



powered by



A Freely Accessible Repository
of Digitized California
Newspapers from 1846 to the
Present

Sacramento Daily Union, Volume 6, Number 881, 18 January 1854 — Legislative Cnrrp^ondence. .
[ARTICLE]

Legislative Correspondence.

Benicia, Jan. 16, 1854.

BENICIA, Jan. 16, 1854.

Patrick Henry said on a memorable occasion, that there was "no lamp by which his feet were guided but the lamp of experience," and that "judging by the past, he should like to know what there was in the conduct of the British Ministry to justify those hopes with which members were pleased to solace themselves and the house."

By a species of paraphrase, I apply this language to the past and existing state of affairs in the California Legislature. Since Benicia was first selected as the seat of government, it has ever been a rule among members, after adjourning over from Saturday, to lose a day in the beginning of the week following. The opponents of removal have contended that although such a practice prevailed heretofore, it could not find imitators in the present legislative body, composed, as it is, of men of sterling worth, eager for a reform of all popular abuses. To-day's experience has proven their argument a fallacy. The hopes with "which they have been pleased to solace themselves" are dissipated; and the wise aphorism of the patriotic Henry, rises like a spectre to condemn—not only the credulity which could nurse such a belief, but the defective logic which advanced it to sustain a bad cause.

At roll call in the Assembly no quorum was found present. It was suggested, by taking a recess of an hour, that a sufficient number of members could be brought together to form one. The Chair very correctly decided that in the absence of a quorum no motion could be entertained under the rules, and adjourned the House over till to-morrow morning.

In the Senate a like deficiency prevailed. A motion to take a recess till one o'clock was there entertained (erroneously as I must think) by the Speaker, and prevailed. On coming together again at one

and prevailed. On coming together again at one o'clock, the roll was called, and the Senate still found to be deficient a quorum. Mr. Coffroth suggested sending the Door-keeper after absentees, which was done. In the meantime the Senate sat silently awaiting the issue. After some twenty minutes' delay, the Door-keeper returned, bringing with him two or three delinquents, which made up the necessary number, and the Chair announced the regular order of business. Before anything could be done, however, two or three Senators retired from the chamber, and the jig was up—the quorum was destroyed. A declaration of the fact from the Chair, induced Mr. Sprague to move an adjournment. The sequel to the day's history may be summed up in the simple statement—loss to the State of between \$1,800 and \$2,000.

You have doubtless seen the San Francisco *Herald*, and read its account of an attempt made to bribe the Senator from Butte, by purchasing his vote for Broderick as the next United States Senator. As yet, the people here are in possession of no more light on the subject than that article emits, further than it is rumored (with what foundation of fact I am not prepared to say) that the person offering the bribe is a partner in a banking firm in San Francisco. The Senator from Butte (Mr. Peck) and Mr. Broderick came up to Benicia this morning on the Helen Hensley. The former was not in his seat at roll call—while the latter appeared on the floor of the Senate (by courtesy) at that hour. It is thought that some action will be had in the Senate on the subject to-morrow.

Mr. Fairfax, Speaker of the Assembly, lies on a sick bed at San Francisco.

A heavy rain and high wind visited Benicia last night. This morning a bright sun shone out, but the wind, as is its custom here, honored the sunshine by howling through it to the last.

To-morrow the capital question will come up regularly in the Senate, and unless some postponement is demanded, be made the order of the day in Committee of the Whole. B.

THE BRIBERY CASE. — The San Francisco *Herald* corrects its former statement of this case as follows :

"In the statement concerning the bribery case, published in yesterday's *Herald*, the person charged with the offence is said to have offered, through the gentleman first approached, an additional five thousand dollars for the vote of a Senator from one of the northern districts. This is incorrect. Five thousand dollars was the entire sum offered, and the proposition, according to the statement of the Sena-

tor from Butte, was substantially as follows: that five thousand dollars should be 'counted down' to him on condition that he voted to bring on the Senatorial election this session; and furthermore, should use every effort to induce another member of the Senate, from one of the northern districts, to vote in the same way. We have seen the gentleman who drew up the statement of the Senator from Butte, at the dictation of the latter, in the form of an affidavit. It has not as yet been sworn to, and we presume the gentleman intends to give a history of the affair in the Senate to-day, and bring it in this manner before the public.

