

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

U. G. Knight Writes Reassuringly of That Locality—No Earthquake Damage There.

SAN PEDRO, Cal., May 1, 1906.

EDITOR CHIEF—It has been advised in this part of the state of California that everyone either write to his friends in the east or to his home paper and tell the truth of the late earthquake scare regarding southern California. As it would take a long time to write to all of my acquaintances the best way to reach them is through the columns of THE CHIEF.

I suppose you all have heard ere this that the quake did not visit southern California. The first reports were so conflicting in regard to it that many got an idea that it was general when in fact it was only in that portion of the state where San Francisco and the immediately surrounding territory is.

The shock was not felt in the slightest degree here neither at that time nor at any time afterwards. The following day there was a slight trembling of the earth in this part of the country but it did no damage, and, indeed, was scarcely felt at all. I did not feel it at all and would not have known that there was a shake if others had not told me.

Many papers in the east had the report that Los Angeles was shaken and that San Pedro was under water, when such a thing, as regards the latter, is practically impossible as the main portion of the town sits on higher ground than does many other cities farther away from the coast.

The shock at San Francisco was certainly bad enough, but even it has been greatly exaggerated. Especially has the loss of life been over-drawn. At one time the loss of life was reported to have been 10,000 people, but it has now been reduced to much less than 1000. In fact there have been less than 300 bodies discovered and in all probability it is less than 500 altogether.

When I first heard of the disaster I was seized with a great desire to go up and see for myself what it looked like there but could not get away to go for a day or so and by that time reports had come down that the soldiers there were pressing men into hard work at the point of a gun and if they didn't work they were shot and right there my wife objected to my going. She said she didn't want me to be killed—so I gave up the trip. I have since wondered what some of my old Nebraska friends would have done had they been there in that case: Bert Grier, or Ben McFarland, for instance. Died like heroes I suppose.

It may not be generally known, although it seems like it should be, that San Francisco is 500 miles from Los Angeles or San Pedro so that the possibility of an earthquake is just about as good at Denver or Kansas City as it is here, taking proximity into consideration. In fact there never has been a shock here in this portion of the state which was any worse than I have felt them in Nebraska.

An earthquake shock itself is almost incapable of causing damage if it occurs where there are no high brick or stone buildings. The quake itself does no harm but the fires which follow the falling of high buildings is what does the damage. A shock was never known to hurt a small frame building well put together, other than to jar the plastering loose perhaps. But when it gets to heaving where there are skyscrapers look out for damages.

There were several Red Cloud people in San Francisco at the time of the shock that I know of and I am anxious to hear from them, but do not feel alarmed as to their safety because there were so few deaths.

A great many of the people from the stricken city have come to this part of the state now. The railroads brought down 10,000 the first few days free and since then there have been a good many. I have talked with a number of them and some of the stories they tell are harrowing to a great degree. The loss of property is the greatest calamity which has befallen

the nation in many years. The insurance companies state that they will pay every dollar of their losses and it is most sincerely hoped that it is true.

Southern California is still booming. The immigration this spring was far in excess of what it ever was before. Building of all kinds is going on at a great rate. Wages are good and artisans hard to get. All kinds of labor bring good prices. Here at San Pedro, which is a harbor town, sailors get \$40 and \$45 per month before the mast and are hard to get at that. What is termed Longshoremen, or men who help to discharge vessels, get 45 cents per hour and work nine hours per day. It is not hard work either, mostly unloading lumber and many a time I have seen four men lifting a piece of cribbing an inch thick, four inches wide and twelve feet long. Of course when a heavier stick is to be taken off they have to lift it just the same.

San Pedro is a town of probably 7000 people and growing very fast. At least two million feet of lumber is discharged from vessels here every day besides much other freight. The payroll of the town is over \$100,000 per month. But for all that the greatest business is sale of real estate. Last week, in the face of the disaster in the northern city, there was over \$100,000 worth of property changed hands. Engineers are now employed on what is termed "The Outer Harbor" which will entail a cost of three million dollars to build and must be built inside the next two years.

The country is very prosperous here this year and crops will be immense. All of the former Webster county people—and there are a large number here—seem to be prosperous and happy. Indeed some of them have done remarkably well and have waxed fat from the richness of the country since coming. I seldom go to Los Angeles—24 miles from here—without seeing one or two and sometimes more old acquaintances of Red Cloud, Guide Rock or Inavale. There are also a number here from Riverton.

When I first came to this town I purchased an interest in a daily paper but I found there was what the boys term "too much grief," in other words hard work, connected with it, so I sold and am now on the staff of one of the great Los Angeles dailies and have an easier time and as much money. We live here in San Pedro and I do my work here. As we have access to the city by electric car about every fifteen minutes it is considered almost in the suburbs—and today Los Angeles is the largest city west of the Mississippi river. It is well worth a trip to see by anyone. Very respectfully,
U. G. KNIGHT.

