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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Some Important Happenings in the South

THAT MAY PLEASE OUR READERS

An Assortment of News Events That Occurred in our Midst That Cannot Fall to Interest.

Riverside has but one "dry" hotel. Ventura is organizing as a city of the fifth class.

The Globe has become the official paper of Riverside.

The Santa Fe is pushing its station improvements at Riverside.

Santa Barbara mothers are organizing a council of the American Maternal League.

The raisin harvest is in full blast at Cucamonga. The product will bring \$200 a ton.

Editor H. C. Warner of a San Bernardino paper is on trial for libeling a town trustee.

G. W. Lynch, formerly of San Diego, is to have charge of a permanent California exhibit in New York city.

The school trustees of National City have begun a crusade against the cigarette habit among their male pupils.

About 6,000 fruit trees are fumigated nightly at Pomona under the direction of the Horticultural Commissioner.

Santa Barbara's teachers' institute was better attended than any similar gathering in the history of the county.

Pasadena is to have a sewer bond election without waiting for the expected supreme court "lawful money" decision.

Fallbrook reports such a large crop of grain this year that the ranchers are fearing it cannot be threshed before the winter rains come.

The steamer Queen will be succeeded on the Alaska route by the Corona, and the Queen will run between San Francisco and San Diego.

Mrs. May Newell, a teacher, has brought suit against the San Bernardino board of education, claiming \$1850 and costs for breach of contract.

Shipments of oil made from Los Angeles during the month of September equal 12,133 tons of coal at the usual ratio of three barrels to a ton. The cars sent out during the month were 260, and each contained 140 barrels of oil, making a total of 36,400 barrels.

Messrs. Cawston & Cockburn, proprietors of the South Pasadena and Norwalk ostrich farms, have just sold six of their largest birds to Walter Main, of circus fame. They are also shipping a car of these mammoth birds to Dallas, Tex., to be exhibited at the State fair, to be held in that city in October.

The Pacific Steam Whaling company has just invested in 3200 acres of land in the western part of Ventura county, just north of the Rincon district, some of the land being in Santa Barbara county. The company believes that this territory will prove as rich in petroleum as the Summerland oil belt, and will push the work of prospecting as rapidly as possible.

The orange crop of this year is estimated at 10,000 carloads or over 3,000,000 boxes. It is ripening early and a good deal of it will be on the way before the possibility of frost occurs. With the protection afforded by a cent-a-pound tariff, good prices will undoubtedly rule and the crop ought to bring several millions of dollars into this section, lifting a great many mortgages and providing funds for all sorts of improvements.

The Merchants and Manufacturers' Association of Los Angeles has decided to establish a permanent exhibit of home products. The president and secretary will lease for three years the Main-street building now occupied by Meyberg Bros., and known as the Crystal Palace. A special committee of five will be appointed to take entire charge of all matters connected with the exhibit.

It is reported from Santa Barbara that Theodore B. Starr, the diamond merchant of New York city, has taken possession of the Dibblee mansion there, and there is a rumor that he has in contemplation the purchase of the property. It consists of a magnificent residence, costing \$60,000, and forty acres of land. In the event of Starr making the purchase it is his intention to erect a number of handsome villas and form a New York city colony. It would be a sort of Bar Harbor—only much prettier.

Visitors to San Pedro recently saw a young devil fish in the water, near shore. It was pursuing crabs, and could move very swiftly, back, forward or sideways. Clumsy as it looks, the arms dart out like lightning, and the animal "gets there" almost like a fish. When it has far to go it trails all of its feelers in the rear, and looks a good deal like a fish, its body forming the head. It occasionally squirts out water, like a whale, only that it is blown straight back and not up, and it a good deal like the mud valve of a steamboat.

A new town site has been laid out at the Soldiers' Home, Los Angeles county. The plat is all finished, streets graded, soon water mains and pipes will be laid; lots are now offered for sale at reasonable rates, and it will not be long before an embryo city will rival Los Angeles for grandeur and magnificence. The name of the young city may be Barrett or Barrettville, after Gen. A. W. Barrett, adjutant-general of the State of California and local manager of the Home. It is situated at the crossing of the electric railway and the Home branch of the Southern Pacific.

