

COAST AND BAY-SIDE NEWS.

Events of a Week as Recorded by Correspondents.

Salmon Fishing at Pigeon Point.

The Pacific Oil Company Give an Order for Two Derriks.

Correspondence TIMES-GAZETTE.
PESCADERO.—Alexander Moore has recovered from his sickness and on February 2d will celebrate his golden wedding, having been married just fifty years. The couple bid fair to enjoy a diamond wedding—seventy-five years—with a host of grandchildren climbing round their knee.
Santa Cruz Sentinel: Pascal Sonognini, who drove the Pescadero stage before it passed into the ownership of the Littlefield Brothers, has built himself a home at the forks of Big creek and Scotts creek. The old stage barn has been converted into one of practical use, and grubbing and fence-building is going usually on.

A PISCATORIAL ECLOGUE.

Hip! Hip! Hurrah! We welcome the boat—
That old Pescadero has struck to sea.
For all of us thought—was positive, too—
That we were all "down on our luck."
But Neptune has taken a hand in the game—
He has staked all the fish in the sea.
But we raked in the salmon and lost the old man.
Through his trident well sharpened may be.
There's Triton, his son, and a Nereid, too,
Our skill at the game came to naught.
But we beat them in trolling (they each used a spear).
And our salmon were largest and best.
Fish! Fish where the ocean upheaves
To the shore in countless array:
There are salmon, and salmon—that dearest
To be seen on our tables each day.

—GARDNER.

The neighborhood of Pescadero was greatly stirred by the report and subsequent evidence from Pigeon Point that salmon of the largest size (possibly from Alaska) were being caught with hook and line in abundance there by the whalers and others. A stampede was therefore made for that locality. Fish-lines and hooks for that class of piscatory sport were in great demand; boats were loosened from their davits, or other temporary resting-places, and drawn to the shore on farm wagons, while the landmen waited expectantly for the return of the hardy mariners with their load of "speckled beauties." They did not wait long, for soon upon the silver sands of the shore the boats grated and ground, cracked and groaned with the heavy load of salmon—the best, largest and handsomest denizens of the deep that had ever put in at Pescaderian limits for repairs. A school of smelt or herring filled the little bay, where once in all her glory of disaster lay the steamship Colombia, and these tempted the larger genus *salmo* to wander from their accustomed paths into a warm region. The herring are caught by the thousands with a cluster of hooks on a line and are considered very delicate food, so we are not surprised that the avidity shown by the big fish for the tempting morsel is very great, nor at the truthfulness of the "survival of the fittest" in this case. On Friday of last week one brought in over thirty beauties, one weighing 53 pounds, while another, which has now grown the table of James McCormick, the fast-freight man, weighed 33 pounds, and many turned the scale at from 30 to as high as 53 pounds. On Sunday the crowd of fishers was very large, and the number of fish caught was in proportion. The sport has every evidence of lasting many days. The herring hover near the shore and draw the larger fish in so near that several have been caught from the wharf with hook and line. At the point the fishermen are selling salmon for 1 cent per pound, while others are supplying their friends with the choice treat of fresh salmon in their baked homes throughout the country. Baked, boiled, fried, or cooked in any other way, the salmon is in every way worthy the attention of professional and brain workers, owing to their value as brain food, while there are but few who fail to appreciate the almost boneless meat when set before them steaming from a hot oven.

Come over! Come over and see us—
We'll set before you a dish:
Then you'll better appreciate
What we have to say about fish.

HALEFMOON BAY.

Mrs. Angelo Bortano returned home from San Jose last week.
J. S. Wiley left the coast last week for the gold fields at Randsburg.
Miss Marie Antoinette Marsh of Oakland is the guest of her sister, Mrs. Herbert Luff.
Everything is booming on the coast, with good prospects for a large flow of coal from the Standard Oil Company's well.
Dr. Charles McCarthy, formerly of this place, has opened an office in San Francisco, where he will treat the eye, ear and throat.
Mr. Baron, master mechanic of the Twelfth Light-house district, has paid the fog signal a visit and has put everything in first-class order.
H. A. Schofield, one of the managers of the Pacific Oil Company, was on the coast last week. His firm has given two orders to William Hughes for two derricks to be used on the Taylor ranch. Operations are to be commenced as soon as the lumber can be sawed.
The San Francisco Examiner of January 25th contained a long article concerning the discovery of a live snake found in a lump of coal by Peter Zabala, a former Halfmoon Bay boy, who is a fireman at the Bernal water works, Oakland. Those who investigated the strange affair say the reptile had been in the coal when it was mined at Corral Hollow.

