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Daily Alta California, Volume 5, Number 193, 14 July 1854 — DESTRUCTIVE CONFLAGRATION IN SACRAMENTO! [ARTICLE]

DESTRUCTIVE CONFLAGRATION IN SACRAMENTO!

TWELVE BLOCKS BURNED.

Loss \$400,000!

CAUSE, &c., &c., &c.

BY MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH

[TO THE ALTA CALIFORNIA.]

SACRAMENTO, July 13—11 P. M.

(From the Sacramento Union Extra.)

On Thursday, at about 1 P. M., a fire broke out in this city, which in extent and destructiveness has only been surpassed by the terrible conflagration of Nov. 2, 1852. There were fortunately three favorable causes operating to check the spread of the flames, viz.: the little wind prevailing, fire-proof buildings and an abundance of water—the latter, unquestionably, was the means of saving the greater portion of the city.

The fire originated in a small frame building in the centre of the block bounded by 3d, I, 4th and K streets. It is said that the fire was caused by the upsetting of a spirit lamp, under a pot of glue, in the rear of Newcomb's furniture warehouse. Other rumors, of various kinds, are also in circulation, but we believe the above to be correct.

Owing to the combustible nature of the material, the fire immediately communicated to the kitchen of the Sacramento Hotel, which faces on K street. Although this building ignited in 15 minutes after the alarm was given, Sacramento No. 3 Engine and Mutual Hook and Ladder No. 1, were at work manfully on the centre of the block, and owing to their exertions the fire was prevented from crossing Third street.

Simultaneously with the breaking out of the fire in the rear of Sacramento Hotel, was the ignition of the frame building of Boyd & Davis, on the alley between Third and Fourth streets, and instantly thereafter the Crescent

City Hotel caught, and from this point the flames, fanned by the southerly breezes, rapidly swept up J and across to I street.

On K street were stationed Engines No. 1, 4 and 2, and Hook and Ladder Co. No. 2. To their almost superhuman efforts the fire was prevented from crossing K street.

There is not a single house burnt on the south side of K street or west of 3d street.

Fortunately there was a full supply of water for the use of the Department in the densely crowded streets, and to their manly exertions, coupled with those of our citizens, are we indebted for the safety of an immense amount of property which would otherwise have fallen a prey to the devastating element.

But four brick buildings have been destroyed, and those would have been saved had they been protected by iron shutters.

After the fire had crossed J street and forced its way to I street, the wind increased very materially, blowing from the S. W., which blew the flames up the latter street, sweeping everything before it up as far as the Court House, which, we sincerely regret to say, was totally consumed. Before this, however, the fire ran down 5th and 6th streets towards I, and burned the Congregational Church edifice, which so nobly withstood the ravages of the November fire. Every precaution was taken to save this building, and the cause of its ignition is a mystery, as the flames were first seen bursting from the interior of this edifice. It is supposed by many that some fiend had set it on fire in the confusion which prevailed, for the purpose of extending the ravages of the conflagration.

All the legal documents and the papers in the Court House were rescued and carried to secure places.

With the exception of the Congregational Church, none of the houses of religious worship were destroyed.

No. 4 Engine House, and two brick buildings on 5th st., between J and K, was burned in the early part of the fire, also a brick building adjoining. They were not considered fire-proof.

We are happy to record no positive loss of life, although it is currently reported that a man at work on the roof of the Congregational Church was precipitated into the flames when the building fell in. Mr. Anderson, of the firm of Anderson, Hunter & Co., received a deep gash in the leg while at work. Mr. Johnson, of the firm of...

Hull & Johnson, was nearly prostrated by a coup de soleil, but is recovering. W. B. Hult, Assistant Foreman of No. 1, had his arm broken. Mr. McDowell, a member of same Company, was badly burned. Mr. W. H. Allen, a volunteer member of the same Co., was also burned. A man was discovered setting fire to Garwood's building on J street, between Fifth and Sixth streets, but the villain managed to escape.

As an evidence of the indomitable energy of the Sacramentonians, we will state that at five o'clock in the afternoon, Mr. Craft had his lumber on the site of his dwelling, destroyed on 5th street, between J and K, and was busily engaged in re-erecting it.

Although nearly all of the buildings burned by the tremendous conflagration were frame buildings of little value, yet many of them were stored with large and valuable stocks of goods, and consequently the losses are very heavy on I street. Very many handsome, valuable dwellings were consumed, which were an ornament to the city. On this street, between 5th and 6th streets, nearly all of the Chinamen were located, and not one of their tenements escaped. In fact, there are but two buildings standing on the north of slough side of I street, between 3d and 4th. This entirely escaped the great fire of 1852. On the south side of I street, between 3d and 7th, there were but three or four frames spared.

