

EXPOSURE OF THE RAID ON THE TREASURY.

IT AWAKENS LEGISLATORS TO THE FOLLY OF THEIR ACTIONS.

A DISPOSITION TO BLAME RE-PUBLICAN EX-STATE OFFICIALS.

OPINIONS OF LAWMAKERS.

STRONG INDOORSEMENT OF THE CALL'S FIGHT AGAINST EXTRAVAGANCE.

SACRAMENTO, Feb. 20.—The coming of the CALL to town to-day was very like the undiscovered entry of an invading army upon a sleeping city. The sunrise that awakened the city to a realization that it was in the hands of the enemy could not have brought greater consternation than did the CALL as it dropped upon the desk of Senators and Assemblymen with no previous warning of the indictment that it carried to the large majority of gross extravagance. Had a thunderbolt unroofed the Capitol it could not have created a greater scare and all day long there has been a running and to fro, gathering in groups in the anterooms and over lunch tables discussing the expose. It may be said that the completeness of the ventilation comes upon many of the legislators in the form of news. But that is their fault. The data presented has been at all times accessible to any who cared to look it up.

Yet the worst has not been told. Will the Committee on Attaches, which made its report yesterday morning, state just what attaches have neglected their work, or have drawn pay as absentees from their duty. To the overwhelming Republican majority in each house is submitted the report that a Democratic Governor, elected with economy as the slogan of his campaign, is prepared to rebuke their wastefulness. The Republicans know that Governor Budd hesitated for a long time to sign the contingent expense bills because the Legislature was setting the political pace that kills. It ought to know that the Governor may, at any moment now, refuse to sign one of their appropriation bills, and returning it with his veto, rebuke the gross extravagance of the party in power. This will make fine campaign material for the Democrats.

How many of the Senators and Assemblymen think they can go back to their people and seek re-elections to positions of trust which they have thus abused? Governor Budd is possessed of ample material to administer a most scathing rebuke to the Legislature. Is it likely that he will forego making use of it? There were no defenders to-day of the extravagant course of the Legislature. There were a few apologists. They had done wrong; they were sorry; they would see to it that the next Legislature did differently, was the burden of their song. Beyond all this is the charge made to-day that ex-Governor Markham, ex-Lieutenant-Governor Reddick and Lieutenant-Governor Millard were primarily responsible for the extravagance of the Legislature. The charge is made by Senator Eugene Aram of Yolo. This is what he says:

"I am a new member of the Legislature. In common with members elected last fall, I believed that the holders should determine the number of attaches. The matter was left largely to the Senators who had had experience. We agreed finally on the number of attaches. There were to be ninety-two. We should have kept to that limit if it had not been for the interference of the State officers. I mean by them ex-Governor Markham, ex-Lieutenant-Governor Reddick and Lieutenant-Governor Millard. They demanded the first pick of the places. They insisted on naming attaches.

"If it had not been for that we should have kept to the agreement. But the influence was too strong and that is what caused the Senate to break through. Had it not been for these State officers we should have had only ninety-two attaches. That would have given each Senator two places and left a few over. I have had appointed but two attaches to general places, and I believe that Senator Flint, the present pro tem., has appointed but one."

Several of the Democrats denounce the extravagance, but fear if quoted that their bills will be defeated in revenge. The Democrats argue that as they are greatly in the minority they can do nothing. They are at the mercy of the Republicans, so far as the appointment of attaches is concerned. As one expressed it today:

"They are the ones to retrench. What can we do? If we attempt to curb their extravagance we jeopardize the success of our bills, many of which are worthy local measures sadly needed."

subject of attaches," declared Senator Withington, chairman of the committee which made a report on the excessive number of attaches employed by the Senate. "We recommend a reduction in the bill accompanying our report."

"Do you think the Senate will reduce the number?" was asked. An emphatic "No" was the response. Long before submitting his report Senator Withington declared there would be no reduction of attaches, because the Senate was not disposed to act. Members would admit the extravagance, but there were too many influences at work to keep useless attaches at the expense of the State.

"Because there are such a number of attaches doing nothing for which they are paid liberally it does not follow that there are none who work. The secretary of the Senate and some of the clerks are kept continuously busy. The clerks of finance, judiciary and claims committees naturally have an abundance of work to occupy their time, and there are numbers of others who could be singled out who are honestly earning their salaries. But there is a greater number who are practically useless."