SAN MATEO J.

William Bartlett is visiting his sister, Miss Elith Bartlett, in Santa Cruz.
"F. H. O." is said to be the initials letters of "The Skillet Kettle Kettle Black."
Tuesday night next, Haskett Smith will lecture and illustrate with the stereopticon for the benefit of the Episcopal Sunday-school fund. The lecturer has a residence near Jerusalem.
Stephen Rathbun and wife are both dangerously ill with la grippe. Dr. Goodspeed, the attending physician, has very little hopes for their recovery, as both are well advanced in years.
George W. Chandler, formerly engaged in the lumber business in this county, but now residing at Santa Cruz, is very ill with the la grippe. Dr. Goodspeed was called over to Santa Cruz to see him, professionally, this week.
The local building and loan association held its annual meeting last Monday in Charles N. Kirkbride's law office. Re-

ports were presented showing that its assets were over \$4000 and that the profits last year were in excess of 10 per cent.

The family of Supervisor Dodge of San Francisco are now domiciled among us for the season. The doctor and wife reside at the Occidental. Miss Lamson has the home here, having come up from the orange groves in the sunny south for a change.

The Merry Few Dramatic club will give an entertainment next Friday evening in Library hall. A farce in one act, entitled "The Old Fashioned Husbands," will be presented, to be followed by a dance. The local band will furnish the music. Admission 50 cents; children 25 cents.

List of unclaimed letters in the San Mateo, Cal., postoffice, January 25, 1897: Mrs. Nancy Carpenter, Mrs. R. A. Donaldson, J. H. Hughes, Miss Blanche Kneeder, Miss E. H. Kneeder, Mrs. Martha Kneeder, William Malone Jr., William Phillips, L. R. Pendleton—2, Miss Clara Schumacher.

In digging a bank of shell away in the heart of the town Wisnom's workmen exhumed the bones of several specimens of the Aborigines. A very fine specimen, the headpiece, belonging to an adult, was the object of speculation among the schoolboys and girls. They hugged it as if it were a pigskin. Not much superstition among California youngsters.

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO.

Robert Wisnom of San Mateo was in town on Monday.
Mr. Neff's new building on Cypress avenue is looming up in fine shape.

District Attorney Walker and Under Sheriff Mansfield paid our town a brief visit on Monday.

J. P. Newman's new residence on Commercial avenue is progressing towards completion rapidly.

A large delegation from the First Town-ship were in attendance upon the grand jury on Wednesday.

Mark Develin, for many years a resident of Colma, died in San Francisco on Monday last.

The Jersey Farm Company received 2000 sacks of barley by schooner and a cargo of ground barley by the steamer Caroline this week.

The athletic club held forth at the railroad depot at present, but is looking for a location and will soon secure permanent quarters up town.

Charles McCuen arrived from Southern California on Friday of last week in ill health and is a guest at the home of his brother, W. J. McCuen.

The Baden Gun club held a meeting at the courtroom on Wednesday evening. The club now numbers fifty-three members and will soon institute trap-shooting for the diversion and benefit of its members.

Henry Michenfelder will give a ball and musical concert on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the opening of the Armour hotel this evening. In addition to dancing and refreshments the guests will be treated to a vocal and instrumental concert.

Mrs. E. E. Cunningham went up to the city on Saturday last to attend the wedding of two of her highly esteemed friends, Professor Muller and Mrs. Hermina Kuhl, who were married in San Francisco on January 23d. In this instance the high contracting parties were united in the afternoon of life after an acquaintance and warm friendship dating from early childhood. The happy bride and groom have a large circle of friends in the city and the wedding presents were numerous and varied.

MILLBRAE.

John P. Cullen of Redwood called on old friends here Monday.

Miss Grace Dearborn of Woodside is the guest of the Misses McNulty.

J. C. Robb left for Newman, Stanislaus county, on a business trip Tuesday.

Charles Barboza and family have left Millbrae and taken up their abode in San Francisco.

Several of our citizens were called to the county seat this week on matters pertaining to the grand jury.

