



Market Street Chinatown Archaeology Project

San Jose Newspaper Articles

May 1-15, 1887

Since 2012, the Market Street Chinatown Archaeology Project has worked with historian Bonnie Montgomery to identify historical sources about the Market Street Chinatown and about Chinese immigrants and Chinese Americans living in Santa Clara County. Ms. Montgomery has systematically reviewed newspapers from 19th century San Jose and collected and transcribed articles that report on events related to Santa Clara County Chinese individuals and communities, along with editorials, wire service reports, and articles that were intended to influence the readers' perception of Chinese communities.

The resulting files, organized by month (or half-month) and presented in .pdf format and .csv spreadsheets, provide a rich source of documentary evidence about journalists' perceptions of historic Chinese communities and of the public debates about Chinese immigration at the time. The files include the full text of the newspaper article, along with the date of publication, name of the newspaper, type of article, byline or wire service credit, and number of words.

San Jose, California, was one of the centers of the anti-Chinese movement in the U.S. west. The first state-wide anti-Chinese convention was held in San Jose in February 1886, and numerous anti-Chinese organizations were active throughout Santa Clara County. Some newspapers were deeply involved in the anti-Chinese movement, not only reporting on the activities of these organizations but also actively encouraging anti-Chinese policies and activism.

Many of the newspaper records presented in these files contain racist descriptors and terminology we find offensive today, and that were also offensive to many people living in the 19th century. The views and language used are that of the original journalist. These materials are provided in order to facilitate direct access to primary historical documents for those interested in the history of Chinese communities in 19th century Santa Clara County.

To the best of our knowledge, the materials presented here are in the public domain; however we cannot take responsibility for copyright clearance for your use of these materials. We would appreciate if any presentation or publication of these materials include the credit line, "Archival studies contributing to this work were conducted by historian Bonnie Montgomery." The transcription of newspaper articles from April 1887 was sponsored through a HELP grant from Chinese Historical and Cultural Project, under the directorship of Market Street Chinatown Archaeology Project principal investigator Barbara Voss. Pearle Lun assisted with article transcription. Claudia Engel provided web support.

Market Street Chinatown Archaeology Project
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5/1/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 3 column 7 (News)

"Inferior Courts. ¶ Criminal and Civil Work Before the Justices. ¶ In Justice Buckner's court w.m. L. Gill, attorney for Wong Sing, convicted of selling opium without a license, made a motion for a new trial, which the court denied. The attorney then filed a notice of appeal. The Chinese propose to test the constitutionality of the law and have banded together to defray the costs of the action. Their argument is that a dealer paying a license for a general merchandise store has a right to include opium among the effects. The new ordinance requires that every opium dealer shall pay \$10 per month as license. The cost of a general merchandise license is only \$1.50 per month. The Chinese believe they are discriminated against and aver that every drug store in town sells opium without paying an additional tax....Thomas Fallon, arrested in San Francisco on a charge of burglarizing a Chinaman's house in San Jose, appeared before Justice Pfister, and pleading not guilty, his trial was set for May 16, at 2 p.m. Bonds of \$1,000 were required, which Fallon failed to produce."

5/1/1887 Morning Mercury (City of San Jose) page 3 column 7 (Legal Notice)

"Notice of Special Election. Given to the Mayor and Common Council of the City of San Jose. ¶ To the Electors of the City of San Jose: ¶ A special election will be held in the City of San Jose at the places hereinbelow designated on the fifth day of May, 1887, for the purpose of voting upon the proposition of the City of San Jose incurring indebtedness for the following purposes:...[Rest of notice is very similar to the publication of the ordinance setting the election. See Herald, 4/9/1887, page 4, column 7 for complete text.]

5/1/1887 Morning Mercury (staff) page 5 column 1 (News)

"Local Brevities....Thomas Fallon was arraigned before Justice Pfister yesterday on a charge of the burglary of the house of a Chinaman. His examination was set for May 16th at 2 o'clock p.m....¶ In the case of Mong Sing, convicted of selling soiking opium without a city license, in Justice Buckner's Court yesterday, W. L. Gill, attorney for defendant, filed a notice of appeal...."

5/1/1887 Morning Mercury (staff) page 5 column 2 (News)

"FOR THE BONDS. ¶ Business Men Who Favor the Proposition. ¶ SOME NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS. ¶ San Jose Will Be Vastly Benefited by the Issuance of Bonds for the Purposes Suggested by the Council. ¶ On next Thursday the election on the question of bonded indebtedness will take place. There is every reason to believe that the bonds will carry by a large majority. Yesterday a representative of the MERCURY interviewed a number of the business men of San Jose and others whose interests are here, with the following result: ¶ Captain George Welch – I am decidedly in favor of the issuance of bonds, for the public improvements suggested are imperatively needed. In my opinion the carrying of bonds will be the means of giving employment to the many men we see at the street corners, and of placing the opportunity before them of either paying off what they owe on their little homes, or of providing homes for their families. I believe that bonds and consequent public improvements will so increase the value of property, so add to our wealth and population as to more than offset the additional tax we will have to pay. Everyone knows that the improvements are needed. The streets are in a deplorable condition, it is at the risk of one's neck to ride over the bridges west of the city, and as far as the sewers are concerned, the sooner they are built the better it would be for the health and prosperity of San Jose. For these and many other reasons I am in favor of bonds. ¶ Jacob Rich – I am in favor of bonds, of course, as I am in favor of any measure tending to help San Jose and the people that dwell therein. ¶ Rucker Bros. – We are for bonds, first, last and all the time. We desire that San Jose shall improve, shall increase in population, wealth and commercial standing, and in our opinion the desired end will be more quickly reached by the issuance of bonds and the carrying out of the improvements suggested by the Mayor and Common Council. ¶ Dr. Gunckel – I am not a voter in San Jose, but I own property here, and as a

business proposition, I am strongly in favor of the issuance of bonds. I believe that public improvements will pave the way for private improvements, and that the boom will commence in earnest when the time arrives for the commencement of the good outlined by the Mayor and Common Council. ¶ R. L. Higgins – Of course the taxes will be increased when the public improvements under the bond proposition begin. But the tax will be more than offset by the influx of population and of wealth. Ten men pay \$10 taxes this year, but twenty men will be here next year to take up the burden. The sewers are needed; the bridges are needed; it is necessary that the sewers should be built. Any one improvement carried out without bonds would impose a very heavy tax on the people at present residing here. By the bond system the people to come after us will pay their share of the indebtedness, and if you figure the thing out, you will find that the tax will be lower, with the bonds, than ever before. I am therefore, in favor of the indebtedness. I am perfectly satisfied that thousands upon thousands of dollars will be invested here if the bonds carry, which otherwise, will be diverted into some channel outside of San Jose. ¶ C. T. Settle expressed himself simply in favor of bonds. ¶ W. M. Ginty, Manager of the Farmers Union – I favor bonds, because I believe the building of a new City Hall, the completion of the sewer system, the construction of bridges and the carrying out of street improvements will advance the price of real estate, bring a large amount of capital into our midst and benefit every industry. Business men and laboring men will be aided by the effect of the issuance of bonds. ¶ F. W. Kunz – Put me down as a lover of San Jose. As one devoted to her interests, I am emphatically in favor of bonds for the making of public improvements. ¶ M. H. Hyland – Bonds every time. I am no silurian, but a believer in the progressive ideas of the times. San Jose with a situation and climate beyond compare, a soil capable of producing anything that grows, has for years stood still and made no efforts to advance, while less favorable localities, by the exhibition of nineteenth century enterprise, have outstripped her. The time for action has come. The world moves, and San Jose must take the place which rightfully belongs to her. Bonds and public improvements will make flush times. Employment will be given to the laboring man, outside capital will come in to invest in private enterprises, the population will increase and taxes will be lowered instead of being raised. I can conceive of no good argument that can be adduced against the issuance of bonds, and I hope for the sake of the fair name of the Garden City that the bonds will carry. Then the boom will take on a new lease of life. ¶ A. Friant & Co. – We are all of us on the affirmative side of the bond question. It is not necessary for us to recapitulate the reasons for the faith that is in us. Suffice it to say, that we conscientiously believe that the best interests of San Jose and every man, woman and child in it will be subserved by the issuance of bonds and the carrying out of the contemplated and much needed public improvements. ¶ H. W. Platt expressed himself as emphatically in favor of bonds. He believed it would help the real estate business, and both directly and indirectly the business and interest of every person in the city. ¶ D. C. Vestal – I have always been in favor of bonds for the furtherance of measures looking to the benefit of the city. Fifteen years ago, while a member of the Common Council, I urged the issuance of bonds, but was voted down. I am satisfied that had my motion prevailed and bonds been issued, San Jose to-day would have a population of 40,000. I know that one gentleman of wealth, when he heard that San Jose lacked the enterprise to make public improvements, went to Oakland and invested over half a million dollars in real estate. We not only lost him but many others through our failure to be progressive. If the San Jose voters know when they are well off they will vote for bonds on the 5th of May. ¶ Andrew P. Hill – Of course I am in favor of bonds, because public improvements will help the boom wonderfully. ¶ Montgomery & Rea – We are for bonds, because our home is here and all our interests. Bonds will have a tendency to double the population of San Jose inside of five years. The increase of population means the increase of taxable property and the consequent decrease of the rate of taxation. ¶ J. C. Black – Mark me as in favor of bonds. I believe the carrying of bonds will be the making of San Jose. ¶ Tyler Beach – I have been in favor of bonds from the start. San Jose must do something of a practical nature, or the Eastern immigration and capital will go somewhere else. Public improvements will advertise San Jose as nothing else can, and money will come

in from all directions. There are many important private enterprises now awaiting the outcome of the bond election. If the bonds fail you will never hear of them. If they carry, hundreds of thousands of dollars will come in to be invested, thus benefiting all of us. ¶ Hon. Cyrus Jones – I reside outside the city, but yet I am interested in San Jose. I want the bonds to carry, for in my opinion, San Jose will be benefited greater than it can be in any other way. ¶ Capt. W. T. Adel – I am for the bonds, as a matter of course. ¶ L. R. Mills – Although I am interested in a bank, yet I am in favor of bonds. I am talking now as a citizen and not as a banker. I think public improvements will enhance the value of property, make better times, and put San Jose on a much higher footing than she enjoys at present. I do not believe that taxes will be heavier. On the contrary, it is my opinion that they will be decreased.”

5/2/1887 Evening News (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

“DON’T FAIL TO VOTE. ¶ Bear in mind that the bond election will take place next Thursday and that two-thirds of all votes polled are required to carry the election in favor of the issuance of bonds. ¶ It is probable that about 2400 votes will be polled, and when it is understood that 1600 of that number will be necessary to carry the election for bonds, it will be apparent at once that every voter who believes in doing with San Jose what has been done with Los Angeles, will have to go to the polls and see that his ballot gets in the box. ¶ The leading capitalists who have all they want and are willing to let well enough alone, are getting in their work quietly against the bonds, and they will be successful unless the very greatest effort is made by the men who want the bonds issued. ¶ Think of the effect on the thousands of Eastern visitors who will come to this State before next New Year’s to find an electric street railway, a New City Hall, new sewers, bridges and streets all being constructed in this garden spot of earth. ¶ Think of these things and don’t fail to vote for bonds next Thursday.”

5/2/1887 Evening Herald (wire) page 2 column 3 (News)

"In Favor of the Coolies. ¶ Judge Sawyer Makes Another Pro-Coolie Decision. ¶ San Francisco, May 2.— This morning Judge Sawyer decided the habeas corpus case of Sam Kee in favor of the Chinaman. Sam Kee is a laundryman doing business in Napa, who kept his wash house in operation in defiance of an ordinance prohibiting all persons white or mongolian, from carrying on a public laundry within certain limits under penalty of \$100 fine and imprisonment. Judge Sawyer's ruling was as follows: There is nothing binding in the slightest degree to show that this laundry is in fact a nuisance, and the unsupported allegations of the petitioner are that it is not. So far as appears it is only made a nuisance by the arbitrary declaration of the ordinance, and it is beyond the power of the common council by its simple act to make that a nuisance which is not so in fact. The ordinance is held to be void, as being in contravention of the constitution of the United States, and the prisoner is ordered to be discharged."

5/2/1887 Evening Herald (staff) page 3 column 6 (News)

"Local Brevities....Thomas Fallon was arraigned before Justice Pfister yesterday on a charge of the burglary of the house of a Chinaman. His examination was set for May 16th at 2 o'clock p.m...."

5/2/1887 Evening Herald (City of San Jose) page 4 column 8 (Legal Notice)

"Notice of Special Election. Given to the Mayor and Common Council of the City of San Jose. ¶ To the Electors of the City of San Jose: ¶ A special election will be held in the City of San Jose at the places hereinbelow designated on the fifth day of May, 1887, for the purpose of voting upon the proposition of the City of San Jose incurring indebtedness for the following purposes:...[Rest of notice is very similar to the publication of the ordinance setting the election. See Herald, 4/9/1887, page 4, column 7 for complete text.]

5/3/1887 Evening News (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

“WHY WE FAVOR BONDS. ¶ A circular containing various arguments against the proposition to borrow money to be invested in public improvements, was distributed throughout the city yesterday by small boys. The circular was anonymous and the variety of matter indicated that many brains had contributed the copy. The arguments were good, bad and indifferent. Many of the paragraphs evidently emanated from men who would be benefited by the uses of an anti-bilious remedy. Assertions are contained in the circular which are not true, and insinuations are made in regard to the honesty of intention on the part of the Mayor, the press and other leading advocates of bonds which have not the shadow of foundation in fact and are very unkind and ungentlemanly. ¶ Abuse is not argument and it never makes a permanent winning. ¶ If it is wrong to incur the proposed indebtedness it is an easy matter to present the reasons and it should be done in a gentlemanly manner. Every man in the city has a right, and it is his duty as a good citizen to express his opinions and give his reasons for supporting or opposing the bonds. ¶ It is asserted in the circular referred to that ‘bribery and bulldozing has silenced every paper in the city so far that not one of them will let in a line against the bonds.’ ¶ The writer of that paragraph did not know that to be true, and therefore in writing it, he recklessly took the chances of stating what he did state – a deliberate, willful falsehood. We venture to assert without fear of successful contradiction that the party referred to never submitted an article on the bond question to any of the papers. But if he did, and it was refused, he had no right to conclude that the paper was ‘bribed or bulldozed.’ ¶ The publishers of a paper are privileged to use their type, paper, ink and presses in accordance with their own wishes. They have opinions and they have a right to print them and exclude all contrary opinions from their columns. No one expects a lawyer to argue on both sides of a case, even when appointed by the Court and working without any hope of reward except in the world to come. ¶ Who would want to take chances on paying out any money in the shape of bribes to carry the bonds? Where is the contractor who has any assurance that he will do any of the proposed work? Where is the Chinaman who ever performed any work by contract or otherwise, except in the chain gang, for this city? Where is the Chinaman who ever put in a bid for any work in this city which was to be paid for with public money? Where are those Hottentots or Kanakas referred to in one of the paragraphs of this anonymous circular, as liable to secure the contract for building the City Hall and sewers? And when was this or any other city flooded with outside laborers to do work on public improvements. ¶ Three years ago the NEWS opposed the proposition to borrow \$100,000 to ‘complete the sewerage system,’ partly because we knew that it would not complete the system, and partly because we believed the money raised by regular taxation would build the sewer as fast as it was needed. ¶ Last year the NEWS was against the proposition to borrow \$300,000 to be expended on sewerage, bridges and a new City Hall for the same general reasons heretofore mentioned. ¶ This year the NEWS is most earnestly in favor of borrowing \$500,000 to be invested in public improvements, because we believe, and we base our belief upon the experience of Los Angeles, San Diego and other towns in this State, that the time has come for San Jose to turn the tide in her affairs which will make her the most beautiful and prosperous inland city on this coast. ¶ The experience of Los Angeles and San Diego proves that the enterprising citizens of the East are attracted by enterprise, and where they find live men who have confidence in themselves and the country they live in, they open their coffers and the flow of silver commences and continues. ¶ We believe that San Jose’s turn has come, and that all we need just now to enable us in turn the stream of Eastern silver this way is the same style of enterprise that was shown by Los Angeles. This is why we favor bonds at this time. No man has attempted to bribe or bulldoze us, and if we have any more interest in the matter than any other citizen who expects to live and die here and follow the ‘golden rule’ we have yet to be made aware of it. ¶ To sum it up in a few words: we regard the bond business as an experiment which we can well afford to make, because our resources are almost without limit, and nothing short of an earthquake that would sink us out of sight, can prevent us from prospering.”

5/3/1887 Evening News (staff) page 2 column 2 (Editorial)

“PROSPEROUS CITIES. ¶ A few years ago Omaha was a quiet little town with muddy streets, cistern water and cess-pools. ¶ Now she has the best paved streets in the West and gas, electric lights, water works and sewers. The population has increased four fold and everybody is prospering. And all this was the result of a determination on the part of the people of Omaha to push forward for a position in the front rank among elites. ¶ It is time for San Jose to wake up and the way to do it is to do it. Vote for the bonds next Thursday and pay no attention to the man who howls the alliterative and dismal refrain of ‘bonds and bondage.’ ¶ Remember that every successful business man in the city is in favor of bonds and they declare the fact openly. ¶ Remember that the richest fruit and vine lands in the world surround San Jose and make her resources such that it would hardly be possible to pile a debt upon her that she could not pay. Remember these things and vote for the bonds.”

5/3/1887 Evening News (staff) page 2 column 2 (Editorial)

“A PERTINENT QUESTION. ¶ The Omaha World calls attention to the fact that this country has sent 842 missionaries to China. And it wants to know how we are going to stand the Chinamen in heaven if we can’t live with them in America.”

5/3/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

"The Chinese murderer of Mrs. Billiou has, it is asserted, been traced to a cave; Chinamen supply him stealthily with food, and the people are afraid to enter the cave, as he would have an unlimited advantage of position. In that case he could easily be smoked out with sulphur, or, if requisite, killed by chlorine gas. But how is it a watch is not kept to prevent him from receiving supplies."

5/3/1887 Morning Times (wire) page 2 column 6 (News)

"Another Pro-Coolie Decision. San Francisco, May 2.—This morning Judge Sawyer decided the habeas corpus case of Sam Kee in favor of the Chinaman. Sam Kee is a laundryman doing business in Napa, who kept his wash-house in operation in defiance of an ordinance prohibiting persons white or Mongolian from carrying a public laundry within certain limits under penalty of \$100 fine and imprisonment. Judge Sawyer's ruling was as follows: There is nothing binding in the slightest degree to show that this laundry is in fact a public nuisance, and the unsupported allegations of the petitioner are that it is not. So far as it appears it is only made a nuisance by the arbitrary declaration of the ordinance, and it is beyond the power of the common council by its simple act to make that a nuisance which is not so in fact. The ordinance is held to be void, as being in contravention of the constitution of the United States, and the prisoner is ordered to be discharged."

5/3/1887 Evening Herald (City of San Jose) page 4 column 8 (Legal Notice)

"Notice of Special Election. Given to the Mayor and Common Council of the City of San Jose. ¶ To the Electors of the City of San Jose: ¶ A special election will be held in the City of San Jose at the places hereinbelow designated on the fifth day of May, 1887, for the purpose of voting upon the proposition of the City of San Jose incurring indebtedness for the following purposes:...[Rest of notice is very similar to the publication of the ordinance setting the election. See Herald, 4/9/1887, page 4, column 7 for complete text.]