The burnt district is comprised within the following limits, although in the space embraced in the following boundaries there are many fire-proof and frame buildings left standing: K street, north side, from above 3rd to 7th; I street from above 3rd to 7th, both sides; 4th and 5th, 6th and 7th, and K to I street, both sides; I street from 3rd to 7th.

The wood on some 12 blocks are mostly consumed, including all the small houses which stood on the alleys, and it is estimated that about 200 houses have been burned. Most of these houses were small, and many of them but little better than shells. The largest buildings were the Oriental Hotel, American House, old Court House, New England House, State House, Mr. Benton's Church, the Suwana House and Crescent City Hotel.

We hear of no heavy stock of goods destroyed. The large dealers are all in the fire-proof stores, not one of which are destroyed. The loss, including buildings and goods, is estimated to be between \$300,000 and \$400,000.

The *W. G. Hunt* arrived at 11 o'clock, P. M., bringing the San Francisco firemen to the rescue. Although too late to be of service, they met with a glorious reception from our firemen.

from our hiremen.

Supreme Court—Present: Judges Murray and Heydenfeldt.

SAN JOSE, July 13—10 P.M.

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Mody & Moody vs. McDonald—Cause reinstated and submitted.
Clarke vs. Perry—Diminution of record submitted; suggested, and leave given to withdraw record for amendment.

Chamberlain et al vs. Lombard et al—Called, and no parties appeared: continued.

Morey vs. Shubrick—Argued and submitted.
Kutzener vs. Warner et al—Argued and submitted.

Fines vs. Whiton et al—Argued and submitted.
Rowe & Dunn vs. Kohle—Argued and submitted.

Wellman vs. Stevens—Petition for rehearing denied.
Shaeffer vs. Bear River and Auburn Water and Mining Co—Submitted on briefs.

Sturgis vs. Karny & Ingoldsby—Submitted on briefs.

Allen vs. Phelps & Shirley—By consent, submitted on briefs.
Mershon vs. Randall—Argued by respondent, and submitted.

DEATH OF MR. CUSHEN.—John Cushen, the man who was shot with a pistol in the hands of a man named Wm. Slown, on the evening of July 3d, in this city, died yesterday morning from the effects of his wound. The following is the verdict of the Coroner's Jury:

From the evidence received, we, the jurors, render the following verdict: That John Cushen came to his death by a pistol ball, accidentally discharged from a pistol held in the hand of Wm. Slown.—*S. J. Republican.*

ANOTHER ACCIDENT.—Yesterday morning, a gentleman named Tiernay was passing down California street, near by a brick building in the course of construction, unfortunately just at the moment when a man chanced to be ascending a ladder with a hod of bricks on his shoulder. The scaffolding gave way, and a barrel, which had been used for an upright or support to some part of the scaffolding, fell and struck him on the shoulder, inflicting some severe bruises on his person. The injuries, however, are stated not to be of a very serious nature.

LADIES PROTECTION AND RELIEF SOCIETY.—We received at a late hour last night—too late for publication this morning—a copy of the first annual report of the above society. To-morrow we shall endeavor to give at least an abstract of it.

FIRE AT BENICIA.—There is a rumor afloat that there was an extensive fire at Benicia yesterday, but it was found impossible to glean any particulars; consequently, we are prevented from laying them before the public in to-day's issue.

STEAMBOAT LAUNCH.—The steamboat *Enterprise* was launched at Rincon Point yesterday afternoon, and went off in good style. There were about three hundred spectators present, all of whom were interested in the launch.

tators present, all of whom were invited to partake of a cold collation at a house near by, after the interesting ceremony was concluded.

THE STEAMER SOUTHERNER leaves Long Wharf tomorrow, at 4 o'clock, for San Diego and intermediate ports. The freight and passage rates by this steamer have been greatly reduced, and her accommodations are excellent.

FURNITURE SALE.—Attention is directed to the sale of household furniture, by Theodore Payne & Co, to take place to-day at their salesroom at 11 o'clock.

We are indebted to Adams & Co's Express for the early delivery of Stockton and Marysville papers last night.

KERN RIVER.—THE TEJON RESERVATION.—We take the following interesting letter from the San Joaquin Republican :

TEJON MILITARY RESERVE, }
Tulare County, July 1, 1854. }

DEAR SIR: Captain Howard and myself arrived here on the 20th June. Our march from the Merced to this place was rather slow, in consequence of being encumbered by a party of would-be miners, of Stockton, on their way to the new El Dorado, on Kern river.

We met several parties returning from the new diggings, and the universal answer to our several questions was, "Oh, there is gold on Kern river, but not enough to pay me." I afterwards ascertained, on arriving at the river, that but a few of these persons had done anything; being mostly men of the stamp that will not work under any circumstances. Many of them never stuck a pick in the ground, not even dismounting from their half-starved, raw-boned old horses.