A large hay barn owned by G. Furrer was burned to the ground last Friday night. The cause of the fire is unknown. The building was fully insured.

A neat four-room cottage is being erected for Mrs. Lee of San Francisco on her property near the schoolhouse. William Meyer, the contractor, hopes to have the building ready for occupancy by March 1st.

COLMA.

The gripe is becoming rather offensive of late in and about Colma. Now is the time "to look a little out" and not go walking evenings barefooted and bareheaded or, which is still worse, with nothing on at all—too often the custom of some of our city belles—extending a flattering invitation to Mr. Gripe.

The individual who appeared in Colma a few days since, with sunny blue eyes and a story collar, was not Thomas Hagan, as some supposed, but was Dave Cooney who was here in the interest of a little Cooney who had turned prodigal because of an unsolicited application of his mother's slipper upon parts more tender than his conscience. So he resolved to test the alternative of "padding his own canoe."

The Mount Olivet Cemetery Company is said to have a line of electric cars into and through the cemetery grounds. This is to be a branch of the Joost line at Fourth avenue and F street. It will be an important branch, as it will accommodate the travel via the San Francisco railroad, whose station will be on the corner of F street and Fourth avenue. The company is fully awake to the rapid advancement and best interest of their laudable enterprise.

Dr. L. M. Cole of Alameda was in Colma this week on a professional visit. The doctor has had the proud satisfaction of wrestling from the grave many untimely victims whom other physicians have consigned to the inevitable. This demonstrates the good results of using care with science, which many physicians overlook, thinking it quite enough to "dope" the patient with medicine, then leave him, leaving him to live or die, as fate may determine.

A beautiful aquarium of about two acres has been formed by the erection of an embankment along the main thoroughfare in front of Cypress Lawn cemetery. The swamp land lying between the road and the cemetery having been excavated, forms the basin of the lake, and an island has been neatly raised in the center. This island has been converted into a flower garden and dedicated to the common use of both tame and wild water fowl, which sport upon this beautiful lake and rest in

social harmony among the flowers. The soil released from mortal tenement must surely stop its snowy wings to view this lovely scene. Cypress Lawn—beautiful rest for those who sleep—relieved of gloom by living green and fragrant flowers, and breezes fraught with hope eternal, commingling with the stately realm beyond, invites the weary soul from mortal care and strife to rest in the bosom of love.

Public Installation.

The officers of General George S. Evans Corps, No. 36, G. A. R., were installed in the presence of members of the order and invited guests Friday evening of last week by Mrs. D. Sampson. There was a short program rendered after the installation ceremony, remarks by some of the visitors and refreshments were served by the members. The following officers were installed: Mrs. Saunders, president; Mrs. Murch, senior vice-president; Mrs. Fox, junior vice-president; Mrs. Poole, secretary; Mrs. Steller, treasurer; Mrs. Costello, chaplain; Mrs. Cooper, conductor; Mrs. Cook, assistant conductor; Mrs. Groner, guard; Mrs. Loye, assistant guard.

LOCAL OBSERVATIONS.

Don't forget the entertainment and dance to be given by the San Mateo band. Will Glennan won the suit in Thell's suit club Wednesday evening. No. 1 was the lucky number.

Saturday evening, February 13th, is the date set for the entertainment to be given for the benefit of the sisters of Notre Dame convent.

Dan Mullin's dancing school every Tuesday evening in Old Fellows hall at 7:30 o'clock. Admission, gentlemen 50 cents; ladies free.

New flooring has been put down in the bar-room of the Redwood City house and other improvements commenced that will make the saloon the neatest in town.

G. A. Thell, through the real estate agency of George W. Love, has purchased a lot 60x100 feet facing on Walnut avenue, in the Sweeney addition. The lot is contiguous to Mr. Thell's property on Main street.

Charles Impersonal, having stocked the Crystal Palace with choice wines, liquors and cigars, will open the well-known saloon next Monday. He invites all his friends to call and sample his fine brands of liquor.

Qua Ehnman, F. Cricknell, J. Fitzgerald and Peter Gillogley of the First Township were before the grand jury Wednesday and gave testimony in regard to the claim of E. H. Dennmann that was rejected some time ago by the Board of Supervisors. The witnesses swore that the work specified in the claim was never performed.

PERSONAL MENTION.

Simon Small departed for New York Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Claxton leave for San Francisco next week.