The Assembly differs from the Senate only in degree. It has a less number of useless attaches, and its weekly payroll is not quite so large. The Assembly prefers to pass the anti-night hat absurdity to the business-like proposition of cutting down its expenses.

Dr. Cargill, the Assemblyman from San Benito, was one of a committee which recommended wholesale decapitations of useless attaches. But the Assembly would not adopt the report. "There are too many political debts to be paid," said Dr. Cargill. "The Assembly attaches have to big a 'pull' to be removed. That is the situation. The attaches should be reduced in number, but if an Assemblyman favors a reduction he is met with a storm of protests. Each Assemblyman might be willing that the attaches appointed by another should be removed, but not his own, and so none are dismissed."

"I am afraid that nothing can be done now," said Wade of Napa. "The CALL's article this morning told nothing but the truth."

Dodge of Alameda said: "A number of our committees will be through in a few days. Mine will be through by Monday or Tuesday. I will then discharge my clerk. There are others who will do the same thing. I hardly think the number of attaches will be reduced, however."

Dale of Kern County added: "But it is not the fault of the Republicans. The majority of the Republicans are in favor of retrenchment. There are enough against it, however, with the Democrats to beat us."

"At the vote to reconsider the matter of dropping the nineteen attaches the following voted aye: Bachman, Barker, Belshaw, Bennett, Berry, Bledsoe, Butler, Coleman, Coughlin, Cutter, Dale, Davis, Dodge, Dunbar, Ewing, Fassett, Glass, Guy, Hall, Holland, Huber, Johnson, Jones, Keen, Keyron, Land, Phelps, Richards, Robinson, Rowell, Stanford, Staley, Spencer, Swisher, Wade, Wayne and Wilkins.

"Some of our friends were absent. Among these were Bulla, Cargill, Freeman, Hatfield, McKelvey, Meads, Nelson, Osborn, Price, Stansell and Weyse. A number of these feel that the time spent in fighting over attaches is foolishly expended and give way. There are others who will fight and vote for economy because it is right, but they cannot muster a majority of the House."

have to answer for it. I have talked with a number of members. They all agree that something must be done, and to-morrow we will try to resurrect the resolution that was laid on the table."

That the House is rather ashamed of its position was shown by the promptness with which it acted when a resolution was introduced to appoint Mrs. N. Lewis enrolling clerk in the place of W. H. Rice, discharged. Even the most practical of the practical politicians did not object to laying the resolution on the table.

WATER FROM LAKE TAHOE.

A Scheme to Supply the City of San Francisco. SACRAMENTO, Feb. 20.—An elaborate plan to bring water from Lake Tahoe to San Francisco was presented by Ewing of San Francisco. The Governor is thereby empowered to appoint a commission consisting of one citizen from each of the counties of Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Alameda, Santa Clara, San Mateo and San Francisco, with a view to condemn lands for necessary reservoirs, pipes and ditches.

The Commissioners are to receive \$10 a day each, and a chief engineer at \$4000 a year, and all necessary assistant engineers at \$2400 are provided for. The water is not only to be used for general distribution but for the production of light and power. Rates are to be fixed by a board of directors, consisting of the Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney-General, State Controller and State Treasurer. These directors are authorized to issue bonds to the amount of \$40,000 as the work progresses, half the bonds to be in denominations of \$5, \$10 and \$20, and the other half in sums of \$100, \$500 and \$1000.

FERRY DEPOT FOUNDATIONS.

Commissioner Bassett Demands an Investigation of Published Charges.

SACRAMENTO, Feb. 20.—Senator Gleaves introduced the following petition in the Senate to-day:

To the Honorable the Senate and Assembly of the State of California—GENTLEMEN: The undersigned, a member of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, respectfully represents: That it has been publicly charged that the piling and concrete work now being done for the State at the Ferry Landing in San Francisco is not good material, and that the work as a whole is unfit for the purposes intended.

It is therefore just to the people and fair to myself that a competent and non-partisan examination be made of the work and a correct report of the same submitted to your honorable bodies. I therefore most respectfully pray that you select a number of disinterested and eminent engineers, whose duty it shall be to immediately examine this work and report to your honorable bodies fully as to its character, the object being that the exact truth may be made known. Very respectfully, C. F. BASSETT.

