STILL AFTER MIKE.

The Unhappy Lot of a World's Fair Commissioner.

Wine and Flower Men Repudiate the Classification That Has Been Thrust Upon Them—Changes Desired.

M. H. de Young seems to have raised a hornet's nest about his ears, and close upon the defeat of his man Maxwell comes the news that horticulturists of the United States are hot upon his trail. They claim that the classification which he succeeded in establishing is simply ridiculous, and a movement is already on foot to have it changed. This feeling, it is to be understood, is not confined to the East by any manner of means, but is equally strong in California.

First of all come the wine men, who object most strenuously to having their products placed under the general head of horticulture. They claim that wine bears the same relation to horticulture that whisky does to agriculture. They, in turn, are followed by the floriculturists, who are equally firm in their protests. Then again, the horticulturists are indignant, and are not slow in giving vent to their feelings. They regard it as a slap in the face that De Young, through the columns of his personal organ and alleged newspaper, should state in support of Maxwell that there was not in the entire State a horticulturist with breadth of mind sufficient to properly fill the office. This they resent most bitterly, and the result of it all has been that not a single society, of those directly involved, in the United States has indorsed the classification as pushed through by De Young. They regard it as the work of a man totally ignorant of the subject. They affirm, moreover, that it was the result of undertaking to cope with a subject without investigation.

A BAD BLACK EYE.

Attention has been drawn to the fact that the Nursery Men's Association of America at its annual meeting at Minneapolis on the 31 inst. absolutely repudiated Mr. de Young's classification, and indorsed the one previously agreed upon by a number of powerful organizations. At the meeting in question President Emery alluded to the classification as "pathetic in its ludicrousness," and declared that a vigorous protest against such fallacy was in order.

At a recent meeting of the Seed Men's Association at Cincinnati similar action was taken, and De Young's classification was handled without gloves. The fact is that up to the present time not a single society, East or West, has given it its indorsement, and it is known that strong pressure is being brought to bear to have it rescinded, and the new classification substituted.

WINE MEN AROUSED.

In his last issue the editor of the California Fruit-Grower says:

After carefully interviewing a number of prominent viticulturists, we have reached the conclusion that the wine men of California are bitterly opposed to the mixing of the wine interests with those of horticulture in Department B of the World's Fair. The interests are so entirely dissimilar that the division of that department or the forming of a new one is strongly demanded. The combining of these diverging interests seriously jeopardizes the success of both the horticultural and viticultural exhibits. The wine men want to place a man to their liking at the head of the Viticultural Department, and the horticulturists make the same demand. These are certainly rational and business-like demands—then why in the name of common sense can it not be done!

MORE DENUNCIATIONS.

Nor are these the smallest of the complaints made. The flower men are out for blood, and are loud in their denunciations of De Young for his utterances through the columns of an evening paper, in which he peevishly takes them to task for "attempting by their silly actions to undo the work that has been accomplished by their representatives in Chicago after days of work and sleepless nights." They urge that De Young could best have served them by spending his days in idleness and by devoting his nights to rest and sleep.

Another cause for complaint, according to a prominent horticulturist, is that the Eastern States are already using De Young's statement that a California man as chief of the Horticultural Bureau would be able to favor this State, as a cudgel with which to beat the Pacific Coast over their head. They claim that they desire no favors and cannot afford to enter into a competitive exhibit with such a stigma resting upon them. In short they declare themselves as heartily sick of De Young and his methods, and are endeavoring now to rid themselves of the burden.

UNDERWRITERS MEET.

The Association Opens Its New Rooms on Sansome Street.

The meeting of the Fire Underwriters' Association last evening was largely attended, the members turning out in force to be present at the opening of the new rooms of the Association at 305 Sansome street.

The association, which has hitherto met in the board-room of the Insurance Union, now possesses two well-lighted rooms which it will occupy exclusively and which will be open to its members both by day and by night. The larger of the two will be used as a meeting-room and the smaller is fitted as a library, supplied with a good collection of insurance magazines and reference books.

The chief feature of the meeting was an instructive lecture on "Electricity," which was delivered by George P. Low, electrical inspector of the Insurance Union. Mr. Low described in a popular and interesting manner the various methods of measuring the force of electrical currents and the different varieties of currents.