Supervisor Adair of Pescadero was a visitor at the county seat Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. G. G. Einstein celebrated the fifth anniversary of their wedding this week.

Claus Hader's popular clerk, Jake Rouppe, is confined to his room with an attack of la grippe.

John Miller, former proprietor of the Redwood City house, came up from Hollister Tuesday.

Ira P. Good, representing the Paris Medicine Company of St. Louis, was in Redwood Saturday in the interest of his firm.

L. S. Sears of La Honda came over Wednesday and remained long enough to hear a few choice selections from Princevalle's graphophone.

B. A. Rankin, the popular clerk of the Capitol hotel who has been confined to his room for the past two weeks, is able to be up and around.

Percy V. Long, one of the grand trustees of the Native Sons, was here Wednesday on legal business. Mr. Long will be one of the shining lights of the grand parlor that convenes here in April.

Hilliary Connor of Mill Valley stopped over at Redwood City for a few hours yesterday while on his way home from San Jose. Mr. Connor expects to soon engage in business. He is slated for the position of postmaster of that thriving little town.

List of Grand Jurors.

Yesterday Judge Buck made an order designating the following grand jurors to act for the next twelve months: First Township—Jason Wright, A. M. Easton, J. Jorgensen, William Richberg, John Biggio and B. McGonigle. Second Township—J. T. Jennings, P. Swift, J. R. Walker, B. Sheehan and John Lee. Third Township—John Hanly, L. Sampson, John Solen, S. Christensen, John Dielman, John Curran, James Stafford, B. D. Weeks, M. K. Doyle, W. L. Coffey, M. F. Duff and F. W. Slicker. Fourth Township—J. H. Howins, Frank Martin, John Valleda and James Moran. Fifth Township—Joseph McCormick, A. J. Goulson and John Kinnear.

The Rig Was Stolen.

Two small boys, supposed to have run away from home, were arrested by Town Marshal Christ Wednesday evening. The boys were accompanied by three elder youths. Mr. Christ learned that they came to town in a light rig. On Wednesday afternoon he located it near his residence, on the island. The boys stole the rig in San Francisco and came to Redwood to dispose of it. The San Francisco police department was notified of the arrest, and on Thursday evening Isaac Aspin of that city arrived here and identified the property as his.

Band Entertainment.

The San Mateo band boys will give an entertainment in the Alhambra next Saturday evening. Half of the proceeds will go to the entertainment fund of the Native Sons. The very best of San Francisco talent is on the evening's program, so aside from the worthy object of the entertainment those who attend will get their money's worth. After the entertainment the hall will be cleared for dancing. From 7 p. m. to 8 p. m. an open-air concert will be given in front of the theater. Admission to entertainment 50 cents.

Watchman Gunning III.

Nightwatchman Gunning has been confined to his home since Sunday with an attack of la grippe. He is now slowly convalescing and expects soon to be on duty. Every night for over a year Mr. Gunning has been found at his post of duty and is as regular as a clock and as faithful as his regular. Constable Barton is acting in his stead.

Take the Call and the TIMES-GAZETTE

for one year for \$6.50.

AN EXHAUSTIVE REPORT.

The Grand Jury Recommends Many Needed Reforms.

A SUPERVISORIAL SHAKE-UP.

Offices That Should Be Abolished.

Game to Be Protected—School Funds are Squandered—Board of Education is Exonerated.

The Grand Jury met Tuesday and remained in session until Thursday afternoon. The report of the expert was carefully perused by the members. It contains ninety-two pages of closely written matter, and is too voluminous for publication or even to make excerpts from and do it justice. Following is the Grand Jury report:

First—In regard to communication number one, the Board of Health, etc., the Grand Jury examined witnesses, and upon the advice of the District Attorney that the facts presented involved no criminal offense, concluded that no criminal action could be brought against anyone involved, and decided to call the attention of the Board of Supervisors to the matter, asking them to take such steps as in their judgment they deem best. A special meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called for the purpose of considering the utility of the Board of Health, as also to take action under Section 5, and the matters therein referred to.

The action taken by the Board of Supervisors resulted in the suspension of the salaries paid to the Board of Health for the time being, awaiting the action of the Legislature upon matters pertaining to Boards of Health.