FOR GOOD ROADS.

Recommendation for a Highway Bureau by the Joint Road Commission.

SACRAMENTO, Feb. 20.—The special Road Commission composed of members of both houses and a number of gentlemen informed on road matters reported to the assembly to-day. After reviewing the situation as it is at present, the committee told of the work they had accomplished. They spoke of certain bills that had been prepared. Among them was one providing for the grinding up for road material of the blue trap rock at Folsom.

The committee recommended that the bill should provide that no work was to be taken until a guarantee was given of a sufficient demand to justify its inauguration. The money appropriated, they argued, would be really only an advance as the counties would return it in installments with a slight percentage added to the actual cost of producing the road material.

It recommended the formation of a temporary Highway Bureau to advise and aid communities in road construction and to disseminate information. The bureau was also to investigate the bad methods employed and report to the Legislature at its next session.

Reforming the State Printing Office. SACRAMENTO, Feb. 20.—The attacks made by George F. Neal, manager of the Commercial Printing Company, upon the office of the State Printer for alleged extravagance, promised to bear fruit. Assemblyman Dixon of San Francisco introduced a bill in the lower house to-morrow providing that all printing, except that of State textbooks, shall be done by contract. The bill provides that the State Printer, the Board of Examiners shall act as a board to pass on the printing, that advertisements for work to be printed shall be published for thirty days, and that the contract for printing shall be let to the lowest bidder.

To Protect Streetcar Employees.

SACRAMENTO, Feb. 20.—A bill introduced in the Senate to-day, out of order by Senator Earl, makes it a misdemeanor for any street railway to exact or accept any deposit from any motorman, gripman, conductor or employe. It is the custom of the street railroads to exact a deposit of \$25 from each employe.

Senator Earl says the railroads in case of accidents keep the deposits whether the employes are to blame or not. He declares that the Piedmont road has received thousands of dollars of such deposits, and that men who have left its service find it impossible to obtain restitution.

Protect of Telegraph Managers.

SACRAMENTO, Feb. 20.—Frank Jaynes, superintendent of the coast service of the Western Union, and Leonard Storer, superintendent of the Postal Telegraph Company for the Pacific Coast, are here to protest in committee against the passage of the bill to make telegraph companies common carriers.

Major A. J. Donnell, District Attorney of Los Angeles County, and Judge A. T. Hatch of the city of Los Angeles, arrived to-night. They are interested in certain bills amending the code and in the county government bill.

NEWS OF THE PACIFIC COAST.

RAID ON A TUCSON FARM BANK BY A MASKED ROBBER.

WITH A BIG REVOLVER HE SUBDUES THE DEALER AND GRABS THE GOLD.

EX-GUARDSMAN'S FALL.

CAPTAIN BLUMENBERG OF SAN FRANCISCO CONVICTED BY COURT-MARTIAL OF FRAUD.

TUCSON, Ariz., Feb. 20.—A masked man sauntered quietly into Congress Hall, a well-known gambling resort, to-night, and under the silent persuasion of a big revolver, levied tribute on the bar bank to the extent of \$340. Then he coolly walked out.

Congress Hall is one of the old landmarks of this town, and a "good game," in the vernacular of the sporting man, is always in progress. Such was the case to-night. At a faro table the players were silently removing and placing their bets, when a side door opened.

The dealer, George Huston, glanced up from the case. What he saw was a masked man with a big revolver leisurely walking across the room. Huston was not alarmed, and went on turning the cards. He thought some practical joker was trying to scare him, and when the robber covered him Huston pushed the revolver aside. The robber did not utter a word, but thrust the weapon against Huston's breast, and with his free hand took about \$340 in gold, which he coolly put in his pocket. He did not take all the gold, and five or six hundred dollars in silver was unmolested. The dealer sat as if paralyzed and those playing at the game did not move while the robbery was being committed nor as the robber backed out of the door. Bartender Green, who was in an adjoining room, heard the noise made by several twenties which the robber dropped. He thought at first there was a row, but a minute later learned the trouble, and, seizing a shotgun loaded with buckshot, started for the faro room.

The side door had just closed on the robber as the bartender rushed in. Green dashed out and as the robber turned the corner of the building he shot but missed the mark.

The officers have not as yet the slightest clew to the thief.

