DRY GOODS.

STYLISH DRESS GOODS!

AT

Notable Reductions!

In pursuance of our efforts to immediately relieve the overstocked condition of our Dress Goods Department and by so doing to make room for the Gigantic Importations of Fall and Winter Goods now in transit and beginning to arrive, we are offering EXTRAORDINARY INDUCEMENTS to buyers, and we to-day present as special the following

CONSPICUOUS BARGAINS!

FANCY WEAVES!

At 25c.

100 pieces 38-inch ALL FANCY MIXED PLAIDS, regular price 75c, will be closed out at 25c per yard.

At 50c.

30 pieces 42-inch ALL-WOOL FANCY MIXED CHECKS, regular price $1, will be closed on at 50c per yard.

At 50c.

35 pieces 42-inch CAMEL'S-HAIR STRIPE, former price $1, will be closed out at 50c per yard.

At 50c.

35 pieces 42-inch FANCY CHECKED SUITING, former price $1 25, will be closed out at 50c per yard.

STORM SERGES!

At 50c.

50 pieces ALL-WOOL EXTRA FINE NAVY BLUE STORM SERGE will be placed on sale at 50c per yard.

At 75c.

50 pieces ALL-WOOL FINE FINISH NAVY BLUE STORM SERGE, will be offered at 75c per yard.

At $1.00.

40 pieces 50-inch ALL-WOOL NAVY BLUE STORM SERGE, good value for $1 25, will be placed on sale at $1 a yard.

At $1.50.

30 pieces 52-inch ALL PURE NAVY BLUE STORM SERGE, extra heavy, regular price $2, will be placed on sale at $1 50 per yard.

BEDFORD CORDS.

At 75 Cents.

50 pieces 40-inch ALL-WOOL BEDFORD CORDS, in all the new shades, good value for $1, will be offered at 75c per yard.

HENRIETTAS.

At $1.00.

50 pieces 44-inch EXTRA FINE ALL-WOOL HENRIETTAS, regular price $1 50, will be placed on sale at $1 per yard.

LADIES' CLOTH.

At $1.50.

40 pieces 52-inch FINE FRENCH LADIES' CLOTH, regular price $2, will be offered at $1 50 per yard.

Challies. Challies.

At 35 Cents.

80 pieces ALL-WOOL POLKA-DOT CHALLIES will be closed out at 35c per yard.

At 50 Cents.

90 pieces ALL-WOOL IMPORTED CHALLIES, rich and beautiful designs, will be closed out at 50c per yard.

ALPACAS.

At 25 Cents.

80 pieces COLORED ALPACAS, former price 50c, will be closed out at 25c per yard.

REMNANTS AND DRESS LENGTHS!

AT HALF PRICE! ALL DRESS LENGTHS AND REMNANTS in SPRING AND SUMMER FABRICS WILL BE CLOSED OUT TO-DAY AT HALF PRICE. AT HALF PRICE!

O'Brien & Co

MURPHY BUILDING.

Market Street, corner of Jones,

SAN FRANCISCO

AN INCREASED DEATH RATE.

It Is Due to the Prevalence of the Influenza.

The Health Officer's Report Shows a Decided Decrease in the Number of Contagious Diseases.

The Health Officer, Dr. James W. Keeney, has filed his annual report with the Board of Supervisors.

It is an interesting document and will repay careful reading. His fiscal year ended June 30. The report is as follows:

You will notice an increase of 260 deaths over the previous year, which I attribute to the prolonged and stubborn attack of the influenza. There was a decrease of 81 deaths among the Chinese population, probably due to their improved methods of sanitation, or the exclusion act is having marked effect. The number of deaths from all causes was 6911, as against 6650 the previous year. They are classified as follows: Zymotic diseases, 1002; constitutional, 1293; local, 3488; developmental, 789; by violence, 388; unascertained cause, 1. Estimating our population at 330,000 the percentage of deaths is 20.94 per 1000 population.

The action of your honorable board in the appointment of a commission to devise and suggest a sewer system cannot fail to give beneficial results. It is much needed, and the improvements that can be made and suggested will improve the health of our city and allow us to show one of the lowest death rates of any city of its size in the world.

DISEASE GROWING LESS.

There was a decided decrease in the number of contagious diseases during the year. In all instances when physicians reported contagious diseases to this office prompt measures were taken to placard the premises and to notify the teachers of the school that the children were accustomed to attend. When the physician who attended the children reported the result of the decision the houses were thoroughly fumigated, and when the physicians notified us that all danger from contagion had passed we issued certificates entitling them to be readmitted to their respective schools. I believe the decrease above mentioned was due to this systematic and precautionary action.

