

claims. The ditch had fallen into the hands of half a dozen men, known as the Middle Greenhorn Ditch Co., who applied to the county court for an injunction restraining all persons from meddling with their property. The ditch was cut again, and the offender, Robert Wilson, was arrested and lodged in jail at Yreka. That night the miners of Greenhorn assembled and marched to Yreka to release their comrade. A small party went in advance, unknown to the others, and finding the jail in custody of but one man, intimidated him into releasing the prisoner. Meanwhile, word of the proposed invasion from Greenhorn reached the sheriff, who proceeded to the jail with a few well-armed men, not knowing that the prisoner had already escaped. Equally ignorant of this fact was the mob of determined miners, who arrived a few minutes later, and made an assault upon the jail door with an axe. The sheriff's party soon arrived and ordered them to desist. The result was a clash, a few shots with revolvers, by which one of the sheriff's men was wounded, and the retreat of the mob. The sheriff then intrenched himself in the jail with his aids, and when the miners again advanced to the attack, greeted them with a volley which killed one of their number and caused the others to retire hastily to Greenhorn. Here they intrenched themselves, expecting an invasion from Yreka. Two days passed, and then the sheriff and county judge dispatched a messenger of peace to the belligerent miners, asking for a conference. This resulted in an agreement that the miners should have all the water they needed, and that the company could take the overplus, a man appointed by the miners and paid by the company to regulate the flow of water at the ditch. This was a complete victory for the miners, but they were afterward shorn of much of its fruits, since, after

the lawyers had picked the bones pretty clean for a number of years, a final decision was rendered by the court, that the company was entitled to as much water as the original capacity of the ditch, and the remainder belonged to the stream.

Another instance of disputed locations and long litigation is that of the South Yuba Canal Co., whose property now consists of two hundred and seventy-five miles of ditch, constructed at a cost of \$2,000,000.00. The Nevada County & Sacramento Canal Co., generally known as the "Old English Company," made a location of a water right on South Yuba river in 1851. They desired D. A. Rich, an enterprising miner, to go in with them, but that gentleman declined, not liking their proposed plan of operations; but seeing that the company did no work, made a location the following year himself, a distance above them. They then appeared on the ground, did a little work, built a cabin and placed two men in it to guard their interests, who spent their time in hunting the game that abounded in the mountains. Every effort was made to dispossess Rich and induce him to abandon his undertaking, but to no effect. One day in 1855 some agents of the company went to Omega and called a meeting of the miners, which they addressed in substantially the following language: "We have expended nearly half a million dollars in work and in sending Dr. Hubbard to England to interest capitalists there in our enterprise. He has been in the presence of the queen, parliament and nobility, and the result is that a million and a half of English capital is now lying in the vaults of a San Francisco bank, ready to be used in opening up this vast property." After giving his audience a little time to digest those astounding statements, some of which were true, the speaker continued: "More-