We have also received a letter from Mrs. E. B. Knight at Compton, Cal., which is near Los Angeles, giving about the same report as above, and telling of the relief work. In addition, Mrs. Knight has some other interesting things to say about her new home, as follows:

"Flowers are more beautiful here than ever. The first week in April we drove out in the country two miles to buy a cow, and the roses were wonderful to behold. One man gave us a half bushel of roses and orange blossoms. We are finding people from Nebraska all the time. Old Mr. Seeley, formerly of Red Cloud, made us a call the other day. He is 90 years and his wife is 80. They live with their daughter, Mrs. Lossing, in Compton. Also Mr. Patmor, once a resident of Red Cloud, made us a visit. He said he was going back to that city next month to make a visit.

"A couple of weeks ago we drove into Los Angeles, and a lovely drive it is of ten miles. There is an oiled road, free from dust, smooth and level, bordered on each side with fine residences, green lawns and flowers, orange trees in blossoms, and great fields of blackberries, besides in some places tall fir and eucalyptus trees. We greatly enjoyed the drive.

"We are very well situated here. The climate is fine. I have not seen snow or ice since I came into this

state. We had a good deal of rain during the winter and up to the middle of April, but do not expect any more until next October. We have here plenty of water to irrigate with, and, taken altogether, we are well satisfied with our new home."

A KNOTTY PROBLEM.

The Pedler of Groceries a Hard Nut for Local Merchants to Crack.

If any one business suffers more than another from the pedler nuisance it is the grocery trade. No one can blame these peddlers for their part in the business—it is their way of earning their bread and butter. If they can go from house to house and convince people that they are saving them money, the people will buy.

The fault lies largely with the home merchant, who, as a rule, makes little or no effort to convince his customers that he can sell goods as cheaply as Hillecock, Hitch & Co., or any other retail house. The man who makes a house to house canvass inevitably has the advantage of the man who sits in his store and waits for the customers to come to him.

There are two ways of meeting this competition. One way is for the local merchant to send solicitors into the country and from house to house in town, showing his goods and making prices that will put the foreign pedler out of business.

However, there is another cheaper and better way. The columns of the Red Cloud papers are open to the local grocers, and by advertising their willingness to meet the prices of these eastern houses they can reach every family in the vicinity. A glance at the home papers will show which merchants are making an effort to counteract the baneful influence of the mail order man.

You don't hear of any one sending away from Red Cloud for their clothing.

Why? Because Red Cloud has two of the best managed clothing stores in Nebraska. Paul Storey and the Cowden-Kaley Clothing Company have been persistent and consistent advertisers in the newspapers for years, and as a consequence have built a reputation for selling good clothing at bedrock prices which brings them trade from many miles in every direction, even as far west as McCook.

During the past week a certain grocery pedler, who has been working in this vicinity for some time, openly boasted that he had sold \$2,700 worth of goods here in the past three weeks. While we have some doubts as to the correctness of the figures, the amount has undoubtedly been large. The profits from these sales, instead of being added to the wealth of the city and county, have gone into the coffers of a Chicago concern which pays no taxes here and contributes absolutely nothing to the upbuilding of the community.

While one may possibly buy some articles cheaper from the pedler than from the home merchant, the loss will be made up on something else. Another point to be looked at is that you can always see what you are getting when buying at home, and if goods are unsatisfactory they can be returned. You can't do this with the mail order house. Neither can you get credit from them when you are hard up.

How to Use a Road Drag.

The Illinois highway commission has issued a bulletin on the split-log drag which contains these instructions for its manipulation:

The following points are to be borne in mind in dragging a road:

Make a light drag, which is hauled over the road at an angle so that a small amount of earth is pushed to the center of the road.

Drive the team at a walk.

Ride on the drag; do not walk alongside.

Begin at one side of the road or wheel track returning on the opposite side.

Drag the road as soon after rain as possible, but not when the mud is in such a condition as to stick to the drag.

Do not drag a dry road. Drag when possible at all seasons of the year. If a road is dragged immediately before a cold spell it will freeze in a smooth condition.

The width of traveled way to be maintained by the drag should be from eighteen to twenty feet; first drag a little more than the width of a single wheel track then gradually increase until desired width is obtained.

Always drag a little earth towards the center of the road until it is raised from ten to twelve inches above the edges of the traveled way.

The amount of earth that the drag will carry along can be very considerably controlled by the driver, accordingly as he stands near the cutting end or away from it.

When the roads are first dragged after a very muddy spell the wagons should drive if possible to one side until the roadway has a chance to freeze or partially dry out.

The best results from dragging are obtained only by repeated applications.

Remember that constant attention is necessary to maintain an earth road in its best condition.

TEACHERS ELECTED.

Several Changes Made in the Corps of Teachers—Salaries Raised—Buildings to Be Inspected.

The old school board met Monday evening and finished up the year's business, following which the new board was organized. Present, V. B. Fulton, L. H. Fort, J. O. Caldwell, E. J. Overing and R. F. Raines. Absent, W. A. Sherwood.