It is frequently brought to my notice that diphtheria and scarlet fever exist in houses where the parents are too poor to give their children the proper care and nourishment; the consequence is the entire family die. I would, therefore, most respectfully appeal to your honorable board that an isolated house or a ward in the City and County Hospital be assigned and that such cases be removed thereto; a competent physician deputized to give them the necessary care and attention. In New York City they have the Willard Parker Hospital devoted entirely to such cases, and can accommodate about 100 children.

IMPORTANCE OF PURE MILK.

The Health Inspectors have been persistent in their work and have pushed owners and lessees of premises complained of, to abate nuisances.

The Market Inspectors have carefully patrolled all the markets where food supplies are sold, and have in every case condemned and destroyed anything exposed for sale that was deleterious to health.

The sale of pure milk is of paramount importance and has been a source of anxiety. The inspectors frequently visit the dairies and examine the cows, the mode of feeding and housing them, as also the methods of preparing the milk for market use. Whenever they find diseased cows they are immediately killed and sent to the boneyard. It is of vital importance that a competent chemist should be employed and examine daily all milk sent to the city. He should be designated as the milk inspector.

The plumbing inspectors have industriously labored to have the best and most approved sanitary plumbing and ventilation in all newly constructed buildings, and also in all old ones which were undergoing extensive repairs. They have also been extremely cautious in their technical examinations as to the ability of men seeking licenses to become plumbers and master plumbers.

HOSPITAL AND ALMSHOUSE.

The Almshouse is being carefully managed.

The City and County Hospital occasionally is adversely commented upon. In many instances the complaints upon investigation prove groundless. The management says there is a want of funds and proper facilities. In view of the fact that your honorable board has decided to make some extensive improvements, there is an assurance that the workings of the institution will be more satisfactory hereafter.

As the City Receiving Hospital has been removed to its commodious quarters in the new City Hall, I am sure everything in that department will redound to its credit and the thoughtfulness and liberality of your board.

The City Physician gives careful attention to all needy and indigent applicants; also furnishing them with necessary medicine.

For the fiscal year 4088 births were reported. While this is a large increase over previous years, I deem it essential that physicians and midwives should feel it a duty they owe to the profession and to the people at large to report every birth. The birth rate, if fully reported, would cut an important factor in the preparation and comparison of our statistics. In justice to the children, births should be reported and properly registered, for it frequently happens that important interests are honestly subserved by the proofs of birth in the records of the Health Office.

There were 3279 children vaccinated at this office during the year. It is gratifying to know that the parents of children are so much alive to the beneficial effects of this needed precaution.

I would respectfully recommend that your honorable board pass an ordinance compelling all street cars to be thoroughly fumigated every car daily before being sent over their respective lines, for, in my opinion, many diseases are propagated through the filth of expectoration, especially in poorly ventilated cars.

BRAND NEW TEACHERS.

Those Awarded Certificates by the City Board of Examination.

At a meeting of the City Board of Examiners of the Board of Education Monday afternoon high school certificates were granted to Clyde Gibson and T. B. White.

Grammar grade certificates were granted to the following: Miss Mary McAuliffe, Mrs. Mary F. Bronson, Mrs. C. S. Martin, the Misses R. F. Lewis, L. Gambitz, H. Armbuster, R. F. English, Mary R. Moran, M. M. Moore, A. Plummer, A. M. Wolfe, M. S. Galloway, K. E. Connell, Sara J. Duffy, Kate Kollmjer, Fannie Martin, A. H. Metcalf, H. A. Spalding, Mary McHugh and R. H. Webster.

The following were granted special certificates: Miss A. Zweybruck, special German; D. C. Stone, special French and German.

The following were granted primary grade certificates: Miss Kate Mayers, Mrs. S. E. Roller, Miss Annie Lewis, Miss Hannah Cohen, Miss Susan Burk, Mrs. M. Davidson, Miss Nellie Ewing, Miss C. Finnegan, Miss A. M. Forrester, Miss Rose Fortier, E. W. Hawkey, Miss E. Levingston, Miss T. McCarty, Miss N. A. Maloney, Miss M. G. Noon, Miss L. A. Orr, Miss L. Rosenberg, Miss Kate Williams, Miss May L. Day, Miss Emma Doherty, Miss D. A. Fallon, Miss Nannie Franks, Miss H. Fairweather, Miss N. L. Heifron, Miss A. M. Joslin, Mrs. Kate Leahey, Miss Rose B. McGeoghegh, Miss K. A. Maloney, Miss A. Nelson, Mrs. B. M. Peake, Miss Emma Wickman, Miss Josephine Saunders.

