

collector in view of the provision that "such sale to the county shall have the same effect as if made to an individual." So that we may say that so far as the time of redemption of property, the power of the collector to issue certificates of sale to the county, and the power of the county clerk to deed the property to the county upon a failure to redeem, is concerned, the law remained the same from 1888 to February 17, 1896, when the time within which property might be redeemed was changed to four years.

The law is well settled that the relations existing between a purchaser at a tax sale and the taxing power are contractual so that an act of the Legislature extending the time for redemption is a material impairment of essential rights guaranteed the purchaser. The right of the purchaser to have a deed at the end of two years as provided by law was an obligation of the contract, and to postpone such right for a period of two years is a vital impairment of such obligation.

Under the law the county is empowered to buy in the property upon the non-payment of the taxes thereon, and it is expressly provided that such sale shall have the same effect as if made to an individual. This being true the county is entitled to the benefit of the law as it existed at the time the property was sold to it. No subsequent act of the legislature can import new terms into the contract, or add to those before expressed. If it could be changed in one particular, it could be in all; it is subject to legislative control at all; it is wholly at the legislative mercy."

I am therefore of the opinion that the law in force when the sale of the property was made for delinquent taxes would govern in the matter of the redemption thereof as it would also in respect to the issuance of deeds upon failure to so redeem.

It follows, therefore, that the operation of chapter 18 of the laws of 1896 is prospective only; that it could not effect the contract rights of the county acquired by reason of any tax sale at which it became a purchaser, and that deeds should issue to it in accordance with the law in force at the time of such purchase.

I have the honor to be,  
Very respectfully yours,  
A. C. BISHOP,  
Attorney General.

#### NEWS NOTES.

A miner named Thomas Concannon was shot and killed at Congress mining camp, Arizona, Sunday morning by a woman named Sadie. A quarrel occurred in the street between Sadie and another woman named Miana Looa, when Sadie shot at the latter but missed her, the ball hitting Concannon with fatal results.

The bursting of the banks of an irrigating ditch on the newly constructed line of the Valley road between Fresno and the Kings river, Cal., washed away 1,400 feet of track early Sunday morning. The point where the break occurred is on the edge of the slough country, near Wildflower, about fourteen miles south from Fresno.

The body of George Garden, a young ferry man who was drowned at the Reid ferry on the Sacramento, Cal.,

river, just north of this city on May 1st, was discovered floating on the river about half a mile below the ferry Sunday afternoon by a young man named Dick Gilbert. The coroner's jury rendered a verdict of accidental drowning.

A week ago last Wednesday Michael Haley, an old citizen 70 years of age, disappeared from his home in Sacramento, Cal. Sunday his body was found in the river, and his family are satisfied that the old man committed suicide or fell into the river, as he was subject to spells of insanity. He had several hundred dollars with him when he disappeared, but the greater portion of it has been accounted for.

Malad, Idaho, Enterprise: The young man, Harvey L. Williams, who has been down with rheumatism at the Nicholas house for the past two weeks died Thursday morning. The young man's parents live at Union, Utah, and have been notified by Probate Judge Howard. Up to time of going to press we understand nothing has been heard from the relatives of the young man, so the remains have been taken in charge by the county officials, and arrangements are being made for the burial to take place here.

Laramie, Wyoming, Boomerang: Louis Sorenson, a Dane, 22 years of age, attempted suicide on Front street at Rawlins Saturday afternoon by shooting himself in the head with a 32-caliber revolver. The bullet was a light, hollow one and did not penetrate the skull. Sorenson started from Forest City, Ia., for Oregon on a wheel, but someone stole his wheel before he got out of Iowa. He then took a train, and was relieved of his money, about \$25, before reaching Rawlins. The loss of his money made him despondent.

Frank Demardio, a laborer, about 42 years of age, was arrested at San Francisco on Sunday night for drunkenness. He was taken to the station, and about 1:45 o'clock next morning he was taken seriously ill. He claimed that he had been given poison, but he would not say by whom nor would he say any more. The man was put in the patrol wagon and hurriedly started for the receiving hospital, but he died before arriving here. The physicians of the hospital are of the opinion that Demardio's death was due to alcoholism.

West Texas Stockman: All of west Texas now has on its spring clothes and cattle are as fat as they can roll. We are in better shape out here than almost every respect than for years. If the men who have been engaged in attempts to farm will now pay more attention to the production of a good bunch of yearlings for sale every year, they will also come in for a share of prosperity. There is not much money in circulating among this class of our population, but it is largely their own fault. When they take hold of the idea that west Texas is in reality a stock farming country, and shape their affairs to conform to that idea, there will be general prosperity for all.

Montgomery Hamilton of Santa Ana, Cal., was drowned Sunday afternoon in Laguna lake, eighteen miles from Santa Ana, while bathing with another young man, O. H. Edinger. The young men had been out hunting in the hills, and getting heated con-

cluded to cool off by taking a plunge in the lake. Both stripped and walked out on a fence extending into the water, and then plunged in to swim ashore. Edinger succeeded with difficulty, but Hamilton did not get more than half way until he went down with a cry for help. Edinger was almost prostrated and could render no assistance, although he tried. Hamilton sank within twenty feet of the shore.

Mrs. Olive L. Speddy, wife of Samuel A. Speddy, died at Alameda, Cal., Sunday, from inhaling chloroform, while in a fit of nervous excitement. Mrs. Speddy had been treated for nervous prostration by Dr. O. H. Lubbock, who gave her a prescription. Saturday night she went to San Francisco with her husband and children and attended an entertainment. She retired with her husband about 1 o'clock Sunday morning, and he had no knowledge of her fatal act until he awoke today to find her dead beside him. The open bottle was found under the coverlid close to the nostrils of the deceased and a sponge used in inhaling the chloroform was found on the floor by the bedside. It is supposed that Mrs. Speddy, tortured with pain, sought the chloroform to induce sleep. She got too much of it and becoming unconscious with the open bottle close to her nostrils death followed. The husband scents the idea of suicide.

#### DOMESTIC SCIENCE.

An excellent labor-saving device is the basting of a deep double cheese-cloth binding across the ends of comforts or blankets. As the ends are the first to show the soil, necessitating the washing of an otherwise clean cover—the bindings can be frequently and easily laundered, will be found a great convenience.

When the water used in washing is very hard, and the scum rising during the scalding process clings tenaciously to the clothes, a safe thing to do to avoid trouble is to have several bags made of cheese-cloth, into which the clothes may be loosely packed while in the boiler. These bags should be made with a draw-string.

The simplest method of removing grease spots from colored goods is by absorption. Mix fuller's earth or powdered French chalk to a paste with water or turpentine, and spread on the spot. Allow it to stand several days and then brush off. In very obstinate cases, a second application is sometimes necessary. On dark goods, ox-gall can be used with fuller's earth.

Ferns may be dried for winter table decoration by putting them between layers of cotton.

Chamois safety pockets for the woman voyager will be found most useful and convenient for the preservation of her valuables. They are made with an inner compartment fastened with a clasp, for jewels, and are suspended by straps from a stout belt.

Among the many lines of practical work undertaken by the New York Association for Improving the Condition of