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SENT A POINTED ANSWER.

Reply of the Miners to Land Agent Mills' Form of Agreement.

A LETTER THAT PUZZLED.

The Executive Committee Winds Up Its Business to Report to the Convention.

The executive committee of the California Miners' Association held its last meeting before the convention Monday evening. The chairmen of the several committees reported; several matters of more than ordinary interest to the association were discussed and a keenly caustic answer to Land Agent Mills' form of agreement was read. Present were: Chairman J. H. Neff, W. W. Montague, R. K. Thornton, J. M. Wright, J. J. Crawford, Thomas H. Churchill, Daniel T. Cole, A. Carrigan, Julius Boessing, A. G. Myer, J. W. G. Maxwell, Thomas Flaherty, Thomas Hughes, Thomas V. Reardan, A. H. Ricketts, T. L. Ford and W. C. Ralston.

A. H. Ricketts, chairman of the committee on the protection of mineral lands, read his answer, in which he officially notified Land Agent Mills of the association's refusal to accept or consider the printed his form of agreement submitted under date of September 17.

The committee based its action on the following reasons:

First—To propose nowhere specifically the terms of the submission of any lands whatever to the consideration of the mineral commission, whereas it is the judgment of this committee that all the unpatented lands should be submitted to such inspection.

Second—To propose that the chief function of the commission is to "receive applications for non-mineral land entries and affidavits," whereas it is the judgment of this committee that the decision of such commission should be restrictive as to which of such lands are mineral and which are not, and not merely ministerial, and you are again confronted by the unwarranted assumption that you can thus deprive miners of their rights of prior occupancy which is inherent in the miners of California.

Chairman Ford, on the legislative committee, reported the prospects of the hydraulic miners improving. The Legislature set aside $250,000 for their benefit and the governor will call an extra session of Congress. At present the committee is working to get several amendments to the statutes that will benefit miners.

Chairman Carrigan of the committee on by-laws reported that the principal change contemplated in them was to make the headquarters permanently in San Francisco counties, he stated, bore the brunt of paying for the association's existence. He proposed to introduce an amendment calling for annual dues to be paid by the different counties according to the San Francisco and by the State mining companies belonging to the association. He suggested that individual miners be exempted from paying dues.

Chairman Montague of the finance committee reported that the financial future of the association was rosy, but the glow had hardly begun yet.

He stated that the San Francisco merchants were all highly interested in the Miners' Association and wanted it kept up. They had promised good contributions.

Daniel Cole suggested that the counties of the State be called on to contribute to the Miners' Association fund just as they contributed to the annual agricultural fairs.

J. M. Wright called the committee's attention to the fact that E. M. Benjamin was not the proper person to represent them for the association and that he had sworn to the protests on mineral lands against the railroad company. He said that the matter might look a little odd on the record and he suggested that it be straightened out so that nobody could question the motives of the association in the least for the sense of the committee as to how the commissioner should be appointed.

After some discussion a motion was carried that Mr. Benjamin's appointment as commissioner be accepted on all lands where he had not sworn to the protests.

The committee will meet again on Monday, when the miners will meet in their regular convention. There will probably be about 400 delegates present.

Yesterday afternoon the legislative committee held a long meeting in the office of Mr. Ford, the chairman, preparing the report which will be submitted to the convention. The report will suggest many important changes in the present mining laws. One feature that brought out considerable discussion was a clause in the Caminetti law by which fines and imprisonment could follow a violation of the law, even if the violation was committed in a spirit of ignorance or carelessness rather than criminal intent. This criminal clause excited the wrath of miners at the time, but the bill would have been killed outright had there been a protest. Steps will be taken to have the objectionable clause stricken out or at least modified.

MILLS WAS SENSITIVE.

He Writes a Letter That Puzzles John M. Wright.

Several of the prominent miners are puzzling themselves over a letter sent yesterday by William H. Mills to John M. Wright. The letter reads:

John M. Wright Esq., Mills Building—DEAR SIR: A statement appears in the morning papers to the effect that I went to an out-spoken miner and requested him to withdraw a proposed congressional action regarding the classification of mineral lands. To avoid any misunderstanding in regard to the true import of this misrepresentation, will you kindly correct that statement? Our meeting was quite informal, and I had no thought of any official action in the matter other than to listen to you. If anything I understand was said which was responsible for the misstatement which has been made in this matter, but which at your hands the mercy of its correction. WILLIAM H. MILLS.