The superintendent was authorized to conduct the special examination in cooking. The special examination in physical culture will be held under the direction of the superintendent and R. D. Faulkner, at the superintendent's office, next Thursday evening.

The next semi-annual examination of applicants for teachers' certificates, at the old Commercial School building, on Powell street, near Clay, will commence Monday morning, September 26, at 9 o'clock.

Applicants intending to take this examination must register at the office of the superintendent prior to the day of examination.

STATE MINING BUREAU.

Getting Ready Slowly for the Chicago Exhibit.

The State Mining Bureau has been so much engaged of late in preparing the fine exhibit for the State's fair at Sacramento that not much attention has been given as yet to the magnificent display of the mining resources of California that is to be made at Chicago. The cream of the splendid specimens in the museum will be sent to Chicago, and the greatest care will be used in their selection and display. It has been decided to send forward the great wood carving of the State's seal and also the trunk of the famous pine which once stood on the boundary line of Nevada and California, and upon which Kit Carson carved his name in the year 1844, when acting as guide to Fremont in his explorations. The bureau has just received a most remarkable and valuable specimen of tin from the mines at Temescal. It was formed directly under a furnace, and appears like a thousand small crystals which have been melted into most beautiful shapes.

He Was Harnessed.

Officers Bee and Harper on Monday arrested Manuel Salby on Washington street, near Montgomery. Salby had a bag filled with harness on his shoulder, the possession of which he was unable to explain. He was booked for an investigation.

The Crawford Company.

A meeting of the creditors of the A. Crawford Company was held Monday afternoon, and it was decided that the company shall continue in business in accordance with a suggestion made at a previous meeting.

A HEAVY TAX ON COMMERCE.

The League of Progress Fighting Excessive Harbor Tolls.

A Delegation Calls on the Harbor Commission. Attorney Stratton Declares the Use of Stamps Unlawful.

A delegation from the League of Progress waited on the Board of Harbor Commissioners yesterday afternoon to urge action in correcting an abuse growing out of the matter of levying harbor tolls. The party consisted of Messrs. George H. Pippy, John Partridge, Henry P. Sonntag, William H. Metson, Henry Gray and Harry E. Wise, of the league's committee on public affairs, and Messrs. Morris Feintuch and Walter M. Castle.

The three Harbor Commissioners were present, and the secretary of the board had a communication, as follows, on his desk:

THE ATTORNEY'S OPINION.

SAN FRANCISCO, August 22, 1892.

Gentlemen: I return herewith your communication, dated the 12th inst., addressed to you by the California League of Progress, which was heretofore referred to me for an opinion thereon.

The communication in question suggests several changes in regard to collection of tolls on merchandise, which include the following:

First—That collections be made ratably on merchandise arriving in less than ton lots.

Second—That stamps be issued and sold by you in certain denominations named for repayment of toll charges as determined upon.

Third—That a system of penalties, fines and forfeitures be adopted enforcing the affixing and cancellation of such stamps as so provided.

Under the laws defining your duties and powers, the board are authorized to fix and regulate the charge for tolls on merchandise, and in my opinion it would be a proper exercise of such powers for you to establish a rate of tolls on goods in less than ton lots. Such change might with propriety be proportionately less for a fractional part of a ton and is a matter of policy resting altogether in your discretion.

As to the issuance by you of stamps to be canceled by consignees in payment of such tolls in denominations from 1 cent up to $50, as suggested by the letter under consideration, I find in the statutes and codes no authority for the establishment of any such system.

However this may be, the issuance of stamps without any authority to compel their use and without the right on your part to impose any fine, penalty or forfeiture for their non-cancellation would render any attempted establishment of the system altogether vain and useless.

The Legislature alone has the power to determine fines, penalties and forfeitures, and under the decisions, the right to so determine cannot be delegated to any board or commission.

Under the act of March 10, 1891 (Stats. 1891, p. 21), the penalty for non-payment of tolls is fixed at a liability of twice the amount of such tolls, and in addition thereto the sum of $10 over and above such amount.

This would not meet the requirements of the suggestion of the League of Progress, wherein it asks for a fine of 100 times the value of the fixed amount of toll, each offense to constitute a misdemeanor, and one-half the fine to be paid to the informer.

Such fines and penalties must be fixed by the Legislature, and not by your board. Should you, however, favor the system outlined by the league, I shall be prepared forthwith to draft a proposed enactment covering the details herein embodied, and submit the same, with your approval, to the Legislature for its passage.