It was an important science, he declared, for the business man to understand. There is invested in electricity in America alone, he said, nearly a quarter of a billion of dollars. It could be worked, too, with less waste than steam power. In the steam-engine about 10 per cent of coal burned under the boiler is available as power, but if 100 horse-power is delivered at a dynamo fully 95 electrical horse-power will be available from the machine, and if this be applied to an electric motor it will return nearly 87 mechanical power.

In the possibilities of electricity Mr. Low has great faith. We may see, he said, the Spokane River running the mills of that productive region or the Willamette Falls driving the street-cars in several of the cities of the Willamette Valley, and perchance Niagara itself may be harnessed to the new road that is to bring New York and Harlem within ten minutes of each other.

No decided action was taken in the matter of adjusters' charges, and the committee was given further time to draw up their report.

THEY HATED SPUDS.

Why Two Urchins Left the Boys' and Girls' Aid Society.

About 10 o'clock last night Officers Horrigan and Greenan were informed that two boys had crawled under the sidewalk at the corner of Ninth and Brannan streets several hours previous, and after groping in the cavity for about three yards from the entrance encountered two pairs of boots, and dragged to the sidewalk George Hart and Eddie Torey, aged 13 and 11 years respectively. The boys confessed that they had run away from the Boys' and Girls' Aid Society, at Grove and Baker streets, yesterday afternoon, and that they had sought refuge under the sidewalk for purposes of slumber.

When questioned at the Southern Station regarding the reason for their flight, the urchins stated that they were dissatisfied with the fare and the work at the home.

"They gave us spuds to eat, and I hate spuds," said one, the other's chief grievance being that he was obliged to make beds in the dormitory daily.

They preferred to seek their fortunes elsewhere, but their plans were nipped in the bud by the unsympathizing action of the officers in removing them to safer quarters.

College Club.

At a meeting of Alumni of Trinity College (Hartford), held Monday evening at 731 California street, Rev. A. L. Brewer was called to the chair, and F. H. Church was chosen Secretary. It was decided to organize permanently, and the following officers were elected: President, Right Rev. Bishop Nichols; Secretary, F. T. Church; Committee on Constitution, Nichols, Brewer and Church.

A Warm Day.

Yesterday was the warmest day of the season thus far. At 10 o'clock the thermometer of the signal service showed a temperature of 80.5°, while those in shop-windows registered from 85° to 90°.

For Bribing a Witness.

John Stack was examined in Judge Joachimsen's court yesterday afternoon for attempting to bribe a witness in Department 2 of the Police Court on April 21st. Judgment will be rendered on Friday.

Probably the Same Man.

A letter has been received at the Health Department from John A. Armstrong of Camden, South Carolina, inquiring about his uncle, John Armstrong, a plasterer, who came to California forty-three years ago, and, according to reports, died a few years since, leaving an estate valued at $75,000. An examination of the records of that office discloses the fact that one John J. Armstrong, a plasterer, native of Kentucky, died in the hospital in July, 1882, and was buried in the potter's field. The only discrepancy in the complete identification is the small difference of $75,000.

OFFICIAL FRICTION.

Supervisor Burling Asks a Conundrum.

There appears to be a good deal of friction between the Street Committee of the Board of Supervisors and the Street Department. The members of the Street Committee are progressive business men and can't grasp the wisdom of passing laws that are never enforced.

One of the plainest laws on the municipal statute-books is that prohibiting the laying of plank sidewalks within the district limited by Devisadero and Ninth streets, and yet seldom a week passes that a permit for this kind of a sidewalk, on some pretext or other, is not asked.

Unless the very best reasons are given such permits are refused. But for some reason that Supervisor Burling does not understand these refusals do not seem to have the desired effect. As becomes a dutiful city father he spends a great part of his time inspecting public affairs from one end of the city to the other, and when he finds anything going wrong it is time for the perpetrator to look out, for it is morally certain that squalls are ahead.

The instant Mr. Burling discovered faulty concrete being laid on Ellis street there was a storm. All the leg-pulling political machinery in town was applied instantly, but it had as little effect as spitting at a blizzard. Mr. Burling's storm kept increasing, and only abated when the pull let go and the mud concrete was replaced with the genuine article.

TOOK A LITTLE STROLL.

