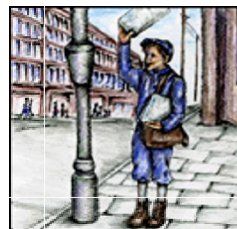




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Sacramento Daily Union, Volume 4, Number 582, 3 February 1853 — .» rating the Street. [ARTICLE]

Filling the Street.

A "Friend to Sacramento" suggests in another column that after a sufficient quantity of brush and old hay are deposited in J street, to go on then and cover it, a foot deep or more, by taking dirt from some unoccupied lot north of I street. The idea is a good one, as it is probably the only means at hand by which a sufficient amount of earth can be obtained to make J street sufficiently firm—in case of rain—for loaded wagons. As intimated, the work could be accomplished in a week's time, and J street put in a condition for business during the remainder of the season. K street could also be filled in the same way.

Should the money already subscribed not prove sufficient, the Council will, we trust, with the assistance of the $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. tax be able to complete what the committee of citizens may leave undone. This matter of filling up the streets is so important that suggestions from all quarters are invited.

"COL. COACHMON, was hard at work all day yesterday. The Independent Corporation has made a good selection in Col. C., and the only regret is, that the present official Chief Magistrate holds by legal tenure, that which popular and sovereign power would give to the chief of the Independent Corporation. The days of the city drones are numbered. Look out, spendthrifts and prodigals!"

Here is another of the *Journal's* effusions. It must have been in a savage mood yesterday.

O dear, what a pity we have not such a man as Col. Coachmon for Mayor. If we had only been so blessed a people, as to have had him for Mayor no fire would have visited us, and had he but stamped his foot and ordered the angry waters to retire within their banks they would have obeyed. We give it up—Colonel Coachmon should have been the man. But the people said not—and we very much fear they would be blind to the colonel's virtues, were he to present himself before them. But there is nothing like trying, and we hope our neighbor will succeed in persuading the Colonel to tender the people the offer of his eminent abilities for the coming municipal year. It would be a consummation devoutly to be wished by the *State Journal*.

As for “drones” and “spendthrifts,” the people turned them all out at the last election, and rumor says some of the *Journal's* friends were found among them. So far as the city authorities are concerned, the race of “drones” and “spendthrifts” is extinct.

Indian Robberies on Dry Creek—Arming of the People—Fights with the Indians, &c.

Mr. J. A. Benson communicates the following particulars of recent difficulties, between the people of his neighborhood and the Dry Creek Indians :

On Friday night last the house of Messrs. Bragg and Drew, situated on the Mokelumne river, near the junction of Dry Creek, was entered and robbed of a large quantity of goods. Mr. Drew, accompanied by another gentleman, went in search of the robbers, and from well founded suspicions entertained, visited an Indian rancheria not far off. Here they discovered a lot of the goods for which they were in search. They asked the Indians to deliver the goods over, as the property of Messrs. Bragg and Drew, which request they refused to comply

Drew, which request they refused to comply with. A Chief of the tribe held a pistol over the head of Mr. Drew in a threatening attitude, and told him "if he didn't leave he would shoot him." Mr. Drew and his companion, not considering it prudent to remain longer, departed.

Information was dispatched throughout the neighborhood of these facts, with a request for an assembling of the whites.

In response to the summons, some sixteen persons assembled together, armed, and proceeded a second time to the Indian village. When the Indians saw them coming they ran from the cover of a thick brush, where they appeared to have been concealed or occupied, and took refuge in their houses. There were about twenty in all. The party of whites informed them that they did not come to fight, but to reclaim the goods. The Indians drew out of their houses, and one of them advanced among the whites. Another of their number was seen to raise a rifle, which he fired on the instant, at one of the party, fifteen or twenty paces off, but did not hit him. The whites returned the fire unanimously, killing two or three of the Indians. They then seized upon an Indian amongst them, who proved the same that had drawn the pistol over the head of Mr. Drew. Having tied him to a tree, while the Indians kept up a fire upon them from their houses, into which they had again retreated, the whites killed him, and withdrew, but not until they had exhausted all their ammunition.