The fourteen leading cities and towns of Southern California outside of Los Angeles, taken as a whole, show a net increase in school population from 1896 to 1897 of 310 children. Of this total gain 224, or 72 per cent, is credited to the city of San Diego, showing an increase during the past year, figuring on the accepted basis of 4½ to the child, of 1008 in population. Southern California towns as a whole have stood still during the past year. Santa Monica, Pomona and Colton show heavy losses.

The now famous schooner, the Emma and Louisa, has arrived at San Diego from the Mexican coast, and Captain Harris has a most interesting story to tell. This is the vessel chartered by Jesse Grant to explore the guano islands in the Gulf of California, for which he holds concessions from the Mexican government. The schooner is well loaded with fine guano. A few weeks ago they almost foundered in a terrible storm. At Tiburon island they prepared to go ashore and prospect for gold, but were deterred by the hideous cannibals that gathered to give them a warm reception. They examined a good many islands carefully and found but few traces of gold. Turtle, however, existed in almost fabulous abundance.

With all the excitement that has attended the development of oil in and around Los Angeles, it is remarkable that so little attention has been paid to the question of natural gas, from which big fortunes have been made in some of the States east of the mountains. It is known that large quantities of gas have been escaping from the local wells, and in some cases the gas has been utilized for fuel, but as a rule it has been allowed to go to waste. Since the wells were closed down for a couple of weeks it has been noticed that the flow of gas has been increased, and possibly something may now be done toward utilizing this valuable product. It is not only in Los Angeles that gas exists in considerable quantities. There is a natural gas well at Rosecrans, between Los Angeles and the ocean, which was utilized for some time to furnish fuel in the kitchen of the ranch-house. Possibly a systematic effort to develop natural gas in this section might prove quite remunerative.

If the proposed plans of the navy department are this winter endorsed by Congress, San Pedro will soon have an additional available appropriation amounting to \$1,500,000, and as the war department will have no control over the matter, Secretary Alger will not be able to prevent the legitimate expenditure of the money. New docks are needed for the accommodation of the navy department. This is especially true of the Pacific coast, where but one government dock is now in operation. It is located on Puget Sound. The board of naval experts, to draw plans and prepare estimates in the matter, has filed its report with Secretary Roosevelt. It finds that five new docks are necessary, at a cost of \$5,775,000. In addition, the board recommends a dock at San Pedro, of concrete, 500 feet long, to cost \$1,500,000. The San Pedro dock is of course contingent upon the long-delayed harbor improvement. The proposed Southern California dock will have a draught of 30 feet at low water. The dock will bring to San Pedro a large amount of shipping, and will necessitate the constant presence of a naval force. It will also mean the maintenance of a large land force at Wilmington, where the government owns lands for just such a purpose. A large artillery post will probably be established there for permanent service.

PACIFIC COAST NEWS

Important Information Gathered Around the Coast.

ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

A Summary of Late Events That Are Botted Down to Suit our Busy Readers.

The supreme court of Washington has decided that the new mortgage law is unconstitutional.

The California vintage, it is reported in San Francisco, will be superior to any of the past fifteen years.

The United States engineers in charge of San Francisco harbor fortifications have directed a survey of south side shore line.

The Dalles, Ore., has a giant 9 feet 9½ inches tall, who weighs 225 pounds and is 18 years of age. The young fellow works on his father's farm, and is as strong as he is big.

Three carloads of granite have been ordered by the King's county supervisors as the beginning of a rock pile on which the hobos and other prisoners will hereafter be engaged.

An engine and dynamo have been purchased by the regents of the Oregon State University for an electric plant to light the University buildings. The plant will be put in at once.

Thomas Cluff, with the consent of the state, has brought suit against the city of Oakland to test the legality of the proceedings by which the northern district was recently annexed.

E. S. Glover, an artist, swam from the beach south of the Cliff House, San Francisco, to Baker's Beach. He passed near the seal rocks and followed a course over five miles in length. He was not accompanied by a boat.

The opposition to co-eds voting on any question continues to agitate the State University. Its daily journal thinks that the vote to abolish class rushes having been carried by the co-eds may not be considered as binding.

A petition is being circulated in Seattle asking that the civil service system be abolished. The petition must be signed by 20 per cent of those who voted at the last municipal election before it can be considered. This means 1675 names must be secured.

The San Francisco Manufacturers and Producers' association asked the Labor Council to co-operate with it in its fight against prison-made shoes. But the council demanded a guarantee of good faith, and the association resents this by requesting the council to consider its communication withdrawn.