Second—In regard to communication No. 2, the attention of the County Clerk and Recorder is called to the statutes relating to the compulsory record of births, marriages and deaths, with recommendation that the law in that respect be strictly enforced.

As to communication No. 3, we would use a greater strictness in the issuance of burial permits, and in all cases of death would require either a physician's or Coroner's certificate, as laid down by the law in all in the thereto.

Fourth—With regard to communication 4, relating to violations of law by persons who had built dams on creeks without providing proper fishways, the Grand Jury decided to recommend to the Board of Supervisors the appointment of a Fish and Game warden to see that the laws are properly enforced.

Fifth—In regard to communication 5, a special meeting of the Board of Supervisors was requested by the Grand Jury for the purpose of allowing a suitable sum to the Grand Jury for the employment of an expert to make examination of the examination papers and schools of the county. At this meeting of the Board of Supervisors the Board of Health matter was also taken up, as heretofore mentioned.

The Board of Supervisors made an allowance of \$300 for the purpose of employing such expert. His report is made a part of our report, and we fully endorse the same, and request that a copy thereof be sent to the Superintendent of Schools of the county, to carry out the recommendations therein contained.

Sixth—In regard to communication 6, the illegal collection of constable and justice's fees, witnesses were examined with reference to the illegal collection of millage, as specified in the report of our expert, and the District Attorney is instructed to recover all fees illegally collected by these constables.

Seventh—As to communication 7, we recommend that the Sheriff be paid the actual cost of boarding prisoners, not to exceed 25c per day.

Eighth—In regard to the purchase of supplies for the county farm and hospital, we would recommend that all supplies used in said farm and hospital be purchased from the contractors thereof, that if supplies of the kind and quality contracted for in amount greater than and in addition to the amount contracted for be required, they be purchased from the contractors, and that the superintendent be instructed in future to purchase only from such contractors. That the strict letter of the contract with respect to the delivery at the County Farm of the quantity and quality of supplies contracted for be sacred.

We would call attention to the following, which we deem of importance to the citizens of the county:

We call attention to the fact that Section 18 of Article IX of the State Constitution, relating to expenses for each fiscal year has been repeatedly violated, as more fully appears in said report. We would draw especial attention to the condition of the Third Road District fund, as also more fully appears in the statement which is made a part of this report.

We strongly indorse the recommendation of the former Grand Jury and urge as strongly as in our power the working of prisoners in such manner as they may see fit.

In regard to the Board of Health, the Grand Jury recommends that the position of secretary thereof, salary \$50 per month, be abolished.

With regard to the Horticultural Commissioner, it was the unanimous opinion of the Grand Jury that that office be abolished, it being of no practical value to the taxpayers of the county.

In regard to the County Superintendent of Schools, we would recommend a careful perusal of the facts and figures laid down by our expert. We would call particular attention to the excess of Superintendent's ledger over the Treasurer's and Auditor's books, the amount being \$3701.85.

Our expert had not the time to go back over the accounts for years and find out the precise origin of the difference. We believe it would be money well expended to employ an expert to discover the origin of this discrepancy, and would so recommend.

Section 921 of the Political Code, which declares that State, County, Township and City officers must not be vendors at any purchase made by them in their official capacity, has been repeatedly violated by the school trustees in several school districts of the county. We would urge the School Superintendent to refuse to draw any requisition for purchases where it is evident that this law has not been observed.

The great difference in the relative amounts expended by the school trustees for school supplies, as authorized by Section 1620 of the Political Code leads the

Grand Jury to offer the following recommendation: That in future the Board of Supervisors advertise for bids for school supplies, and that when such supplies are required in a school district regulation be made, and the School Superintendent will then obtain the articles needed from the parties receiving the contract.

The collection of poll taxes in the county should be more carefully done, and we recommend the abolition of the road poll tax.

The collection of personal property tax seems to be loose and we believe more vigilance should be exercised in the collection of the same.

We recommend that the Board of Supervisors furnish the Assessor with a better equipment in the way of maps and plat books, the present equipment being insufficient.

In the matter of the Tax Collector's office we believe that greater diligence should be exercised in the collection of merchants' and liquor licenses, particularly the latter.

In the Auditor's office we believe a more strict compliance with the law in regard to the transferring of balances remaining in the funds should be observed.

We believe that the recommendation of our expert that no extra compensation be paid the Auditor for rendering a statement showing the financial condition of the county at different times is a fair one, as the salary of the Auditor is paid him for such work.