LOS ANGELES HIGHBINDERS.

CHINESE FACTIONS RESORT TO BOMBS IN A WAR OF EX-TERMINATION.

TONGS GO GUNNING FOR EACH OTHER, AND ONE VICTIM IS DYING.

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 20.—Chinatown is greatly excited over the shooting affairs of last night. Besides the shooting of Loo Suey of the Hong Seng Tong by the members of the Wong Chee faction, complaint was made this morning in Judge Morrison's court charging Ah Jung with assault to commit murder. The complaint was made by Wan Kim, who claims that Ah Jung shot at him near the plaza at about 7:30 o'clock last night. Officer Henderson saw the shooting and gave chase, and two Chinamen were captured. Ah Jung, before the capture, threw away a large 44-caliber revolver.

Loo Suey, who was shot last night, is very low. He is paralyzed in the lower limbs. The police this morning found a piece of gaspipe in Chinatown that looks like a bomb. It is fourteen inches long, wound with a red cord with screws at the ends. One end is unscrewed, and one end was found filled with shot and some combustible material. It will be examined further. The police say that Chinatown is on the eve of a big uprising and a fight between the rival tong.

KILLED NEAR LOMA PRIETA.

Mistaken for a Deer by a Comrade, Who Fires With Fatal Results.

SANTA CRUZ, Feb. 20.—Charles Coombs accidentally killed Frank Carroll near Loma Prieta this afternoon. The men were hunting deer when Coombs, seeing the brush move, thought a deer was there and fired. The bullet entered Carroll's heart, killing him instantly. Both men were mill hands. Coroner Clark will hold an inquest to-morrow.

Attempt to Kill an Actor at Redlands.

REDLANDS, Feb. 20.—Ralph Rodgers, who was brought before Justice Camp and charged with an assault with a deadly weapon on Jules Trees, an actor, has given bonds. Rogers says Trees lived with him, won the affections of his wife, and succeeded in breaking up his home. Sunday Rodgers found his wife and Trees in a lodging-house in Redlands, and it is alleged, tried to kill the latter.

Arrest of Fugitives at Sacramento.

SACRAMENTO, Feb. 20.—Paul Keller, accompanied by his wife and two other women, was arrested here to-night for felony embezzlement on a telegram from Chief Crowley, giving his description and the number of his baggage checks. It was by the latter that he was detained as he prepared to board the overland train.

The Market Street Grade Bill.

SACRAMENTO, Feb. 20.—Senator Burr to-day introduced a bill by request. It gives city authorities the power to grade streets when the public convenience demands

such change. This bill was introduced at the request of the Market-street Improvement Club, and the object of the bill appears to be a law which will enable the lowering of the grade on Market-street extension to conform to the main thoroughfare.

LOS ANGELES EXCITED.

Sharp Practice in Regard to District Fair Stock. LOS ANGELES, Feb. 20.—There is considerable stir around town occasioned by the passage of Senate bill 449, introduced by Senator Lynch of San Bernardino. By its provisions property owned by the different district fair associations throughout the State will revert to the original stockholders by whom the grounds have been deeded by trust deeds to the State, and have for years been maintained by legislative appropriations.

The Sixth District Agricultural Association grounds in this city, when deeded to the State seven years ago, were worth \$13,000, and now the same property, if placed upon the market, would readily bring \$240,000. The stockholders who now get control of it claim that they will use it for track and fair purposes, and, as the grounds are now paying handsomely, their returns will be ample.

C. F. A. Last and M. Levy, prominent local merchants, allege that Louis Thorne, secretary of the local organization and one of the stockholders, and E. V. Wright, a stockholder and city engineer, knowing that the Lynch bill would be introduced, but withholding that information from them, purchased their stock, whereas, if they had known the stockholders were going to again get control of the park property, they would not have sold at this price.

Considerable stock has been bought up by alleged false representations by other parties, and it is threatened that the matter will be taken to the courts, as it is claimed that a trust deed cannot be set aside by the grantee.

The State Agricultural Association will meet to-morrow morning and a stormy session is looked for.

BAD WORK AT MARE ISLAND.

ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING THE REPAIRS TO THE CRUISER BOSTON.

GROSS INEFFICIENCY SAID TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS.