5/3/1887 Morning Mercury (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

"The opponents of the bonds who paste their bad English and worse logic upon the street posts have neither confidence in their cause nor pride in their offspring sufficient to affix their names to their publications. The cause is indeed weak which requires the services of the anonymous assassin."

5/3/1887 Morning Mercury (wire) page 2 column 2 (News)

“Sam Kee Wins. ¶ Judge Sawyer Declares the Napa Laundry Ordinance to Be Void. ¶ San Francisco, May 2.—This morning Judge Sawyer decided the habeas corpus case of Sam Kee in favor of the Chinaman. Sam Kee is a laundryman doing business in Napa, who kept his wash-house in operation in defiance of an ordinance prohibiting all persons, white or Mongolian, from carrying on a public laundry within certain limits, under penalty of \$100 fine and imprisonment. Judge Sawyer’s ruling was as follows: ‘There is nothing binding in the slightest degree to show that this laundry is in fact a nuisance, and the unsupported allegation of the petitioner are that it is not. So far as appears it is only made a nuisance by the arbitrary declaration of the ordinance, and is beyond the power of the Common Council by its simple act to make that a nuisance which is not so in fact. The ordinance is held to be void, as being in contravention of the Constitution of the United States, and the prisoner is ordered to be discharged.’ “

5/3/1887 Morning Mercury (wire) page 2 column 3 (News)

"Over the Coast....A Chinaman attacked a boy playing on the street at Victoria Saturday, and stabbed him in the back, the knife penetrating the spine and causing paralysis of the limbs....The general feeling at Seattle is that there is not the slightest probability of an outbreak against the Chinese. There was a rumor that an attempt would be made to drive the Chinese away on the 1st of May...."

5/3/1887 Morning Mercury (wire) page 2 column 4 (News)

“Peace Prevails. ¶ No Attempt to Expel the Chinese from Seattle. ¶ Seattle, W. T., May 2.—The city is perfectly quiet and there is no apprehension o trouble of any kind. For some time prior to May 1st there had been rumors afloat that an attempt to expel the Chinese would be made on that day. These rumors, however, could not be traced to any source and as the day in question approached they were almost forgotten. The action of Governor Semple in calling out the militia on Saturday evening here surprised and mystified everybody and naturally created much alarm. The troops responded promptly to the call and within an hour after the order was received Companies B, D, E and F of the First Regiment were assembled at their armories and ready to perform any duty. Company B was kept on duty all night, the other companies being dismissed. No disturbance whatever occurred during the night and early Sunday morning. Co. B was also dismissed. It has been learned that Gov. Semple acted on information furnished by United States Attorney White, who had become alarmed at the floating rumors, and had sent several alarming telegrams to the Governor. Inquiry among the leaders of the labor movement here developed the fact that there is no intention to expel the Chinese. Work is plenty and all are satisfied with the situation. Half a dozen professional agitators keep public feeling excited but they have no apparent following. Sheriff Cochrane declares his ability to maintain order in any emergency. Everything is now as peaceful as could be desired.”

5/3/1887 Morning Mercury (City of San Jose) page 3 column 7 (Legal Notice)

"Notice of Special Election. Given to the Mayor and Common Council of the City of San Jose. ¶ To the Electors of the City of San Jose: ¶ A special election will be held in the City of San Jose at the places hereinbelow designated on the fifth day of May, 1887, for the purpose of voting upon the proposition of the City of San Jose incurring indebtedness for the following purposes:....[Rest of notice is very similar to the publication of the ordinance setting the election. See Herald, 4/9/1887, page 4, column 7 for complete text.]

5/4/1887 Evening News (staff) page 3 column 2 (Editorial)

“BE PROGRESSIVE. ¶ Let Every Man Do His Duty To-morrow. ¶ Vote For the Bonds and Start a Genuine Boom. ¶ The Experience of Other Cities Where a [sic] Public Debt Exists – A Gilroy Opinion. ¶ Don’t give San Jose a black eye by failing to go to the polls to-morrow and vote for bonds. ¶ Have confidence in the intelligence of the successful business men of this city and vote with them in favor of bonds. ¶

Remember that Los Angeles is indebted for her prosperity to the enterprise of her citizens as shown in issuing bonds and investing the money in public improvements, and vote for the bonds to-morrow. ¶ Bear in mind that the money to be raised on the bonds will be used only as it may be required and not all at once as many suppose. ¶ Don't forget that the open sewer ditch north of this city must be covered within a few months or suits for damages will be instituted against the city. The money required for that purpose must be borrowed, as the law does not authorize a tax levy sufficient to obtain the amount otherwise. Don't forget this and vote for the bonds. ¶ The increase in the taxes of the working classes of this city caused by the issuance of bonds, will be so slight as to be hardly perceptible, and in a few years they will be paying less than at present, although their homes will be worth nearly double the present value. ¶ According to figures carefully prepared by the Mayor and Council, the rate of taxation this year, provided the bonds do not carry, will have to be \$1.25 on each \$100 of valuation, while if the bonds do carry the tax, even providing for interest on the improvements months ahead of their inauguration, will be only \$1.16. So with bonds, and \$500,000 worth of needed improvements, the taxes the first year will be lower than if the bonds were voted down. The second year the balance would be still more marked in favor the tax-payers."

5/4/1887 Evening News (staff) page 3 column 2 (Editorial)

"A GILROY OPINION. ¶ More Reasons Why the Bonds Should be Carried. ¶ The decision of the people of San Jose this week upon the question of 'Bonds or no Bonds,' is not only important to the city, but all other parts of the county as well, says the Gilroy Record. San Jose is the show place of Santa Clara County, the starting point from whence tourists and immigrants start off in pursuit of pleasure or in search of land upon which to locate. First impressions are important. ¶ If the newcomer finds a sleepy city, no public improvements going forward, a dull tone to the whole business of the principal town, he will naturally conclude that the other towns will be quite as bad if not worse. We hope the people of San Jose will vote 'For Bonds.' Public improvements once well under way, there may be a chance for the hotel scheme to carry also. It is shameful to think that while every little place in Southern California readily raises the money for building a big hotel, the wealthy and important county seat of Santa Clara Co. is unable to do anything of the sort."

5/4/1887 Evening News (staff) page 3 column 2 (Editorial)

"PORTLAND'S PROSPERITY. ¶ Trebled in Population and Wealth in a Few Years Through Bonds. ¶ Eight years ago the city of Portland, Oregon had a population of 12,000. A Board of Trade was organized. Bonds were issued for \$600,000 to be invested in public improvements. The assessed value of property at the time was \$9,000,000 and the rate of taxation \$1.35. ¶ The bonds were issued. There was a demand for laborers at \$2 to \$2.50 per day. A Board of Immigration was organized, and \$5,000 annually appropriated for its support. The result was that immigration began to pour in, the assessed value of property increased; and in 1880 the assessed value of property was over \$16,000,000. The result was that taxes were reduced, notwithstanding the bonds, to \$1.05. ¶ Here was a bonded indebtedness of \$1,850,000. How do they pay the interest on this vast sum, do you ask? Why, by taxation, is the answer. The assessed value of property increased from over \$16,000,000 in 1880 to over \$36,000,000 in 1883. Taxes were no higher; if they had been the people would not have issued the bonds and incurred the indebtedness. ¶ New improvements were necessary; and bonds to the extent of \$700,000 were issued. Streets were built, paved or [maoadamized?], public parks beautified, a complete sewerage system finished, manufactures started, handsome business blocks built, money could be loaned at 6 per cent, instead of 12 per cent, as formally [formerly]. In 1882, the Board of School Directors issued bonds in the sum of \$500,000, and built a new high school building at a cost of over \$400,000, which is the finest public school building on the coast. ¶ And yet Portland was not satisfied with this great outlay. Last year they again issued bonds in the sum of \$750,000, and purchased the interest of the Portland Water

company, and the city now owns and operates its own water system and furnishes water at one half the former rates. And you don't hear anyone complain about increased taxation. The assessed value of property is about \$35,000,000. The rate of taxation is at \$1.10. The population including East Portland is 36,000. It has 18 banks, 12 first class hotels, 16 second class hotels. ¶ A large number of manufactories, well paved streets, fine public squares and the handsomest residences and public buildings of any on the coast. If any one opposed the bonds on account of increased taxation, he found no trouble to dispose of his property to someone who was willing to pay the taxes. Old, antiquated, web footed cent per cent Shylocks were crowded off the track by enterprising business men and had to either fall in line or bring up the rear. Let the voters of San Jose study Portland's prosperity and profit by it."

5/4/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

"The decision of Judge Sawyer that a City Council has no right to declare laundries, within certain limits, nuisances unless they are in each case proved to be such, would, if carried out, also prevent a Council from enacting an ordinance preventing frame buildings from being erected within certain limits. Unless the move to abolish our Chinatown nuisance can be put through in some court over Judge Sawyer's head, that nuisance will not be legally got rid of. So far, however, our complaint has the advantage of the Napa case in that distinct and detailed allegations of the character of the nuisance are made. But Sawyer has always decided that no white community have any rights which a Chinaman is bound to respect."

5/4/1887 Evening Herald (staff) page 2 column 4 (News)

"Wiped Out. ¶ Chinatown a Prey to the Flames. ¶ A Terrible Fire. ¶ The Efforts of the Firemen Prove Useless. ¶ Explosion of Powder. ¶ Wholesale Robberies by Hoodlums. ¶ The Chinese Brigade. ¶ The Supposed Origin of the Conflagration. ¶ The Joss House Gone. ¶ Prostitutes Flying for Their Lives— Narrow Escapes—Personal Effects Destroyed. ¶ At three minutes to 3 o'clock this afternoon an alarm of fire was sounded from Chinatown. Before the department could arrive on the scene the flames had closed Ah Toy alley, a dozen houses were burning and terror-stricken Chinese were flying for their lives, so rapid was the spreading of the flames. Tinder could not have burned faster. The rapid progress of the fire was almost incredible, and the great heat suddenly developed made the work of the firemen dangerous and exceedingly hot. ¶ The streams of water thrown on by the Fire Department and the Chinatown fire brigade had no effect whatever. The Hook and Ladder company was driven off by the heat, which was unbearable. ¶ The fire originated in Ah Toy alley, which is near the southern end of Chinatown. The wind was from the north, and it was a stiff breeze. All south of the starting point was doomed at once, and in spite of water and a contrary wind the fire rapidly worked north, burning under the roofs. The whole of wooden Chinatown was doomed. ¶ The starting point was in a nest of gambling houses and houses of prostitution, and the Chinese prostitutes fled wildly, dragging with them what few things they could snatch up as they ran for their lives. The alleys were being rapidly closed by fire and the situation was dangerous. Some may have been caught and burned. ¶ A large part of the personal effects of the inmates was lost. Some that was taken out was stolen by both white and Chinese thieves. Mayor Breyfogle was on hand and succeeded in putting a stop to this to a good extent. There were frequent explosions of firearms, powder, oil and fireworks, greatly endangering the lives of the firemen. ¶ At 3:30 p.m. the large stable on the south of Chinatown, belonging to P. T. McCabe and occupied by Bailey Bros. took fire and was doomed. At the same hour the Russ House, corner of First and San Antonio streets, was in danger, and fears were entertained for all the buildings on First street between San Fernando and San Antonio. ¶ The fire in Chinatown is raging. Five thousand persons were watching it, and the heat was so intense that they could get no nearer than Guadalupe street, on the opposite side of the plaza. The fire at 3:40 p.m. has cleared out wooden Chinatown, which was the greater part of the whole, and brick Chinatown was being steadily approached by the flames. ¶ The origin of the fire is

unknown, but it is supposed to have started in a vacant store in Ah Toy alley. ¶ At 4:45 the stable was saved and the southern progress of the fire checked. Not a house in wooden Chinatown was standing and brick Chinatown had caught. ¶ The firemen then commenced to work to save the property on First street. ¶ At 4 p.m. there was a slim prospect of saving brick Chinatown."

5/4/1887 Evening Herald (staff) page 3 column 3 (News)

"Local Brevities....E. T. M. Simmons, accused of arson in setting fire to the Hotel del Monte on the night of April 1st, is still confined in jail at Salinas, having as yet been unable to secure bondsmen. It is expected that his trial will occur some time in June...."

5/4/1887 Evening Herald (City of San Jose) page 4 column 8 (Legal Notice)

"Notice of Special Election. Given to the Mayor and Common Council of the City of San Jose. ¶ To the Electors of the City of San Jose: ¶ A special election will be held in the City of San Jose at the places hereinbelow designated on the fifth day of May, 1887, for the purpose of voting upon the proposition of the City of San Jose incurring indebtedness for the following purposes:....[Rest of notice is very similar to the publication of the ordinance setting the election. See Herald, 4/9/1887, page 4, column 7 for complete text.]

5/4/1887 Morning Mercury (staff) page 3 column 1 (News)

"Local Brrevities....Silurians and usurers are fighting the bonds. the men of enterprise are for them. ¶ San Jose would have to-day a population of 40,000 had its moss-backs been buried years ago....Every man in San Jose who has not made up his mind as to how he will vote on bonds to-morrow should call around to McCabe's and get one of his new style summer hats. ¶ Every workingman in San Jose should vote for bonds, for bonds means work and plenty of it. It means money and plenty of it, and it also means a reduction not an increase of taxation....E. T. M. Simmons, accused of arson for setting fire to the Hotel del Monte on the night of April 1st, is still confined in jail at Salinas, having as yet been unable to secure bondsmen. It is expected taht his trial will occur some time in June...."

5/4/1887 Morning Mercury (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

"A LAST APPEAL. ¶ Upon the question of the bond issue, since its submission to the people was first resolved, we have maintained a consistent attitude of favor and have endeavored to present the subject in fair and open and dispassionate discussion, to the people whose interests are to be affected by, and whose ballots must be the arbiters of, the result. At the close of such an argument, and with full confidence in the integrity of its logic we make to the citizens of San Jose a final appeal. ¶ We appeal first of all to the working men; to the laborers who wield the shovel, swing the hammer, push the plane, lay the brick, carry the mortor [mortar], do the manual labor of the community and live by the honest sweat of their brows. We urge you to lay aside all blind theories and suspicions of public expenditures and think upon the simple proposition of whether the outlay of five hundred thousand dollars upon works which require just such labor as you offer, and in San Jose which is your home, will or will not benefit you by bringing an abundance of work to your doors, and at such good wages as such abundance of work supplies. ¶ We appeal next to the Knights of Labor to consider deeply the interests of the members of the order, and also those of the large class of laborers who, though not its members, are yet honest and hard working men who need every aid society can give them in the way of labor to secure the necessities and decent comforts of life. We beg this order to adapt its theories to local conditions and to follow no vague and general statements of principle which are not consistent with the plain and practical question before the people of San Jose. Even though the tenets of the order are opposed to the contract system of conducting public works, we submit that since the laws of the State compel that method, and since they also guard it against the abuse of degraded labor, and since these

suggested improvements are so necessary and helpful to local labor, it is the duty of the assemblies of Knights in San Jose to construe the general principle as not applying to such conditions, and to favor the issuance of bonds. ¶ We appeal to the men of means and influence, some of whom have been disposed to oppose the issuance of bonds. We urge upon your attention the argument, based upon the greatest good to all the citizens, which we have advanced in support of this public measure. Even admitting, for the moment, that your taxes would be slightly increased, is not the growth of the city, its increase in beauty and health, the employment of its laborers, the opportunity opened for new industries, the increased activity of capital, the prospect of a large immigration led in by the report of its enterprise, sufficient to outweigh all feeling of selfishness and to awaken a broader public spirit for the advancement of the general good? ¶ We appeal lastly to the business men and the friends of progress whoever and wherever they may be employed. We appeal to you, not to urge your adherence to the bond measure, for that you have already given. But we press upon your minds the necessity of active support at the polls, on the streets and among your friends and patrons and customers upon election day. Get out and work for this public measure as you would for a private business chance which held for you the prospect of immediate gain. Treat it as if it was your friend running for office who needed your personal influence and active service to insure his election. Have out your buggies to bring men to the polls. See that every voter in your block casts his ballot and casts it right. Be sure and vote yourself. ¶ To-morrow is the election. To-morrow's vote will decide whether San Jose is to have sufficient sewerage, safe and sightly bridges, clean streets, well kept parks and a City Hall at once, the pride and convenience of the Garden City. To-morrow San Jose will send abroad through all the State and over all the East where her name is becoming known her answer to the question whether, in the general march of California progress, she will lead the van by making, at the right time and in the right way, this wise and politic investment, or will come skulking along in the rear, hugging an assessment roll and picking up such stray scraps of second hand benefits as are left over by the first choice of more enterprising localities. We have faith enough in the sense of our people to believe that bonds will carry by a decisive vote."

5/4/1887 Morning Mercury (City of San Jose) page 4 column 7 (Legal Notice)

"Notice of Special Election. Given to the Mayor and Common Council of the City of San Jose. ¶ To the Electors of the City of San Jose: ¶ A special election will be held in the City of San Jose at the places hereinbelow designated on the fifth day of May, 1887, for the purpose of voting upon the proposition of the City of San Jose incurring indebtedness for the following purposes:...[Rest of notice is very similar to the publication of the ordinance setting the election. See Herald, 4/9/1887, page 4, column 7 for complete text.]

5/5/1887 Evening News (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

"TRICKS THAT ARE NOT VAIN. ¶ The Chinese in Northern Idaho mix gold dust worth \$8 an ounce with that worth \$16, and dispose of it at the maximum figure. They also file silver dollars, it is said, and mix the filings with gold. It is wonderful to what an extent the faculty of imitation as developed in the Chinese and how quickly they become familiar with the customs of the people with whom they mingle."

5/5/1887 Evening News (staff) page 3 column 3 (News)

"Chinese Sluggers. ¶ Two Chinamen giving the names of Ah Sing and Ah Gee pleaded not guilty in Justice Pfister's Court to-day to the complaint of Constable Haley charging them with battery on an unknown Chinaman. ¶ The case was set for May 12th and the defendants were permitted to go on their own recognizance."

5/5/1887 Evening News (staff) page 3 column 3 (News)

“Missing Witnesses. ¶ The case of Lee Wing charged with assault with a deadly weapon was called for trial in the Superior Court to-day. ¶ A number of the witnesses wanted in the case could not be found to-day they having disappeared since the fire yesterday. ¶ The case was continued to be set at the next call of the calendar.”

5/5/1887 Evening News (staff) page 3 column 4 (News)

“BALLOTS AND BONDS. ¶ Everybody Anxiously Awaiting the Verdict. ¶ A Large Vote Polled and Great Interest Manifested. ¶ The Impression is General That the Bonds Have Carried and That San Jose’s Prosperity is Assured. ¶ The polls opened in this city at 9 o’clock this morning and the voting commenced in a manner to indicate that the people were alive to the importance of the occasion and determined to express their opinion in the matter of a bond indebtedness. ¶ Many of the principal citizens were at the polls all day and working in a quiet way in favor of the bonds. ¶ The usual number of political workers were moving from poll to poll but there was no money in the election and they were not much interested. ¶ About an hour after the voting commenced a leading member of the Knights of Labor had written the following with chalk in large letters and in several conspicuous positions on the asphaltum sidewalks. ‘The K. of L., as a body, are not opposed to the bonds.’ ¶ The voting proceeded quietly and it was evident that nearly all of the voters had their minds made up before they went to the polls. ¶ At noon in the First Ward 150 voters had cast their ballots, and it was estimated that at least three-fourths had voted for the bonds. The impression was general in that ward that the bonds would carry. ¶ In the Second Ward at noon the bond men expressed themselves as confident that fully seven-eighths of the total vote at that time was for bonds. ¶ In the Third Ward much interest was shown in favor of the bonds. A. B. Hamilton, W. P. Dougherty, A. B. McNeil and James M. Thorpe remained at the polls nearly all day and influenced many votes in favor of the bonds. Considerably more than a two-third vote is expected from the Third Ward. ¶ The total vote cast in the city at 3:30 P.M. was as follows: ¶ First Ward, 340; Second, 460; Third, 540; Fourth, 470. ¶ The total vote of the city is nearly 2800 when a full vote is polled.”