The Oregon fish commissioners last week cast a seine in Lake Wallowa, in Wallowa county, and made a haul of over 1000 fish known as "yanks," but which are a species of salmon. It was a bonanza for several Indians who happened to be there at the time, and a few palefaces reaped a little benefit also.

The Alaskan passes prove to be very dangerous in many ways. There will be many deaths in that quarter this winter without doubt. A landslide on the Skaguay trail wiped Sheep Camp out of existence and absolutely blocks the trail. One woman and seventeen men are missing. One body was recovered, that of A. M. Choynski of San Francisco.

The demand, at good wages, for hands in the harvest fields led the editor of the Ritzville, Wash., Times to work where he could earn a few dollars. The "devil" took advantage of the editor's absence and said, "If the paper is better than usual this week, it is probably owing to the fact that the editor is out in the country running a threshing machine."

The San Francisco syndicate that has taken the entire issue of \$6,000,000 of bonds of the San Francisco and San Joaquin Valley railroad is made up of I. W. Hellman, A. Borel & Co., Nevada bank, John D. Spreckels, Bank of California, Balfour, Guthrie & Co., Abby M. Parrott. Work will now be prosecuted simultaneously on the Bakersfield extension and on the line connecting San Francisco and Stockton.

In a letter to the chamber of commerce from J. A. Filcher, secretary of the San Francisco board of trade, regarding the California canaigre industry, he states that the outlook is not bright. The demand for canaigre in Germany, which has heretofore been brisk, has dropped off until there is no demand for the article in Germany at

all. In Southern California alone there is at least 4000 acres planted to canaigre.

President Martin Kellogg of the University of California has furnished the students with a statement of his policy now that the board of regents has abolished the committee of internal affairs. He does not intend to resign, but will accept the situation as it has presented itself, and will exercise his discretion in all matters that call for his decision.

While making repairs in the switch room of the Western Light and Power company at San Francisco last week Louis Kruger, an employe of the Edison Light and Power company, touched a live wire, receiving the full power of 2200 volts. He did not immediately relapse into unconsciousness, and to a fellow-workman who ran to his assistance he said: "It's all right." And then he went into a state of insensibility. He was kept alive for almost an hour by artificial respiration, but never regained consciousness. Kruger was about 21 years of age and unmarried.

EASTERN NEWS ITEMS.

Secretary Long has chosen names for torpedo boats Nos. 19, 20 and 21, selecting Stringham, Goldsborough and Bailey, the names of three distinguished commanders in the naval service during the late war.

Florida has 10,000 square feet of space engaged at the Omaha fair. Manager Bruce says: "It will be a pity if the great State of California is not represented more extensively than indications show."

Work on the repairs of the battleship Texas is rapidly nearing completion, and she will be ready to join the squadron next week. Both bow and stern torpedo outfits are being removed. They have been found to be practically useless, as torpedoes could not be fired from them without danger to the vessel. Twenty-four of the Texas' crew deserted her while she was in the dry-dock.

The gold Democrats convention at Boston adopted a platform which insists upon the maintenance of the present gold standard. The platform also declares for revenue only and for the abolition of all duties which tend to create and maintain monopolies and trusts, demands the extension of civil service principles to all postoffices, to the consular service and within the states to municipal offices.

At the interstate commerce hearing at Chicago, Local Freight Agent Lockett of the Grand Trunk admitted that his company stored certain classes of goods for a long time and Local Freight Agent Brinkerhoff of the Chicago and Northwestern said that many times his company has stored dried fruit and similar freight for fifty days or over. Other local freight agents of other companies running into Chicago testified to the same thing on the part of their lines.

Superintendent S. H. Day of the Santa Fe Water company at Santa Fe has received from the agricultural college at Las Cruces the first analysis of sugar beets produced in Santa Fe valley, showing 16½ per cent saccharine matter, or over 3½ per cent higher than the sugar in the Nebraska product. He finds by actual weights and measurements that fifteen tons of sugar beets per acre can be produced here with intense fertilization, while the average yield is ten tons per acre. Extensive experiments in beet culture are also being made in Espanola valley.

