NEWS OF THE WEST.

A Bill to Make Sunday a Weekly Rest Day in California.

OPPOSITION TO CHURCH TAXATION

A Fireman's Leap to Death—Suicide Through Despondency—How a Juror Sought a Verdict.

At Elizabeth, Colo., on Sunday morning, the feed mill owned by Oliver Hand & Son was burned. Between 45,000 and 50,000 pounds of corn was carried or damaged to an extent only fit for hog feed. The Howard Gates Mercantile company loses 25,000 pounds and the Colfax Mercantile company about 1,000 pounds. The damage to the machinery and loss of building is estimated at $800.

A railroad brakeman named McLeonard was struck on the head by a beam while his train was passing through the snowsheds west of the Cold Stream Water tank, near Truckee, Cal., Thursday morning. He was unconscious when found, but recovered on arriving at Truckee. Later in the afternoon he acted as though partially demented, and it was deemed advisable to forward him to the Railroad hospital in Sacramento.

Ralph R. Selby, a son of ex-Mayor Selby, of San Francisco, committed suicide Saturday afternoon by shooting himself through the brain. Although his death was a severe shock to his relatives, it was not unexpected, for his brother, Percival W. Selby, had a few hours before received a last letter of farewell. The reserve was reached that the only construction which could be placed on it was that the despondent young man intended ending a life that had been to him lonely since the death of his wife, some six years ago.

Mr. Lane is a very religious man and a prominent member of the First Baptist church, of Oakland, Cal. He lives in exact justice, and when his mind is fixed on a proposition it is hard to change. When he went into the jury room in the Sesino case he commenced to pray in order that he might be guided in the right way to reach a correct verdict. Mr. Lane says he got the word that Sesino was not guilty of the crime of forgery, for which he was on trial, and votes that way. However, he found that he was the only person who was for acquittal. Eleven men labored with him for five hours to try and convince him that he was wrong, but they did not succeed. Mr. Lane firmly believed that his prayer had been answered, and he somehow will not allow him to change his vote. The facts were that Sesino had indeed committed forgery, but he could be acquitted in the process. However, he insists that the jurors must be guided by the evidence and not by prayer in determining a case.

In the California legislature, on Saturday, there was introduced a bill "to prevent Sabbath desecration and to secure a weekly rest day." It provides that any person who on the Christian Sabbath, commonly called Sunday, performs ordinary manual labor, except what cannot be avoided or such work as must of necessity be done on all days of the week, and such deeds of charity as are due to others at all times, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and be fined from $25 to $50 or be imprisoned from ten to fifty days. The bill prohibits the keeping open of any place of business and the hawking or selling of newspapers on Sunday. The proposed law applies to all places of amusement. Noisy pastimes, pianos with the windows and doors open, disturbing worshipping assembly or congregation shall be cause for punishment. Saloons are especially guarded against. Hunting is not allowed, and the discharge of firearms is a reason for a penalty. Seventh Day Adventists are given the privilege of performing ordinary manual labor on Sunday.

A mass meeting of church people at Pueblo, Colo., on Sunday afternoon, denounced the proposition now before the Colorado legislature to tax church property. A petition was formulated and signed, in which the petitioners say the bill, if enacted, "will be a great and grievous wrong." It then protests that the proposed act is unjust and would be a most disastrous blow to the best interests of the state and would cripple or blot out of existence scores of churches and would close schools and academies. The petition closes: "The churches advance the interests of the state in many ways and their educational, eleemosynary institutions are freely donated to the use and the welfare of the people. We pray you to lay no burden of taxes upon us." The primary object of the meeting was to arrange for the formation of an organization of people of all churches to fight the saloon element. As a result of the discussion an interdenominational temperance society was determined on and a committee of nine to formulate a constitution and by-laws was appointed.

Michael Granville, Roman on the Sante Barrington which arrived in Denver Sunday morning at 7:30, was certainly and probably fatally injured by jumping from the train while running at a speed of about sixty miles an hour. He struck on his head and it is not thought that he can recover. The incident by which Granville received his injuries were of a tragic nature. It seemed to him that a collision was unavoidable, and rather than be crushed to death he made a dash from the cab, and his bleeding body was found along the track when the train was backed for fully a mile. He was taken unconscious to Creta, the nearest station, and the company's surgeon was at once summoned. The accident happened on Saturday night about 7 o'clock. As the passenger was about pulling into Creta the headlight of a freight train was observed only a short distance away. The perilous situation persuaded Granville that death was imminent, and he sprang from his place before the engineer could stop him. The engineer remained at his post and applied the brakes. The freight reached a side track, and what seemed a wrecking in a collision was averted. The passengers on the train were not aware of the tragic occurrence on the locomotive, and no injury resulted to any one save the fireman who made the fearless leap.

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