A BRIDGE.—The residents on Powell street, near Clay, San Francisco, have constructed a foot bridge over the latter street at an elevation of nearly twenty feet.

THE SEA BIRD.—The steamer Sea Bird will resume her regular trips between San Francisco and San Diego, about the 1st of February. She has recently been thoroughly overhauled and repaired, and workmen are now engaged in putting in a new boiler which arrived by the ship Telassar.—*Chronicle*.

STABBING AFFRAY.—A Chinaman named Cum-kee, who keeps a washing establishment on Kearny street near Pacific, was stabbed last evening, about five o'clock, by a man named Cammeron, near the termination of the Plank road leading to the Presidio.—*S. F. Courier*.

FIRE.—At 9 o'clock Sunday morning, the residence of Mr. Fairchild, on Pine street, near Clay, San Francisco, was burned. The fire originated from a defect in the chimney. Estimated loss one thousand dollars.

DEBUT.—Madame Anna Thillon, the celebrated cantatrice, was to have made her debut on Monday night, at the Metropolitan, San Francisco, in the opera of the "Crown Diamonds." There had been a great demand for seats.

SNOW-BALLING.—Snow fell at Marysville on Monday morning, and continued long enough to enable the citizens to indulge in a little

to enable the citizens to indulge in a little snow-balling.

COLD.—The thermometer stood at 25 deg. on Sunday morning at Marysville.

OUTSIDE.—For original poetry, "A Sacramento Song," together with a synopsis of the Report of the Secretary of the Interior, see first page.

FROM LOWER CALIFORNIA.—The San Francisco *Picayune* says—"We are informed that the sloop of war Portsmouth is preparing to weigh anchor and proceed to Lower California in pursuance of orders from the Government, immediately upon the arrival of the Golden Gate." And the *Evening Journal*—"We are informed by Lieut. F. Stanley, commanding officer United States ship Warren, that no orders have been received by the Portsmouth, to proceed to Lower California. The Portsmouth has come to San Francisco for the sole purpose of going into the dry dock."

FIRE.—At 6 o'clock this morning, a fire broke out in the Chelsea Laundry, at the corner of Third and Folsom street, owned by Messrs. Goudy & Co. The mangling, folding and drying rooms were entirely consumed, with their contents, principally belonging to Wilson's Exchange, Tehama and Niantic Hotels. Loss amounting to \$1,500, which the proprietors of Laundry intend to replace immediately.

The business of this establishment will be suspended but one day. The enterprising proprietors have already a large number of workmen on the premises and a building erected, which will be ready for a commencement of the their operations to-morrow.

Messrs. Goudy & Co. express their warmest gratitude for the promptness of the Knickerbocker, No. 5, and California, No. 4, who were the only companies on the spot.

The Chief Engineer, Charles P. Duane, was first at the fire, and rendered most efficient aid.

Another alarm about half-past 9 o'clock, was occasioned by the burning of the California Brewery, on Pacific street, near Stockton. No serious damage was done.—*San Francisco*

5 serious damage was done.
Evening News, Monday.

INDIAN TROUBLES AT RED BLUFFS.—We learn from Mr. J. E. Magary, Adams & Co.'s messenger between this city and Shasta, that on Friday night last, a party of Indians made a descent upon the ranch of Mr. Rand, near Red Bluffs, and drove off six head of cattle.—They also stole a horse and cow from another ranch in the vicinity.—*Marysville Express.*

MONDAY at the Bay rain, clouds and sunshine; a small slice of each alternately. Streets very muddy. Rather blue.