I might, perhaps, add that it has since been orally argued on behalf of the league that, notwithstanding the law, the Commissioners might nevertheless adopt the contemplated system, relying on the acquiescence of the public, and taking bonds from consignees for the use and cancellation of stamps. I fail, however, to see that the board can with propriety exceed the powers granted to it by the Legislature and take upon itself personal responsibilities not warranted by law. Very respectfully,

F. S. STRATTON, Attorney for the Board.

THE SPOKESMAN OF THE LEAGUE.

Mr. Pippy was introduced as spokesman for the League of Progress.

Chairman Bassett asked him what the board could do to oblige the league. Mr. Pippy replied that before he could say anything he would like to hear what action had been taken on the communication filed 10 days ago by the league.

Mr. Bassett thereupon directed the secretary to read the communication from the attorney for the board.

Mr. Pippy, in behalf of the league, said the law had not specified any particular method of collecting tolls. If the law had, the board had failed to carry it into effect. Once the tolls were collected by the issue of tickets. He saw no distinction in a legal sense between the issue of tickets and stamps. Mr. Pippy exhibited a bundle of Southern Pacific freight bills in which consignees had been overcharged. In one instance 35 cents harbor tolls was charged for 1410 pounds, when the lawful rate is only 5 cents a ton.

Commissioner Brown advised him that the remedy for this abuse was to sue the railroad company.

"Thank you, Mr. Brown," replied Mr. Pippy, "but we are not hunting lawsuits."

Commissioner Brown stated that the law required the board to make an itemized statement of the amount of tolls received on each wharf. He asked how this could be done under the stamp system.

Mr. Sonntag suggested that a quantity of stamps be issued to each wharfinger, who should be required to account for the same.

Commissioner Alexander remarked that the merchants certainly had a serious grievance, and if there was any legal and practical way of remedying it they were entitled to relief.

HOW WOULD IT WORK?

Commissioner Brown inquired how the league plan would work with the 40 delivery clerks at the Fourth and Townsend streets freight depot.

Mr. Sonntag said he could not enlighten the Commissioner on this point.

Mr. Wise suggested that Attorney Stratton's objections were frivolous. He tried very earnestly to convince the board that the issue of stamps was a perfectly practicable plan.

Commissioner Bassett said some way ought to be devised to compel the transportation companies to simply collect what the law required and no more. This was the idea he wanted to get at, for his sympathies were certainly with the consignees.

Mr. Sonntag said that all the league aimed at was the adoption of a regulation by the board providing for the payment of tolls on the fractional parts of a ton—say one cent for 400 pounds, two cents for 800 pounds, three cents for 1200 pounds, four cents for 1600 pounds and 5 cents for 2000 pounds. Under such regulation the transportation companies could not charge a merchant 5 cents for a single package weighing only 150 pounds.

Commissioner Brown said that this would involve the use of pennies, which were not in circulation in this city, and Commissioner Bassett asked Mr. Sonntag whether he desired to pack a lot of pennies about in his pocket.

Mr. Sonntag replied that all they had to do was to go to the mint and get the pennies. In the East there was no difficulty about making change and there should be none here.

Attorney Stratton said he thought there would be no legal obstacle to an order making tolls payable on portions of a ton if pennies were used.

Mr. Metson, attorney for the league, said he thought this would be a road out of the difficulty and would be satisfactory to the League of Progress.

It was then agreed to defer further consideration of the subject until Thursday next, when the representatives would have a further hearing.

ATTORNEY ROSS TESTIFIES.

Continuation of the Sequel of a Redwood City Murder Case.

Yesterday the trial of the suit of George C. Ross, an attorney, against Dr. Solomon C. Stambaugh, for fees amounting to $9325 for securing the acquittal of L. A. Powell, who killed editor Ralph S. Smith in November, 1887, was resumed before Judge Slack and a jury.

Smith, as the editor of the San Mateo Gazette, wrote an article which incensed Powell, who soon after shot him, alleging self-defense as justification. After four trials Powell was acquitted.

Ross was on the stand yesterday and testified to receiving payment for his services (which he detailed at length) from Dr. Stambaugh, Powell's brother-in-law. Ross stated that as Smith's friend he had been reluctant to take the case, but was persuaded by the doctor.

In cross-examination Eugene N. Deuprey for the defendant elicited the fact from the witness that George A. Knight, his associate in the defense of Powell, was the leading spirit in certain important crises of the case.

Among the auditors in court was Charles N. Fox, who, while on the Supreme Court bench, wrote an opinion granting Powell a new trial.

Lost His Reason.

John Williams, a painter, was locked up at the Seventeenth-street station and booked for insanity Monday afternoon. Policeman Perry found Williams acting queerly on Elgin place yesterday afternoon. He was under the hallucination that he was being pursued by demons who wanted to cut him up, and was running wildly about trying to escape his pursuers.