Late last week Mr. Burling was strolling along streets supposed to be wholly unfrequented by Supervisors. One of the first things that attracted his attention was a brand-new plank sidewalk. He complained to the Chief of Police to arrest the offender for violating the law. The man succeeded in getting his case thrown out of court by going to the Superintendent of Streets and securing a permit from that official, who has no more right to issue such a permit than a schooner's deck-hand.

Mr. Burling switched off in a somewhat erratic manner toward another section of the city, and had not gone far till he came across another bright and shining pine sidewalk, this time almost in the heart of the city. He remembered distinctly that the permit had been refused by the committee. Upon investigating he found the permit had been issued out of the Street Department office, and the owner had laid the planks on Memorial day to escape arrest.

Mr. Burling then meandered up and down California street where the new cable track is being laid. To his utter disgust he found the company paving between the tracks and on both sides with a mixture of cobblestones and blocks, and then quickly concealing the job by burying it under two or three inches of broken red rock.

THE PLOT THICKENS.

Again Mr. Burling complained to the Chief of Police against such high-handed infractions of the law, and with unmistakable emphasis demanded that it be stopped.

The Chief expostulated with the Late Supervisor. "What is the use?" he asked. "Whenever we make an arrest a permit is drawn on us. We can't do anything as long as that sort of business is going on."

When Mr. Burling left the police headquarters he strolled up Market street to the corner of Stockton, where he was nearly run over by an Omnibus line street-car. He recalled that on March 9th last the board passed an order requiring that company to stop its cars north of the north line of Ellis street at that crossing, but found on inquiry that no more attention had been paid to the order than if it had been passed in the moon.

Mr. Burling was reciting all the circumstances in the committee meeting yesterday, and turning suddenly to the clerk, he asked: "Can you tell me one single instance, Mr. Russell, where the Street Department has complied with the orders of this board?"

The Mayor had a contact with the Superintendent of Streets yesterday, also, and it was of a more effective nature. He gently but firmly diffused the knowledge around that department that if the Supervisors' orders were not a little more carefully observed in future something would "drop."

It was intimated when he returned that a treaty of peace had been signed, and in future the board will have no cause of complaint.

FOUGHT WITH AN AX.

A Veteran of the Late War Scalped by a Woman.

Over on Natoma street they have a way of settling affairs of a social nature with an ax. This not only calls for the intervention of hospital surgeons and police officers, but gives a publicity to the event which would otherwise be lacking.

About 6 o'clock last evening John T. Hickey, a veteran of the late war, living at 34 Natoma street, arrived at the Receiving Hospital with bright crimson gore trickling down from under the brim of his battered hat. John T. had been scalped with a battle-ax by his warlike neighbor, Mrs. Crook, living at 32 Natoma street. While Hospital Steward Truan was sewing a patch on Mr. Hickey with a neat herring-bone stick, the veteran of the late civil war related the details of his last engagement.

It seems that since the 23d of April Mr. Hickey has been laid up with a convalescent thumb, which had been mashed at the docks. In addition to enduring the darting pains in his thumb Mr. Hickey has been compelled to stand all manner of abuse heaped upon him by Mrs. Crook and her daughter, Mrs. McCracken. Yesterday afternoon, while Mr. Hickey was walking on his back porch, a troop of small children belonging to Mesdames Crook and McCracken crossed the alley and tried to crawl under Mr. Hickey's house. He gently shoved them home again, whereupon Mrs. McCracken undertook to remonstrate with Mr. Hickey, using an ax by way of emphasis. She was about to chop a hole in Mr. Hickey's head, when Mrs. Crook bounded into the alley. With distended nostrils and flashing eyes she exclaimed:

"Gimme that ax."

Grabbing the weapon by the handle with both hands, Mrs. Crook made a deadly swipe at the veteran of the late war, who thought hostilities had broken out again. Mr. Hickey ducked and the ax lifted a piece of scalp about the size of a fried egg from the top of his head. If he had not ducked when he did, Mr. Hickey thinks he would have lost his head at the collar. Mrs. Crook then retreated into her fort, while Mr. Hickey went down to the hospital to have a little plain sewing done on himself. After the seams had been sponged and pressed, the veteran went in search of a warrant.

It is very doubtful if John T. will be able to attend the picnic to-day, even if it doesn't rain.

PERSONAL NOTES.

