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Coast News. CALIFORNIA.

W. E. Hickey, a railroad man, Grete Dalton, Cole Dalton and Jack Parker have been arrested for the Alila attempted train robbery. Express Messenger Haswell, who fired through the door of the car and caused the robbery, is still believed by the railroad men to have killed the fireman and the express company has been forced to take him off the road and give him a position at Los Angeles.

The sale of intoxicants to persons under 18 years of age has been prohibited by law. The senate has passed a woman suffrage bill.

The large barn of John Mezzero, a rancher near Volcano, was destroyed by fire the other night. Eleven head of cattle and a quantity of hay were lost in the flames. The damage was \$1000, on which there was no insurance.

John Mayville was badly burned while putting out a fire in a house of the rancho Chico March 2. The house was damaged to the extent of \$1000.

Charles James, a tramp, stabbed O. J. Halley when the latter ejected him from his saloon at Willows and was arrested.

Julius Dreyfus, a San Francisco drummer, committed suicide at Susanville March 6.

Alfred Christin ended a spree by blowing the top of his head off at Napa March 6.

T. P. Owen has been convicted of horse stealing.

George Stone and Mrs. Green left Leavenworth ten days ago and were arrested at Marysville on warrants sworn out by Mrs. Stone charging her with desertion and Mrs. Green with larceny.

Archibald Freeman, one of the participants in the Moosacanyon tragedy, has been bound over for trial. Justice W. H. Dinwiddie, on whose behalf the officers were acting, is on Freeman's bond.

The striking iron molders have resumed their assaults on non-union men and three were badly beaten March 8.

The accidental board of foreign missions of the Presbyterian church has undertaken a war on the system of holding Chinese girls in slavery in Szechwan.

St. Luke's hospital is to mortgage its property for \$10,000. Several cases of consumption have been declared cured by the use of the Koch lymph in San Francisco.

E. J. Stillwell, an Examiner reporter, paid \$400 to Elwood Bruner, assemblyman from Sacramento, for a place on the San Francisco police force. He did not get it, and has sued for the return of the \$400. Bruner says he knew there was a plot to "down him," and took the money and deposited it with friends to await results. He says he did not know the San Francisco police commissioners and had no places for sale.

An incendiary fire March 3 destroyed J. C. Hoult & Sons' harvester works at Stockton, with twenty-two harvesters.

The county courthouse is lighted with natural gas from the county's own well.

Charles H. Ackerson of Clark County escaped from Dr. Clark's private insane asylum Feb. 22 and his body has been found where he drowned himself.

While standing near a brush fire on her father's place near Fresno the other day the body of Hannah T. Toft, caught fire. The flames were extinguished before any harm was done, but the shock was so great that it undermined the child's health and in a few days she died.

Constable William G. Lane, who got drunk and murdered William G. Lane in a respectable house at San Francisco, was convicted of murder, with a recommendation of imprisonment for life.

The United States brought suit for the forfeiture of the bond of the Fruitvale wine company, whose secretary is in prison for evading the revenue laws, but the suit was lost because the bond was not properly secured.

A sister of the murdered man, John Ivet, has been found in England and will claim a share of his property.

John Sullivan of San Francisco was run over and killed by a train near Merced March 2.

George Tucker, a young man, has been lost in the Cascade mountains east of Eugene, which are covered with snow to the depth of 8 feet. It is three weeks since he disappeared, and all hope of recovering him alive has been given up.

The people of Eugene are pulling hard for a road to the Blue River mines.

An unknown man called Mrs. Martha Hall to her door one evening and stabbed her in the throat, severing the jugular vein by a scratch.

B. N. Boone, a contractor of Port Townsend, while temporarily insane from drink and loss of money, blew his brains out Feb. 26.

The North Yakima City council has sold \$30,000 worth of city bonds to a firm of Chicago bankers for \$27,000.

General News. UNITED STATES.