A Streetcar Indicator Case.

Judge Garber, in the case of the Market-street Cable Railway Company vs. The National Indicator Company and H. B. Berryman, has filed findings of fact and conclusion of law. The railway company leased to the indicator company the right to place indicators upon their streetcars for a monthly rental of $200 on the understanding that on the termination of said contract the indicator company would pay the cost of removing the indicators and its lugs, or trips, from the track. The agreement was made July 30, 1889, and on September 24, 1890, the defendants were notified to remove their property, but as they failed to comply said property was removed by the railway company at an expense of $119 21. There was also due as rental $800 at the time of removal of said indicators, and the court found a judgment for the total amount of $919 21 and costs against defendants to be entered.

THE LICK TRUST.

An Early Settlement of the Estate Expected.

The secretary of the Lick trust reports that a decision of the Supreme Court of this State relative to the disposition of the surplus now in the hands of the trustees is daily expected. The trust now holds in cash resources and in real-estate loans on call over $1,000,000, which does not include a mortgage of $360,000 upon the Lick House, but which Senator Fair will be only too glad to pay whenever the trust permits. The question now pending before the Supreme Court is upon the application made by the Society of Pioneers and the Academy of Sciences for an appropriation of $300,000 each from the surplus in the hands of the trustees. These two corporations are the residuary legatees of the balance that may remain from the Lick estate after all the other claims are satisfied, and when their application was made the trustees of the School of Mechanical Arts intervened and disputed the right of the Lick trustees to make the distribution until all their claims and legacies had been paid.

The papers in the case are very voluminous, and occupy a vast amount of legal cap. No action will be taken by the trustees of the School of Mechanical Arts until this contention is decided. The school will receive $540,000 and interest for several years, and is the only claim unsatisfied, with the exception of the historical monument which is to be erected opposite the City Hall on Market street, and which is rapidly approaching completion. When the school and the monument receive their proportion the entire balance will be divided between the Academy of Sciences and the Society of Pioneers. The secretary believes that the Lick estate will be entirely closed before the first of the coming year.

IT IS ACTIVE BENEVOLENCE.

A Good Showing by the San Francisco Association.

Thousands of Persons Relieved—No Need to Be Hungry in This City—Increasing Demands.

The secretary of the San Francisco Benevolent Association, whose office is at 20 Webb street, reports that the applications for temporary assistance are unusually numerous for this season of the year. Of course the demands upon the association are always larger during the winter season, as in December, 1891, there were no less than 1495 persons relieved, while last month there were but 288. Owing to dull times and consequent lack of employment the number of persons seeking aid during the present month shows a large increase over those for the same month in previous years, and the present resources of the association will be largely drawn upon thereby. For the year ending May 31, 1892, there were no less than 7787 individuals and 332 families relieved. The individuals are given meal and lodging tickets, and occasionally, in extreme cases, are allowed transportation tickets to their homes. In conjunction with the labor establishments the association gives orders for situations where the applicant is unable to pay the usual fee required. Clothes and wearing apparel is also furnished, care being taken in almost every case to ascertain if the recipients of the gifts are worthy. The aid to families is generously extended in the shape of flour, groceries, coal and the like, and in case of peculiar misfortune the rent is paid and the family is saved from being thrust into the street. The association aids in conjunction with the Associated Charities, and thus every worthy case of destitution is quickly reported and promptly relieved. The resources of the association are derived from the city authorities, who appropriate $5000 per annum for this purpose. The balance of the expenditure, which exceeds the amount allowed by the city by some $3000 to $5000, is given by charitably disposed citizens, who contribute also large quantities of cast-off clothing, groceries, etc., which are also in constant demand. Many generous-hearted merchants are contributors to the resources of the association, and it is very rarely indeed that an unworthy person receives the benefit of their beneficent action. For the occasional assistance that is demanded by persons who are out of work and need a night's sleep or a meal here no especial inquiry is made. Any one applying for temporary aid is immediately relieved.

As affording a comprehensive view of the scope of the association the following items are taken from the annual summary for the last fiscal year: The applicants numbered, in all, 8119 persons for lodgings, $323 70; meals, $405 50; groceries, $2099 54; transportation, $175 90; drugs, $333 75; sundries, $503 62; employment offices, $41; rent, $492; general assistance, $257 25.

THE WOODWARD GARDENS.

Sale by Auction of a Three-Fourths Undivided Interest Postponed.