J. H. Glide of Sacramento is at the California.

A. H. Cole of Fresno is registered at the Grand.

E. Jacobs of Visalia is a guest of the Occidental.

E. C. Smith of Pacific Grove is stopping at the Grand.

George D. Fiske of Woodland is a guest of the Palace.

Mrs. J. F. Black of Livermore is quartered at the California.

H. Dobbins of Vacaville is among the guests at the Palace.

John M. Swinford of Santa Cruz arrived at the Grand last night.

Walter Lindley of Whittier registered last night at the Occidental.

H. C. Shaw of Stockton is in the city. He is registered at the Palace.

A. T. Patton of Los Angeles is spending a few days at the Occidental.

E. J. Okell of Napa is at the California. He is accompanied by his wife.

James L. Smith and daughter, of San Jose, are stopping at the Palace.

J. H. Emborn and wife, of Santa Rosa, are in town and at the California.

M. R. Jamison came down from Colusa last night, and is stopping at the Grand.

Judge Hoffman was removed Monday from the Pacific-Union Club to St. Luke's Hospital.

A Jealous Stepmother.

A Hibernia Brewery teamster named David Garvey brought his son John to the police station on Monday evening with the request that he be sent to the Industrial School. The boy complained that his father's action was taken at the instigation of his stepmother, who dislikes him. The police are investigating the matter.

A Los Angeles Barn-Burner.

Carl Lassman, who resides at 225 Fourth street, surrendered himself at the City Prison yesterday for the firing of a barn in Los Angeles. A few questions propounded by the authorities satisfied them that the man was demented, and a charge of insanity was booked against the self-accused barn-burner.

ORGANIZED LABOR.

Hard Trials of Union Molders in the East.

Grambarth Elected President of the Cigar-Makers—A Superfluity of Printers—Soldiers Boycott Non-Union Beer.

The iron-molders profess to be more confident than they have ever been before of the success of their long strike. They believe that the Founders' Association is no longer united in its opposition to them. The founders met a few days ago and passed a resolution that no one of them should make terms with the union unless terms were made with all.

"The adoption of this resolution," said J. F. Valentine of the Molders' Union yesterday, "and the publicity that it was given clearly indicate that the association is no longer a unit in its opposition to us. They passed just such a resolution when the strike commenced, and there would have been no reason for passing it again were it not that some of the members of the association are anxious to make their peace with the union, and the big manufacturers who control the association determined that it would be well to renew their vows of fidelity to each other in order to strengthen the weak-kneed ones. An association whether of employes or capitalists seldom informs the public that it is very strong and resolved to fight until it discovers that its strength is waning."

The local union yesterday sent a letter to all the union molders in the United States and Canada, which gives a healthy and well-developed idea of the misfortunes that have befallen the non-union molders who were brought to this city to take the strikers' places and were induced to return to their Eastern homes. Following is the letter:

Brothers: I desire to again call your attention to the fact that some of the men who came from the East to take our places have been initiated by us and granted cards. We did not do this simply to get rid of them, but because we believed at the time and do so still that these men were anxious to become good union men, and fully realized how detrimental it was for them to be outside the organization, continually at war and preying upon those who were members and had the welfare of the craft at heart.

We did not initiate all those who desired to be; only those whom we deemed sincere in their protestations. Now we find that the cards given these men are not recognized by our brothers in the East, and the holders of them are being driven from shop to shop until in sheer desperation they are driven to correspond with the bosses here, trying to obtain jobs again.

What is the use of our trying to make good unionists of these men if our Eastern brothers continually persecute them, and drive them back to their old methods? Of what use is it for us to send these men back East if they are driven back again after two or three months? Try to make these men better and more useful members of our craft by showing them the advantages afforded by our organization, and we will be immensely benefited.

The situation here continues very bright, and the shops running under union rules are picking up a little, and some of our idle members being put to work. Stragglers who profess to be good union men have no excuse for coming here, and hereafter will be regarded as scabs if they persist in coming here in face of this warning. Keep me fully informed of anything bearing on our strike and we will soon be on top. Fraternally,

San Francisco, June 14, 1891. JOHN S. COLLINS.

MUSICIANS' UNION.

A Boycott Declared on a Benefit Performance.