V. B. Fulton was elected chairman and L. H. Fort secretary of the new board.

The following teachers were elected for the ensuing year:

Superintendent—G. W. Dudley.
High School—Miss Mamie Ellis, principal; Miss Jessie Ducker, assistant.

First Ward—Miss Ada Skjelver, principal; fifth and sixth grades, Miss Viola Ward; third and fourth grades, Miss Mattie Abel; first and second grades, Miss Alice L. Coombs.

Second Ward—Seventh and eighth grades: Mrs. Hulda Saylor; fifth and sixth grades, Miss Blanche Pope; third and fourth grades, Miss Mabel Beckwith; first and second grades, Miss Winifred Perkins; primary, Miss Winnie Sherman.

Misses Inez Ellis, Mildred Thompson and Myrl Gittings were not candidates for re-election.

On motion the salary of the principal of the high school was fixed at not to exceed \$65 per month.

On motion it was decided that all teachers not having a normal training be required to take a normal course this summer.

The salaries of Misses Perkins and Beckwith were raised to \$45 per month.

The salary of Miss Ducker, assistant principal of the high school, was raised to \$60 per month.

Dr. Raines and J. O. Caldwell were appointed a committee to investigate the condition of the school buildings and report at the next meeting of the board.

Detective Arrested.

The defense in the Strohm case sprang a surprise on the prosecution Wednesday evening when they caused the arrest of Detective Morgan, who was here as a witness in the case which was to have come up Thursday. Morgan was charged with having stolen a jug of whisky from Strohm, who swore to the complaint. He was taken before Judge Reed and released on bond.

Have you weakness of any kind stomach, back, or any organs of the body? Don't dope yourself with ordinary medicine. Hollister's Rocky Mountain tea is the supreme curative power. 35 cents tea or tablets. C. L. Cotting.

STROHM CASE CONTINUED.

Waifle Jury Disagrees—Mrs. Howard Gets Verdict Against the City For Small Amount.

This has been a busy week in the district court, though without results in the more important cases.

THE STROHM CASE.

Not since the Barker trial has there been so much interest taken in a case in this county as has been shown in the case of A. E. Strohm, the Inavale druggist, who was arrested a few weeks ago on a charge of selling liquor illegally. The case came up for hearing Thursday morning, but on motion of the defendant's attorney a continuance was granted until the September term, owing to the illness of Mrs. Strohm, wife of the defendant, who is one of the most important witnesses for the defense. About half the population of Inavale precinct came down to the county seat Thursday to be present at the trial. The sentiment up there is very strong against Strohm, and it is probable the law-and-order league will not rest until a conviction is secured.

MRS. HOWARD GETS VERDICT.

Mrs. H. A. Howard, who sued the city for \$3,000 for injuries sustained by falling from a walk in front of the Holland house about three and a half years ago, was allowed \$100 the jury after being out for several hours. The evidence showed contributory negligence on the part of the complainant, but the jury evidently thought the lady was entitled to something for the pain of body and mind which she had endured. However, the amount of damages awarded will hardly pay her share of the costs in the case.

DISAGREEMENT IN WAUFILE CASE.

The jury in the case of the State vs. Pearl Waufle was discharged Wednesday afternoon at 4 o'clock, after having been out for forty-eight hours without reaching an agreement. The evidence in the case was submitted two weeks ago just before Judge Adams, adjourned court. Last Monday the jury listened to the arguments of the attorneys and the case was given into their hands that afternoon with the aforementioned result.

The complaining witness in the case was Miss Minnie Shaw, a nineteen-year-old girl living near Bladen, who told a remarkable tale concerning the circumstances under which the alleged crime was committed. On the other hand, Waufle, who is a young man of twenty-three or twenty-four years, had several witnesses on hand to prove that the complainant had left him immediately after they had returned from an automobile ride, and that she had gone away with another man. In view of the fact that there is no possibility of a conviction, it is doubtful if the case will ever come to trial again.

That Water Tax.

It seems that Jeff Ward is not the only person who wants pay for collecting the water tax. At the last meeting of the city council City Treasurer Butler presented a claim for \$112 as payment, at the established rate of 10 per cent, for the water tax which he himself had collected. While the ordinance provides that the water commissioner shall collect the tax, something over a year ago the council adopted a resolution that water consumers should pay their dues to the city treasurer. However, the council failed to provide for compensating the city treasurer for his labor. Mr. Butler considered the matter and came to the conclusion that if the council had so much money to spare there was no reason why he should have some of it. However, his claim was laid over for further consideration by the council.

Charged With Assault.

Shortly after Judge Adams continued the Strohm liquor case yesterday, a warrant was sworn out for Strohm's arrest on the charge of assaulting Rev. Hill of Inavale. He was taken before Judge Edson, who fined him \$10 and costs, amounting in all to about \$14.50. Strohm paid his fine and was released.