For five days recently a long advertisement appeared in the press of the sale by auction of an undivided three-fourths interest in a portion of the real and personal property of R. B. Woodward, Mary C. Raum, Helen J. Hutchinson and Ely Hutchinson, without separation or segregation. The real property is the Woodward Gardens and the personal property the animals on the grounds.

The sale was announced to take place yesterday by Auctioneer Middleton, 36 Montgomery street, but there was no sale. Inquiry elicited the fact that a new order will be applied for to Judge Wallace and the sale would undoubtedly come off shortly.

The trouble has arisen out of a dispute among the heirs of R. B. Woodward as to the disposition of the property. Pending the outcome of a suit for partition Judge Wallace appointed L. F. Dougherty receiver to manage the gardens. Under Mr. Dougherty's management, it is said, there has been a loss of nearly $1000 a month for several months past. He applied to all the heirs to be reimbursed, which brought out the present proposition to sell the three-fourths interest. The heirs are divided as to whether he should get his money back.

THE DIVORCE COURT.

Unhappily Mated Couples Seeking Enfranchisement.

Yesterday Judge Lawler granted Jennie H. Ball a divorce from John Ball on the ground of willful neglect.

Yesterday Judge Hebbard granted a motion to dismiss the action brought by Mary F. L'hote for a divorce from Henry C. L'hote on the ground of a want of jurisdiction, Mrs. L'hote being a resident of Napa. The ground alleged in the petition for a decree is failure to provide.

Actions for divorce have been brought by Nellie Plymale against William Plymale, by M. J. Ryan against Nellie Ryan, by C. Clark against J. H. Clark, by Mary Almgreen against Andrew Almgreen, by W. Moffitt against Julia Moffitt.

In the divorce case of Lena Simpson vs. William Simpson Judge Lawler yesterday ordered in default of defendant the matter referred to Commissioner L. J. Welch. The parties intermarried in this city on the 12th of July, 1888, and there are no children of the marriage. The complaint alleges failure to provide as ground for a decree.

A New Powder Company.

The Giant Powder Company (consolidated) has filed articles of incorporation to manufacture, purchase, use and deal in dynamite and other explosives in this city and county. The capital stock is $5,000,000, of which $7000 has been subscribed as follows: Albert Dibblee, E. M. Root, James B. Stetson, Henry Epstein, L. P. Drexler, E. B. Pond and Gustav Sutro—$1000 each.

A Change of Quarters.

The State Bank Commissioners will remove from their present office at 528 California street to new quarters on the fourth floor of the Otis building, 206 Sansome street, on Thursday next. Secretary Hardisty was yesterday packing up the records preparatory to the change.

Loss of a Barge.

In the United States District Court yesterday damages in the sum of $375 and costs were awarded in the case of W. G. Leale vs. the tug boat Elaine. The plaintiff had asked for $2500 damages for the loss of a barge in the San Joaquin River.

Is your blood poor? Take BEECHAM'S PILLS.

TRANSCONTINENTAL RATES.

A Meeting of Railroad Men to Be Held in New York To-Day.

The Railroad Ticket Agents Anxiously Awaiting a Big Rate War in Passenger Traffic. They Want a $6 Fare to Chicago.

All the eyes of the railroad world are turned toward New York, where the Transcontinental Association will meet to-day.

There will be an assemblage of railroad officials in the Windsor Hotel, in which there will be the brightest and most prominent men in the business.

The Southern Pacific Company's forces, composed of Messrs. Stubbs, Smurr and Martin, were a few days ago re-enforced by T. H. Goodman, the general passenger agent, who, after the adjournment of the Knights Templar conclave, repaired to New York to assist in the great fight his company is about to engage in.

There is now every probability that the freight rates war will be supplemented by a passenger-rate fight, and if such is the case the Transcontinental Association's meeting will be the stormiest one ever held.

The $5 cut inaugurated by the Chicago and Alton and met promptly by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe, which reduces the fare from Kansas City to Chicago from $10 to $5, and those from here to the Windy City correspondingly, will doubtless be brought before the meeting of the association and it remains to be seen whether the result of that body's consideration of the matter will make the cheapened rates not only permanent, but will lead to other reductions.

WANT A BIG RATE WAR.

The local railroad agents would like nothing better than a big rate fight just now, because business is dull and a contest would liven up affairs all around.

Discussing the situation the active ticket manipulators on Montgomery and Market streets yesterday said that every one of the competing overland roads has given the necessary three days' notice that they will reduce their through rate to Chicago $5, to meet the cut inaugurated by the two rival roads, the Alton and the Santa Fe.

While awaiting the expiration of these three days the passenger agents are making reduced rates on their own responsibility, knowing full well that they have to do so in order to meet competition.