During the retreat, a young man named Gardiner, ignited a box of matches, and, running into the village, set a couple of the Indian shanties on fire, which were entirely consumed. Although several shots were discharged at him,

Although several shots were discharged at him, he succeeded in joining his companions unhurt. The Indians, taking courage by the flight of the whites, sallied out, crossed Dry Creek, and kept firing steadily upon them, till they were nearly half a mile off.

Not deeming themselves sufficiently strong to renew the attack, messengers were dispatched all over the country for more men. A force of 30 or 40 were collected, our informant included, who armed themselves and went back on Saturday to complete their work of driving the Indians off, or exterminating them.

When the augmented force arrived in sight of the Indian village the sun was about an hour high. But five or six Indians were seen, who fled as the party approached. Following in the pursuit, they found that the main body of the tribe had taken refuge on an island in Dry Creek, surrounded on all sides by a broad sheet of water. Having stolen all the boats along that stream or set them adrift the party were unable to approach them. Their position was found to be regularly fortified by the cutting down of brush wood, and piling it up as a breastwork of defence. In reply to inquiries addressed to them from the shore, they said it was their chief who had committed the robbery, and that it was also in accordance with his commands that they had fired upon the whites. They refused to give him up, and said, with true Spartan heroism, that if the whites desired to secure him "they must come and take him."

In reply to this insolence the whites again fired upon them. The fire was promptly returned, the Indians showing great bravery, and venturing to the very water's edge to discharge their pieces. Their bullets rattled about the heads of the whites in every direction, and to

heads of the whites in every direction, and to protect themselves, they were compelled to adopt the shelter of trees, logs, &c.

Night closing in, the party retreated, leaving the Indians masters of the field.

When Mr. Benson left, the whites were collecting in still greater force to make a third attack. In the meantime men were stationed along the Creek, at proper intervals, to keep a watch upon the movements of the enemy. Mr. Benson had himself served one whole night on duty, and thinks that the Indians are securely trapped.

None of the whites were killed in the different sallies, while it is believed that the Indians lost several of their number. When the Indians made their first sally upon the whites, crossing Dry Creek in the pursuit, they proceeded to the house of a farmer residing near, and plundered his house. Success seemed to delight and embolden them very much, and should they be suffered to remain in their present fortified position, it is believed that their robberies and murders will become common throughout the neighborhood. Mr. Benson has promised to keep us advised of the various proceedings adopted against the Indians, which shall be given to the reader as early as practicable after their receipt. The rascals have exhibited a courage which will secure their inevitable destruction; and although many may desire this result, the brave man will both pity and admire their fate, after the assumption of so bold a defiance in a populous country, where every man who is not a fellow Indian, is a foe.

THE COST OF GRADING.—In stating the probable amount it would cost to grade the streets,

yesterday we gave the amount at \$250,000, upon the information of others. For the object we then had in view, we did not deem it necessary to go into an estimate of our own. Since then our attention has been called to the subject by a gentleman who is conversant with it, who made the estimate in our presence, and we are now glad to learn that to grade the streets to the height of three feet will not cost over \$2,500 to the block, making the estimate at \$1 the cubic yard. But we are told that it will be undertaken for less than that, for cash payments. At this rate, all the streets needed for business could be graded for less than \$100,000.

We are gratified that the various suggestions made by ourselves and others, have had the effect of calling the attention of those interested and experienced in such matters to the subject, and resulted in bringing out estimates and propositions which can be relied upon.

All that is now needed to secure the grading of our streets, in a permanent manner, is, for the property holders to petition the Council, under the charter, to have the improvement made, and they would then be authorised to go forward and advertise for proposals, and let the job immediately. This would insure the work in time to have the streets well beaten down before another rainy season.