5/5/1887 Evening News (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

“THE CHINATOWN FIRE. ¶ It is rumored that the destruction of Chinatown was the work of incendiaries and it is hinted that many of the Chinese property owners were not surprised or much alarmed when the flames broke out. It seems that the place was well insured, and it is said, that great efforts were made during the last week or two to place additional insurance upon the property. ¶ These are mere rumors and are probably suggested by the belief that the occupants of Chinatown knowing that a suit to condemn the place as a nuisance had been commenced, and fearing that they might be forced to tear down their buildings, at a great loss, just concluded to unload on the insurance companies. ¶ Whatever may have been the cause of the fire, it is generally admitted that it is a good thing for all except the insurance companies, and it may prove beneficial even in their case by teaching them to let such risks alone.”

5/5/1887 Evening News (staff) page 3 column 2 (News)

“AMONG THE RUINS. ¶ Chinese and Whites Digging for Valuables in the Ashes. ¶ Chinatown Swept From the Map of San Jose. ¶ The Former Inhabitants Seem to Have Hunted Their Holes and Hauled Them In. ¶ After the close of the report of the burning of Chinatown in yesterday’s NEWS the flames communicated to the brick building on the corner of San Fernando and Market streets. The building was a total loss. ¶ Chinatown was entirely destroyed with the exception of the brick building known as the Chinese Theater, adjoining the Globe Carriage Works on West San Fernando street. ¶ Those who own property in the burned districts are: L. Rothermel, Chas. Doerr, L. Scheller, J. T. Colehan, D. E. Albon, R. K. Ham, Edward Auzerais, John Stock, M. Tarleton, Ralph Lowe and P. T. McCabe. ¶ THE ORIGIN OF THE FIRE. ¶

The fire originated, as stated in the NEWS yesterday, in Ah Toy alley in a vacant building. Opposite this building was a store used as a Chinese lottery. It is stated that a few days ago a highbinder drew a big prize in this lottery and the proprietors were compelled to suspend. The fire occurred at a time when nearly the entire male population of the place were in another part of Chinatown attending to the lottery drawing which takes place daily at 3 o'clock. There seems to be no doubt that the fire was of incendiary origin. ¶ GONE TO THE BAY. ¶ The trains to San Francisco to-day took a great many Chinese passengers from San Jose. There were a large number of highbinders, sports and gamblers whose occupation was gone with the destruction of Chinatown. All of these were among the exodus to San Francisco. ¶ AN ESTIMATE OF THE LOSSES. ¶ A prominent insurance man said this morning: 'It is hard to estimate the loss to the Chinese in this fire. They had a great deal of merchandise in the stores which was very valuable to them. They had a great many articles that cost them much money that would be worthless to anyone but a Chinaman. At the very least I should estimate their loss at \$75,000 while it might run to \$100,000. Some insurance companies since the Chinese excitement have refused to take risks and the Chinamen have gone to San Francisco to get insurance in many cases. There is about \$30,000 on their property in companies represented by San Jose agencies. ¶ THE FIRE DEPARTMENT. ¶ At the first tap of the fire bell the Alert Hose carriage shot out of the City Stables and as it was dragged along the street, the members of the company joined their cart and succeeded in getting first water on the fire. Other companies were equally active and by apparently superhuman effort they saved the ground on which Chinatown was located and prevented the spread of the fire to the surrounding buildings. ¶ WHERE THEY LODGED. ¶ There were probably two thousand persons who lived in Chinatown. One half of these worked in various parts of the city and only returned to Chinatown at night. All of the Chinese scattered to the various warehouses around town, many going to East San Jose and Crandalville. They all apparently found lodgings last night for none were known to be without shelter. ¶ SEARCHING FOR VALUABLES. ¶ Among the ruins to-day, Chinamen have been searching for articles of value which the heat of the fire would not render entirely useless. In some instances money was found. Chinamen who had not saved their goods would dig around the spot over which their rooms had been located. Comparatively few Chinamen visited the ruins to-day. ¶ THE INSURANCE. ¶ There have not been many risks taken in Chinatown of late and a number of policies which have expired recently, the insurance companies have refused to renew. Following is a list of risks: ¶ Hoehner Bros. companies, \$3000. ¶ Firemen's Company, \$1,000, Rucker & Son, agents. In companies represented by Wright & Field, \$1,650. ¶ In companies represented by Montgomery & Rea, \$17,825. ¶ B. Newman is agent for a company who had a \$500 risk. ¶ F. J. Brandon is agent for companies who carried \$3,500. ¶ The Queen Insurance Company, Jas. A. Clayton, agent, \$500. ¶ Liverpool, London & Globe, \$2,500, Welch & Rosenthal, agents. ¶ A slight damage to the Dexter Stables was covered by insurance in Rucker & Son's Companies. ¶ The workshop in the rear of Tureman & Judah's furniture store was slightly damaged. Fully insured. ¶ Tantau Block was slightly damaged, a portion of the balcony in the rear being burned. Covered by \$3000 insurance in one of Montgomery & Rea's Companies."

5/5/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

"Should Be Fully Utilized. Chinatown being, with a very slight exception, burned, an opportunity is offered for securing the permanent redemption of the site which may not occur again during the Nineteenth century. ¶ So far as the owners of the site are hampered by leases, now is the time to get the Chinese lessees to surrender them at a low figure, as it will prove far less difficult to prevent Chinatown from being rebuilt than it would to have effected a removal of the buildings by legal process. ¶ Every legal and moral means should now be taken to redeem the property and erect on the site solid and enduring buildings, excepting where it is considered preferable to occupy the space with a park. That part of the city should be made the most attractive of any; and an eligible site for a hotel could now be secured, if the owners are disposed to be at all reasonable in their terms, free from objections that

have been urged to other sites. An extension of the Russ House, for instance, with such changes in the original structure as may be necessary, would be a very desirable measure. With a new city hall fronting one portion of a beautiful park and a handsome hotel bordering another, a striking impression of the beauty and finish of San Jose would be made upon all visitors. We hope the narrow-minded and short-sighted avarice of a few property owners will not be suffered to stand in the way, knowing, as we do, that the owners of adjacent sites are ready to 'stand in' liberally and effectively. The fossils should not be permitted to 'stand out' against such improvements."

5/5/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 3 column 1 (News)

"Brief Mention....The Chinese quarters out towards Alviso, owing to the fire yesterday, were largely populated last evening....Yesterday eight Chinamen were arrested at the fire on suspicion of stealing. The probabilities of conviction are uncertain, and charges may not be preferred...."

5/5/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 3 column 2 (News)

"A Blessing. ¶ Destruction of the Chinese Quarter by Fire. ¶ Scenes and Incidents. ¶ All Swept from Existence Except the Theater Building. ¶ General Rejoicing. ¶ Narrow Escape of the Dexter Stable and Russ House. ¶ Good Work by the Firemen. ¶ The Origin of the Fire Shrouded in Mystery—Celestials Non-Committal—The Probable Out-Come—The Insurance. ¶ A few minutes after 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon an alarm of fire from box 37 at the corner of First and San Fernando streets was sounded, caused by the breaking out of a fire in the center of wooden Chinatown, on what was known as Ah Toy alley. No one could be found who could explain the origin. The attention of white persons passing was first called to the fire by the sounding of a dozen or more police whistles by resident Chinamen. The fire had undoubtedly been burning ten minutes before the alarm was turned in, and it was several minutes thereafter before the steamers reached the scene and got their streams on. The tardiness was owing to the absence of the horses from the respective engine houses when the alarm was sent in. The Alert's Hose was the first apparatus on the ground, followed closely by Torrent Hose. It was probably twenty minutes after the Chinamen sounded their whistles before a steamer stream was on, though the Chinamen had one or two streams of their own before the Department arrived. The wind was blowing a stiff whirling breeze from the north, and by the time the Fire Department was fairly at work, the building where the fire was originally discovered was entirely enveloped, and those adjacent were burning. ¶ It was noticeable that the celestials did not appear unusually excited. Generally, an alarm of fire sends them this way and that, chattering like magpies, but they went to work very quietly, and in the majority of cases it looked as if they had everything packed and ready to go. ¶ The efforts of the firemen were soon directed to checking the flames to the eastward and southward. The Alert's pipemen took and held a position nearly under the water tank and kept the wood-work and sheds in the rear of the new Arguello block, and Grenninger & Young's carriage shop from burning; in this they were assisted by the Empire Company's pipemen. Torrent had two streams in service, and watched the south and west side of the block, and Franklin and Eureka companies had their streams first in one place and then in another, both doing first-class work in cutting off the fire from the Tantau block and Dexter livery stable. The Protection Hose boys also did their best to help quell the flames. Judge David Belden forgot his age and heart trouble, and was 'lightening' hose about and pulling on the grappling hook rope, as if the entire suppression of the fire depended upon him. Mayor Breyfogle also made himself active in pointing out what should be done, both by the police and firemen. ¶ An hour after the fire broke out it was raging in all its fury. Dense volumes of black smoke rolled southward and the rattle of exploding fire-crackers commingled with the bursting of Chinese bombs, and the crackling and roaring of the flames as they twisted and darted or were twirled or fanned by the breeze made the sight one to be long remembered. The shanties burned as if they had been thoroughly saturated with chemicals made to burn, and for a time water seemed to have no effect. ¶ It was suggested that the Mayor should

telegraph to San Francisco for help, as it looked as if the Dexter stable and the Russ House would have to go, and if they did it would undoubtedly sweep south and take the foundry block. ¶ Chief Brady looked anxious, but directed the firemen on the south side of the fire to stick close to the stable and the rear of the Tantau block. They did and much to the surprise of hundreds, succeeded. Some alarm was caused by the report being spread that Wy Kee's brick store in the south end of Chinatown contained a large amount of gunpowder. The proprietor, however, upon being interviewed, stated that there was no powder, and as the building was afterward gutted by fire without an explosion, it was evident he spoke the truth. ¶ While the firemen were using all their energies to prevent the wind driving the flames south and east, and as stated, had checked it; much to the surprise of the thousands of onlookers the flames worked steadily against the wind and to the northward. The heat was very intense, and as nearly all of the available streams were in use at the south end, it did not take long before the fire had backed northward and to the brick buildings facing San Jose and Market streets. The fire went through these as fast as a man could run, and then burned as if the feast had been prepared for it. ¶ Before the fire fairly reached the wooden building opposite the Catholic church on San Fernando street, the services of the Hook and Ladder company were made available and a good portion of the structure razed. Notwithstanding this, the heat from the portion that was left standing and afterward burned, caused the heavy Russia iron cornice on St. Joseph's church to expand and warp completely out of shape. Had the cornice been of wood, there is little doubt that the church would have been destroyed, as the cause of the destruction of the old St. Joseph church building, was the igniting of the cornice, the fire from the cornice being fanned by the draft under the eaves and roof. ¶ At 6 p.m., the fury of the flames was spent. The two-story brick building on the corner of Market and San Fernando streets was still burning fiercely, but it could not spread the destruction and all breathed freely. ¶ The most exciting scene, and really the only time the Chinamen as a class showed much anxiety, was when it was evident the 'Joss House' would succumb to the flames. They pulled their idol out and packed the thing of wood, cloth, paper and tinsel to a place of safety, followed by a mob of howling boys. ¶ During the afternoon, despite the efforts of the police, white boys and also Chinamen were detected attempting to steal from the stock packed in the streets from the burning buildings. Eight Chinamen were taken while in the act of robbing their unfortunate brethren. ¶ Before dark the goods which had been removed from the Russ House and the stores in that vicinity were returned and tranquility reigned. The fire steamers worked on by order of Chief Brady constantly. Soon after 11 o'clock Empire company was ordered to take up and go home. At 1 o'clock this morning Torrent steamer still had two streams dampening down the embers. ¶ The only building belonging to Chinatown proper that escaped was the Chinese theater. ¶ At 1 o'clock this morning out of the hundreds who were yesterday made homeless, not a dozen were in sight. They had scattered, where gone, no one could say. ¶ The enterprising Louis Lieber, the sign writer, did not wait until the bricks cooled, but finding a part of the wall standing near the junction of Market and San Jose streets, about 10 o'clock last night, crept in with an assistant, and painted the local legend, 'Lieber Paints Signs Anywhere' on the hot wall. It was so smoky while the painters were at work, that people within thirty feet of them could not discern them. ¶ While we regret any man's misfortune, we rejoice with the majority to know the vice-breeding quarter has been swept out of sight. The ground is within fire limits, and an attempt might be made to rebuild the whole place in brick, but every means should be taken to keep them out. ¶ There is very little hope that they will rebuild outside the city limits. They claim and want police protection. It will be remembered that they attempted to colonize in West San Jose, but the neighbors made it so disagreeable that they were glad to move out."

5/5/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 3 column 3 (News)

"Origin of the Fire. ¶ Views of Chief Brown and Mayor Breyfogle on the Cause. ¶ Chief Brown was interviewed as to his views of the origin of the fire. He said the immediate origin, as the Chinamen informed him, was the explosion of a coal-oil stove in the rear of Wy Kee's store. The fire, when he

arrived on the scene, was raging in the shanties where the Chinaman was lately found hanged. The flames spread with remarkable rapidity and in that section were soon beyond the control of the fire company. Then the work of tearing down buildings commenced, to try to save some portions of the quarters. There were grave fears that the Dexter Stables and the Russ House would catch fire, so the fire department were particularly careful in that quarter. Some of the sparks from the fire caught on the next block and the greatest caution was necessary to keep the fire from spreading. The Chinese did not seem to give any care to extinguishing the fire and not much to saving anything. He thought the conduct of the Chinese, added to the fact that lately they had taken out heavy additional insurances, pointed to them as intentionally setting the quarters on fire. ¶ Officer Coschina was present before the fire department and corroborated the statement of the chief in regard to the indifference of the Chinese. He had urged Charley, the butcher, and others, to get wares out, but they seemed to think there was no use. ¶ Mayor Breyfogle was called upon for his views of the origin of the fire. He said he had no ideas in regard to it. He was on the ground soon after the alarm was given and personally aided all he could to extinguish the fire and save buildings, but as to its origin knew nothing. The circumstance that lately the Chinese had taken out additional policies to very large amounts, was suspicious. This added to the facts that they had lately offered to sell out and vacate for \$20,000, and that they had been looking out for other quarters, seemed strong circumstantial evidence against them.”

5/5/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 3 column 3 (News)

“Heavy Insurance. ¶ An Unusual Demand for Policies Creates Suspicion. ¶ The insurance on Chinatown forms a considerable item; and it is not unlikely that one-half of the property and effects was so covered. It is estimated that \$60,000 is the amount, \$30,000 of which is in San Francisco agencies, the representatives in this city of companies having the other half. ¶ In regard to the matter of insurance there are some ugly rumors abroad. Insurance agents claim that the Chinese have lately been very solicitous about insuring their property and within the past week they have been especially active. Within the past three days Montgomery & Rea have taken \$1,000 in risks and on Tuesday a \$1,600 risk was offered to them which they sent up to San Francisco for approval, to which a negative reply was received last evening. ¶ It was stated on the streets yesterday that \$45,000 of insurance policies could have been issued, had the companies desired to accept them. Montgomery & Rea state that one-third of their losses will be covered by salvage; they will pay all their losses promptly as soon as their adjuster makes his report. ¶ Hoehner Bros. agencies lost several thousand and will contest the matter. They claim that they have proof that the Chinese poured coal-oil in and over their rookeries; also, that in one place 500 gallons of the article were stored which is contrary to the law. In other words, the denizens of Chinatown did all in their power to hasten and complete its destruction. ¶ A TIMES reporter visited the different insurance offices and the following are those who sustained losses, with the amounts. ¶ Montgomery & Rea were the heaviest losers and the following is their complete report: Wy Kee, frame building, \$500, in State Investment Insurance Co. ¶ Yan Kee, merchandise, \$150; California Insurance Co. ¶ Yan Kee, merchandise, \$150; State Investment Insurance Co. ¶ Pow Hong, merchandise, \$100; State Investment Insurance Co. ¶ Wing Chung Yung, merchandise, \$800; Orient Insurance Co. ¶ Wah Chung, frame building, \$1,000; State Investment Co. ¶ Wy Kee, merchandise, \$500; Fire Insurance Association of London. ¶ Wy Kee, frame buildings, \$500; Fire Insurance Association of London. ¶ Sung Chung Lee, merchandise, \$1,000; Washington Insurance Co. ¶ On Lung, merchandise, \$1,200; State Investment Co. ¶ Pon Hong, merchandise, \$1,200; State Investment Insurance Co. ¶ Yon Kee, merchandise, \$100; State Investment Insurance Co. ¶ Wing Chong Yung, six frame buildings, \$950; Washington Insurance Co. ¶ Quong Tai Wo & Co., merchandise, \$1,000; Washington Insurance Co. ¶ Wy Kee, merchandise, \$500; Washington Insurance Co. ¶ Pon Hong, merchandise, \$1,200; State Investment Insurance Co. ¶ Chas Dow Kee, merchandise, \$625; Washington Insurance Co. ¶ Yun Wah, merchandise, \$600; Fire Insurance Association. ¶ Quong Tuck Kee, merchandise, \$2,000; Fire Insurance Association. ¶ Hung Hong & Co.,

frame buildings, \$1,000; Fire Insurance Association. ¶ Quong Tai Sing, merchandise, \$1,000; Washington Insurance Co. ¶ Wah Kee, merchandise, \$1,000; German American Insurance Co. ¶ Quong Tai & Co., frame dwelling, \$500; State Investment Insurance Co. ¶ Quin Tai & Co., merchandise, \$1,000. Union Insurance Co. ¶ Wing Chung Yung & Co., merchandise, \$950; Washington Insurance Co. ¶ Quong Tai Sing, merchandise, \$1,000; North British & Mercantile Co. ¶ To sum up the above it will be seen that the losses by Montgomery & Rea aggregate \$19,525 which are represented by the following companies: Washington, \$7,525; State Investment, \$5,900; Fire Insurance Association, \$4,100; German American, \$1,000; Union, \$1000; North British & Mercantile, \$1,000; California, \$150; Orient, \$800. ¶ Wright & Field lose \$1,650 divided as follows: Man Wong Tong, merchandise, \$500, British-American Insurance Co.; Sang Chung, frame dwelling, \$450, Prussian National Co.; Hung Yap & Co., merchandise, \$700, Anglo-Nevada. All of the above policies would have expired in June and July. ¶ J. E. Rucker & Son have refused many Chinese risks lately, and consequently lost only \$1,000 on the frame building of Wy Kee, insured in the Firemen's, of New Jersey. ¶ Welch & Rosenthal have been discontinuing this class of insurance, and their loss is not large. Many contracts expired during the last month, which they refused to renew, the consequence being that they only lose \$3,125, divided as follows; Chas Kow Kee, drugs and merchandise, \$1,500; the same, \$625; Quong Tai Wo & Co., merchandise, \$1,000, all of the above having been placed in the Washington Insurance Co. ¶ B. Newman had \$500 on one of the brick houses on San Fernando Street. The company involved is the Springfield, of Massachusetts. ¶ J. A. Clayton loses \$3,000, most of which is in the Queen Insurance Co. Yesterday he refused to issue a \$1,500 policy, and now feels happy in consequence. ¶ Hoehner Bros. had \$3,000 in the clothing establishment of Wah Chung. This policy was by the Fire Insurance Company of London. ¶ Through enumerating the losses sustained by the foregoing companies, it is proved that Chinatown was insured in this city for \$32,800. Nor does this include the risks held in San Francisco, which are stated in round numbers at \$20,000. More statistics will come undoubtedly to light today when all of the agents will be at their offices and can produce more accurate figures. At any rate it is obvious that though the Chinese are homeless, they are far from being penniless."