A good many representatives of Eastern roads would like to see a repetition of the great rate-cutting war of 1885, when tickets from this city to Kansas City or Omaha were sold as low as $5, and in one instance even as low as $1. They now become reminiscent and talk about those times. That solitary sale of a ticket from Los Angeles to Chicago was talked about a great deal yesterday, and it was said that if a similar fight should be made now people could travel to Chicago for $6 first class.

LOOKING AHEAD.

Visions of long lines of intending ticket-buyers lining the sidewalks in front of their offices, when rates are made that low, made all the pasteboard-sellers happy, and they live after months of stagnation in the hope of doing a big business soon.

The Southern Pacific Company's fight for a reduction of transcontinental freight rates to meet clipper-ship and other Cape Horn competition, to be made during the Transcontinental Association meeting, is now considered to be a very complicated one by men in this city who have given the matter much consideration of late. It was at first the opinion of many that the Southern Pacific's influence in the association was so great that Mr. Stubbs and his associates could not fail to carry their point or wreck the whole concern. These opinions have changed considerably of late, and the men who held them now say that they expect the Southern Pacific Company will be met with an opposition a great deal stronger than Mr. Huntington's men supposed to exist when they asked that the meeting should be called.

All the roads with Pacific Coast outlets that can reach San Francisco by water connections will be arrayed against the Kentucky corporation, and there will be many "all-rail" roads siding with them.

Of course, so far as what is going to happen, all the talk is only conjecture, and the proceedings of the meeting alone will show what can be expected in the near future.

The League of Progress Board of Control will meet to-morrow afternoon, when the committee which appeared before the Harbor Commissioners yesterday to argue the question of toll reduction will make its report.

SIDNEY BELL AGAIN.

His Trial for Robbery Commenced Yesterday—Hard to Get a Jury.

Sidney Bell, charged now with robbery, appeared in Judge Murphy's court yesterday afternoon. Appeared also his counsel, Barclay Henley and Howard MacSherry. District Attorney Barnes and his assistant, Mr. Hosmer, appeared for the prosecution.

Sidney Bell, attired in a dark suit, wore a blue silk tie, dotted with red, had evidently been shaved the day before and donned a clean shirt no later than Sunday last. He read the newspapers and watched the proceedings, yawned a little and smiled a little at his old acquaintances.

Defendant's counsel asked first that the information against Bell be dismissed on the ground that he had not had a fair trial. The State protested, declaring the charge of robbery had been postponed on motion of defendant. A little legal argument ensued, but the end of it all was that the trial of Sidney Bell for robbery was formally commenced, and the work of securing a jury proceeded with.

The latter proved to be a most difficult task. One after another the talesmen declared prejudice against Bell and was challenged for cause.

After a hard afternoon's work four jurors were accepted, W. K. Hayes, H. N. Green, Frank Fagothey and T. Masterson.

An order for a special venire of 40 talesmen was issued by Judge Murphy and then court adjourned till this morning.

The particular charge upon which Bell will be tried now is that of having waylaid and robbed J. H. Curley, a Market-street tailor, November 10, 1890.

Sidney "stood up" the tailor in the Western Addition and relieved him of an heirloom watch, a gold chain, a diamond locket, valued at $210, a cane and $12 75 in cash.

The State will endeavor to show that Bell is a perpetual criminal and have him sent to prison for life.

WORLD'S FAIR COMMISSION.

The New Rules for Space for the California Building.

The secretary for the State's World Fair Commission has the new rules for applicants for space in the California building ready for distribution and mailing. The rules are the ones adopted by the commission at their last meeting and particularize the methods that have to be pursued by those who desire to exhibit. The rules are designed so that all exhibits by counties can be readily identified, and especially such special exhibits as raisins from Fresno and oranges from San Bernardino or Los Angeles can be given their due prominence. The rules are very precisely drawn and ought to be carefully studied by intending exhibitors. The California building will have 100,000 feet of floor space and the latest advices are that it is rapidly progressing. Thus far 247 applications from this State have been made for space to the World's Fair Commission at Chicago in the general departments. These are exclusive of the space to be allotted in the California building for which applications have not been received as yet.

Robbed Railroad Cars.

G. V. Wetzel was arrested yesterday and booked at the City Prison en route for Portland, Or., where he is wanted on a charge of burglary. He is accused of having broken into several freightcars at Portland, and of having stolen some quicksilver and other merchandise. He was at one time employed by the railroad which he is accused of having robbed. In the evening he started northward, guarded by Detective Griffin of Portland.

Dr. Bowers Took His Stove.