VALLEJO, Feb. 24.—The cruiser Boston, which has been undergoing extensive repairs at the navy-yard for several months past, is now said, owing to alleged gross inefficiency, to have been subjected to both work of the worst order. It is a great pity that this ship, which is one of the finest of her class in the navy, should be allowed to go to sea in her present condition. Her deck was laid without any provision having been made for leveling the gun tracks, the result being that the deck is out away to a thickness of two inches under the gun tracks, where it should be the thickest and strongest. It was cut away so much that it had to be recalced and the bolts had to be taken out and reset, which now leaves a thickness of only about one inch under the bolt-heads to hold the planks down, instead of three inches at least. During this work some six or eight hundred pounds of bolts were spoiled on account of incorrect measurements having been taken.

More botch work has been discovered on the Monadnock. All of the corners of the hammock rail are literally spoiled, and the work is still going on. Eventually it will have to be taken off and renewed. The sockets for the awning stanchions were let in so deep that they had to be shinned up with canvas in order to bring them above the level of the covering board.

The cruiser Olympia had hardly got fairly at the yard before it was found that the steel figures on the sides of the vessel were improperly placed and they had to be taken off and replaced, and even now many have great doubts as to their correctness.

The fact is things have not been going smoothly in the shipwright's department at the yard for a long time. During one of Supervisor McGettigan's official decapitating trips to Washington about a year ago a great flourish of trumpets was made because he had succeeded in "bagging" the official head of Foreman Shipwright Nathan G. Hilton, one of the oldest residents of Vallejo, a thorough mechanic and a personal friend of the chief naval constructor of the navy. It was accomplished not by reason of charges of inefficiency or insubordination, but on account of Hilton's advanced age. McGettigan's persuasive powers and peculiar line of argument touched the Secretary of the Navy in the right spot evidently, for, after McGettigan had informed him that in addition to his age he was a "partisan" on the other side of the house, he immediately ordered the veteran discharged, and a new examination was ordered to fill the vacancy.

On March 21, 1894, an examination was called for the position of foreman shipwright in the construction and repair department of the navy-yard. There were five applicants for the position, and they all presented themselves before the board of examiners. The applicants were: W. O. Smith, Alexander McDonald, William Kelly, M. F. Gibbons and W. Trebell. After a thorough examination, which in justice to all concerned, it must be conceded was purely non-partisan, the board recommended the latter for the position, and he received the appointment in April, 1894.

Why Trebell was recommended many have wondered, as they could not see in his choice the one best suited for the place, for they claim that Trebell had never had charge of a gang of men. At one time he was a sailor, and again shipped as a carpenter. But surprises with reference to the actions of men connected with the navy have always been the rule.

CAPTAIN BLUMENBERG CONVICTED.

A San Francisco Ex-Soldier Convicted of Fraud by Court-Martial.

SACRAMENTO, Feb. 20.—Orders were issued to-day from the adjutant-general's office announcing that Captain S. P. Blumenberg (retired) of San Francisco, formerly commander of the First Troop of Cavalry in that city, has been found guilty by a general court-martial of having signed a false certificate, in which he certified that a payroll on which were the names of five persons purporting to have been on duty at Oakland during the strike in July last was correct, but which the court-martial has

decided was not correct because the men were absent at the times mentioned in the payroll.

Blumenberg was also charged with having knowingly made false muster and pay-rolls, conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline, and conduct unbecoming an officer and gentleman. He was acquitted of these charges.

REVISION OF THE JUDICIARY.

An Important Constitutional Amendment in Committee.

SACRAMENTO, Feb. 20.—One of the most important meetings of the Senate Judiciary Committee was held to-night to consider a proposed constitutional amendment which, if adopted, will entirely revolutionize the judiciary of the State. The speakers before the committee were W. B. Treadwell and John A. Wright.

In addressing the committee W. B. Treadwell declared that it seems to him inadvisable to make such important changes. If changes were to be made of so important a nature it would be wiser to call a constitutional convention to adjust the demands. The judicial system needed some changes, but he thought it unwise for the Legislature to attempt too much.