5/5/1887 Evening Herald (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

"Here is the Opportunity. The burning of Chinatown at least gives the city authorities an opportunity to offer the Chinese a reservation somewhere on the main sewer, where they can remain unmolested. Hints have been given several times lately by leading Chinamen that if they could obtain something of that sort, they would be willing to leave the center of the city. These hints, however, as we are informed, have always been accompanied with a demand that the improvements they had made in Chinatown should be paid for. Now those improvements have all been destroyed and as far as that matter is concerned they can build their shanties anywhere else just as well as there. Indeed, in any case they cannot be permitted to put up any but fire-proof buildings on the site just burned over, because that is within the fire limits, and they must conform to the regulations on that subject, as well as other people. The danger rather is that they will swarm into the shanties across Market street behind the blacksmith shop, where some of their race are already located, and into other shanties around or near the Plaza, and thus create a new Chinatown nuisance almost before the authorities are aware. ¶ But let a reservation be given to them, as suggested, and let it be distinctly understood that any nuisance they may create in the center of the city, or anywhere outside of that reservation, will be severely punished—that their houses of prostitution, their gambling dens, and all the other violations of law and decency, which they have so far carried on almost without molestation, will be constantly raided by the police, and it does not seem hardly possible that they will refuse to accept the alternative. ¶ There may be no strictly legal method of carrying out such a suggestion, but we think it can be done nevertheless, if the authorities will act promptly and resolutely, and the people generally will second their efforts. And, surely, no stone should now be left unturned to prevent the recurrence of the infernal nuisance which

has just been destroyed by fire, after having for years defied all the efforts of the authorities to abate it. ¶ Here is the opportunity of a lifetime, if there be a man among us that is willing to take the responsibility, as we hope and believe that there is.”

5/5/1887 Evening Herald (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

“A Coolie Judge. According to the rulings of Judge Sawyer no municipality can defend itself against the unutterable nuisance of coolieism. No matter what ordinances may be passed to abate this nuisance, he invariably declares them to be unconstitutional and therefore void. The city authorities of Napa passed an ordinance prohibiting all persons from carrying on a public laundry within certain defined limits. This, it will be seen, was no discrimination against coolies—all were treated alike. One Chinaman refused to obey the ordinance, and was arrested and fined as a natural result. The case was taken to the Federal Courts, and Judge Sawyer decided that the City Council had no right to enforce such an ordinance, and that its provisions were contrary to the Constitution of the United States. The why or wherefore of this decision the Judge did not pretend to give, but the decision stands nevertheless, and will deter other municipal corporations from attempting to abate coolie nuisances of any kind, as, doubtless, it was intended to do. In fact, for aught of protection from the evils and nuisances of coolieism that can be obtained from the Federal Courts, the Judges and everyone connected with them might as well be the Chinese themselves. In every case, right or wrong, the decision is in favor of the coolies, and citizens of the United States must either grin and bear it, or resort to violence to protect themselves from the pestilence-breeding nuisances that exist everywhere that Chinese are tolerated.”

5/5/1887 Evening Herald (staff) page 2 column 3 (News)

“The Bond Election. ¶ Confidence Expressed as to the Result—A Large Vote. ¶ The election on the bond proposition is quietly in progress. Several propositions are presented, for the issuance of bonds as follows: For a main sewer, \$150,000; for sewers in city limits, \$135,000; for City Hall, \$150,000; for street and park improvements, \$50,000; for bridges, \$15,000. The vote was not heavy this forenoon, and the bonds were nearly everywhere in favor by long odds. The opponents of the bonds seemed to be waiting, however, for this afternoon a stronger opposition than before was developed. ¶ Many business men favoring the bonds were very active about the polls all day and in bringing working men to vote. In the First and Second Wards some of the bond men were so enthusiastic that they claimed that the affirmative was receiving three or four votes to one. The drift was in the same direction in the Third Ward, but as to the Fourth Ward no confidence was expressed. ¶ This forenoon Wm. Vinter busied himself by writing in chalk on the corners of the sidewalks in the business part of town: ‘The K. of L. are not as a body opposed to bonds. Vinter.’ ¶ When a reporter made the rounds of the various polling places this afternoon he heard on every hand expressions of confidence that the bonds would carry by a good majority.”

5/5/1887 Evening Herald (staff) page 3 column 1 (News)

“After the Fire. ¶ Circumstances Tend to Incendiarism. ¶ A Missing Man. ¶ The Singular History of a House. ¶ No More Chinatown. ¶ Reasons Why It Will Not be Rebuilt. ¶ Hard Worked Firemen. ¶ Nature of the Fire and Difficulties Encountered in Handling It—Notes. ¶ The Chinatown fire was burning fiercely at the hour of going to press last evening and before the setting of the sun the whole of Chinatown was a thing of the past, nothing remaining but masses of charred timbers and a few sections of brick wall. What was known as brick Chinatown was the last to yield to the devouring element, but despite the energetic work of the firemen, who worked for hours in an atmosphere of smoke and intense heat, it disappeared with the rest. A well known fireman says that he was one of the first men at the fire and when he arrived flames were issuing from three different points in wooden Chinatown, as if an incendiary had been at work. Thousands of people visited the scene during the afternoon and far into

the night the streets in the vicinity of the burnt district were filled with spectators. ¶ The Losses. ¶ Names of Property-Owners—The Chinese Merchants. ¶ The exact amount of the loss is not known, but it is estimated to be, including buildings and personal property, about \$75,000 and perhaps more. Those who own property in the burnt district are: L. Rothermel, Charles Doerr, L. Scheller, J. T. Colahan, D. E. Albon, R. K. Ham, Edward Auzeais, John Stock, M. Tarleton, Ralph Lowe and P. T. McCabe. ¶ Several small sheds in the rear of First street stores and in the rear of Greeninger's paint shop were partially burned. ¶ The back porch of the Tantau block on First street was burned. ¶ The principal losers among the Chinese are Ah Fook, who owned a considerable portion of the brick buildings, the ground being leased, and Ah Toy, who was simply interested in wooden Chinatown. The other Chinese losers are as follows, the list being taken from this year's assessment roll: Chung Lee, improvements on land of Rothermel, \$5,000; Chuck Kee, merchandise, \$500; Fong Hong & Co., merchandise, \$2,500; Kow Kee, merchandise, \$515; Wy Kee & Co., merchandise, estimated, \$3,137; Lum Lee, merchandise, \$200; Lung Hee, merchandise, \$1,000; Man Ning Hung, merchandise, \$209; On Lung, merchandise, \$580; San Chung Lee, merchandise, \$1,000; San Chong, merchandise, \$200; San Chun Lung, merchandise, \$300; Shing Kee & Co., merchandise, \$600; Tuck Wo & Co., merchandise, \$100; Wan Chung, merchandise, \$125; Win Chung Yeun, merchandise, \$410; Wing Chung, merchandise, \$500; Yang Tie, merchandise, \$450. It is believed that these statements, as given to the Assessor, were much below the real figures. Many small establishments, such as barber shops, tailor shops, etc., do not appear on the assessment roll at all. ¶ The Chinese Masonic Hall and the Joss house will prove a loss of several thousand dollars. ¶ The entire contents of several of the stores were removed and saved, but the larger portion was destroyed. This is also true of household furniture and other personal effects. Most of the storekeepers made no effort to save their goods, being apparently satisfied to let them burn and receive their insurance money. ¶ The Insurance. ¶ It Is Reported to Amount to Forty Thousand Dollars. ¶ The insurance risks in Chinatown are said to amount to about \$40,000, about two-thirds having been taken in this city. A number of policies expired during this month; in some cases renewals were made and in other cases they were refused. As high as 8 per cent has been paid as insurance rate. Local agents report the following as the result of a search for losses: ¶ B. Newman, agent for the Springfield of Massachusetts, policy of \$500 on brick building fronting on San Fernando street; total loss. ¶ Springfield of Massachusetts and Fire Insurance of London policy of \$3,000 on brick building occupied by Wah Chung as a tailoring establishment; Hoehner Bros., agents; total loss. ¶ Wooden house, owned by Mrs. Albon, insured for \$500 in the Queen, J. A. Clayton, agent; total loss. ¶ The Tantau Block was insured for \$4,000 in the State Investment Co., Montgomery & Rea agents; slightly damaged. ¶ Wright & Field report a loss of \$1,650, partly in wooden and partly in brick Chinatown, the amount being divided between the different companies as follows: British American, \$500; Prussian National, \$450; Anglo-Nevada, \$700. ¶ Tureman & Judah are insured by Blaney & Co., in the Scottish Union of Edinburgh, the National of Hartford, and Svea of Stockholm. The loss sustained by this firm is not serious, being confined to a workshop in the rear of Ralph Lowe's frame building on First street. ¶ The Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Co., represented by Welch & Rosenthal, carried insurance in brick Chinatown on property owned by Wy Kee to the extent of \$2,500, and the same amount on property of Tuck Woo. This is almost a total loss. ¶ Wy Kee was also insured in the Fireman's Company of New Jersey for \$1,000, Rucker & Son representing the company. This firm also represented the Citizens' Company of Ohio, which held a policy of \$1,500 on the Dexter stables, which sustained but slight damage. ¶ C. Hirth's place was insured in the State Investment for \$300, which will cover his loss. ¶ Wing Tai Lung and Lee Yung were each insured for \$1,000. Suong Tue Sing was insured in the New Zealand for \$1,500; these policies were written by F. J. Brandon, who about one week ago cancelled a policy of \$1,500 in the Anglo Nevada and \$750 in the Prussian National and had other policies which were not renewed. ¶ A large number of Chinese were insured in companies represented by Montgomery & Rea. The following is a list of the losers, with the companies insured in: Pon Hong, \$800, in Washington Insurance Co. on merchandise; Chas. Kow Kee, \$625, Washington

Insurance Co., on merchandise; Yun Who, \$600, on merchandise, in the Fire Insurance Co. of London; Quong Tuck Kee, \$2,000 on merchandise in the Fire Insurance Association; Wing Chong Yung \$950 on six frame buildings, in the Washington, also \$800 in the Orient; Quong Tai Wo & Co. \$1,000 on general merchandise in a frame building in the Washington; Song Chong Lee \$1,000 on merchandise in the Washington; Wing Chun Yung \$1,250 on merchandise in the Washington; On Lung \$1,200 on merchandise (all saved) in the State Investment Co., Pon Hong \$100 on merchandise in the State Investment; Wo Chung \$1,000 on merchandise in the State Investment Co.; Wy Kee \$500 in the Washington on merchandise and \$500 in the Fire Insurance Association of London on a frame building; Quong Tai Sing \$1,000 in the Washington, and \$1,000 in the North British Mercantile on merchandise; Wah Kee \$1,000 on merchandise in the German-American; Quong Tai & Co. \$1,000 on merchandise and \$500 on the frame dwelling, in the Union Insurance Co.; Wing Chung Yung & Co. \$950 on merchandise in the Washington. A small portion of the merchandise was saved, but the buildings are a total loss. ¶ J. B. J. Portal, the agent of the Union Insurance Company of San Francisco, says that his company had no insurance in Chinatown, and that its only loss by the fire was the slight damage to the cornice of the Catholic Church. The Union company mentioned must therefore be some other concern. ¶ Incidents of the Fire. ¶ Chinese Fondness for Pets—Rescued by the Mayor—Brave Work. ¶ Many interesting incidents were noted during the progress of the fire. A few may be mentioned. As is well known, the Chinese residents had a large number of pigeons, chickens, ducks, dogs and cats about their premises, and when the flames had commenced to burn fiercely the pigeons, bewildered, took flight from their houses and were seen fluttering about, uncertain as to what course they should take. Some adopted a retreat and fell a prey to the fury of the fire; others, with singed wings, dropped among the spectators on the plaza. Although a number of coops of fowls were removed in time to be saved, many chickens were destroyed. Dogs and cats—a perfect cloud of these animals—in most cases made their escape, careful aid being given by the owners of the pets, who seemed to be almost as solicitous for the safety of these creatures as for their own. An amusing sight was that of an old Chinese crone, fat and fifty, carrying in her arms a dog which could well have been led by a rope. ¶ Many of the Chinese were panic-stricken at the fire, and had it not been for the assistance of cool-headed white men a much larger proportion of their effects would have been destroyed. ¶ The explosions of firearms and powder in the building next to the corner of Market and San Fernando streets made the work of the firemen in that quarter especially dangerous. As to the heat, it was almost intolerable hundreds of feet from where the firemen worked for hours. ¶ During the afternoon Mayor Breyfogle noticed that a member of the Hook and Ladder company had been overcome by the heat and smoke and that he was about to yield to faintness. The Mayor rushed to his aid and dragged him out. Had he remained where he was a minute longer he might have fallen into the burning flames. ¶ Shortly after the fire started and while everything seemed to be excitement and confusion, a duck walked out from the burning district out to the plaza, looked around him, gave a quack or two and went west. ¶ The Rothermel building on the corner had an asphaltum roof, giving that part of the town an inflammable character that water had little power to subdue. ¶ About 7 o'clock but little remained of the brick walls in the north part of town, firemen and others having, in the interest of safety, used scantling in pushing over the higher walls. ¶ Considerable amusement occurred when the Chinese were rescuing their Joss from the flames. It took a brave and a hard fight to do it, and when they came out panting and singed with their soaked and scorched and bedraggled god, there was a shout from the spectators. ¶ 'Seventeen thousand lives were lost!' exclaimed an excited bystander when the flames were raging. Several women prepared to faint. 'Bedbugs and rats,' he added. ¶ Origin of the Fire. ¶ A Stray Ray of Light on a Very Mysterious Subject. ¶ Reporters of the Herald were detailed early this morning to unearth if possible the mystery of the fire. In attempting to unravel Chinese mysteries almost insuperable difficulties are encountered. Many theories were gathered and much evidence of a presumptive character gleaned. Some of it was worthless. ¶ It has been urged, for instance, that the recent renewals and increases of insurance policies probably

indicate that the Chinese thus saw a means to stop the persecutions against them and get out without loss. There appears to be no reasonable ground for such a theory, because the total insurance was exceedingly light in comparison with the losses. The insurance companies took very small risks, as they in no ascertainable case would insure for anything like the proportion allowed by the rules. The losses, even allowing for the insurance, are very heavy, the storekeepers especially suffering severely. Probably not a twentieth of the goods was saved, and hundreds of Chinese are ruined. ¶ Another theory is that the fire started in Wing Ching Yung's store after it had been discovered that Wing Ching Yung, who is the local agent for the Quong Fook Lottery Company, had been victimized by a rascally clerk, assisted by a highbinder, by being compelled with threats to cash a \$600 bogus lottery ticket; that after the fire Wing Ching Yung claimed that he had lost \$500 in the fire, it being asserted to the contrary that he had to borrow the money with which to cash the \$600 ticket. In the light of subsequent revelations, this theory may be dismissed. ¶ The fire was probably incendiary. Several reasons exist for this presumption, and actual suspicion of a strong character points to a certain Chinaman, who happens to be missing. What led him to commit the deed, if he did, is a matter merely of conjecture. He may have been paid to do it, but for what reason or by whom is a matter of the vaguest surmise. ¶ According to all the light that W. T. Wheeler, the Chinatown agent, has been able to gather since his return last night from San Francisco, the fire started in a vacant store building in Ah Toy town. This town lay between brick Chinatown on the north and Wy Kee town on the south, these three divisions constituting the whole of Chinatown. Ah Toy and Wy Kee towns were built of wood. The storeroom in which the fire started was at the southeast corner of Ah Toy alley and a cross alley opening upon the plaza. Some months ago an attachment was put upon the stock in this store, and the attachment was bought out by Hi Lung & Co. About six months ago they closed out the business, and since that time Ah Ming, who was either a partner or a bookkeeper for Hi Lung & Co., had slept in the store. It is Ah Ming who is missing. It was reported at the place where he usually made his headquarters that yesterday, at 3 or 4 o'clock, he was there, and that after staying about half an hour he left and had not been since. From what could be learned this morning it appears that if Ah Ming should be found by the Chinese merchants his life would not be worth much. Ah Ming is said to bear a hard name. ¶ The books of the Gas Company show that the bills for gas in that store had been made out to Lun Yik for about a year; that the bills were always paid by Tuck Wo. & Co., whose store was at the corner of the cross alley and plaza; that the bill was collected on the 6th of April, when gas was no longer used there. Lun Yik was probably the name of the person who originally conducted the store. ¶ E. McAfee, the Gas Company's collector, says that to the best of his recollection the place was kept as a lottery agency after it was closed six months ago, and that it was so kept down to the 6th of April. He says further that the Gas Company lost forty meters in the fire. ¶ If the fire was incendiary there were four circumstances which rendered the attempt almost absolutely sure of success. ¶ The first of these was that at the time of day at which the fire occurred nearly all of the Chinese men out of business or work congregated every day in the brick building at the corner of Market and San Fernando streets for a general drawing by the lotteries. ¶ The second was the fact that there were no buckets of water in Ah Toy town, as there were in the other towns. In Ah Fook (brick) and Wy Kee towns hundreds, if not thousands, of buckets were kept filled with water and held available for fires. Ah Toy had an economical turn of mind, or probably he had a high opinion of the San Jose Fire Department. Buckets cost money. ¶ The third circumstance was the peculiar action of the water from the large tank in the rear of Chinatown. This tank stood about forty feet from the ground and held 8,000 or 10,000 gallons when full. Running from it was a two-inch hose one or two hundred feet long. This tank and hose have been very useful in putting out incipient fires in Chinatown. A Herald reporter saw the stream that this hose threw yesterday and remarked upon its weakness. It rose only ten or twelve feet, whereas it should have thrown a strong stream thirty feet high. It was perfectly useless. The inference was either that the hose had a bad leak or was cut, or that there was very little water in the tank, although it was usually kept full. ¶ The fourth circumstance was the temporary absence of W. T.