J. L. Wright, a barber at 105½ Powell street, secured a search-warrant yesterday to recover a coal-oil stove, which he alleges was taken by Dr. J. Milton Bowers of Benhayon mystery notoriety. The barber says that he left the stove in a vacant building adjoining his shop, and that Dr. Bowers took possession and refuses to give it up.

Two Letter-Stealers.

Antonio Figirio, arrested on a charge of stealing a letter from a carrier on July 18 last, was held to answer and his bail fixed at $500. In the case of Joseph Saba, indicted for stealing a registered letter in 1891, the bail was reduced to $500 and the defendant liberated.

It Was a Costly Sensation.

Charles M. Jones, a young New Yorker who recently created a sensation in Chinatown by firing two shots at Louie Quong and Fong Tang, proprietors of a store at 617½ Dupont street, was examined yesterday in Department 2 of the Police Court. The evidence showed that Jones was examining some fans when he suddenly drew a pistol and fired two shots, the bullets going through a showcase. Quong and Tang escaped injury by dodging under the counter.

Judge Low committed Jones for trial on a charge of assault to murder, setting his bond in the sum of $1000. A charge of carrying a concealed weapon is still pending.

PAID A HEAVY FINE.

End of Seaman Anderson's Rather Thrilling Experiences.

Charles G. Anderson, a seaman, living on Pine street, between Leavenworth and Hyde, has recently had several lively experiences. Early Sunday morning he rushed into a saloon on Hyde street, declared that he had been robbed, and flourishing a pistol threatened to shoot everybody in sight unless his money was given back. Officer Warnock interfered and arrested Anderson for carrying a concealed weapon. He was convicted on the charge yesterday, and Judge Rix fined him $250.

Although he paid the fine, Anderson still maintains that he was robbed. He says that while entering his house a man wearing a fire badge sprang at him with a knife. The weapon was pressed to his throat, and he readily parted with his watch and several dollars in gold coin. Thinking that the robber entered the saloon on Hyde street, Anderson says he followed him there. The police do not believe that Anderson was robbed.

MANY EUROPEAN COLONISTS.

The Increasing Immigration of Swiss and Italian Peasants.

The Contributing Colony Plan by Which Those of the Old World Gain a Home in the New.

A party of nearly 1500 Swiss and Italian peasants are preparing to emigrate to California, and their arrival here is expected about the latter end of October.

The immigrants are of the well-to-do peasant class, who have been attracted to these shores by the prosperity of their countrymen already settled here. The party will consist of two colonies, one recruited in Genoa, Italy, and the other in Bellinzonia, Switzerland. The former consists of 125 families or about 600 people and the Switzers number from 900 to 1000.

The lands upon which they will locate upon their arrival here have already been secured and within the next few weeks the structures for their occupancy will be erected. The majority of the colonists intend to engage in fruit-raising and wine-making, while a minority, and principally the Swiss, will go into the dairying business. The colonies were formed upon the system adopted by building and loan societies in this city, and not only have an ample capital to carry out the plans they have in view, but will have the financial aid of the contributing members to the colony fund who will not migrate. J. F. Fugazi of this city will leave in a few weeks for Havre, where he will meet the colonists and conduct them to their destination. Mr. Fugazi states that the plan upon which these colonies are formed was originated by G. Dramatico in Genoa and Berta and Andreazzi of Bellinzonia, Switzerland. The method has been to secure a membership who will contribute regular weekly dues toward the colony fund. As soon as the funds are sufficient to allow a certain number of the members with their families to emigrate and firmly establish themselves in the New World a meeting is called and the fortunate ones are chosen by lot. The colonies mentioned will be the first to come to California by this method. Although the heads of the families are possessed of some capital, still the fact that they are sustained by the contributing members will enable them to profitably establish themselves in farming, fruit-raising or business.

Mr. Fugazi states that California is the Mecca of the Swiss and Italian immigrant, to whose native lands its soil, climate and productions bear such a close resemblance. Within the past year no less than 3800 of these immigrants have located in this State. Heretofore they have come individually or in families. The colony project, however, holds out more promises of success, and it is probable that immigration parties of this class will be of frequent note. The great majority of the Swiss and Italians hie away to the rural regions upon their arrival here and till the soil or engage in the dairying occupation.

Insolvents.

Alva H. Sarchett, a plasterer, has filed his petition in insolvency, attributing his failure to "lack of business, dull times and losses in business." His debts are estimated at $605.

Warren C. Dickerson, an insolvent architect, has asked for his discharge. He attributes his failure to depression in business and failure of payments by his patrons. His debts amount to $311 50 and his assets $350 in drawing tools, etc., exempt from execution.

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