John A. Wright referred to the attacks made in the newspapers when certain judges were nominated. He related the old story, which he pronounced a lie, of a Republican convention receiving \$50,000 not to nominate a certain judge who, it was thought, would affirm a judgment against a certain corporation. Not since the time of Jeffreys had such a state of affairs existed. Judges were suspected because at the bar they had acted as counsel for corporations. California seemed to have absolutely lost the idea that a judicial office was above party intrigue or influence. His method was to go back to the primitive one. In France the magistracy was separate from the bar. Practically a judicial officer began as an apprentice and went from lower to higher courts. England got her best lawyers on the bench because the salaries were so high that no client could afford to compete for such talent. It would be a dream to expect such a thing in California just now. There was just as good and just as able men in this State as in England, but the methods served largely to make them useless functionaries. They had to seek nominations from conventions and bosses.

Senator Withington referred to some defects in the English judicial system.

John A. Wright, continuing, advocated a reduction in the number of Judges, an increase in salaries, a longer term of office and a retiring allowance. He favored single oral opinions from each Justice at the conclusion of a case. Bench Judges, he declared, had become essayists instead of lawyers. He advocated courts of discipline as a method of putting the law into operation. Such courts would enable Judges to have their characters vindicated when unjustly assailed.

The committee will hear further arguments before acting on the proposed constitutional amendments.

Idaho Legislature's Bill for Senator.

BOISE, Idaho, Feb. 20.—There was no change in the Senatorial vote to-day. The result was: Shoup 20, Sweet 19, Claggett 15. It does not seem likely that there will be any change to-morrow.

FIRE IN RENO'S FINE SALOON.

ITS INTERIOR BURNS OUT ENTIRELY BEFORE THE FLAMES ARE CHECKED.

STOCKTON'S FIRE DEPARTMENT SAVES THE MASONIC TEMPLE FROM DESTRUCTION.

RENO, Nev., Feb. 20.—Fire totally destroyed the interior of S. Armanock's saloon, two doors south of the Gazette office, at 2:30 o'clock this morning. The saloon was one of the finest in the State. F. Levy & Bro., dry goods, and Ash Bros., clothing, on the lower floor, were much damaged by water, the former suffering a heavy loss. The cause of the fire is uncertain. It is claimed that mice gnawing matches was the cause. The building being brick was all that saved it a serious conflagration.

The building was owned by Mrs. Byington of San Francisco and was fully insured. Armanock's loss will foot up \$5000, with no insurance. F. Levy & Bro. are said to have \$10,000, and, if so, it will nearly cover their loss. Ash Bros.' loss is not so heavy. They have \$7000 insurance.

STOCKTON'S BLAZE.

Firemen Succeed in Checking the Destruction of the Masonic Temple.

STOCKTON, Feb. 20.—The fire department succeeded in confining the fire that broke out last midnight in the Masonic Temple to the upper floors of the building. The fire started on the second floor, the main portion of which was used as a dancing hall. The interior was nearly completely destroyed, and the flames spread to the lodgerooms on the top floor, which were damaged considerably by smoke and water. The stores on the ground floor were badly damaged by water, the post-office being flooded. The postmaster was aroused in time to remove the mails.

The origin of the fire is a mystery. The hall, where it started, had not been used for over a week. It is thought by some that the origin was incendiary, but others think it resulted from spontaneous combustion, there being some paint rags where the flames started.

The loss is estimated at from \$10,000 to \$12,000. L. P. Drexler of San Francisco, who holds a mortgage on the building for its first trust of \$400,000. This protects the amount.

Foreclosure on the Tabor Block.

DENVER, Feb. 20.—Judge Allen to-day denied the application of Laura D. Smith to foreclose her second trust deed of \$275,000 on the Tabor block and Tabor Opera-house, but decided that Mrs. Smith shall have the right to foreclose at the same time that the Mutual Life forecloses its first trust of \$400,000. This protects the interests of Mrs. Smith, for by the former decisions the Mutual Life was allowed to bring foreclosure proceedings and foreclose and the same privilege was denied Mrs. Smith.

NEW REVISION OF OBNOXIOUS BLUE LAWS.

THE ASSEMBLY PASSES THE SILLY LAW AGAINST THEATER HATS.

IT PERMITS THE ARREST OF LADIES BY THE BURLY POLICE.

MOST RIDICULOUS MEASURE.

LAWMAKERS FRITTER AWAY THE STATE'S MONEY IN HORSEPLAY.