The Board of Directors of the Musicians' Mutual Protective Union held a special meeting yesterday, and the committee appointed to interview the proprietor of the market opposite Odd Fellows' Hall reported that it was given no satisfaction regarding the non-union band employed every Saturday night, although he had promised to employ a union band. The delegates to the Federated Trades were instructed to ask for a boycott.

The Picnic Committee reported having arranged for a large string orchestra and a military band to furnish concert and dance music at the picnic to-morrow at Shell Mound Park, and everything indicated that the first annual picnic of the union would be a success.

A special meeting of the union will be held to-morrow to take action on a proposition to boycott the entertainment to be given at the Powell-street Theater. The union is informed that non-union musicians have been employed for the performance, and that one of the beneficiaries is indebted to the union musicians of Los Angeles. Hence the boycott.

Cigar-Makers' Election.

The Cigar-makers' Union last night elected the following-named officers: Charles Grambarth, President; John Lavelle, Vice-President; C. T. Boyle, Secretary; George Hammerley, Treasurer; F. Jungenthorn, Sergeant-at-Arms; C. C. Danar, C. H. Clear, T. Taylor, C. W. Stone and H. Kirner, Executive Committee; H. Kirner, C. H. Clear and C. Miller, Finance Committee; R. Walsh, C. Winterguat and Louis Jacobs, Auditors; J. Gassner, Trustee; C. J. Boyle, H. A. Kretlow, C. Grambarth, J. Lavelle and G. Hammersley, Delegates to the Federated Trades.

Brewery Workmen.

The nominations for general officers have been made by all the branches of the Brewery Workmen's Union, and the election will be held before the 1st of July. The monthly dues have been raised from 65 to 75 cents to provide a fund for the benefit of members who are obliged to leave the city to obtain employment. Very encouraging reports have been received from Portland, where the union is boycotting Weinhardt's beer. Soldiers' stationed at Vancouver Barracks, Wash., have indorsed the boycott and will drink no more of the forbidden stimulant.

Sailors' Union.

All the branches of the Coast Seamen's Union have voted in favor of amalgamating their association with the Steamship Sailors' Union in an organization to be called the Pacific Sailors' Union. The first meeting of the new organization will be held to-night when officers will be elected.

Surplus Printers.

A special meeting of the Typographical Union has been called for to-morrow afternoon to consider a proposition to require regular type-setters to work only five days per week, in order that employment may be provided for the many idle members in this city.

Barbers' Union.

The Barbers' Union initiated fourteen applicants for membership. The Committee on Constitution reported in favor of organizing subordinate leagues in all the coast cities, with headquarters in this city.

American Engineers.

The recently organized Association of American Engineers reports that their organization is growing at a rate that fills them with gladness, and rival organizations with despair.

Wood-Carvers' Union.

At last night's meeting of the Wood-carvers' Union the Secretary reported that all the members are at work, but non-union wood-carvers are cutting wages.

Carriage Wood-Workers.

The Carriage Wood-workers' Union has appointed a committee to operate with the Cigar-makers' Union in its campaign against Chinese-made cigars.

Furniture-Workers.

The Furniture-workers' Union will nominate officers for the ensuing term at its next meeting. The union reports an active demand for labor.

Pavers Will Reorganize.

A special meeting of the Pavers' Union will be held to-night for the purpose of reorganization.

VITRIOL-THROWING.

Sensational Sequel to a Bigamous Marriage.

Intense excitement and great indignation has been caused in San Luis by a very rare incident in the criminal records of Mexico, that of vitriol-throwing, says a City of Mexico dispatch to the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. About nine years ago a Cuban by the name of Leumpuy Gonzalez arrived in this city, where he soon gained a good position. Soon after he was married to Miss Sera Nunez, a modest and pretty young lady of good family. About a year afterward a woman claiming to be Gonzalez's first and legitimate wife arrived upon the scene. The second wife and her family immediately took steps to have the marriage annulled, and soon afterward the court declared the separation. Gonzalez endeavored to force his wife to return to his household to live with him, but this she obstinately refused to do. In the meantime the woman claiming to be the first wife started a bigamy suit against Gonzalez. Here is the sequel: Last Sunday, between 9 and 10 o'clock, while Sera Nunez, the separated wife, was walking in the Jardin Artista with her sister Adela, a boy suddenly approached them and dashed the contents of a bottle into Sera Nunez's face. The suddenness of the act prevented the boy from calculating, and the liquid fell both upon her face and cloak, and upon the head of her sister. The women, on receiving the shower of liquid, put their hands to their faces and head and cried out loudly, attracting the attention of everybody in the plaza. The liquid, which was vitriol, partially blinded Sera Nunez and burned her face in a most horrible manner. Her sister's hair was burned, but her scalp was hardly touched by the liquid. The two women, notwithstanding their injuries, ran after the boy and called to the people to stop him, and soon afterward there were several men in pursuit, who finally overtook the running villain. It appears the boy had been employed by a servant of Gonzalez at a good price, at the suggestion of his employer, to throw the vitriol in his wife's face. Both the servant and Gonzalez have been arrested and it will go hard with them.