We find the office of the County Clerk and Recorder in good condition, and have nothing to add to the report of our expert.

In regard to the County Farm and Hospital, in the report of our expert, we fully concur and wish to add to this report a preliminary report rendered by him on December 14, 1896, which we wish to have considered as made a part of this report. We find the County Farm well kept, but recommend that accounts be more fully itemized.

With reference to the office of the Public Administrator and Coroner we have nothing to add to the report of our expert.

We indorse the recommendation of our expert to change the meeting day of the Board of Supervisors from the first Monday in each month to the Wednesday following the first Monday in each month, for the reasons set forth in his report.

We fully indorse the recommendations of former Grand Jurors and urge as strongly as in our power the working of prisoners confined in the county jail on misdemeanor charges in such manner as to the Board of Supervisors may be deemed advisable.

We respectfully ask the Superior Judge to pass as soon as convenient his opinion in the fee matter of Justice, which is hereby submitted to him for his decision.

We strongly recommend to the Board of Supervisors that they furnish the Justices' offices throughout the county with the necessary fee books, affidavit blanks and other necessary stationery.

We find a great many overcharges in the claims of 1896, which we would direct the District Attorney to see are properly refunded.

In regard to the County Surveyor's office we indorse the recommendation of our expert.

We recommend that the Board of Supervisors obtain from the Poundkeepers in their several districts reports as to their operations during the year last past.

We recommend that the suggestions of our expert in regard to transfers made to correct errors or misappropriations of funds be carried into effect.

The Grand Jury recommend that a suitable fund be set aside at the beginning of each fiscal year, to be called the "Bridge Fund," and that payments for lumber be made out of this fund, and not out of the general fund, as has heretofore been the practice.

In the case of the following county officers we recommend that new official bonds be given, changes having taken place since the giving of such bonds, arising from the death or other disqualification of one or more of such officers which, in the judgment of the Grand Jury, necessitates the giving of such new bonds: J. J. Brown, Supervisor Second Township; F. M. Granger, Tax Collector; James Hanlon, Justice of the Peace Third Township; C. D. Hayward, Assessor; H. W. Walker, District Attorney; J. F. Johnston, Recorder; W. P. McEvoy, Sheriff, and P. P. Chamberlain, Treasurer.

It is the opinion of the Grand Jury that the letter of the law be carried out in the matter of the deposit of the county funds and that said funds, if kept in a bank, be kept there as special deposits.

We believe that it would be of advantage to the county to establish a fund to pay off the bonded indebtedness of the county, which fund shall not be touched for any other purpose.

The Grand Jury is in possession of evidence that tools, lumber and appurtenances belonging to the county are in the possession of private individuals. We would respectfully call the attention of the Board of Supervisors to this state of affairs and direct them to take such steps as may be necessary toward the recovery of such county property.

The Grand Jury believes that a great many bills in the First Township, although sworn to and certified, are incorrect, inasmuch as more work has been paid for than has been actually performed. We believe the Supervisor of that township is responsible for these frauds, for not having properly investigated and scrutinized the claims in his district. We believe, therefore, that the late Supervisor should be strongly censured for his neglect of duty.

The Grand Jury recommends that the expert's report be published.

EXPERT BEATTIE'S REPORT.

The County Board of Education Completely Exonerated.

G. W. Beattie, the expert employed to investigate the examination papers passed on by the County Board of Education last June, makes a lengthy report to the Grand Jury, wherein he completely exonerates the Board of Education and commends its work.

In reference to the examination papers, he says: "There is not the slightest evidence in the papers that the county board were willing to do injustice to any pupil in the examination. The papers presented covered about four thousand pages of foolscap and in marking so many answers it would be strange if no discrepancies and irregularities appeared. Irregularities in marking can be found, but they are fre-

quently in favor of Redwood City pupils. There is nothing to indicate a general disposition to favor the pupils of one town rather than another. I have been assisted in the work by Mr. Floyd R. Watson, a teacher of experience and a fellow student in the university. He has made a careful review of all the arithmetic papers, assuming them to be representative, and as a result finds: Number of cases where too little credit was given—Redwood 11, Menlo 8, San Mateo 4, Halfmoon Bay 10, Pescadero 9, other districts 6; number of cases where too much credit was given—Redwood 12, Menlo 6, San Mateo 4, Halfmoon Bay 2, Pescadero 4, others 2. A correction of these errors was found to have no effect on the passing of the pupils."