Wheeler in San Francisco. Wheeler was a terror to the highbinders, and not only that but he would have been a very important factor in checking the fire had he been here. He could organize and control the Chinese in fighting fire as no other man could. He has done this and saved Chinatown on innumerable occasions. It would appear as though his absence had been taken advantage of if it was incendiary. He expresses a determination to probe the mystery to the bottom, and he may be depended on for doing it. ¶ Work of the Firemen. ¶ Unjust Criticisms—The Risks the Firemen Ran—Worn Out. ¶ It was the largest and hottest fire that San Jose ever had, and from the very first it was beyond the control of the Fire Department. It has been charged that the firemen did not work faithfully to save Chinatown. A more unjust and cruel charge could not be made. The strong wind blew the flames upon the Dexter (McCabe's stables) and the Lick House. If those properties had been neglected the southern part of town would have been wiped out. ¶ The Chinese merchants in brick town believed that the fire would be confined to wooden town, and hence they did not start to move out till it was too late. In the meantime the Hook and Ladder men went into the hottest of the fire and tore out the connecting awnings over the alleys, but the fire worked under and the flames swept over. Ten engines could not have stopped it. ¶ It was extremely difficult to work. When the hose men would fight their way into the narrow alleys in the scorching heat they found that they could not train the streams upon the flames. The fire burnt under the roofs, and water on the roofs would be useless. The innumerable little partitions effectually prevented not only the pulling down of the structures thus intricately braced, but also the proper working of the hose. If a fire in one of the little rooms was checked a hundred other little rooms were in flames. It was simply impossible to check the fire. ¶ At the moment when brick town was in danger the far more valuable property on First street was in equal danger, and with it still other property. With the firemen it was a choice between an exceedingly slim if not impossible hope of saving brick Chinatown and the far more practical task of saving the Russ House and all of First street. They were compelled to leave brick Chinatown to its fate until the fire had invaded it and got control. As it was the firemen with incredible effort saved the large brick house on San Fernando street adjoining Grenninger & Young, and also the Chinese theater in the rear. ¶ The firemen worked until some of them fell from exhaustion. Many had their faces and hands badly blistered. They went directly into fire so hot that it kept bystanders two hundred feet away. Revolvers, rifles, shotguns, cartridges, bombs and the like were constantly exploding. At one time there was an explosion that blew a brick building down. Not a single fireman hung back in the face of these dangers, and yet at every moment they carried their lives in their hands. It is only those who love Chinese better than white men who will say that the firemen did not do their duty as firemen should. ¶ The Future Chinatown. ¶ The Complications Likely to Result from Rebuilding. ¶ Will Chinatown be built? Is the all-absorbing question. ¶ It will not. ¶ The fire uncovered the filth of the cesspools. A suit to condemn Chinatown as a nuisance is pending. Experts have seen the uncovered cesspools and other filth dangerous to the public health. When the first attempt at rebuilding is made an injunction will be placed upon the work, and it will be held there until the suit is determined. It will take a long time to determine it. ¶ He would be a hardy man or Chinaman who would consent to work on the new buildings. Chinatown is removed by the hand of Providence and it will stay removed by the hand of man. Sometimes public sentiment, especially when it is unanimous, cannot be trifled with. It is then stronger than the law. Seattle and Tacoma have proved it. A mob is an ugly thing, and so is dynamite. ¶ Chinatown will not be rebuilt. ¶ Meanwhile the Chinese hold leases on the ground. The least of Rothermel's ground (brick Chinatown) has seven years yet to run, and the other leases run from two to five years. The Chinese may demand indemnity for their leaseholds. They should and will be paid a reasonable amount. The money will come. ¶ While the injunction issued in the nuisance suit is preventing the re-erecting of Chinatown the city can be preparing to bring suit to enforce its claim to the ground as property that was dedicated to the city as a public square and the title to which the city claims it has never legally parted with. If the injunction in the nuisance suit should by accident be dissolved another injunction, based on the other suit, will be put on; and it generally takes a long time to

determine such suits. ¶ Chinatown will never be rebuilt. ¶ The Chinese show a bitter spirit today. It is natural. They lost all they had and are practically bankrupted. Some of them swear that they will at once rebuild. ¶ But they will not. ¶ Besides, their attorney, one of the leading lawyers of this city, advised them today not to rebuild. He told them that it would be better for them not to. They will take his advice. ¶ Chinatown is dead. ¶ It is dead forever. ¶ But they must live somewhere. They are scattered now and are having a hard time. Their hardships call for common human sympathy, and if any are in actual need their wants should be relieved. The brutal treatment that some of them received at the fire yesterday at the hands of white roughs is no indication of the feeling entertained by the decent element. The Chinese will not be allowed to suffer if humane persons be told of their wants. They have the sympathy of good people and they should try to deserve it. ¶ But they will never be allowed to rebuild Chinatown. ¶ The line is drawn at that. ¶ They will build somewhere else—anywhere else that they can find but not in the city. The president of the Six Companies came down this morning and is looking around.”

5/5/1887 Evening Herald (staff) page 3 column 4 (News)

"Various Notes. ¶ Injured Firemen—At the Stock Yards—An All-Night Watch. ¶ Simon Kamp, member of Empire Engine Company, had his hand severely scorched while at work at the fire. ¶ At Mrs. Murphy-Columbet's stock yards, on the corner of San Carlos and First streets, the straw was set on fire four times by flying embers, but was extinguished by means of a garden hose each time. ¶ Wm. Gavin, an employe of the San Jose Transfer Company and a member of Torrent Hose Company, sustained a number of severe bruises, incapacitating him for work for a day or two. ¶ Most of the fire companies were sent home during the early part of the night. Torrent engine remained until 2:30 this morning and Eureka Company was not relieved until 6 a.m."

5/5/1887 Evening Herald (Levy Bros.) page 3 column 6 (Advertisement)

"Fire in Chinatown. But it makes no difference to Levy Bros., as they employed no Chinese help nor did they sell any Chinese-made goods. They are the originators of the idea of manufacturing ready-made clothing in San Jose, and as they took the lead they now intend to keep it. You can now get a good suit made to order for \$10. They have the largest and most complete stock in town to select from, and they have the largest and most efficient force of workmen ever employed in San Jose by any tailoring establishment. Don't forget the number, 74 and 76 South First street."

5/5/1887 Evening Herald (City of San Jose) page 4 column 8 (Legal Notice)

"Notice of Special Election. Given to the Mayor and Common Council of the City of San Jose. ¶ To the Electors of the City of San Jose: ¶ A special election will be held in the City of San Jose at the places hereinbelow designated on the fifth day of May, 1887, for the purpose of voting upon the proposition of the City of San Jose incurring indebtedness for the following purposes:...[Rest of notice is very similar to the publication of the ordinance setting the election. See Herald, 4/9/1887, page 4, column 7 for complete text.]

5/5/1887 Morning Mercury (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

"The Chinatown Fire. ¶ The whole of Chinatown went up in smoke and down in ashes yesterday afternoon. The loss of property cannot yet be estimated and perhaps will never be exactly known, but from the fact that the insurance policies aggregate about \$40,000, it may be judged that the values destroyed are large. The loss is complete, Chinatown was not merely burned, it was annihilated. ¶ In the sense that every fire is a calamity and every destruction of property a misfortune, it cannot be doubted that business will be disturbed, and the many innocent persons will be found to have suffered loss. A certain feeling of commiseration too must in Christian charity must be felt for the Chinese whose homes

and property have been snatched from them in one swift and awful moment. ¶ Further than this, however, our mourning cannot go. For years it has been looked upon as a nuisance the abatement of which would be an unmixed blessing. Within a few weeks actions have been begun for its removal, but the demon of fire and the decree of fate have been speedier than the officers and process of the law. Everything has been accomplished that the courts could have ordered upon the fullest proofs. The fumigation of Chinatown is final and complete and is a fiery blessing. ¶ If the fire of yesterday has any influence upon the vote of to-day it will be in favor of the bonds. The proposed sewer improvements cover this portion of the city. If sewers are now laid there the owners of the land where Chinatown stood will choose rather to erect business blocks than to permit the return of the Chinese. An additional argument has also been created for a new City Hall. One thing is certain and that is that Chinatown must never be permitted to return to its old site.”

5/5/1887 Morning Mercury (staff) page 3 column 1 (News)

“Laid in Ashes. ¶ Complete Destruction of Chinatown. ¶ Yesterday’s Fire. ¶ Its Mysterious Origin, Rapid Progress and Terrible Work. ¶ Adjoining Buildings. ¶ Saved by the Energetic Efforts of the Firemen and Citizens. ¶ Scenes of Excitement. ¶ A Loss of Over Seventy Thousand Dollars—The Insurance. ¶ Hundreds Made Homeless. ¶ Only Two Buildings Left Standing—Endeavors of the Chinese to Save Property—Some Queer Incidents—After the Fire. ¶ At 2:50 o’clock yesterday afternoon occurred the largest conflagration ever known in this city, the entire district known as Chinatown being destroyed, with the exception of two brick buildings—a lodging-house fronting on San Fernando street, and the theater, in the rear of it. ¶ Where It Originated. The fire originated in a building in what was known as Ah Toy alley, a narrow alley-way running north and south through the center of that part of the district known as wooden Chinatown, the buildings in which were used mostly as houses of prostitution, opium dens and for other questionable purposes, there also being a few stores. How it originated is a mystery, but the fire appeared first in a vacant store at the north end of the alley. ¶ The First Alarm. At three minutes before 3 o’clock the alarm was sent in and in a short time the entire Fire Department was on the scene. The flames were spreading rapidly in every direction and the Chinamen were rushing hither and thither in their endeavors to save their personal effects. The confusion was great and the chattering and gesticulating of the women as they fled for their lives from their dens lent greatly to the general excitement. ¶ The Chinese Brigade. Upon the discovery of the fire, the Chinese Fire Brigade got out their apparatus and made an attempt to subdue the flames. Their efforts, however, were time and labor lost. Their apparatus consists of a line of small rubber hose and a few buckets. The stream from the hose had no effect whatever, and work of the bucket brigade was more energetic than sensible. ¶ The Department at Work. It was but a moment after the arrival of the fire department, when half a dozen streams of water were soon playing on the burning buildings. The efforts to check the flames, however, were entirely futile. The buildings in wooden Chinatown were all old and highly inflammable, the walls being of thin redwood as dry as tinder. The fire spread with such rapidity that in less than half an hour a large portion of the wooden district was burning. There was at this time a strong north wind and it appeared as though the entire block would be swept away, so fast were the flames progressing. Torrent engine was stationed at the corner of Market and San Fernando streets, and Empire on the corner of First and San Fernando, the other companies being placed at the other hydrants in the vicinity. The men worked hard, and were assisted in their endeavors by a large number of citizens and officials, prominent among whom were Judge Belden, Mayor Breyfogle, Councilmen Hale and Prindle and Chief-of-Police Brown. The water seemed to have no effect on the fire. It spread faster and faster in every direction, and it appeared, when the last building in the south end was in flames that all further attempts to save any portion of Chinatown would be vain, and disastrous to other property. ¶ Other Property in Danger. Half an hour after the arrival of the Department with the exception of three buildings on the north end, all of wooden Chinatown was a burning heap of ruins, the fire was last making headway toward the

brick portion and the property adjoining on all sides was in great danger. Adjoining Chinatown on the south is a large stable running through from First to San Jose streets, owned by P. T. McCabe and occupied by Bolanger Bros. The fire had now attacked this. The firemen, however, were determined to save it from destruction and the flames were extinguished, the loss of the stable building not exceeding \$150. ¶ Turning Horses Loose. As the fire approached the stable all the horses, about thirteen belonging to the proprietors and as many boarders, were turned loose, and driven to a lot on Second Street. The buggies, harness and other effects were also removed to a place of safety, and no damage was sustained. Several other business houses on First street in the vicinity of the stable also removed their goods, but encouraged by the success of the firemen, the articles were soon returned. ¶ A Mass of Ruins. By this time the flames were approaching dangerously close to the adjoining buildings on First and San Fernando streets, and it was with the greatest exertion that they were saved. The fire continued to sweep down the Chinese district and by 6 o'clock, with the exception of the theater and lodging house it was a mass of burning ruins. ¶ Was It Incendiary? As soon as the news of the location of the fire was spread crowds of people came to the scene from all directions, and in a short while there were fully 6,000 people in the vicinity. The heat from the burning buildings was intense and the smoke was heavily laden with the odor of opium, oil, fish, pork and other wares prized by the Chinese. There were many theories as to the cause of the fire. One which gained some credence was one to the effect that it was the work of Chinese incendiaries. It was asserted by several persons who were early on the scene that the fire broke out simultaneously in three places. The origin of the fire, however, is probably a doubt which will remain forever unsolved. ¶ The City's Suit. A short time ago, it will be remembered, the City Attorney, acting under instructions of the Mayor and Common Council began suit to have Chinatown declared a public nuisance. It is hardly necessary to state that the suit will be dismissed."

5/5/1887 Morning Mercury (City of San Jose) page 4 column 7 (Legal Notice)

"Notice of Special Election. Given to the Mayor and Common Council of the City of San Jose. ¶ To the Electors of the City of San Jose: ¶ A special election will be held in the City of San Jose at the places hereinbelow designated on the fifth day of May, 1887, for the purpose of voting upon the proposition of the City of San Jose incurring indebtedness for the following purposes:...[Rest of notice is very similar to the publication of the ordinance setting the election. See Herald, 4/9/1887, page 4, column 7 for complete text.]

5/5/1887 Morning Mercury (staff) page 3 column 1 (News)

"Saving Property. ¶ The Excitement Among the Chinese—Several Arrests. ¶ The excitement at the fire was intense and the streets in the vicinity were crowded with people. As usual the hoodlums were early on the scene. The Chinese at first carried their personal effects to Market plaza, where they were left unguarded, and a great many articles were stolen by white boys and Chinese thieves. The police soon put a stop to these transactions in a measure, and several venturesome Chinamen were caught in the act of stealing, and taken to the City Prison. In all eight Chinamen were arrested during the afternoon on charges of petty larceny. It is impossible to make an estimate of the property destroyed. The entire contents of several of the stores were removed and saved, but the larger portion was destroyed. This is also true of household furniture and other personal effects. Most of the storekeepers made no effort to save their goods, being apparently satisfied to let them burn and receive their insurance money. ¶ The Losers. The exact amount of the loss is not known, but it is estimated to be, including buildings and personal property, about \$75,000 and perhaps more. Those who own property in the burnt district are: L. Rothermel, Charles Doerr, L. Scheller, J. T. Colahan, D. E. Albon, R. K. Ham, Edward Auzerais, John Stock, M. Tarleton, Ralph Lowe and P. T. McCabe. ¶ Several small sheds in the rear of First street stores and in the rear of Greeninger's paint shop were also partially burned. ¶ The back porch of the Tantau block on First street was burned. Loss nominal. ¶ The Chinese Losers. The principal losers among the

Chinese are Ah Fook, who owned a considerable portion of the brick buildings, the ground being leased, and Ah Toy, who was simply interested in wooden Chinatown. The other Chinese losers are as follows, taken from this year's assessment roll: Chung Lee, improvements on land of Rothermel, \$5,000; Chuck Kee, merchandise, \$500; Fong, Hong & Co., merchandise, \$2,000; Kow Kee, merchandise, \$515; Wy Kee & Co., merchandise, estimated, \$3,137; Lum Lee, merchandise, \$200; Lung Hee, merchandise, \$1,000; Man Ning Hung, merchandise, \$200; On Lung, merchandise, \$580; San Chung Lee, merchandise, \$1,000; Sang Chong, merchandise, \$200; San Chung Lung, merchandise, \$3000; Shing Kee & Co., merchandise, \$6000; Tuck Wo & Co., merchandise, \$100; Wan Chung, merchandise, \$125; Win Chung Yuen, merchandise, \$410; Wing Chung, merchandise, \$500; Yang Tie, merchandise, \$450. It is believed that these statements, as given to the Assessor, were much below the real figures. Many small establishments, such as barber shops, tailor shops, etc., do not appear on the assessment roll at all. ¶ The Chinese 'Masonic' Hall and the Joss house, both situated in the heart of Chinatown, were furnished and maintained by the 'Masonic' and Chinese companies, and will be a loss of several thousand dollars to them."

5/5/1887 Morning Mercury (staff) page 3 column 2 (News)

"The Insurance. ¶ About Forty Thousand Dollars of Loss to Companies. ¶ Local agents have been chary about taking risks in Chinatown and hence of a loss of about \$40,000 sustained by insurance companies only about two-thirds is covered by policies issued in this city. A number of policies expired during this month; in some cases renewals were made and in other cases they were refused. As high as 8 per cent has been paid as insurance rates. Local agents report the following as the result of a hasty search for losses: ¶ B. Newman, agent for the Springfield of Mass., policy of \$500 on brick building fronting on San Fernando street; total loss. ¶ Springfield of Mass. and Fire Insurance of London policy of \$3,000 on brick building occupied by Wah Chung as a tailoring establishment; Hoehner Bros. agents; total loss. ¶ Wooden house, owned by Mrs. Albon, insured for \$5000 in the Queen, J. A. Clayton agent; total loss. ¶ The Tantau Block was insured for \$4,000 in the State Investment Co., Montgomery & Rea agents; slightly damaged. ¶ Wright & Field report a loss of \$1,650, partly in wooden and partly in brick Chinatown, the amount being divided between the different companies as follows: British American, \$500; Prussian National, \$450; Anglo-Nevada, \$700. ¶ Tureman & Judah are insured by Blaney & Co., in the Scottish Union of Edinburgh, the National of Hartford, and the Svea of Stockholm. The loss sustained by this firm is not serious, being confined to the workshop in the rear of Ralph Lowe's frame building on First street. ¶ The Liverpool, London and Globe Insurance Co., represented by Welch & Rosenthal, carried insurance in brick Chinatown on property owned by Wy Kee to the extent of \$2,500 and the same amount on property of Tuck Woo. This is almost a total loss. ¶ Wy Kee was also insured in the Firemans Company of New Jersey for \$1000, Rucker & Son representing the company. This firm also represented the Citizens Company of Ohio, which held a policy of \$1,500 on the Dexter stables, which sustained but slight damage. ¶ C. Hirth's place was insured in the State Investment for \$300, which will cover his loss. ¶ Wing Tai Lung and Lee Yung were each insured for \$1,000. Quong Tue Sing was insured in the New Zealand for \$1,500; these policies were written by F. J. Brandon, who about one week ago cancelled a policy of \$1,5000 in the Anglo Nevada and \$750 in the Prussian National and had other policies, which were not renewed. ¶ A large number of Chinese were insured in companies represented by Montgomery & Rea. The following being a list of the losers with the companies insured in: Pon Hong, \$800, in Washington Insurance Co. on merchandise; Chas. Kow Kee, \$25, Washington Ins. Co., on merchandise; Yun Woh, \$600, on merchandise, in the Fire Insurance Co. of London; Quong Tuck Kee, \$2,000 on merchandise in the Fire Insurance Association; Wing Chong Yung \$950 on six frame buildings, in the Washington, also \$800 in the Orient; Quong Tai Wo & Co. \$1,000 on general merchandise in a frame building in the Washington; Song Chong Lee \$1,000 on merchandise in the Washington; Wing Chun Yung \$1,250 on merchandise in the Washington; On Lung \$1,200 on merchandise (all saved) in the

State Investment Co.; Pon Heong \$100 on merchandise in the State Investment; Wo Chung \$1,000 on merchandise in the State Investment Co.; Wy Kee \$500 in the Washington on merchandise and \$500 in the Fire Insurance Association of London on a frame building; Quong Tai Sing \$1,000 in the Washington, and \$1,000 in the North British Mercantile on merchandise; Wah Kee \$1,000 on merchandise in the German American; Quong Tai & Co. \$1,000 on merchandise and \$500 on the frame dwelling, in the Union Insurance Co.; Wing Chung Yung & Co., \$950 on merchandise in the Washington. A small portion of the merchandise was saved, but the buildings are a total loss. ¶ Saved By His Appetite. It is said that a property owner desiring to insure to the extent of \$8,000, applied to local agents, and upon being refused applied to a city agent, who came down yesterday for the purpose of placing the risk and while sitting at dinner heard the fire bells ring. It is quite likely that his appetite prevented a heavy loss to his companies.”