HON. J. J. C. ABBOTT.

What May Happen as a Consequence of His Appointment.

There is a remote possibility that the appointment of Hon. J. J. C. Abbott—whose picture is here given—as the successor of Sir John A. Macdonald may lead to complications that it will be difficult to reconcile. There is no disguising the fact that the French-Canadian element would have preferred Sir Hector Langevin, but

J. J. C. Abbott.

charges pending against him kept him out of the race. Sir John Thompson was their next choice, but his appointment was strenuously resisted by the dominant party. Sir Charles Tupper's fierce invectives during the late election made him unpopular with both sides. Senator Abbott had formerly been Mayor of Montreal and a Conservative leader in the upper house of the Dominion Parliament, but his connection with the Canadian Pacific Railway caused the people to view his appointment with suspicion. It is possible that the annexation schemes will now be pushed with greater vigor than ever.

NIPPED IN THE BUD.

Mr. Jones' Wedding Was Spoiled by the Bride's Mother.

J. J. Jones, a check clerk at the Palace Hotel Restaurant, was locked up at the City Prison last night on a charge of drunkenness. Mr. Jones was not drunk, however, that charge having been preferred by Mrs. McCune of Folsom street to prevent the man from marrying her little daughter Lizzie, aged 16.

For some time past Jones, who is nearly 40 years old, has been calling at the home of the McCunes ostensibly as a friend of the family. Last Saturday he broached the subject of marriage to the mother. She told him that her daughter was but a child and requested Jones to discontinue his visits. He complied with the request, but it is evident that he has seen the girl since. Yesterday noon Lizzie left home, to visit a friend she said, but the mother was suspicious. Late last evening, as Lizzie failed to return, Mrs. McCune started out in search of her. She did not find her daughter, but ran across Jones at Third and Market streets and had him arrested. Jones stated at the prison that they were not yet married, but hoped to be some day. A small wedding ring, evidently intended for Miss McCune, was found in his pocket.

After disposing of the bridegroom-elect the mother set out in search of her daughter, whom she expected to find at the house of some of her girl friends. Jones said he met Lizzie at 1 o'clock, but had not seen anything of her since.

FOURTH OF JULY.

Committees Making Arrangements for the Celebration.

The Literary Committee for the Fourth of July celebration has arranged the following programme: Music, Park Band; songs, Misses Black and Greig; poem, F. H. Gassaway; reading of Declaration of Independence, Miss Annie Daly; chaplain, Father Crowley; oration, Merton C. Allen. The exercises will be held in the Grand Opera House.

Apropos of the coming celebration the Fire Underwriters' Inspection Bureau has issued the following warning to householders:

If you have private fire apparatus see that the hose, fire-pails and extinguishers are in serviceable condition. If you have none, this is an excellent time to so protect your property.

If you have small hose attach it in the most available place. Many kinds of business require the use of pails, tanks and barrels, while stores, stables and dwellings all have pails in use. Fill these with water and dispose them advantageously during this dangerous time.

If you have gratings in the sidewalk over basement openings or have outside basement doors, remove all rubbish, and if possible close them over temporarily to keep out fireworks.

Wet down wooden sidewalks and planked areas; also under open sidewalk gratings and use water enough to run through the cracks so as to wet the chips, paper, etc., underneath.

Remove all packing-boxes, goods in cases and rubbish from sidewalks, areas and vaults. If any boxes are necessarily left outside pile them singly and see that no packing material is exposed.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY.

The Old Board Re-elected—Superintendent's Annual Report.