"The course of study adopted by your county board in 1894," says the expert, "was decidedly superior to the ones in use in many counties in the State at the time it was framed."

On the examination held in June he makes the following criticisms: "First—It was too long. Five questions on a subject would have answered the purpose fully as well as ten. Second—Too great a proportion of the examination was on mathematical lines. The introduction of simple algebra and concrete geometry in the seventh or eighth grades can be accomplished only by substituting them for a portion of the arithmetic that formerly found a place in those grades, as many of the commercial applications, etc. It should not be an addition to the old requirements. For this reason arithmetic questions 4 and 5, in my opinion, are objectionable, while No. 2 comes more naturally under the head of simple algebra. Mental arithmetic is mainly valuable for developing the principles of fractions and, I think, should not be made to cover so wide a range as is given to it in the questions on that branch."

THEY MEAN BUSINESS.

The Pacific Oil Company to Spend \$100,000 on the Coast Side.

It is learned on excellent authority that the Pacific Oil Company is to expend \$100,000 in the oil region on the coast. The company has bonded a strip of country about six miles in length, running from Bell View to Purissima, and are sending a vast amount of machinery to that locality.

Four large boilers weighing three tons each and several tons of heavy rope arrived at the depot from San Francisco Wednesday. The following day William Hughes, who has the contract for hauling, had two of the boilers sent to Purissima and the others to different points in the oil district. Mr. Hughes expects forty tons of machinery here within the next ten days and has employed men and teams to carry it to its destination.

Mr. Felton says the sample of oil received from Bell View is of a superior quality and has no doubt but sufficient quantities can be secured to justify the outlay of large capital. The Senator is sure that there is a large oil belt on the coast, and if it can be tapped that region will experience a boom far beyond its most rosy anticipations.

The State Normal school at San Jose held its commencement exercises yesterday afternoon. Among those who were given their sheepskins was Miss Bertha Kuck, who has attended the school for the past three years, completing a full course. Miss Kuck is the first young lady here to graduate from the institution. She is now a full-fledged schoolmarm, thoroughly equipped mentally and morally to enter upon the duties of her chosen profession. Accomplished and well drilled in pedagogy Miss Kuck is certain to meet with success.

As a token of the friendship which has long existed between the families of the late Senator Stanford and Bishop J. P. Newman, Methodist Episcopal Bishop of California, Mrs. Stanford gave a reception in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Newman Tuesday afternoon at her Nob Hill residence in San Francisco. Fifteen hundred invitations were issued. The gathering was the most notable of the kind ever assembled in San Francisco society, the clergy and learned professions being well represented. This is the first time since the death of the Senator that Mrs. Stanford has opened the portals of her mansion to society of the metropolis.

The death of Mrs. Mary E. Flood has cast a gloom of sorrow over the big mansion that was the scene of many brilliant entertainments during the lifetime of the bonanza king. Mrs. Flood's death Wednesday was wholly unexpected. It was only last Sunday that she, accompanied by her daughter, arrived from San Francisco on the noon train and walked to her residence and appeared to be in the best of health and spirits. Much speculation is ripe as to what will be done with the residence here. It is rumored that it will pass into the possession of the Sisters of Mercy, who will turn it into a training school for girls. The estate will be probated in this county.

A male gossip is a curse to any community. Menlo Park is thus afflicted, in having a fellow preambulating its streets who is anything but an accomplished prevaricator, being a common every-day kurt of a liar. One can pardon an artist's liar, but when it comes to a coarse slithering-mouthed liar the conviction is universal that such a nuisance ought to be suppressed. It would take a man with a cast-iron stomach to gag such a liar, for the fellow's breath is putrid. A man with an ordinary stomach would be knocked out by the stench if he attempted the gagging process on such a fellow. The nose of the gossip in question turns up—the only thing about him which points heavenward—but it does not wear off, even by being everlastingly poked into other people's business, for it is tougher than the snout of the oldest hog on any ranch in San Mateo county. The fellow is mean enough to use the wart on the back of his neck for a collar-button; but he is so busy about the affairs of his neighbors that he has no time to put on a clean shirt, so goes it shirtless. You