However, the reports as first circulated were highly colored. There are about twenty-five men working on the river at present, who intend working two and three cent dirt, until the river falls, when they expect to find richer deposits. Three cents to the pan is the most that has been found as yet, and there is only one party working dirt that rich—the others only two cent dirt. The river is very high, and they expect to do better when the water subsides sufficiently to enable them to reach the bed rock. I think, however, that they will be disappointed in the water falling low enough for their purposes, as Kern river is known to remain high longer than any tributary of the San Joaquin. Its south fork, which heads in Walker's Pass, is fed by almost perpetual snows, and its north fork, which has its head among the highest peaks of the Sierra Nevada, is a roaring torrent the greater part of the year. So, to take all things into consideration, those persons who expect to find a fortune in a day, or dirt richer than three cents to the pan, had better stay at home.

Matters go on handsomely at the Indian Reservation. The harvest is all gathered, and the threshing machine is doing its work of separation. It is indeed a most lovely and interesting sight to observe parties of Indians in their various occupations, working with the utmost cheerfulness and alacrity; some driving four and six mule teams, some feeding the threshing machine, and others attending the large crops of corn, potatoes, and water-melons. The wheat crop is the best I have ever seen this year. A

wheat crop is the best I have ever seen this year. A small portion of the yield has produced as much as *seventy bushels to the acre*, and the whole crop will average thirty five bushels to the acre. The barley crop being sown late, is rather light, especially that part of it sown latest. The value of the present crop, according to Los Angeles prices, is estimated at from \$300,000 to \$400,000; it is certainly an enormous crop, considering the lateness of the season at which operations were commenced.

" " The Indians are arriving daily in small parties, and are immediately reported to Mr. Bishop the worthy superintendent of the farm, who is not long in finding them employment. A more happy set of beings it has never been my lot to see; and although each tribe speak a different dialect, such a thing as a fight or quarrel has never happened among them.

Capt. Howard and myself intend starting, as soon as our horses are sufficiently rested, on a short tour of exploration to Owens Lake and the desert beyond the Sierra Nevada, and return through Walker's Pass. You may expect us in Stockton about the 1st of August.

Very respectfully, yours, &c.,

P. E. CONNOR.

To Jas. M. Scofield, Esq., Stockton.

MURDER IN NEVADA COUNTY.—By a telegraphic dispatch to the Sacramento Union, dated Nevada, July 12th we learn the following particulars of a murder.

About 1 o'clock P. M., to-day, a man by the name of Thomas Amerson entered a cabin on Virgin Flat, one mile below Jefferson, on the South Yuba river, occupied by James Tinder and G. D. Barney. Mr. T., being a short distance from the cabin, heard three pistol shots and the cry of Barney. He hastened to the house, just in time to see Amerson drawing his knife from the breast of Barney. On calling upon Amerson to desist, he fired three shots at him, but none of them took effect. Barney received three shots and five stabs, and was dead before any assistance could be obtained. The supposed cause was robbery, as there was no knowledge of any difficulty existing between the parties. The murderer has escaped. He is a man about 24 years old, dark complexion, black eyes, dark hair, and about five feet ten inches high. He is a muscular man and weighs about 180 pounds, an American, and from Alabama.

LATER FROM CARSON VALLEY.—Mr. John McMarlin, a trader at Gold Canon, in Carson Valley, has arrived in this city, having left home on the 7th instant.

On the 5th an ox team came into the valley from the Eastern States, having crossed the Mississippi on the 9th of April.

The grist and saw-mill of Barnett & Co. is rapidly progressing towards completion.

The valley is almost entirely laid out in farms and ranches, and considerable amounts of wheat and barley will be harvested this season. The yield of the former grain, it is thought will be sufficiently great to meet the home consumption.—*Union*.

SHOOTING AT FOREST CITY.—We are informed that a street fight took place at Forest City, Sierra county, on the evening of the 9th July, inst., between two men by the name of Lutts and Snow. It appears that previous to the time of the fight spoken of above, they had some difficulty, and Lutts was stabbed. They again met last night—a quarrel ensued—then a fight, in which Lutts was shot in two places—the first entering the right

...two places—the first entering the right shoulder, and the second one somewhere below the ribs, on the right side. But little hopes are entertained of his recovery. Neither of the balls have been extracted.—*State Journal.*

STEAM SAW MILL BURNED.—We learned yesterday that the steam saw mill owned by Messrs. Hoag, Holse & Co., and known as the Pacific Mill, situated about two miles from Diamond Springs, El Dorado, was burned on Monday night, together with about 200,000 feet of lumber. The loss is estimated at \$15,000. The mill is supposed to have been set on fire by an incendiary.—*State Jour.*