The Chicago presbytery has voted against desecrating the graves of the two murderers of Chief of Police Hennessy at New Orleans, which were identified by an eye-witness, Police, one of the accused, has also made a partial confession to the effect that the chief was killed by tools of the Mafia.

Twenty-four oystermen, most of them colored, were drowned during a gale on the lower James river in Virginia the last week in February.

Kansas has prohibited the acquisition of land by aliens, if not disposed of within seven years, shall be forfeited to the state.

The railroads of the United States are expected to have a preliminary survey of the proposed North and South American railroads in the country to Brazil, completed in eighteen months.

Seventy million dollars has been expended on the new American navy and \$25,000,000 on the new army.

After a ten-week strike, which made a difference of \$1,000,000 in the wages of the miners in the Monongahela valley, the miners have returned to work and the strike is over.

Charles F. Clark, president; E. M. Baker, secretary; William L. Bishop, Jr., secretary; William L. Depey, treasurer; and Chauncey M. Lee, William Rockefeller and Leverett L. Baker, directors of the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad, have been arrested, charged by a coroner's jury with homicide on account of the explosion in the Fourth avenue tunnel in New York that killed several persons.

White's house at New Limrick, Me., was burned March 6 with his two children in it.

Hunt has been frozen out of the Northern Pacific and secured his roads and a monopoly.

FOREIGN. The Dockers' union has seceded from the Federated Labor union of England.

Another carved woman has been found in London and the fear of Jack the Ripper is again revived.

Italy is practicing retrenchment. The French government has forbidden gambling on horse races.

Carlo Ezeta is elected and installed president of Salvador for the current term, as well as for the next.

The Argentine republic proposes an export duty on meat, hides, hair and other animal products, which constitute the bulk of her exports.

The financial situation there seems to be going from bad to worse.

An immense cotton plantation, under government patronage, is to be established in Russia. It will have a monopoly in Russia and it expects to produce cotton so cheap as to drive American cotton out of the market.

The three queens of the Hervey Islands have prohibited the liquor traffic.

Case V. Willey committed suicide at Carson March 6 on account of domestic trouble.

A wolf killed Robert Chaves' baby at Hillsboro while the family was out driving wolves off from a flock of geese.

Albuquerque will be a city after the April election.

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The Watsonville sugar factory made \$40,000 last year.

A fire started in the postoffice building at Moot the other morning, and before it could be extinguished had burned out a boarding-house and butcher shop. The total damage was \$2100, of which \$500 was secured by insurance.

A. P. Overton contracted with several Santa Rosa business men to pay him a high rent for one of his buildings if he would secure the removal of the postoffice to the vicinity. He got the postoffice. Some of the men refused to pay the rent. He sued for it. The superior court decides that the contracts are void, being against public policy.

Petaluma has an improvement association with a large membership. The Fremont house, the Midget saloon and Grieg & Forrier's warehouse at Fortuna burned March 5. The cause is thought to be incendiary. This is the third time the Fremont house was set on fire. Total loss of all the buildings, which are fully insured.

Collins and Burke, employees at the home for feeble-minded children at Glen Ellen, had a fight March 6 in which one of Burke's eyes was gouged out.

Alexander has been proclaimed king of Serbia.

The German emperor indulges in ugly talk about France and Capri has given notice that he will resign next fall.

Farm Notes. Value of Catnip Trees.

As shade trees they are especially desirable about the home lot. They are of rapid growth, and are easily grown from the seed; their broad leaves while adding much to their beauty are better adapted for shading than those of many other trees; their flowers while in season are both pretty and fragrant; the trees will bear "cutting in" better than most others, and can be pruned even to the trunks every season if desirable, and will not throw out better growth, their vigor is so great. Freshly pruned, they present, the first season, quite a unique appearance with great clusters of tropical-like leaves that soon develop into branches of the most beautiful appearance. Every farmer knows, who has raised the trees, that they make the best fence posts, and that a fence thus pruned will outlast three others, the wood is so indestructible. Branches trimmed from the main stem and used as props for Lima beans in the garden have been in use many years and are as good as ever. It is said to be the firmest and best wood for the use of railroad ties and for whatever use an indestructible wood is needed. Why then should we not grow more catnip trees? They are good shade trees for the street, invaluable at home for the same purpose, while as ornamental trees they have always won favor. I never look at the great trunk of some old catnip tree but I think of the boon it will some day be to the economical fence maker—that is if fences are in vogue in the future.—Vick's Magazine.