After studying over the letter for a while three interested in the coming Miners' Convention and the attitude of the railroad toward miners came to the conclusion that something had reached Mr. Mills' ears which was not true, and that a "cold down" from Mr. Huntington for some remark made or attributed to Mr. Mills. It is understood that Mr. Huntington, too, has ideas, and he might take exception to Mr. Mills' talking any gags or expressing any opinions contrary to his own.

In order to put Mr. Mills right at headquarters Mr. Wright sent the annexed answer:

W. H. Mills—DEAR SIR: I have not been able to find the newspaper statement you refer to, but the fact is as you state it, namely, our meeting was quite informal, and no action of Congressional action in the premises was suggested by me. I recollect further that I stated to you that I was not in favor of any interview with you, as which time you expressed unwillingness to entertain the matter.

On whether, however, you expressed a willingness to take up the subject with a view to reaching an agreement, upon a bill to be submitted for Congressional action.

I am in favor of such agreement as to which of us first reached the matter, as it seems to me to be the proper course and in the line of good citizenship. Yours very truly,

JOHN M. WRIGHT.

TAXES COMING IN.

No Anxiety Felt About the Suit Over the Levy.

Tax Collector Block began the regular collection of taxes yesterday. There was not much of a rush to the counter, but enough to show that people were paying little or no attention to the question of the legality of the tax levy. Should the court decide that it is illegal tax-payers will be credited with the money they have paid, and if there is anything coming to them it will be returned.

In appointing his extra clerks Tax Collector Block permitted the Democracy to name one man from each Assembly district. The list, as far as it had been made up, is as follows:

J. L. Hart, 3rd-4th; John D. Tobin, twenty-first; Thomas Cahill, 5th; Thomas Hughes, 6th; Burns, thirty-sixth; Jacob Harris, thirty-fifth; James A. Whitney, forty-third; John F. Dunphy, forty-second; Thomas Flaherty, forty-first; Henry Barnes, forty-ninth; I. Cleveland, forty-sixth; H. M. C. Marquis, thirty-third; T. B. Sweeny, twenty-eighth.

The Tax Collector's personal appointments are as follows:

A. Nevraud, Thomas B. Daley, T. J. Kenny, Thomas Cahill, Thomas Hughes, Thomas Burns, William Watt, Joseph Pickering, John Cantrell, T. T. Collins, M. H. Seligman, P. J. Murphy, Jacob Harris, Thomas Sloan, John A. Hennessy, Thomas Flaherty, Benjamin Selig, Thomas Wilson, H. H. Vandercook, Thomas Lee, Charles Bentley, T. W. Jones, H. A. J. Fitzgerald, George S. Horgan and L. Veller.

The list will be completed this week. Most of the force is now at work.

The Tax Collector was busy yesterday before court opened and Deputy Attorney Creswell to go before the Supreme Court for them on November 4 and make the argument in favor of their action in the $2 25 tax levy.

HE PLAYED FOR NAPOLEON

Joseph Harris, a Centenarian of This City, Still Loves Music.

He Can Read Easily and Thread a Needle Without the Aid of Glasses.

Joseph Harris of 822 Turk street is 99 years of age, yet his faculties are so bright that he can read and thread a needle without the aid of glasses.

He is an artist on the violin, and has not yet outlived his passion for music.

Joseph Harris, the Centenarian Violinist.

[From a photograph.]

He delights in the company of young people and among them he has a host of friends.

Among the many interesting incidents of his life is the one he loves best to come on the violin in Strasburg, where he was born, a German subject of Napoleon III of France. When he had finished that noble personage clapped him on the back and cried, "Bravo, my boy! Well done!" and he threw him a gold piece, saying, "Spend that for France."

When asked to play yesterday he took up his violin, remarking, "This instrument has been a friend of mine for more than eighty years, and I will play a piece with the air of a march, entitled 'What shall I play?'" he added, and then without waiting for a reply began a beautiful and majestic composition played in Hebrew places of worship, somewhat corresponding to the Catholic high mass. The forms, the solemn chords, the sweep of the strings, producing showers of notes in exquisite harmony, and yet most men who live to be 99 years of age are palsied or paralytic.

There followed, as his memory became invigorated, military marches of all nations, dances, and finally some of the old classic airs from Italian operas and songs that have been sung by four generations.

Mr. Harris came to this country when he was a "young man of 72," as he expresses it, and started a manufacturing business in New York.

Old Germany he was a Government land agent for forty years. He has nineteen grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren. He is a widower in New York, having left there the Judge in court. Here you must pay a fee of $2, then everything is free of charge. But then, "everything is free in America," he says when we are called to either place."

F. AND A. M.

Convocation of the Grand Lodge of the State of California—Committees Named.

