

## GRABBING TIMBER LANDS

### SPECIAL AGENT IS MAKING GRAVE CHARGES

**Anthrax in San Joaquin County—Jewelry Store Robbed—Accidentally Shot—Death Prevents Trial—Mail Carrier Drowned**

Frank Deshida, a young man, was accidentally shot and instantly killed while duck shooting near Haywards.

County Veterinarian Eddy makes the startling statement that there is anthrax in San Joaquin county, and that both cattle and horses are affected.

The British ship Clydesdale, 125 days from Newcastle, Australia, has arrived in San Francisco. Eighty per cent insurance was paid on her.

At Tonopah, Frank Golden's jewelry store was robbed. The robbers ransacked the place, securing watches, diamonds and money to the amount of \$3000.

George H. Biatt, mail carrier between Stewart's Point and Annapolis Sonora county, in attempting to swim the swift current of the Gusia river, was swept from his horse and drowned.

Benjamin F. Tilley, jr., has been appointed to a cadetship at Annapolis by Secretary of the Navy Moody. He is a son of Captain B. F. Tilley, captain of the Mare Island navy yard.

Death has intervened to prevent the trial of John B. McCoy, a former Sacramento policeman, on a charge of forgery. When the case was called the assistant district attorney stated that the defendant was dead.

Reports from Pina, Cochise, Pinal, and Santa Cruz counties, Arizona, are to the effect that there were slow, steady rainfalls Monday afternoon and night. The average rainfall in Pima county was one inch.

### Grabbing Timber Lands

In a report filed with Lewis E. Aubery, state mineralogist, Special Agent Horace Stevens of the state mining bureau, who was sent out recently to investigate the alleged illegal locations of mineral lands and interference with the rights of miners in the Susanville and Marysville land districts, makes some startling charges. His report bristles with interesting allegations and not a few conclusions which are just as interesting.

Stevens opens his report by relating his personal experience in the office of Surveyor General W. S. Graham, who declined to allow a draughtsman in the employ of the mining bureau to have access to certain plats of land, on the ground that other draughtsmen had falsified originals. This episode, he says, is significant, as revealing some of the tricks employed to prevent any true segregation of government lands, and he expresses his surprise that, under the circumstances, the mineral interests of the state have been given any consideration at all.

At Marysville, Stevens says he found that C. E. Sweezy, an official of the United States land office, appeared as an attorney for record for 160 out of 170 selections of tracts under the forest reserve lien land laws, embracing over 27,000 acres, and that Sweezy admitted to him that he had made selections under the scripper law of 111,000 acres, 27,000 in the Marysville district, 70,000 in the Susanville district and 14,000 at the Redding office.

At Oroville Stevens found that the Diamond Match company, which he was informed had refrained as far as possible from interfering with mineral rights, owned 35,000 acres of patented land and had secured control of over 20,000 acres more. As this corporation, was in his opinion, unquestionably op-

erating in a mineral belt, he suggested a more searching investigation than he was able to make.

Continuing he says: "One of the most extensive employers of the forest reserve lien as a basis of getting title to mineral land appears to be Jacob H. Cook, who is working in the interests of Wheeler Brothers, the New York capitalists. He has located a large acreage in the vicinity of Camel's Peak in Plumas and Butte counties, nearly all made in the dead of winter, or at a time when the snow was so deep that it was simply impossible to determine the true character of the land. He has enlisted community sympathy by all sorts of glittering promises as to railroads, saw mills, paper mills, etc. to be established and has swallowed the necessary non-mineral affidavit at one fell swoop."

After showing that part, at least, of one of Cook's claims had been worked for years as a placer claim, and citing other instances of the point he makes, Stevens continues:

"Such of the territory as I traversed between Mooretown and La Porte, by the Lumpkin road and Camel's Peak route, has not been prospected to any great extent. Important mineral discoveries are certain to be made there if prospectors are permitted to pursue their exploration unmolested. But if the region is allowed to fall into the hands of syndicates everybody will be excluded from the lands and for the next twenty years, if, as alleged, all this wholesale grabbing is done in the interest of a gigantic eastern lumber trust, those forests will become as silent as midnight on the desert of Sahara."

The special agent says that Quincy, Taylorsville, Crescent Valley and Greenville were prolific in accounts of the manner in which miners have been imposed upon, but states that he was unable, on account of the lack of time, to investigate them thoroughly.

### Washington Notes

United States Minister Francis has informed the state department that a new Servian ministry was installed at Belgrade on October 20.

Secretary Wilson is confined to his home by a severe neuralgic cold which has developed since the recent political campaign in which the secretary took an active part. His ailment has been much relieved, but it will be some days before he is able to resume his duties in the agricultural department.

Admiral Dewey, who will have supreme command of the fleets engaged in the Caribbean sea maneuvers next month, will hoist his four-starred flag on the president's yacht, Mayflower, at the Washington navy yard, December 1, and will sail the same day with his large personal staff direct for the naval base at Culebra island.

The officials of the Coast and Geodetic Survey of the government bureau having been in charge of the surveys made by the United States in Alaska, pronounce as incorrect the report attributed to a Victoria, B. C., newspaper that encroachments have been made by an American surveyor on British territory in the neighborhood of Portland Canal.

### Match Company's Plant

A franchise has been granted to the Diamond Match company by the Butte county supervisors, and would appear to settle definitely where the mammoth plant of the concern is to be located. The company has been granted the right to build a railroad from its timber holdings on Magalia Ridge to Durham on the Southern Pacific, forty miles above Marysville. It is understood that the work of construction will be begun at once. A pulp mill will be included, this being a new feature in the company's business.

## AZTEC TREASURE FOUND

### Remarkable Discovery is Made by a Party of Americans

A remarkable story, authenticated of the discovery of hidden Aztec treasure of fabulous value has just been reported to the Government authorities at Tepic by Pablo Mertino, the parish priest of Iesca, Mexico. The priest makes a statement, which is concurred in by several reliable witnesses to the occurrence, that a party of Americans, headed by an archaeologist who gave the name of Heverick, arrived at Iesca several weeks ago and went from that place into the mountains, accompanied by three Mexican guides. The archaeologist got his bearings by means of a chart which he claimed to have copied from an Aztec stone tablet in the National Museum in the City of Mexico. He located a vast cave in a mountain near Iesca. Immense stone images stood about this chamber. In one end was a handsome altar, above which burned a bright flame supplied by natural gas from a crevice in the wall. It has probably been burning for many centuries. In a chamber adjoining the main temple was found a great store of ornaments and utensils belonging to the Aztecs or some other prehistoric race. Twelve burros were required to transport the articles taken from the cave to San Blas. It is said to be the largest and most valuable collections of ancient relics ever discovered in Mexico.

### Found Hanging to Tree

The body of Braggion Verquera was found hanging in a tree near the Guadalupe mine by William Curtis, who was hunting quail. Verquera has been employed at the La France winery, but disappeared a week ago. It is believed to be a clear case of suicide. He was a native of Italy, aged 32 years.



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### Secured the Flag but Was Drowned

John Nystrom, a Swedish sailor on the United States army transport Sumner, sacrificed his life while attempting to save an American flag, which had been torn by a gust of wind from the stern of the vessel's launch. He plunged into the water and secured the banner, but was caught by the strong ebb tide and drowned before he could be reached by a boat.

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