She was about 40 years old, perhaps not so much, says the N. Y. Herald, but her face had a look of much and cold experience in the world, a look not at all disguised by the hand-made smile she wore like a veil. She was tall and well-dressed, but just a trifle over-dressed. The reason for this was that she had been a milliner. The Boston express at Bridgeport and steered straight for a seat beside a nice, white-haired old lady, although there were six or seven empty seats in the car.

The old lady had a little girl traveling with her, and the train hadn't left the station before she of the smile had fed the child with candy and asked the old lady if the pretty little girl was her daughter. No. Her granddaughter? How strange! Then she edged up a little closer and turned on an observant talk. How old was the little girl? Five years? How strange! She herself had lost a little girl of just that age—and she had tried to find her home. Didn't the nice old lady love her home? And where was her home? Oh, Sanbury, Mass. Oh, indeed; a most beautiful place to live in. Yes, indeed, she did love home but her own home had been broken up by the death of her child, and how she and her husband were traveling trying to do good to the human race. Didn't the old lady like to do good? Oh, yes, if one had the means; that's very true. And the old lady had some means with which to do good. What good she could? Admirable! Splendid! That's what she of the smile believed in.

About all the floodgates of talk were wide open now, and the stream was flowing smoothly. She of the smile didn't care for money for herself. All they cared for was to do good with their money. It was so charming to meet some one who held the same view. Now, one of the cherished plans for the benefit of the human race was the establishment of the old ladies' home. Was that a beneficent project? Yes indeed. So glad to find the old lady approved of it. We had got together about enough money to begin work. Providence (winking her eyes) had opened a way by which the rest could be secured. The way was this: Years ago her husband had come into possession of a gold mine. It was this mine he was now disposing of at \$100 each. They would be worth \$1,000 each within a year. Then the happy possessor could do just so much more good for the human race.

The train had passed Mott Haven now, and she of the smile was exhibiting considerable nervousness and haste. By the way she had one of the shares with her. Perhaps that nice old lady would like to help along the fund of the home. With that she made a dash for the door and was gone. She was just coming to a stop in the Grand Central station. The nice old lady got up, took her baggage and her granddaughter in her arms and hurried over the still smiling benefactor of the human race.

"I have to thank you, madame," she said, "for the most comforting and pleasant I have spent since coming to New York. I am not quite so green as I look."

The hand-made smile disappeared then for the first time, and left a face that looked ten years older, and what was left of the passengers who watched the little drama with intense interest saw of the nice old lady or she of the smile.

New-Born Infants. According to a Yorkshire (England) notice a new-born child should be placed in the arms of a maiden before it is touched by any one else; and in some instances its right hand is bound in a cloth during the first day of its existence in order that it may gather riches when grown to manhood or womanhood estate. In many parts of the United States, Germany, France and Holland, as well as throughout the British Isles, it is considered very important that an infant should "go up" before it goes down in the world. Thus if a child is born in the lower story of a house it is instantly bundled up by one of the old women and carried up-stairs; if the event occurs in a respectably situated house, it is expected to take the child in her arms and clamber upon the top of the table, bureau, or even a chair, anywhere that she get the little one up in the world.