The annual meeting of the members of the Boys' and Girls' Aid Society was held yesterday at the home, corner of Grove and Baker streets. The election resulted in reseating the old board without change.

Superintendent Heap's annual report contained the following statistical information: Children in the home, June 1, 1890, 61; admitted during the year from courts, informally, and from the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, 82; by legal commitment from San Francisco and other counties, 172; brought by relatives and friends, either through poverty or for discipline, 80; recalled or returned from homes provided, 37; various sources, 54. Total, 486.

Disposed of to homes in private families, 164; to relatives and friends, 180; returned to court for sentence, 5; sent to Children's Hospital and other institutions, 38; discharged, ran away, etc., 34. Total, 421. Remain at date, 65.

As compared with former years, the following figures explain:

	1889.	1890.	1891.
To homes found by the society	211	179	164
With relatives and friends	142	164	180
Commitments	117	134	172
Incorrigible	8	7	5
Percentage given up	6.66	5.23	2.91

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

The State Board of Trade Will Be Asked to Participate.

The Trustees of the Mechanics' Institute held a meeting last night, at which resolutions complimentary to the retiring Trustees—C. F. Bassett, David Farquharson, John Mallon and W. R. Eckart—were adopted.

The institute agent reported that eighty-two applications had been received thus far from firms and parties wishing to exhibit this year. An effort will be made to get the State Board of Trade and its several branches to participate in the exhibit.

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Music, the First Infantry Band was chartered for the coming fair season.

The President was given full power to have that portion of the Pavilion not floored for skating purposes laid with similar hard wood.

Census Enumerators.

Some of the enumerators employed at the recent census are crying loudly for their pay. They are all charged with neglect of duty, and one or two with fraud, which, according to Superintendent Davis, makes it extremely doubtful whether they ever will receive one cent for their services.

A Quarrel Between Bakers.

Two bakers, named Louis Schettel and John Mancher, had an altercation in a Mission-street saloon yesterday afternoon, culminating in the former's striking Mancher. Schettel, who appeared to be the aggressor, was arrested by Officer Fleming, on a charge of battery.

Late Arrivals.

The steamer Wellington came in late last night with a cargo of 2350 tons of coal, from Departure Bay, for R. Dunsmuir & Sons; the schooner Nettie Sundborg, from Bihlers Point, brought 9000 posts, and the steamer Santa Cruz, from Point Monita, live-stock and gypsum.

The J. A. G.'s Jewelry.

Greenberg & Bier have brought suit against George A. Knight for $325, the value of a gold watch and chain and a diamond ring.

WHO IS TO BLAME?

The Gravel Train Men Knew the Express Was Ahead,

But Deliberately Opened the Switch and Allowed Their Train to Pass on to the Main Line—The Injured.

The disaster near Port Costa on last Monday morning is still the chief topic of conversation among the railroad people. The Southern Pacific officials at Fourth and Townsend streets concede it to be one of the most peculiar accidents ever coming under their observation, and certainly one of the strangest ever happening on the Southern Pacific system.

They are still confident that the first theory advanced concerning the cause of the wreck was a correct one, and do not hesitate to fix the responsibility upon the engineer and fireman of the work train. Both men have been in the service of the company since 1883, and have always been considered steady and entirely trustworthy.

The strange fact which throws this accident out of the ordinary is found in the conversation held between the conductor and engineer of the gravel train and the train-dispatcher not four minutes before the switch was thrown, and this train allowed to pass on to the main line. The talk was concerning the time of the express. The gravel train arrived at Port Costa at exactly 9:17 and the conductor asked for orders, at the same time inquiring of the dispatcher if No. 18 was on time.

FORGOT WHAT THEY WAITED FOR.

The dispatcher replied that 18 was on time, and a few minutes later, at 9:26, handed the conductor and engineer orders from Oakland Pier which read as follows: "Run to Martinez, avoiding regular trains." Both men read the orders, and Conductor Collins, turning to the dispatcher, said:

"Eighteen is due here in ten minutes; at 9:40 register me out as soon as she arrives."

The dispatcher answered "all right" and went upstairs to attend to his duties. The conductor and engineer went directly to their train, the switch was thrown and the long heavy work train swung out on the main line, only to meet the express four minutes later, rounding the curve at full speed.