The Electric Vehicle company has just been organized under the laws of New Jersey, with an authorized capital stock of \$1,000,000. Its incorporators are Gustave Kessler of Kessler & Co., Philip Lehman of Lehman Bros., and W. Ward Tuck. Both of the firms mentioned are well-known banking firms in Wall street, and connected with the New York stock exchange. The object of the company is to manufacture and operate electric carriages to be propelled by storage batteries. The corporation is virtually a trust, and proposes to establish branches throughout the United States.

The Naval Ordnance Bureau at Washington has been securing some remarkable results from experiments it has been making with an attachment for torpedoes, the invention of an Austrian named Obrey. This is a kind of gyroscope, and the reports from the torpedo stations where the tests have been made show that it has the property, having once been directed at the object to be hit, of actually restoring the torpedo to which it is attached to a straight course towards that object, even after it has been deflected. The addition of this device is said by the experts to make the torpedo almost a weapon of precision.

MINES AND MINING.

A rich strike has just been reported from the Montezuma quartz mine at the Alamo in Lower California.

The travel to Randsburg through Mojave is larger than ever and the stage is taxed to its full capacity. The recent rich strikes will make things lively this winter.

The Spokane Chronicle says that owing to the discrimination made by the Alaskan mining laws against non-resident miners, five companies now out prospecting will be recalled.

Favorable reports have come from Randsburg in regard to recent developments in the mines of that camp. Mining men of experience who have visited Randsburg during the last few months are inclined to take a favorable view as to permanency of the camp. The question of whether the mines will hold out with depth is one regarding which we shall soon know more than we do at present.

Judge Virden of the Mono county Superior Court has decided that the Powers Mining Law passed by the last California legislature is in conflict with the United States mining laws and therefore null and void. The special point at issue was the requirement that mining district recorders should deposit their records of locations with the County Recorder. Judge Virden says they "don't have to."

A new gold field has been discovered in the past three months, in which Los Angeles parties are doing well and heavily interested. It lies across the borders of San Bernardino and Riverside counties, in the Virginia Dale mining district, skirting Eagle mountains. The nearest station is at Palm Springs on the Southern Pacific. The district combines both quartz and placer ground, the former assaying from \$25 to \$75 per ton. J. Mait and others panned and washed out 17½ ounces of coarse gold in a few weeks, with several nuggets from \$3 to \$5. Prospecting parties are forming daily, and it is likely that a town of several thousand persons will shortly arise.

The mining editor of the San Francisco Examiner thus comments on the sales of three-for-a-nickel and two-for-a-cent stocks that are made on the local exchange:

"The Los Angeles Mining Exchange seems to be doing a lively business in stocks. At first glance the sales count up thousands of shares, but closer investigation shows, at a price of from 1½ cents upward, seldom exceeding \$1, at which rates an investment of a few dollars will load up a man to the capacity of his pockets. It would sound like a big business if the price of shares was omitted. There may not be much profit, but there is a good deal of fun in it, and keeps up a show of business. A man can paper his house with shares for the cost of wall paper, and if by any chance 1-cent shares of a mine making a strike advance to dollars, the good housewife has ever a housekeeping fund at hand. All she has to do is to remove a share or two to meet the milkman's bill."

The following important decisions, published by a San Francisco contemporary, in regard to the right to follow a mineral lode, will be of interest to mining men in this section.

"The United States Circuit Court of Appeals has in the case of the Tyler Mining Company vs. Sweeney, reported in 97, Federal Reporter, page 277, decided that when a vein of mineral-bearing rock, in its course lengthwise, after passing under the surface limits of one location, on which it outcrops, crosses nearly at right angles the side lines of another, prior location, on which it also outcrops, the side lines of such prior location becoming, by the reason of the course of the vein, its end lines, the right to follow the lode in its downward course, between the vertical planes drawn through such end lines, belonging to such prior location, and the extra lateral rights of the other location cease when the vertical plane so drawn between the two locations is reached.

"The same court in the case of the Republican Mining Company vs. the Tyler Mining Company, reported on page 733 of the same volume of the Federal Reporter, also finds that when a lode enters an end line of a regularly located mining claim and runs its course lengthwise, nearly parallel with the side lines of the claim for the greater part of the length of the claim, the owners of the claim are not deprived of their extra lateral rights because the lode crosses a side line before reaching the other end lines, but such rights shall extend from the end at which the lode enters to the point at which it crosses the side line, whether a new end line is regarded as being drawn at that point or not."