SACRAMENTO, Feb. 20.—The Assembly made itself ridiculous to-day by passing a bill regulating the wearing of hats by ladies in theaters. What will it do next? It cannot find time to curb its own extravagance or to attend to legitimate legislation, but steps aside to attempt to regulate what it cannot regulate and should not regulate. It is suggested that the Assembly might follow its absurd law-making attempts. It should regulate the size of the shoes and the height of collars which men may wear, with a reservation exempting the "railroad collars" of legislators. The width of the hat brim might be regulated by law. Some of the fashionable hotels and restaurants in the East prohibit the wearing of mustaches or other facial hair ornaments by their waiters under penalty of dismissal. An attempt to enforce such a rule in San Francisco was not successful, and yet the Assembly is recommended to make a law of similar trend.

Then the restaurants might enforce it. In the old colonial statutes there were some severe regulations outside of the blue laws regarding religious observance. It would be wise for the Assembly to study these. As that body of the Legislature seems to be about 200 years behind the age it might make itself still more ridiculous by copying these and introducing them. The slogan that stirred the Assembly this morning, and when all the oratorical pyrotechnics had been loosened the lawmakers placed themselves on record against the drama in headgear, with nodding plumes, gaudy brills, brilliant flowers and ribbons, and by a vote of 54 to 6 barred all these from being worn at places of public amusement.

The Committee on Public Morals reported the bill, the author of which is Kelsey of Orange, making it a misdemeanor to wear a hat at any assemblage, and recommended its passage. Kelsey at once asked that the rules be suspended and his bill have its second and third readings at once, as he deemed it a case of urgency. This tickled the fancy of the House and there was no lack of support. Belshaw of Antioch feared that the bill was beneath the dignity of the House. He was opposed to making the House an instrument for playing jokes. The Assemblymen, he urged, were not a lot of school-boys. Cutter of Yuba rallied to the bill's assistance. He denied that the matter was a joke. Judge Wayne of Alameda thought the matter was of too light a character to cause the House to delay its proceedings, besides he thought it was discourteous to the ladies.

Members of San Francisco were in favor of the bill, but he was sure that he meant no discourtesy to the ladies. Men were included in the provision of the bill as well as women. Wade of Napa called attention to the fact that the bill referred to persons "violating the provisions of section 17," and made them liable to imprisonment for twenty-five days. The bill was faulty, he urged, as there were only four sections in it and it should be amended before its passage.

Thomas called for the previous question and the bill was put on its third reading, with the result that it passed by a vote of 48 to 14.

As soon as the result was announced Bruse of Sacramento asked leave to explain why he voted in the negative. He thought the bill should have been directed against the management and he would then have voted for its passage.

"You have voted for this bill now," he concluded. "You think it is a very fine thing. But when your wife has been marched out of the theater by a burly policeman, taken to jail and fined \$25 for violating some of its provisions you may change your way of thinking."

The vote on the rollcall was as follows: Ayes—Barker, Bassford, Berry, Bettman, Boothby, Cargill, Coleman, Coughlin, Cutter, Devine, Dixon, Dodge, Dunbar, Ewing, Freeman, Glass, Guy, Hatfield, Hooley, Holland, Hudson, Keen, Kelsey, Keyron, Laird, Langenour, Lewis, Meads, McDonald, McKelvey, Merrill, Nelson, North, O'Day, Osborn, Pendleton, Powers, Price, Richards, Sanford, Staley, Spencer, Swisher, Tibbitts, Thomas, Tomblin, Weyse, Lynch.

Noes—Belshaw, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bruse, Bulla, Dale, Jones, Dinkelspiel, Fassett, Hall, Huber, Hayes, Phelps, Reid, Wade, Wayne—16.

And this is the bill they passed: SECTION 1. It shall be unlawful for any person or persons visiting any place of public amusement to wear hats, bonnets, hoods or other headwear during the hours of the performance, and any person violating the provisions of this act shall be liable to the person aggrieved in damages not to exceed the sum of \$50.

SECTION 2. Any person or persons violating the provisions of section 1 of this act shall, in addition to the damages imposed in section 1, be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall, upon conviction, be fined a sum not to exceed the sum of \$25, or be imprisoned in the County Jail not to exceed twenty-five days.

SECTION 3. The provisions of the above sections shall be enforced in any court of competent jurisdiction.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect from and after its passage.

The report of the Committee on Con-