The Grand Lodge of California, Free and Accepted Masons, convened yesterday in Masonic Temple. The following grand officers were present:

A. B. Spreckels, M.; Edward M. Preston, D. G. M.; William F. Lyons, S. G. W.; Thomas Graham, J. G. W.; Rev. Joseph Worcester, G. H.; Johnson, G. S.; Frederick H. Wilson, G. C.; F. V. Rogers, G. O.; A. M. Sender, Assistant G. S.; Frank H. Dunn, G. T.; G. Lansing Taylor, G. S. B.; Lange, G. J. W.; Rev. Thomas Rishworth, G. C.; H. B. W. W. Kay, G. S. D.; Fraser, J. S. D.; J. Hubert, G. S. A.; W. E. Corbin, J. S. A.; J. H. Boyd, G. P.; I. D. Mayer, organist, and Samuel Gompertz, G. T.

There was a large attendance and it was a splendid session. It is said that there was an unusual number of young men among the representatives of the various lodges.

At the session in the afternoon Past Grand Master Stevens read his annual report, from which it appears that during the year there was an increase in membership of 1,000 and that the order is in a flourishing condition in the State in a prosperous condition.

At the afternoon session the grand secretary, George Lemmon, grand lecturer, H. C. Rode, and the president of the Masonic Widows and Orphans' Home presented their reports from that institution. Various committees on relief, after which the lodge was called off until 9 o'clock this morning.

The following committees were appointed:

Jurisprudence—N. C. Carle, W. J. Tinnin, H. S. Hooker, W. Schuman, A. R. Cockrill.

Finance—Thomas H. Selby, Jr., Charles L. Patton, G. Hopkins, E. S. Valentine.

Correspondence—W. A. Davis, A. Young, J. H. Wilson, Jr., Frank M. Pixley.

Credentials—C. M. Bender, C. Nathorn, D. Hilton, H. C. Matthews, T. Y. Lambert.

Library and Lodges—L. Sachse, S. A. Maclay, Frank M. Pixley, Jr., Frank M. Pixley.

Reference—F. H. Anderson, W. F. Reynolds, T. Shackelford, W. S. Wells, E. S. Thornton.

Returns—C. W. Pendleton, A. M. Williams, Jr., Frank M. Pixley, Jr., Frank M. Pixley.

Fair of Members—W. H. Neal, T. A. Lambert, W. Hockman, R. S. Jack, J. Brocking.

Necrology—W. H. Neal, P. S. Rice, J. Richter, C. Lau, G. W. Nibbe.

Accounts—E. Peabody, H. J. Lark, W. Filmer, T. Kyle, R. Ziegler.

ONE WILL OF MRS. LUX.

The California Safe Deposit and Trust Company Files a Petition.

SERIOUS CHARGES OF FRAUD.

Provisions of an Instrument Made in 1892—Said to Be the True Will.

Another pause in the Miranda W. Lux will case to-day to enjoy the attention of the probate department of the Superior Court. It is a petition that was filed yesterday by the California Safe Deposit and Trust Company, in which the court is asked to pass upon the will already admitted to probate and which is being contested by Isaac Cone Potter, the son of the deceased and the heir-at-law.

The petitioner alleges that the will now before the court is not the will of the deceased and in the complaint sets forth:

That Miranda W. Lux was unduly influenced while in a weak, diseased and mental condition by Thomas R. Bishop, Ayer N. Lewis and Miranda W. Lewis, all of whom, during the time of the latter's illness, knew that Mrs. Lux, while suffering from cancer of the stomach, was of unsound mind and memory, and by their wicked and unscrupulous practices and to the influences and artifices of designing persons, procured the execution of the will now sought to be admitted to probate by this court and who possessed her trust and confidence.

That the parties named in the said Mrs. Lux to make a will in such form that after her death the property of which she died seized would be in the hands of and that the greater portion of each will should not be limited that very large portion of her estate, to wit, the sum of $1,000,000, according to the information and belief of the allegee, conspired and contrived to accomplish the purpose and object by the use of the means adopted in order to have her will executed and with the intent to thereby supersede her true will by one of their own making.

The petitioner charges further that the parties named by false representations exercised undue influence over the mind of the testatrix, and by the use of such means induced her to execute the will now sought to be admitted to probate, and that in the accomplishment of this purpose the said Bishop obtained possession of the said will after the same had been executed by the testatrix, and concealed the same from the petitioner, and upon receiving said will A. N. Lewis and R. N. Lewis, as petitioner is informed and believes, destroyed the same, according to the information and belief