5/5/1887 Morning Mercury (staff) page 3 column 2 (News)

“Queer Sightings. ¶ Saving a Pig, Liberating Fowls, Rescuing the Twins, Etc. ¶ Some very queer sights were to be seen during the progress of the fire, and the actions of the Chinamen in their efforts to save something were at times very amusing. ¶ Saving a Pig. While the fire was dealing with the restaurant fronting on San Jose street, a Chinaman rushed out, having on his back a live pig of goodly portions, which he was holding by the hind legs. The animal did not evidently appreciate his rescuer’s kindness, for he elevated his head, pawed the air with his fore feet, struggled and squirmed and squealed to a degree that was astonishing. The moment the Chinaman struck the street with his lively burden, he was surrounded by a crowd of shouting boys, and was jostled and hooted at until an officer came to the rescue and he escaped with his pig. ¶ Liberating Fowls. On top of a shed adjoining the restaurant was a cage containing about a dozen fat hens. This cage was fastened to the shed and the fire was approaching. There was no way of releasing the fowls but by opening the door of the cage. This was done. Two Chinamen took poles and poked at the cage to frighten the hens out and three others stood in front to catch them when they came. The birds came out but they managed to fly over the heads of their would be catchers and escape to the street. The Chinamen gave chase, but the hens flew out of their reach and furnished sport for the hoodlums who took delight in chasing them for blocks away. ¶ Rescuing the Twins. An amusing spectacle was that of a Chinese woman rescuing her two boys who were about four years old. There was no immediate danger of their perishing, but she evidently thought there was. The children were standing in a store facing Market street and the fire was about 100 feet away. The woman was seen wandering around with a look of great anxiety, and jabbering in a pitiful manner for fully ten minutes. Finally her eyes rested on the children and she rushed into the store, grabbed them up, put one under each arm and while they squirmed and yelled, she ran off in the direction of San Antonio street, followed by a hooting crowd. ¶ He Saved the Dog. A novel feature was the saving of a small yellow dog by a Chinaman. It was in the second story of a building on San Fernando street and the flames were approaching. A Chinaman rushed up and instead of carrying the animal down stairs, he tied a rope around its neck and lowered it to the ground. Judging from the antics of the canine it did not appreciate the manner of its salvation. ¶ A Woman’s Way. The manner in which the safes were carried from the store, furnished much amusement to those not directly concerned. Quite a number were carried out, each one being pushed along by six Chinamen who every two or three feet would stop and gesticulate in the wildest manner, evidently disputing about the proper direction to take. Sometime these disputes would terminate in a fight. A safe was removed from a Market street store in this manner and what caused the group to attract more attention than the others was the fact that a Chinese woman had straddled the back of one of the men and was clinging to him with a death-like grip, despite the efforts of the men to induce her to let go. She probably had some valuables in the safe and didn’t want to lose sight of it. ¶ Saved the Joss. The appearance on the street of a Chinaman having in charge a joss, nearly as large as himself, was the cause of considerable shouting, but although he was beset on all

sides, he managed to take his idol to a place of safety. ¶ There were many other queer sights showing the peculiarities of the Chinese. An enterprise of a local sign painter attracted considerable attention. Last night, while the brick walls were yet hot, those who visited the scene were surprised to see in large letters, on one of the brick walls left standing, this legend: 'Leiber Paints 'Em Anywhere.'"

5/5/1887 Morning *Mercury* (staff) page 3 column 3 (News)

"After the Fire. ¶ Threats Reported. Special Policeman—The Ruins at Night, Etc. ¶ W. T. Wheeler, the well-known agent of the Chinese, was in San Francisco at the time of the fire, but returned on an evening train and was astounded at the clean sweep which the conflagration made. He held an interview with some of the leading insurance agents and an agreement was reached to meet such as represent companies interested in the fire at 9 o'clock this morning and prepare figures and facts relating to adjustment. ¶ A Report of Threats. The report came to the police office last evening, as stated by Chief Brown, that some of the Chinese, in their anger at what was to them the unsatisfactory work of the Fire Department, had threatened to burn the business part of the city, and although not much weight was given to the report by the public, the Chief thought it well, in the excited state of the Chinese people, to put on an extra force. Nine special officers were therefore assigned to duty, and in view of the large crowds of people that blocked the streets immediately north and west of the burnt district the action taken may well be said to have been suggested by wisdom. The specials were not all concentrated here, being distributed with care over the business center, but those who overlooked the mass of on-lookers that kept moving about the ruins were by no means idle. In some cases men who had looked too oft upon the wine when in the glass were inclined to foment small disturbances, but these were promptly checked and thousands of spectators who took of view of Chinatown during the evening had reason to be thankful for the vigilance exercised in the maintenance of order. ¶ The Town at Night. The sight of the burning ruins last night was striking. Of the buildings all that remained were a few sections of brick wall at the corner of Market and San Fernando streets, and these every little while lost volume in toppling masses of brick and mortar, the fall in many cases being induced by the pressure of scantling in the hands of the firemen. At each crash a yell would go up from the boys, of whom hundreds were standing around, sounding like a cry of joy at the striking down of a giant malefactor. By 10 o'clock only little remained of the walls. For the rest, but a mass of smouldering timbers and debris, fierce flames here and there rearing their red tongues above the blackened mass, remained to tell the tale of the day. ¶ Where They Lodged. The question was asked everywhere during the evening—where will the Chinese go for the night? Whoever looked about him might see, however, that they had already gone and that none of their effects, such as clothes and blankets, were in sight. It is not assumed, by the way, that these last were for the most part were destroyed, for they were not. The losses are large, it is true, but the Chinese are noted for the celerity with which they are able to move on very short notice, and in this case exhibited their ability to do so. These people seem, in fact, to be always prepared for a fire, however careless they may be in the matter of adjusting stovepipes, etc. It is possible that one is the result of the other. But the fact remains as it has been stated, as was shown by the large quantity of clothing, blankets, etc., which were carted away during the afternoon. The Chinese who were driven out by the fire, some of them went to East San Jose, where there are a number of other Chinese houses, and others scattered themselves around in various parts of the city, taxing the hospitality of their countrymen. As a fact, not a few of the Chinese houses were occupied last night after the manner of sardine boxes. ¶ A Chinese Camp. At the laundry grounds on the north side of San Fernando street near Vine, an extensive Chinese camp was to be seen last night. The building could not accommodate all, nor probably half the comers, and when a reporter of the *Mercury* visited the place shortly before midnight groups of Chinese, men and women, were lying on their blankets and against their bundles of clothes enjoying the cool air, after the day of heat and destruction. There did not seem to be any clear plan as to the future so far as could be learned, but the business of today may go far towards settling the question

of colonizing any other part of the city than that which was wiped out by the fire. ¶ Brief Notes. Simon Kamp, member of Empire Engine Company, had his hand severely scorched while at work at the fire. ¶ At Mrs. Murphy-Columbet's stock yards, on the corner of San Carlos and First streets, the straw was set on fire four times by flying embers, but was extinguished by means of a garden hose each time. ¶ Considerable excitement was caused at one time by a report that a large quantity of gun powder was stored in Wy Kee's store in the south end of Chinatown, but the rumor proved groundless. ¶ During the fire there was a constant sound of the exploding of cartridges, bombs and fire crackers. ¶ A squad of firemen remained at the scene, playing water on the ruins till 1 o'clock this morning, when they retired, leaving watchmen on guard. ¶ Adjuster Wetzell came down from San Francisco last evening in the interest of the insurance companies."

5/6/1887 Evening News (staff) page 3 column 2 (News)

"OUT OF THE DEPTHS. ¶ Enterprise at Large in the Garden City. ¶ The Bonds Carried by an Almost Unanimous Vote. ¶ The People are Aroused and San Jose is Sailing Towards the Sea of Prosperity. ¶ The result of yesterday's election proves that the voters of this city had thoroughly considered the proposition to incur an indebtedness to be expended in public improvements and had almost unanimously agreed to make the stride forward and give San Jose a fair chance for advancement among the cities of the State. ¶ The vote polled was very large, being nearly 100 more than was cast at the first city election and within a few hundred of all the votes in the city. ¶ It is evident that San Jose is aroused and fully aware that this is the flood in the tide of her affairs and she is now sailing on the stream that leads to fortune. ¶ Hold the real estate owners down, hurry-up the pamphlet, add a few paragraphs telling about the bonds, carry the news to the sufferers on the banks of the open sewer ditch, take the people while they are in the humor and build the new hotel, place a crown of laurels on the massive brows of the Mayor and Council and the members of the Board of Trade, don't forget to honor Captain Barbour, forgive McNeil for threatening to leave town and, above all things, don't forget to keep one eye on Chinatown and the other on the boom. ¶ There will be a grand torchlight procession to-morrow evening in celebration of the bond victory. The procession will form on St. John street between Market and First. Even the Silurians should get in and grab a torch. It is never too late to mend. ¶ Following is the vote of the respective wards: ¶ FIRST WARD. ¶ Total vote, 439. For main covered sewer 390, against 34; for acquiring and constructing sewers in the city limits 370, against 51; for City Hall 356, against 61; for cross-walks and park improvements 364, against 57; for two wooden bridges 381, against 41. At the last municipal election the vote in this ward was 415, and last general election 564. ¶ SECOND WARD. ¶ Total vote, 608. For main sewer 534, against, 55; for sewers in city limits 519, against 71; for City Hall 508, against 83; for cross-walks and parks 510, against 69; for bridges 526, against 68. This ward cast 610 votes at the municipal and 740 at the general election. ¶ THIRD WARD. ¶ Total vote, 684. For main sewer 581, against 71; for sewers in city limits 468, against 77; for city hall 561, against 79; cross-walks and parks 562, against 79; for bridges 567, against 74. At the last municipal election this ward cast 651 votes, and at the general, 839. ¶ FOURTH WARD. ¶ Total vote, 607. For main sewer 529, against 58; for sewers in city limits 516, against 60; for City Hall 511, against 66; for crosswalks and parks 510, against 66; for bridges 514, against 66. This ward at the municipal election cast 585 votes and at last general, 724. ¶ RECAPITULATION. ¶ Total vote on bonds 2,338, at municipal election 2265; at general election 2867. For main sewer 2034, against 209; for inside sewer 1973, against 260; for city hall 1935, against 287; for cross-walks and park improvements 1955, against 271; for bridges 1981, against 249."

5/6/1887 Evening News (staff) page 3 column 4 (News)

"'TIS I SIR ROLLING RAPIDLY.' ¶ A Bicyclist Causes a Sensation in a Chinese Laundry. ¶ A fair haired youth of eighteen summers was doing the grand wobble on a bicycle on El Dorado street this forenoon. He was rolling along the south sidewalk between First and Market when all of a sudden he heard a crash

and then something dropped. It was the fair-haired youth, the bicycle and the greater portion of the glass in the front door of a Chinese laundry. ¶ The Chinamen all stopped work and prepared to resist cavalry. Then a debate took place partly in the language of Asia and partly in San Jose American. ¶ 'Hi yi ah e-e-e?' said three or four Chinamen at once and they raised their flat-irons in an angry and threatening manner. ¶ 'Ah, go off and step on yourselves,' remarked the fair haired youth, 'you can't play no bluff on me. It's only an accident, anyhow, and getting excited about it ain't a goin to put the glass in, and don't your forget it. I'm here meself wid me bicycle and I'm good for all the damage, and don't your forget it. If you want to act sensible about this I'll be around in a few days and settle, and don't you for-' ¶ 'You talkee too mucha foola; no good. You no pay I catchee pleecyman; you go jail, since I no know you; no like so mucha damfool,' said the boss English scholar of the laundry. ¶ 'Well, say old man, how are you going to help yourself, when I ain't got a cent? What you want to do now is to paste a few sheets of newspaper or somethin' over them holes to keep out the cold night air until you see me again,' said the youth as he sprang on his silver steed and started off singing 'Tis I sir rolling rapidly.'"

5/6/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 2 column 1 (News)

"Reclaimed. The Boom is here, Chinatown is in ashes and the bonds carried more than ten to one. That is nearly joy enough for twenty-four hours. Now push the good work, select a site for the hotel, rush along the electric road plant. Push the suit against Rothermel for the ground recently occupied by brick Chinatown. The leases only run a few years and it will not be easy to re-lease to the Chinamen if they think that they will eventually be turned out. Do all possible to prevent Chinatown from again disgracing that section of the city. Crowd them to the outskirts. They never will be missed. Go right along building and making improvements. Subscribe for the dailies and send them abroad. Advertise our handsome little city, and ours will be the recognized Eden of America before five years. The Times congratulates the people for the good sense shown in the vote polled yesterday."

5/6/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 2 column 4 (News)

"Superior Court Notes....The case of Lee Wing, charged with assault with a deadly weapon, was postponed on motion of the District Attorney, and with the consent of J. R. Patton, defendant's attorney, it appearing that witnesses were not present...."

5/6/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 3 column 1 (News)

"Brief Mention....The fire seems to have invigorated the trade of Chinese merchants, as 84 packages are to arrive for them to-day by the S.P.R.R....The eight Chinamen arrested on the day of the fire for stealing property, were allowed to go yesterday, it having appeared that there were no valid proofs of their thieving...."

5/6/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 3 column 1 (News)

"Justice's Court....A complaint was lodged in Justice Pfister's court yesterday charging Ah Sing and Ah Gee with assaulting and bruising a Chinaman whose name is unknown...."

5/6/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 3 column 2 (News)

"Victory. ¶ Bonds Carried by More than Ten to One. ¶ A Rapid Step Forward. ¶ A Great Day in the History of the Garden City. ¶ Barnacles Buried. ¶ A New City Hall an Assured Fact. ¶ Parks to Be Improved, Etc. ¶ A Completed Sewer System and New Bridges—A New Light Dawning for Our City. ¶ Yesterday was one of the most important days in the history of San Jose. Probably there has never been a day, since that unfortunate one to the county and State when the capital was moved from here, that will prove so momentous in its effects as yesterday. All elections are important, but such a one as that of

yesterday is of unusual weight and should call out every voter. To elect officers to govern a municipality is of great moment, but one where the matter of permanent improvements, a large indebtedness and the years of responsibility these entail are concerned of special moment. The people of San Jose fully realized this and all day long there was unflagging interest in the result of the election. ¶ The prominent business men of the city, with remarkable unanimity turned out to attend the election. The polls opened at 9 o'clock a.m. and from that until the closing at sundown the interest was unabated. ¶ It was an election free from the frequent purchasing of voters. If any had been inclined to purchase, there was no one to furnish the necessary 'bar'l,' so the vote was one purely from principle. ¶ Among the workers for the bonds may be mentioned A. M. McDonald, Captain Adel, James M. Thorpe, W. F. Foss, O. A. Hale, W. S. Kaufman, V. Koch, A. R. Denike, Marshall Hall, W. P. Dougherty, B. B. McNeil and five hundred others of like prominence. The opposition was not strong, very few made an open avowed fight against the bonds. J. D. Roberts and John Auzerais of the Fourth Ward were conspicuous a part of the day as opponents. But most of the opposition was in a quiet undemonstrative way, casting the ballot and retiring. The vote of the laboring people—especially the members of the Knights of Labor—was feared as being against the bonds. But soon after the opening of the polls a prominent member of that order had the following written on the sidewalks near the polling places: 'The K. of L., as a body, are not opposed to bonds.' ¶ The following are the results and the officers of election in the several wards: ¶ [Tallies for all four wards. Not transcribed.] ¶ Recapitulation:—Total vote on bonds 2,338; at municipal election 2265; at general election 2867. For main sewer 2034, against 209; for inside sewers 1973, against 260; for city hall 1935, against 287; for cross-walks and park improvements 1955, against 271; for bridges 1981, against 249. ¶ Many votes were cast that were both for and against—the voter having failed to cross off the one he wished to vote against. These, or course, were rejected. The bonds are carried by a most gratifying majority in every instance."

5/6/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 3 column 4 (News)

"Among the Ruins. ¶ Searching in the Debris for Valuables. ¶ The Chinamen Scattering. ¶ Chinese Consul Sends a Representative Here—The Fire Believed to be Incendiary. ¶ Throughout the day yesterday, great crowds of people were collected about the smouldering ruins of Chinatown. Over that portion of the burnt district which was known as 'wooden Chinatown' the flames had so completely done their work that not even a half-burned bit of lumber was left. The ground was swept entirely clean, except for the bits of iron here and there. A small part of the brick walls nearer San Fernando street were standing, and the debris continued to smoulder until a late hour last night. ¶ The officers on duty during Wednesday night stated that almost before daylight large gangs of Chinamen began to gather about, prepared to search among the ruins for money and other valuables. It was nearly noon before the fallen bricks in one portion of the district cooled sufficiently to allow of their being handled; but as soon as possible white men, as well as Chinese began searching among the ruins. ¶ Several stories about large amounts of gold and silver being found were constantly being repeated, but no one could be found who knew positively about anything more than that one Chinaman discovered \$40 in gold, and another some silver dollars. The blackened steel work of several pistols were raked out of the ashes by some vag's, and one Mexican lad found an ivory-handled six-shooter and a large knife but slightly injured. ¶ Quite early the Chinese began to collect the bits of iron strewn about, and several stoves that passed through the fire were dragged out and sold for old iron. ¶ The opinion was generally entertained on Wednesday by many who were at the fire that it was incendiary. ¶ All seem to agree that the fire started in a building in Ah Toy alley, owned by Ah Chy. The building had been vacant for several months, with the exception of furnishing sleeping quarters for the owner. A Times reporter yesterday talked with Wing Ching Toung, a Chinese merchant, whose store was in Ah Toy alley, just across from that in which the fire was first discovered. He said that he had not seen anyone about Ah Chy's building for some hours before the flame was discovered. He was the first to give the alarm; looking across from his store just before 3

o'clock, he saw the flame burst out of the vacant building. It must have then been burning for some time. He blew a police whistle as soon as he discovered the fire; then he began to remove his goods, and it was some moments afterwards before an alarm was turned in. ¶ Another point which seemed to many to show that at least a great many Chinamen had expected a fire, was the celerity with which their effects were removed which were not insured, and the indifference with which they contemplated their loss. There were but few among the many Celestials gathered about the ruins yesterday who manifested much sorrow over the destruction of their quarter of the city. On the contrary they seemed to view the scene of ruin with a good deal of satisfaction. ¶ It was a little remarkable that there were no lives lost, and no one seriously hurt during the progress of the fire. ¶ A prominent Chinaman, Ah Wing Lung, estimated that there were but about 400 celestials in the Chinese quarter when the fire broke out. A great majority of these were gathered in the brick building to witness a lottery drawing at the time the alarm was given. ¶ Notwithstanding the fact that the Chinese lost heavily, but a very few of them were really destitute yesterday. Each Chinese company took care of its own members, and yesterday a great number were sent to San Francisco. A large number also scattered out through the country and will remain in the Chinese camps on the berry ranches until they can find work. ¶ The Chinese Consul at San Francisco sent a representative here to look after the destitute. He left a small sum of money with Chung Gow for the benefit of the poor and returned to San Francisco on the afternoon train. ¶ The Union Insurance Company of San Francisco was erroneously reported among the companies who sustained losses by the fire. J. B. J. Portal, who represents this company, says it has not carried a risk there for three years. The Union will lose slightly on the damage to the cornice of St. Joseph's Church, but nothing more. ¶ W. L. Chalmers, Thomas Agnew, E. P. Farnsworth and A. A. Snyder, appraisers of the companies represented by Montgomery & Rea, came down yesterday and visited the scene of the fire. They will report to-day. Montgomery & Rea report that the policy for \$600 of Pon Hong, a restaurant keeper, expired Wednesday at noon. They had intended to see the holder and effect a renewal, but the matter slipped the solicitor's mind until the fire bell rang the tidings. ¶ The loss on the Tantau block, which was insured for \$4,000, will amount to about \$500; the policy was issued by the State Investment Co., Montgomery & Rea, agents. ¶ Eighty-five per cent of the insurance loss of \$1,200 on merchandise of Pon Hong's is covered by salvage. ¶ Those who own property in the burned district are: L. Rothermel, Chas. Doerr, L. Scheller, J. T. Colehan, D. E. Albon, R. K. Ham, Edward Auzerais, John Stock, M. Tarleton, Ralph Lowe and P. T. McCabe. ¶ Two or three of them were asked yesterday what they now intended to do with the ground on which the houses had stood; but none were willing to talk on the matter. ¶ On the ground of some portions of the district the Chinese hold leases which do not expire for two or three years; but in all probability they will now relinquish them for small sums, as a large number of the merchants will take up their residence in San Francisco."