Besides Conductor Collins and Engineer Moore there were three brakemen on the gravel train. It was not their first day on the run. They knew the time of 18; had met the train at this point before and knew as well as Collins and Moore that it had not passed and was soon due.

The affair narrows down to this proposition: Five intelligent men, in their sober senses, forgot what they waited twenty minutes for, and this while they talked of the very thing for which they were waiting.

THE DEAD AND INJURED.

Charles H. Spurgeon, the mail clerk who was crushed to death in the wreck, was the son of William H. Spurgeon, an old resident of Santa Ana and one of the founders of the town. The blow will be a sad one to Mr. Spurgeon, who suffered a terrible bereavement less than a year ago in the loss of a daughter who was drowned—a very estimable young lady and a graduate of Mills College. Young Spurgeon was a student of the University of California in the class of '92. His body will be taken to Santa Ana for interment.

Emil J. Farley, the fireman of the express train, is at Dr. Woolsey's Hospital in Oakland, and yesterday afternoon was resting easily. It is thought that he will recover.

Dargett, one of the mail clerks, lives at 1110 Taylor street in this city. He will loose the sight of one eye and yesterday was suffering considerably from bruises around his head and shoulders.

Albert Palmater, another mail clerk, is also under the care of Dr. Woolsey. His injuries are more serious than at first supposed, and are of an internal nature. He had a hemorrhage yesterday and it is feared that he cannot live.

Karl Partridge was another clerk, badly, though not seriously injured. He lives at 907 Dolores street, and as a result of the accident will be disfigured for life, having been cut fearfully about the head and face.

Conductor Woodall of the express train resides in Berkeley and escaped with very slight injuries. He is highly praised for his effective services in rendering assistance to the injured passengers. Mr. Woodall was a baggageman in the terrible Tehachapi disaster and has never fully recovered from the effects of injuries received at that time.

Almost Asphyxiated.

James Hall, a chemist, who came here from England about six months ago with his wife and children, had a narrow escape from death on Monday night. On the following morning the gas in his room at 122 Taylor street was found partially turned on, and Hall unconscious. He was removed to the Receiving Hospital, where a gradual recovery was effected.

A Pickpocket Arrested.

James Buchanan, an accomplice of James Fair, the notorious pickpocket, was arrested on Larkin street yesterday, and booked at the City Prison on a charge of grand larceny.

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STATEMENT
OF THE
CONDITION AND AFFAIRS
OF THE
FEDERAL MARINE
INSURANCE COMPANY,
OF ZURICH, SWITZERLAND, ON THE 31ST day of December, A. D. 1890, and for the year ending on that day, as made to the Insurance Commissioner of the State of California, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 610 and 611 of the Political Code, condensed as per blank furnished by the Commissioner.

CAPITAL.

Amount of capital stock, paid up in cash $200,000 00

ASSETS.

Cash market value of all stocks and bonds owned by Company	241,747 04
Cash in Company's Office	11,903 21
Cash in Banks	59,152 21
Premiums in due course of collection and due from other companies	329,826 73
Total assets	$642,629 19

LIABILITIES.

Losses in process of adjustment or in suspense	80,000 00
Gross premiums on Marine and Inland Navigation Risks, re-insurance 100 per cent	105,000 00
Gross premiums on Marine Time Risks, re-insurance 50 per cent	172,100 46
All other demands against the company	
Total liabilities	$357,100 46

INCOME.

Net cash actually received for Marine premiums	$508,574 92
Received for interest and dividends on bonds, stocks, loans, and from all other sources	10,571 48
Total income	$519,146 40

EXPENDITURES.

Net amount paid for Marine losses	$285,817 30
Dividends to Stockholders	20,000 00
Paid or allowed for Commission or Brokerage	156,597 18
Paid for Salaries, fees and other charges for officers, clerks, etc	56,540 51
Paid for State, National and local taxes	1,622 80
Total expenditures	$520,577 79
Marine losses incurred during the year	$285,817 30

Risks and Premiums.	Marine Risks.	Premiums.
Net amount of Risks written during the year	$262,796,390	$969,773 19
Net amount of Risks expired during the year	255,631,713	856,315 90
Net amount in force December 31, 1890	8,167,159	105,000 00

ADELRICH BENZINGER, President.
T. G. WETTSTEIN, Secretary.
Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 10th day of April, 1891.
HERR W. PARRER, Notary Public.

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