce the annual value of pensions.

BURGLAR ARRESTED.

Suspicion That Stolen Goods Were Shipped to San Francisco.

LEADVILLE (Colo.), Feb. 5. — Adam Fischer, a shoemaker, was arrested last evening while leaving a building which had been burglarized a few hours before. At his room the officers found goods of every description, amounting in value to about $7000. A letter found in his room leads the officers to believe that Fischer has a confederate in San Francisco to whom he has been shipping stolen goods.

NO CHOICE.

Two More Ineffectual Ballots for a South Dakota Senator.

PIERRE (S. Dak.), Feb. 5.—Two more ballots were taken for Senator to-day. In the last ballot Campbell had nearly the entire strength of the Independents, getting 57 votes. Tripp held all the Democrats and got one Republican, giving him 26. Moody went down to 16 and Melville up to 53.

Rich Tin Mine.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 5.—A special from San Antonio, Tex., says: The largest and richest vein of tin known to the mining industry of the world at the present time has been discovered in the old Diablo mine shaft, forty miles southwest of Durango, Mex. The owner of the mine and discoverer of this rich vein is John Pershbaker of San Francisco, who arrived in this city yesterday. At the bottom of the shaft, Pershbaker says, a remarkable vein of ore, over four feet wide and composed of a solid mass of oxide of tin, assaying from 50 to 60 per cent of pure metal, was found. Pershbaker will begin operating it immediately.

Contest Over a Large Estate.

NEW YORK, Feb. 5.—Another bitter will contest is going on. The nephews of John H. Schoenberger, who recently died leaving an estate of $8,000,000, claim that $4,000,000 of it was held by him in trust from his father, Peter Schoenberger of Philadelphia, and they sue the estate for that amount. An army of lawyers, representing different charitable institutions, will be engaged in the contest.

Republican Club Dinner.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 5.—There was an annual dinner at the Young Men's Republican Club last night, at which were present many Senators, Representatives and other prominent Republicans. Senator Casey of North Dakota and Senator Carey of Wyoming were given the seats of honor on the right and left of the President of the club. Casey spoke to a toast on "The Senate."

World's Fair Appointments.

CHICAGO, Feb. 5.—Professor John P. Barfet, City Electrician, was to-day appointed to the head of the electrical department of the World's Fair. Captain A. Collins of the United States Fish Commission was selected for the fisheries department, and Professor Putnam of Harvard College for the department of ethnology and archæology.

Rough Passage.

NEW YORK, Feb. 5.—The Rotterdam has arrived. The Rotterdam experienced a succession of gales with terrific high seas every day throughout the passage. No damage was done to either the ship or the passengers. The Rotterdam reports February 1st passed a National line steamer bound west. Possibly it was the disabled steamer Denmark.

Still Dancing.

ST. PAUL, Feb. 5.—The Governor has a letter from citizens of Fosston, Polk County, complaining that the Indians are still dancing and making threats, greatly to the terror of the settlers, many of whom are moving away.

Headless and Mutilated.

NEW YORK, Feb. 5.—The headless and mutilated body of a man was found floating at the mouth of the big sewer at the foot of Laight street this morning. There is no means of identification.

The Flooded Mine.

HAZLETON (Pa.), Feb. 5.—The water in the Janesville pit was lowered about three feet to-day. At this rate the bodies may not be reached for a month.

ROUND VALLEY COMMISSION.

An Additional Appropriation of $100,000 Greatly Needed.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—The members of the California delegation to-day received copies of the following communication:

Sir: I have the honor to transmit here with a copy of a communication from the Hon. D. W. Shryock, Chairman of the commission appointed by the President under the provisions of the act of October 1, 1890, entitled "An act to provide for the reduction of the Round Valley Indian Reservation, in the State of California, and for other purposes." (26 Stas., 658). Mr. Shryock states that the present appropriation should be supplemented by a sum not less than $100,000, in order that this matter may receive satisfactory and final action. The attention of the Chairmen of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives and of the Senate Committee on Appropriations has been called to this subject with the request that the sum asked for may be included in the Indian deficiency bills now pending.

As a settlement of this long-pending question, which affects not only the Indians of the Round Valley Reservation but the settlers thereon, seems one in which the Representatives of the State of California are particularly interested, I have deemed it proper to bring it specially to your attention.

Very respectfully,
JOHN W. NOBLE, Secretary.

ROUND VALLEY INDIAN RESERVATION,
COVELO (Mendocino County, Cal.),
January 25, 1891.

To Hon. John W. Noble, Secretary of the Interior—DEAR SIR: We wrote on the 5th inst. in regard to matters here. Since that time we have had several conferences with Mr. Williams, the Indian agent. He seems to be familiar with all the affairs pertaining to the interests of the Government on the reservation, as well as what are likely to be the future wants of the Indians, whose homes are to be on it. In the main his views and those of Mr. Hunt and myself seem to harmonize. Without divulging to interested parties or others what either he or we may think should be the outcome of the work assigned the commission, we have gathered facts enough, however, to confirm all we said in our former letter in reference to the lands intended to be included within the reservation, especially the valley and what have been called "swamp lands." Some portions of the latter, which are now owned by persons who bought it for $40 per acre, have been ditched and greatly improved, so that they are now highly productive. We believe that these, with all the remainder of the level lands within the valley and boundaries of the reservation, should be in the exclusive occupancy of the Government for the use of the Indians.

We therefore want to emphasize all we said in the letter above referred to, which is, that if the work of this commission is to be a success in closing up all matters of difference in extinguishing all individual claims, whether of title to lands, improvements thereon, within the limits of the territory to be selected and retained for the use of the Indians, by equitable appraised valuation, that should be and will be accepted by parties as final, and thereby avoid further delay, future litigation and expenditure, the present appropriation should be supplemented by a sum of not less than $100,000, and to this end no time should be lost. If this Congress does not make it, no one can predict when the department would be able to effect the consummation, that to us, who are on the ground, seems so