5/6/1887 Morning *Times* (staff) page 3 column 7 (News)

"Santa Cruz Crumbs. ¶ Interesting Locals from the Western Seaside Resort....A heavy smoke from the fire in Chinatown, San Jose, was seen over the Santa Cruz range of mountains Wednesday, and extended from a point northwest of Loma Prieta to far out over the bay...."

5/6/1887 Morning *Times* (staff) page 3 column 7 (News)

"General Rejoicing. The era of prosperity which the bond victory will usher in will be celebrated to-night by a torch-light procession. John Britton will be Grand Marshal and John Roberts Chief Aide. Two thousand torches will be in readiness for those who desire to participate. All are requested to meet at 8 o'clock this evening on St. John street, between market and First streets."

5/6/1887 Evening *Herald* (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

“Remove the Chinese. ¶ Prompt action should be taken by the Council in the matter of Chinatown. Already the Chinese are settling in various parts of the city, in which before long they will become as great a nuisance as they were on Market Plaza. And now is the time to remove them, if at all. They cannot be permitted again to take possession of the burned district—the city authorities can prevent that on the ground that the land belongs to the city, if in no other way. But steps should be taken to furnish the Chinese a suitable place on the main sewer, where they would be out of the way of business, and be provided with good drainage, so as to make the nuisance as little detrimental to the city as possible. A nuisance they will be at the best, but as the Federal Courts are apparently determined that we shall not get rid of them, we ought now to try to do the best we can for ourselves under the circumstances. ¶ It is said that some of the alleged owners of Chinatown will hold the Chinese to the strict terms of their leases, but we cannot believe that to be possible. If this story is true—if they are resolved to insist upon the very letter of their contract, whatever damage be done to their fellow-citizens—then no consideration should be shown to them. If they have no legal title to the property they should be dispossessed as soon as possible, and advantage should be taken of every legal technicality against them. They have for many years stood as a barrier in the way of the progress of that part of the city, and refused to sell at any reasonable price to those who would have improved the property, and if they should now persist in this policy, they should be treated as enemies to the public, and the property they have so long used to the public disadvantage should be taken from them and used for the benefit of the people.”

5/6/1887 Evening Herald (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

“Now We Shall Move. ¶ The vote on the bond question is a gratifying indication that at last San Jose has been lifted out of the old ruts, and that hereafter the city will move smoothly and swiftly along the broad road of progress. It also shows most unmistakably that the people have taken the management of public affairs out of the hands of the cranks and fossils who have heretofore managed to defeat all efforts for public improvements. Now we shall have a city worthy to be the metropolis of the great Santa Clara valley, and one that we shall be proud to show to all comers. For it is not too much to say that, with a perfect system of sewerage, good streets, sidewalks and bridges, and a new City Hall, San Jose will be the most beautiful and most perfect city on the continent. ¶ But the adoption of the bonds means much more than mere public improvements. These will but stimulate and encourage the investment of private capital in all directions. A new hotel, capable of accommodating all who will come in princely fashion, will soon be built, new railroads will gridiron the valley in all directions, so as to make San Jose the centre of the trade and business of the whole county. This will mean a large increase of business for our merchants, and permanent prosperity for all.”

5/6/1887 Evening Herald (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

“The workingmen came nobly to the front in the vote for bonds. Persistent efforts had been made to show that they were opposed to public improvements, and two or three cranks in the Knights of Labor, evidently hired for the purpose by interested capitalists, adopted resolutions opposing the issue of bonds, but the great body of the order favored the bonds, and most of its members voted and worked for them. This will be remembered to their honor, and every possible effort will doubtless be made to give them the benefit of the expenditure of the money.”

5/6/1887 Evening Herald (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

“Much anxiety has been expressed concerning the selection of a Commissioner to superintend the expenditure of the money voted for public improvements, but that is entirely unnecessary. Mayor Breyfogle will doubtless make a selection that will generally be satisfactory, and his appointment will be promptly confirmed by the Council. The city authorities all through this bond matter have shown a

laudable desire to consult the wishes of the great progressive majority of the population, and this policy will be followed to the end.”

5/6/1887 Evening Herald (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

“Some fears were expressed before the election that the bonds might be carried by so narrow a margin above the two-thirds vote required that there might be some ground for squealing in the part of those who opposed the bonds. But the people of San Jose have evidently been thoroughly aroused to the necessity of improving and beautifying the city, and they would vote five hundred thousand dollars more today, if such an amount were necessary.”

5/6/1887 Evening Herald (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

“The minority that voted against bonds should be treated rather as erring brethren than as public enemies. Many of them doubtless now bitterly regret the mistake they made, and will work as heartily as any of us for the improvement of the city. To all such we should extend the hand of forgiveness, and welcome them into the procession of progress and prosperity which has just started.”

5/6/1887 Evening Herald (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

“It is difficult to understand what has become of the two or three hundred persons who voted against the bonds yesterday. Not a single individual can be found today who did not vote for bonds, and it is probable that every one of those who opposed the bonds has gone to swell the numbers of the Silurian tribe in San Francisco.”

5/6/1887 Evening Herald (wire) page 2 column 3 (News)

"Chinese Opium Smugglers. Portland, May 6.—At noon to-day Collector Shurtleff aided by the police seized a quantity of smuggled opium at the store of Wing Kee on Second street. The exact amount taken is not known but it is said to be two trunks full."

5/6/1887 Evening Herald (staff) page 3 column 1 (News)

“New Developments. ¶ The City Will Claim Chinatown. ¶ The Old Plaza. ¶ Surveyors Working on the Ground To-Day. ¶ Original Landmarks. ¶ Where the New City Hall Will Be. ¶ The General Wish. ¶ Market Plaza Will Likely Be Selected. ¶ Some Unfounded Rumors. ¶ No Preparations for Rebuilding Chinatown—Leveling the Tottering Walls—Other Notes. ¶ In addition to the reason given by the Herald yesterday afternoon why Chinatown will never be rebuilt City Engineer Pieper gave the following to a reporter for this paper: ¶ ‘The land covered by Chinatown is within the fire limits. The regulations governing the construction of houses within the fire limits are strict. Fire walls must be erected at proper intervals, the walls must be of a certain thickness and made of brick, and the roofs must be fireproof. To construct new buildings under these regulations, which no doubt would be strictly enforced, would be an expensive undertaking. The cost would be infinitely greater than the cost of the wooden shanties and inferior brick buildings that formerly constituted Chinatown. Besides that, the hundreds of little dens and traps that formerly existed, and the former means of communication between them, would not be permitted. This would not only make the new town inconvenient for the Chinese, but the heavy cost of the building would raise the rents enormously. A large majority of the Chinese in Chinatown were laborers, who paid very little rent and who could not afford to pay more. They could get rent very much cheaper outside of town. Assuming that buildings of the character required by the fire regulations should be built, the comparatively high rents that would have to be charged would encourage and insure the erection of cheap opposition houses outside of town, and they would be rented by the Chinese in preference to the more expensive houses in Chinatown. This alone would kill the new Chinatown if it should be rebuilt, for the people who want Chinese hands generally live in the country

and they had just as soon go to one place as another to find the hands they want. In fact, these causes will prevent the re-erection of Chinatown on the old site. I am confidently of the opinion that Chinatown will never be rebuilt.' ¶ This argument cannot be gainsaid. ¶ But even if it should be attacked there was an interesting work on foot this morning that will meet the difficulty in a way already pointed out by the Herald and that will doubtless dispose of the whole subject in an original and summary manner. This is simply to claim the land on which a great part of Chinatown stood as land belonging to the city. ¶ City Engineer Pieper, with a corps of assistants and accompanied by City Attorney Herrington, were early on the ground locating old landmarks and preparing to run lines re-establishing the original boundaries of Market plaza. Information was given to Mr. Pieper by Pedro Sainsevain, John M. Murphy, Harry Bee and other pioneers, identifying old landmarks mentioned in the early records. One of the most important of these landmarks is an old adobe building that stood in the center of wooden Chinatown and that was uncovered and partly destroyed by the fire. This old building is one of the most prominent features of the ruins. ¶ It will be claimed by the city that this old house stood on the line that marked the eastern boundary of the plaza. The Herald in former articles, some time before the fire, called attention to this old building. North of it, standing near the present line of San Fernando street, was the old Pico house, situated just west of Grenninger & Young's carriage shop, and on the site now occupied by the Chinese theater. The Pico house was on a line with the old adobe first referred to, but all traces of it have disappeared. In front of it, on the land now owned by Rothermel and occupied as brick Chinatown, was a bull-pen, where bull-fights amused the early settlers. ¶ A third house in this chain of landmarks is the old adobe occupied by Chinese and situated south of the rear extension of the Dexter stables. These landmarks are deemed sufficient to establish the eastern line of Market plaza. To take all the land west of this line would be to appropriate nearly all the ground that was occupied by Chinatown. If the city should establish its right to this land, on the ground that it had never legally parted with it, the re-erection of Chinatown would be an impossibility, and the re-erection could by injunction be prevented until the suit should be determined. Such suits usually consume many years when they are strongly contested. ¶ Mr. Pieper and Mr. Herrington were also locating the old landmarks on the west side of the plaza. The old Sunol adobe house in the rear of the blacksmith shop opposite Chinatown is one of the landmarks on that side of the plaza which stood on the original west line of the plaza. The adobe house that is in sight from the street is not the one meant; the original house stands in the rear of it, and was partially torn out to make room for Horticultural Hall. The combined frame and adobe standing in front of the older house was erected by Pedro Sainsevain early in the forties, when Americans commenced to appropriate the plaza. Mr. Sainsevain, not to be shut off by houses in front of him built by squatters in the plaza, erected the building that can now be seen from the street. ¶ This house is in the northern curve of the plaza. A line run north from the east line of the original adobe will strike the fence of the Catholic Fathers' house on San Fernando Street at the carriage gate, which stands between Market and San Pedro streets, a little nearer to San Pedro than to Market. This same line, extended southerly to San Carlos street, will run parallel with the present west line of Guadalupe street and about twenty-two feet west of it, thus throwing into the plaza nearly all the houses on that side, or at least parts of them. Hardly any will escape. Probably the city, if it wins the case, will allow the owners to keep their houses and move them back. ¶ Near the corner of San Carlos, still on the west side of the plaza, there formerly stood an old adobe that was occupied in early days by Isaac Branham. Although this house has disappeared its exact location can be determined by the memory and testimony of many living witnesses. ¶ In the early days—say a hundred years ago and even down to a more recent date—the houses of the early settlers fronted on the plaza, without front yard or enclosure. The walls of the houses fronting the plaza therefore marked the boundaries of the plaza. The location of these old walls is the location of the boundaries of the plaza; and this is what the City Engineer is doing. ¶ The east line of the plaza appears not to be parallel with the present east line of San Jose street, but according to the latest discoveries it appears to run as follows: Commencing at a point near the northwest corner of

Greeninger & Young's carriage shop (either at the corner or a few feet west of it), the line runs southerly through to San Carlos street, but tending westerly; so that at the point where it emerges upon San Carlos street it is near the corner of San Carlos and Market streets and considerably west of the point from which it started. The line on the west side is parallel to this, so that it does not run parallel with the present line of Guadalupe street, but as it runs northerly tends easterly. ¶ Now that the bonds have carried the interesting question arises. Where will the new City Hall be built? All who were interviewed (and they were many), including the Mayor and several other city officers, agree on Market plaza as the best place. With \$150,000 voted to build and furnish a City Hall an exceedingly handsome house can be erected with spacious grounds around it. The plans already adopted by the Council will probably be employed, with certain modifications. The new building will have accommodations for the School Superintendent, the Fire Department, the Public Library, the City Justice, the City Jail and all the city officers. Public sentiment will undoubtedly be unanimous on the selection of Market plaza for the City Hall. ¶ It was rumored that several students of the Garden City Commercial College, in the City Market building, corner of Market and El Dorado streets, who had horses in the Dexter stable went to the fire in Chinatown before the alarm was sent in and discovered numerous Chinese making away with goods already packed and baled. Prof. Worcester, President of the college, says that none of his students left the college until after the Fire Department and about a thousand spectators were on the ground, and that when the students arrived at the stable the horses had already been turned out. He was fully corroborated by the men who work in the stable. ¶ It was also rumored this morning that the charred remains of one or two Chinese had been found in the debris. This proved to be untrue. ¶ It was also rumored that the Chinese had already begun preparations to rebuild. This was not true. It grew out of the fact that Fire Chief Brady, under the Mayor's instructions, was engaged with a number of men in leveling the tottering walls. One of these walls fell of its own accord this morning and narrowly missed killing some boys."

5/6/1887 Evening Herald (staff) page 3 column 5 (News)

"A Jubilee. ¶ Saturday evening a grand torchlight procession will be held in celebration of the victory of those who favored the bonds. The procession will form on St. John Street, between Market and First at 8 o'clock sharp. ¶ Fireworks for the jubilee will be obtained in San Francisco and the mayor and Common Council, the Board of Trade and the citizens generally will be invited to participate in the rejoicing."

5/6/1887 Evening Herald (na) page 3 column 5 (Advertisement)

"Boom. Boom. ¶ Saturday. ¶ Boomers, Attention! ¶ All who voted in favor of bonds are requested to unite with the Boomers in a grand torchlight procession Saturday evening in celebration of the victory won by the Progressives over the Silurians. The procession will form on St. John Street, between Market and First, at 8 o'clock sharp."

5/6/1887 Morning Mercury (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

"It Must Not Be Rebuilt. ¶ It was rumored on the streets yesterday that the Chinese would attempt to return to the site of their destroyed quarters and build a new Chinatown there; that they held leases to the land under which they would endeavor to re-occupy the premises. ¶ This must not be permitted. Chinatown, by a dispensation of Providence, has been removed from its central location, and to suffer its return would be an outrage on the self-respect of the city of San Jose. If there are any rights to these lands or any part of them vested in the city, now is the time to push them, and taking advantage of the eviction, to maintain them to the extent of preventing the return of the former possessors. If there are any leases outstanding against the private owners of any part of this property, it is the duty of the lessees to cancel and compromise them rather than to allow a repossession under their terms. If the city and the owners of the property now cooperate to keep Chinatown away from its old site, the people will

stand by their action to a man. ¶ Neither must Chinatown be suffered to locate anywhere in the neighborhood of its former site. There is a possibility of its shifting to the other side of the Plaza, or to some of the cross streets thereabouts. This, too, must be prevented, and Chinatown banished as far as possible from the business centers of the city. There seems to be no reason why it should be within the corporate limits at all, but if it must be, then let some isolated quarter be selected distant from the marts of trade and apart from the homes of our people.”

5/6/1887 Morning Mercury (staff) page 3 column 1 (News)

“Seven To One. ¶ The Silurians are Snowed Under. ¶ A New Era Begins. ¶ The Progressive Business Men Win a Decided Victory. ¶ Boom! Boom! Boom! ¶ Public Improvements Which Will Stimulate Private Enterprise. ¶ The Jubilee To-Night. ¶ Everybody Rejoicing and Predicting Good Times to Come. ¶ The Vote in the Wards. ¶ Who Labored and Who Opposed the Bonds, and Their Reasons Therefor—San Jose Almost Unanimous for Once. ¶ The battle is fought and won, and the victory is such as to fill one with enthusiasm and joy. For months past the progressive business men of this community, and all who have the welfare of the city at heart have worked unceasingly to secure the right to issue bonds, that much needed improvements might be made, before the present generation became too old to enjoy them. With the fairest valley beneath the sun, surrounded by the best natural advantages known to man for luxurious homes, our public buildings, streets and bridges have to too many instances been those which would have fitted a frontier village. Other cities in the State far less favorably situated as to soil and climate have, by reason of the acumen of their leaders and financiers forged rapidly ahead of us in the effort to obtain a substantial prosperity. Some of our wisest men realized this years ago, and after considerable agitation succeeded in having the question of the issuance of bonds submitted to the people about two years ago. The cry of the silurians, however, was so loud and vehement that timid ones were frightened, and though a majority favored the proposition, the requisite two-thirds vote was not obtained. The true friends of progress were not easily dismayed, and from that day until the going down of the sun last evening have labored without ceasing for what they believe to be the city’s best interest. They have a right to rejoice, to clasp each other by the hand and to exchange congratulations. With beautified parks, well-paved streets, a handsome and commodious City Hall, a thorough sewerage system and substantial bridges, we may well challenge comparison with any in the land. Private enterprise, too, will be stimulated immensely, and such an era of prosperity may be confidently looked for as has never been known heretofore in the history of San Jose. At the polls yesterday it was a notable fact that the prominent workers, those who labored as though they were seeking to accomplish something of vital importance to themselves and their families—as in fact they were—were the business men of the city and the small property owners. The handful who opposed the proposed bond issue were either heavy capitalists or laborers. The former, those who have acquired ample fortunes in pioneer days and who fear the sound of the saw and the hammer will disturb their early morning slumbers if the present enthusiasm for improvement is not checked. The workingmen who opposed the bonds, did so in the main because of their opposition to the contract system under which the State law prescribes that public buildings and works must be constructed. In the good times before us, they will soon rejoice that their opposition was unavailing, and even the silurians, let us hope, will come to recognize the fact that a thriving, prosperous city is as wholesome a place in which to abide as a country village. As will be seen by the vote given below the question of building a City Hall, which received the smallest majority of any, was decided affirmatively by a vote of 1,941 for, 277 against, or a little more than seven to one in favor of the expenditure. Again we say, we have a right to rejoice, and at the jubilee meeting which is to be held this evening, let every man turn out, throw up his hat and hurrah for the new era, the era of thrift and progress.”

5/6/1887 Morning Mercury (staff) page 3 column 5 (News)

“Wednesday’s Fire. ¶ The Six Companies Providing for the Sufferers. ¶ W. T. Wheeler’s Statement. ¶ He Knows the Incendiary—The Old Plaza Grounds to Be Surveyed for the City—Talk of Rebuilding. ¶ The spot where once stood Chinatown is now a heap of smouldering ruins. Except the two buildings on San Fernando street nothing remains but portions of a few brick walls and heaps of brick, ashes and iron. The scene of the late fire was visited yesterday by thousands of people from all parts of the city. ¶ Seeking for Treasure. At least 100 men and boys were busily engaged from daylight till dark in raking over the ruins in the hope of finding money and other valuables. They received but little reward, however, for their trouble, for if there is one who knows how to take care of his money, under any circumstances, it is a Chinaman. ¶ The Junk Men. The dealers of junk were also on hand and wagon load after wagon load of old junk was hauled away and many a boy was made happy by the receipt of a dime for gathering up a quantity of old iron. What authority they had to do so no one knew, but as the Chinamen made no objection, no one cared, and the junk men reaped a rich harvest. ¶ Saving the Pipe. A large number of men in the employ of the gas and water companies were busily engaged in digging up the iron pipes laid throughout the grounds. The fire caused a loss of forty meters to the Gas Company.”