In the north of England when a child is taken from the house for the first time, it is given an egg—some say a small piece of money—these gifts being supposed to insure the child against ever standing in need of the common necessities of kitchen life. In the East Riding of Yorkshire a few matches are added to light the child to heaven. In Holland, Sweden, Norway, Poland, and parts of Russia, the mother of a new-born babe, if not too poor, provides a small cheese, which is cut in small slices and distributed among the unmarried ladies of the neighborhood. Any young lady who receives her share of the cheese and eats it without asking where it came from and who sent it, will meet her future husband at a cross-roads in a place called "Kitchen Month." In Northumberland a cake called the "dreaming bread" is distributed in the same way, the young ladies who partake of it being supposed to dream of their future husbands the same night. In the United States, as well as in many other countries, a bowl of punch, and a bottle of liquor is placed before an infant the day it is one year old, the object being to test what its after inclinations will be.

An Attempted "Kitchen Robbery." The mistress of a suburban household undertook to relieve her domestic perplexities in an extraordinary way. A second suburban chateaufort was erected one day last week at her window sewing when she saw a carriage with liveried coachman halt at her door. Presuming a messenger, she opened the door, though not recognizing the establishment, she was surprised to see the coachman descend, and, avoiding the main entrance, rattle his keys within a few minutes he reappeared, carrying her cook to the carriage, who she remained for several minutes. The coachman, rattle his keys, and the cook retired, the coachman mounted, and the carriage was driven away. It was a clear, and, to the credit of woman be it said, a most usual case of attempted kitchen robbery. It is satisfactory to be further report that the cook sent such a manifest outrage upon to make the suggestion in her employer.—N. Y. Herald.

It should not be necessary to urge upon him who owns sheep the importance of ridding his flock of ticks or other parasitic insects that annoy them. There seems to be a common but mistaken opinion that only poor, unprofitable animals will get "lousy." Certain individuals in a flock or herd on account of a tender skin or other peculiarities are preferred by the ticks or lice, as the case may be, and in consequence they congregate upon these animals in large numbers. The first step necessary to be taken to get rid of an animal in good condition is to free it of parasites, and this can be so cheaply and easily done by the use of kerosene emulsion, a mixture of kerosene, soap and water, substances that are always at hand, that it seems entirely inexcusable for a man to allow his domestic animals, and his pocket-book as well, to suffer from these causes.—C. P. Gillett, Iowa Experiment Station.

Planting Vineyards at Night. A scene characteristic of California's enterprise and push can be found in the vineyards of Fresno county, where hundreds of men may be seen planting grape vines at night by lantern light. To the wondering observer the vineyard lands seem to be infested with a multitude of huge fireflies, which are darting and moving in every direction. It is claimed by the vineyardists who are planting vines at night that the setting of the stakes can be done much more easily and accurately by the aid of lanterns than in broad daylight; that more work is accomplished by the men in the same number of hours and that a large amount of time is saved. The one set of men work from 9 o'clock in the evening until 6 o'clock in the morning when they are relieved by another relay.—California Fruit Grower.

The question is often asked why popcorn sometimes fails at the critical moment to pop. The trouble is that the corn has either been pulled too green or has become too dry. In the former case the skin would be too tender to retain the heated air until the explosion took place, and in the latter case the skin is so brittle that the air escapes without bursting the kernel. If the corn is too dry, which is most frequently the trouble, immerse the unshelled ears half minute in water and the grains will pop with a delightful exuberance.—California Fruit Grower.

News of a horrible massacre come from Madagascar. Raminasatra, governor of the province of Belanond, resenting a petition from the populace to the government to defend them from cruelties, massacred 276 persons, including men, women and children belonging to the leading families.

The slaughter continued for several days. The agonies of the victims were in many cases protracted. Sometimes their limbs were gradually dismembered, their heads were sawed off, and their bodies thrown to the dogs.

Many of the women were outraged. The survivors were forced to erect a trophy, composed of the heads of the victims. Popular fury has caused the government to announce that the offenders will be punished.

The ladies of Oakland are moving energetically for the establishment of a clinic for the poor.

Smokers should be smart enough to know that the genuine "Best of North Carolina Plug Out" costs them no more than poor tobacco, which some dealers try to force on them.