

other Judges concurring. This was a very important decision, for although it probably covered many fraudulent grants, it went far towards quieting titles and putting an end to certain classes of squatter difficulties. It was one step towards permanency.

On the 24th of October the mountains spoke to the sea with a lightning flash over the wires from Marysville to San Francisco, a distance by the telegraph line of over two hundred miles. Charge for the first ten words, two dollars. Even at these prices the privilege of the telegraph was thought a great acquisition.

Filibustering which had been inaugurated some years before by American adventurers on the Atlantic side and around the Gulf of Mexico, took form and name here during this year, and received its baptism on the thirteenth of December, when the bark Anita sailed from San Francisco with two hundred and forty men, to join a small party which had already landed in Lower California under Col. Wm. Walker. The first party had been a mere investiture of the infant—these dressed it in long robes and took it to the ocean front. Although not much was effected in that expedition by its god-fathers and sponsors, except to chalk out on paper a new "Republic of Sonora," yet it was the pioneer movement which has led to the virtual conquest of Nicaragua by the parent of the excursion, and may yet result in completely revolutionizing all Central America, and supplanting its effete people and government, by those of greater energy, if not greater justice. It has ever been the fate of nations as of the lower races of animals. The weaker have given way to the stronger. The partition of Poland is not a solitary instance. Nearly all southern Asia has passed a similar ordeal. In all such changes policy has had more to do than justice, and strength more than right. Similar agencies may effect similar results in the five States of Central America.

The Drama was honored on the twenty-fourth of December by the opening of the Metropolitan Theater, internally one of the handsomest and most comfortable theaters on the continent. During its first season it had a wonderful run, and the amount of money received during a year and a half was enormous. Nor is it strange, for Madame Anna Thillon, Kate Hayes, the Bateman Children, Madam Anna Bishop, James E. Murdock, the Monplaisir Troupe, Clothilde Thorne, Miss Heron and other celebrities played engagements as soon as they could be obtained. But the greatest success which has yet occurred, probably, was that which was achieved by Julia Dean Hayne during the present year. Her four weeks' engagement was a continual triumph. And yet the proprietors of this splendid theater, they who owned it, lost their entire investment, the architect and chief stockholder being completely ruined by the venture. While several of the "stars" realized fortunes of from twenty to thirty thousand dollars each by their engagements of a few weeks at the Metropolitan, the projectors and builders who had added so beautiful a place of resort to the public places of the city, and those who catered for the public taste so lavishly in talent and in spectacle, saved nothing from the gross receipts.

The city's interest in her water lots was sold on the twenty-sixth and twenty-eighth of December. The two sales amounted to more than one and a half millions of dollars. Some of these lots brought sixteen thousand dollars, although the title sold was only the city's interest in them after 1951. The gold dust shipped from the city during the year as noted by the Custom House, reached nearly fifty-five millions.