5/6/1887 Morning Mercury (staff) page 3 column 5 (News)

“W. T. Wheeler’s Statement. ¶ He Believes a Chinaman Caused the Fire—Relief for the Sufferers. ¶ A representative of the Mercury found W. T. Wheeler, the Chinatown agent, on the grounds yesterday, engaged in looking after the interests of his clients. ¶ ‘What provision has been made for the relief of the sufferers?’ was asked. ¶ ‘The six companies are about to make provision for them,’ replied Mr. Wheeler. ‘Yee Yup Kai, the President of the Six Chinese Companies came here today from San Francisco, to see how the Chinamen were situated, and he telephoned back the result of his investigation. He will return to San Francisco this evening and make a fuller report.’ ¶ ‘What action will be taken?’ ¶ ‘Well, the Companies will send down provisions and money enough to keep the Chinamen from suffering, but they, of course, have nothing to do with rebuilding.’ ¶ One Thousand Sufferers. ‘About how many Chinamen are sufferers by the fire?’ ¶ ‘As near as I can tell there are about 1,000. A large majority of these are without the means of securing a bite to eat. In fact, nearly all of them are practically destitute, except the merchants and a few others. The insurance companies having taken possession of the goods that were saved, has also been the cause of some inconvenience.’ ¶ Talk of Rebuilding. ‘Is there any talk of rebuilding on the old site?’ ¶ They will certainly build some place, but whether they do so on this site or not I can’t say. It will depend upon what action the property owners take. If they will grant an extension of the leases the Chinamen will rebuild brick buildings. If not they will rebuild some other place.’ ¶ ‘Is there any talk of establishing temporary quarters?’ ¶ ‘There has been so much confusion that no definite plans have been decided upon as yet.’ ¶ A Chinese Incendiary. ‘What is your theory as to the cause of the fire.’ ¶ ‘I am well satisfied that I know the man who set the fire. He is a Chinaman but I believe white men are connected with it. ¶ Strong Grounds of Suspicion. As stated in yesterday’s Mercury the fire started in a vacant store building in Ah Toy town. This town lay between brick Chinatown on the north and Wy Kee on the south, these three divisions constituting the whole of Chinatown. Ah Toy and Wy Kee towns were built of wood. The storeroom in which the fire started was at the southeast corner of Ah Toy alley and a cross alley opening upon the plaza. Some months ago an attachment was put upon the stock in this store, and the attachment was bought out by Hi Lung & Co. About six months ago they closed out the business, and since that time Ah Ming, who was either a partner or a bookkeeper for Hi Lung & Co. had slept in the store. It is Ah Ming who is missing. It was reported at the place in which he usually made his headquarters that Wednesday at 3 or 4 o’clock he was there, and that after staying about half an hour he left and had not been seen since. From what could be learned it appeared that if Ah Ming could be found by the Chinese merchants his life would not be worth much. Ah Ming is said to bear a hard name. ¶ A Lottery Agency. The books of the Gas Company show that the bills for gas in that store had been made out to Lun Yik for about a year; that

the bills were always paid by Tuck Wo & Co., whose store was at the corner of the cross alley and the plaza; that the last bill was collected on the 6th of April, when gas was no longer used. Lun Yik was probably the name of the person who originally conducted the store. E. McAfee, the Gas Company's collector, says that to the best of his recollection the place was kept as a lottery agency after it was closed six months ago, and that it was so kept down to the 6th of April. ¶ The Insurance Agents' Action. The Insurance Agents who had risks on property in Chinatown yesterday took possession of all goods that had been saved and placed them in charge of a keeper. The general agents of the companies at San Francisco were notified and last evening several of them came to this city and the work of adjusting the losses will be begun today. Following is a complete list of all Chinese business men who had taken out licenses: War Chung, merchant; Quong Lee Wo, merchant; Man Ning Lung, merchant; Tin Yuen Quoi, merchant; Quong Tuck Kee, merchant; Quong Hang Lung, merchant; On Lung, merchant; Ye Chong, merchant; Charley Kow Kee, merchant; Chin Kee, merchant; Quong Tue Sing, merchant; Hong Fung, merchant; Quong Tai Wo, merchant; Wing Chung Yen, merchant; Sam Sing, merchant; Ko Kee, merchant; Tuck Chung, merchant; Chong On, merchant; Sam Chong, merchant; Hop Chung, merchant; Mow Ching, merchant; Tuck Wo, merchant; Quien Tai, merchant; Lang Get, merchant; Tuck Yuen, merchant; Chuck Kee, merchant, Quong Lee, merchant; Wy Kee, merchant; Quong Hop, laundryman; Duck Chong, pawnbroker."

5/6/1887 Morning Mercury (staff) page 3 column 5 (News)

"The City's Claim. The Old Plaza Grant to be Surveyed Today. ¶ In the matter of the rebuilding of Chinatown it appears that the city will have something to say. It is said that the city will bring suit to enforce its claims to the ground of that portion of it which is said to have been dedicated to the city as a public square and the title to which the city claims it has never legally parted with. Preparatory to this, the City Surveyor will today, acting under instructions from the authorities, begin the work of laying off the original plaza square. In this work he will be assisted by Col. John M. Murphy, Pedro Sansevain, Miguel Flores, Harry Bee, Jose Soto and Pedro Higuero. These gentlemen are all pioneer residents of the city and quite familiar with the premises."

5/6/1887 Morning Mercury (James & Wemple) page 3 column 6 (Advertisement)

"Fire! Fire!! Fire!!! ¶ The Chinatown fire came near cleaning us out, but we are still on deck, and wish to offer our thanks to those offering to help us move out, and did at one time think we would accept their kindness, and can also state we have no damaged goods to offer the public, but we are selling those that are not damaged at damaged prices. Call at either of our stores and be convinced. ¶ James & Wemple. ¶ 79 East Santa Clara Street or 197 Russ House Block First Street."

5/7/1887 Evening News (P. T. McCabe) page 3 column 1 (Notice)

"The First Settlement. ¶ The Chinatown fire partially destroyed my building adjoining, and the loss was adjusted and the money received by me this day for which I desire to thank J. E. Rucker & Son, agents for the company. ¶ P. T. MCCABE."

5/7/1887 Evening News (staff) page 3 column 2 (News)

"THE OLD ADOBE. ¶ An Object of Interest Amid the Ruins. ¶ It Was a Boarding House in the Days of '49. ¶ Justice Buckner Talks of Old Times – The State House – Shottel's Saloon and the Governor's Mansion. ¶ Justice Buckner and Pfister met in the office of the Chief of Police this afternoon. Other parties present were speaking of the Chinatown fire. ¶ 'The first Christmas tree that I ever saw' said Justice Pfister 'was in the old adobe house, the walls of which are now standing in the center of the ruins. I can just remember it. It was in 1855 and our family lived in the old house that Winter. Charley Hoffman the capitalist and mining expert had recently arrived from Germany and he prepared the tree.' ¶ 'When I

saw the building first, in 1849' said Justice Buckner, 'it was run as a hotel. Buffalo Jones' money was running the business. The State House was just in front of the hotel and Shottel's saloon was a little north of the State House. The three buildings were almost in a line. The State House was built by a Frenchman named Rosshon and was bought from him by seventeen enterprising citizens, Cap. Aram and William McCutchan being among the number. They contributed \$2,000 each and paid \$34,000 for the building. It was a two story building. The Senate used the lower floor and the Assembly the upper one. ¶ 'Uncle Ike Branham had an adobe house near the corner of San Carlos and Guadalupe streets and the first Legislature met there while waiting for the new State House to be prepared. The latter was burned in 1853.' ¶ 'I remember that the boarders in the old hotel, in going to Shottel's saloon, used to walk around a high close-board fence which enclosed the Pico residence. I think the Pico fence was standing on San Fernando street where Greeninger & Young's carriage factory is now, until about fifteen years ago.' ¶ 'Where did the Governor hold forth in those days, Judge,' asked Justice Pfister. ¶ 'Governor Burnett's mansion is standing yet and looking something like it did then. It is No. 430 South Second street and I live there myself,' said the Judge as he got up and started for dinner."

5/7/1887 Evening News (staff) page 3 column 4 (News)

"ON THE MOVE. ¶ Chinese Merchants Coming to the Center. ¶ The Sound of of Saw and Hammer on El Dorado Street. ¶ A Resident Democrat 'Views Things With Alarm' and 'Ceases to Point With Pride.' ¶ Workingmen are employed in putting shelving and counters in four store rooms on El Dorado street between First and Market streets which will be occupied by Chinese merchants, whose places were destroyed by fire a few days ago. ¶ The little shanty on the south side of the street formerly occupied by Tom Fox's saloon is one of the places being fitted up. It is supposed that the rent is very low and that the Chinese will remain there for many years. ¶ A one story brick building on the north side of the street two doors east of Lightstone street has also been rented by Chinese for stores. ¶ It is pretty generally admitted that all of the property owners on the street are not thinking seriously of getting up a torchlight procession to celebrate the arrival of Chinese. ¶ 'We have no sewerage here yet,' said one of the old residents, 'and it will be hard on us if too many Chinese get into those places, especially in that little shanty where there's hardly any ventilation. We are all liable to get sick, you know. I don't know how it will terminate, but as far as I am concerned, like the good Democrat that I am, I must say that I "view with alarm" this influx of the terrible incubus, and as long as they remain I will never "point with pride" to my property on this street.' ¶ City Surveyor Pieper and assistants were engaged to-day laying off the lines of the plaza of early days for the purpose of laying a foundation for a suit to be instituted by the city to recover possession of lands which will include nearly all of the site occupied by Chinatown. ¶ The opinion is general that the new City Hall should be placed in the center of the restored plaza, between San Jose and Guadalupe streets and facing San Antonio street and Park avenue."

5/7/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

"Necessary Delays. The election having been held and carried for the bonds, it is of interest to all citizens to know what, under the law, will be the next step towards carrying the improvements into effect. ¶ It appears as if, under the ordinance and the law, two operations may be simultaneously undertaken; one is to put the work for the plates in the hands of the engraver, and the other to draw up the plans and specifications for the contemplated work. Some time will be necessarily occupied in the careful consideration requisite for works of such magnitude and importance. It is not likely that any work of consequence will be commenced until the middle of July. ¶ This is, however, no drawback, as during the next three months work in the harvest fields will occupy the attention of nearly all the men available for ordinary labor on public works; and were the work undertaken earlier, it could only be done by bringing a large number of strangers here who would crowd our resident population out of work in the fall and winter, when they most need it. At the same time, in view of the probable difficulty in obtaining an

adequate supply of labor at this season, contractors would have to ask much higher rates were they compelled to enter on the work now than if permitted to commence at a later date. ¶ In the meantime nothing can be done beyond preparatory work in the line of surveys, estimates, engraving, etc., which will keep our salaried officials very busy. ¶ We presume that the Council proceedings on Monday next will enlighten our citizens on the question of when work can be commenced; and we merely throw out these outlines to allay the impatience of such of our readers as may be unaware of the numerous impediments to prompt action. We have no doubt that the city authorities will endeavor to expedite matters as much as the necessary legal formalities will permit.”

5/7/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

"Elsewhere in our columns will be found a notice announcing that a procession will take place this evening to celebrate the vote in favor of bonds. Care should be taken not to taunt by word or displayed inscription the men who voted against the indebtedness. They undoubtedly voted conscientiously, and have a right to their opinion. We are all of one family, working for the general good, and this fact should be kept in mind."

5/7/1887 Morning Times (na) page 2 column 5 (Advertisement)

"Boom! ¶ To-Night! ¶ Boomers, Attention! ¶ All who voted in favor of bonds are requested to unite with the Boomers in a ¶ Grand Torchlight Process. ¶ This Evening. ¶ In celebration of the victory won by the Progressives over the Silurians. ¶ The Procession will form on St. John Street, between Market and First, at 8 o'clock sharp."

5/7/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 3 column 1 (News)

"Brief Mention....121 packages are to arrive by the S. P. R. R. to-day for the Chinese merchants...."

5/7/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 3 column 2 (News)

"The Market Plaza. ¶ The City to Law Claim to Adjoining Lands. ¶ Bounds of the Old Plaza. ¶ Rebuilding of Chinatown—Litigation to Reclaim the Original Plaza. Surveyors at Work. ¶ When the flames enveloped Chinatown many rejoiced, believing that this nuisance was thoroughly abated, and that the suit to condemn it would be dismissed. Partially this may be correct. It is now reported that one of the property owners in the burned district says he will erect a large two-story brick building there and pack it with a thousand Chinese to show the people of San Jose that he can successfully defy them. As this is not fully authenticated, the name of the person making such a threat is withheld. It does not seem possible that he can be in earnest, and it is at present charitable to believe he made the threat in a moment of petulance and never wished it to be considered seriously. It is also reported that some of the holders of leases from the Chinese are intending to hold these people to the leases no matter how much the 'white trash' may object. That is improbable, and it may be safely concluded that the days of Chinese occupancy of that section have passed away forever. ¶ One reason for believing the Chinese will never re-occupy it is that the property is in the fire limits, and the regulations for building are very exact, and the Council would be strict in enforcing the rules. Fire walls of brick must be erected of suitable thickness at regular intervals, the roofs must be fire-proof, and other precautions taken to guard against fire. To construct such buildings is expensive, and would be so totally different from the crazy shanties in which the Chinese love to dwell that they would be much discommoded therein. ¶ As noted several times before in this paper, the City authorities have long considered that much of the property of Chinatown was on what was a part of Market Plaza, and that it belongs to the city. To settle this question of title, the city had abstracts of title prepared, and the City Attorney has been carefully examining these abstracts. As a result he deems the claim of the city to certain parts of land occupied by private parties as clearly established. ¶ Yesterday morning Chief Engineer Pieper with a corps of

assistants commenced the work of surveying and mapping out the Plaza. He was locating old land-marks and running lines preparatory to the main work. In the work of locating these landmarks, the Surveyor was, and will be, assisted by J. M. Murphy, Pedro Sainsevain, Pedro Higuera, Jose Soto, Harry Bee, Miguel Flores and other pioneers. The old adobe building, the walls of which are now so conspicuous in the burnt district, is a very important land-mark. It stood on a line marking the eastern boundary of the plaza. The brick walls standing near San Fernando street west of Greeninger's shop are also pointed out as on the line of the old plaza. The porch in front of the building now occupied by the Chinese south of the rear end of the Dexter stables, is said to stand flush with the original line of the plaza; and that the line passes to the rear of the old macaroni establishment near San Carlos street. It will thus be seen that the greater part of the land on which Chinatown stood is included in what the city claims. It is understood that suits will be commenced in due time to establish this claim. If the city be successful in proving title to this property, on the ground that it never legally parted with it, the Chinese problem will be settled. The only cause of regret is that the long delays which characterize litigation are not in consonance with the desire of the people to have this matter settled in short order. ¶ At first it was thought that the property on the west side would not be affected. But on examination by the Surveyor it was ascertained that the old plaza line ran nearly twenty feet west of the present Guadalupe street and that it came square out on San Fernando street. This will include all the buildings on the northern curve of the plaza, down San Fernando street nearly to the lot owned by the Horticultural Hall Association. ¶ Of course these boundaries are only rough estimates. The Surveyor and City Attorney from all the data obtainable will have accurate surveys made. A map will be prepared as soon as possible showing the present bounds of the plaza and the bounds as originally established. This accurate survey may slightly change these bounds, but, it is thought, not materially in any direction. The old houses that stood on the plaza can be easily located, and these must determine the bounds. ¶ It is regretted that this condemnation of land has been forced upon the Council. Some of those who occupy lands in the disputed section do so innocent of all knowledge of encroachments by those from whom their title was derived, and equally innocent of the crime of maintaining the Chinatown nuisance. It is understood that such parties will be shielded as much as possible. But, so far as those responsible for the Chinatown nuisance are concerned, our citizens generally consider it would be a just retribution should they finally lose their property."

5/7/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 3 column 2 (News)

"The New City Hall. ¶ Market Street Plaza the Site Generally Preferred. ¶ Since the election is over people are beginning to consider the how and when and where of the improvements. Nearly all are pleased over the results, even the opponents as a class not being sorry. ¶ The first question is to the proper location of the new City Hall. The bonds are now ordered sufficient to put up and equip a building of fair proportions and architectural finish. The city now wants a good location and honest architects and builders to secure a hall that will be an ornament to the place. ¶ A Times reporter yesterday went around and interviewed many of the prominent citizens as to the best location and the sentiment was with great unanimity in favor of Market plaza. It is safe to say that the general sentiment all over the city is in favor of that location. Placed in the square at the upper end of San Antonio Street, it would face Market street depot to the north and the Normal School to the east. A finer location could not be found in the city. Aside from the location being the best, it would be but just to place it in the Fourth Ward. As one official expressed himself to a reporter yesterday: 'The First Ward has the Court House, the Second has the St. James Park, the Third has the Normal School; and what has the Fourth?' The reported answered: 'Verily, it hath the filthy sinks and the smouldering ruins of Chinatown.' But place the City Hall in the plaza, and the equities will be established and the choicest selection made. Then a fair amount expended in improving the surroundings would make the plaza to San Jose what Capitol Park is to Sacramento—the pride and admiration of all."

5/7/1887 Morning Times (P. T. McCabe) page 3 column 5 (Notice)

"The First Settlement. The Chinatown fire partially destroyed my building adjoining, and the loss was adjusted and the money received by me this day, for which I desire to thank J. E. Rucker & Son, agents of the company. ¶ P. T. McCabe."

5/7/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 3 column 6 (News)

"General Rejoicing. ¶ Inaugurating the New Era with a Torch-Light Parade. ¶ Satisfaction was everywhere expressed yesterday among the business men over the result of the bond election on Thursday. Everyone seemed happy and several merchants reported that their business was better yesterday than it had been for some time and they attribute the increase to the effect of the election. ¶ It was hard to find a man who would admit that he voted against the issuance of bonds and where one did so it was almost invariably coupled with some expression of regret at having done so. ¶ The bond question had perhaps a more immediate effect on the real estate market than on any other branch of business. Three or four gentlemen of large means, E. A. Schroeder, J. B. Mills and Henry Ormsby, all of Iowa, among the number, who have been here for some time awaiting the result of the election, said to a Times man yesterday that they were now ready to put money in city property. Mr. Schroeder proved that his words were not an idle boast by buying four lots on Seventh street, through the agency of Wright & Field, paying for them \$2,300. Real estate men all reported an increase in inquiries about both city and county property and it is expected that next week's sales will aggregate as much as some of the best weeks early in the year when the market was at its best. ¶ When it was known on Thursday night that the bonds had been carried by so large a majority, steps were at once taken to celebrate the new and prosperous era about to dawn on San Jose in an appropriate manner. A committee was appointed and the announcement published in yesterday's Times that a torchlight procession would take place last night. During the day, however, it was found that so many desired to take part that the parade could not be properly gotten up in so short a time; so it was postponed until this evening. A large order was sent to San Francisco for fireworks. ¶ The Mayor, Common Council, Board of Trade and citizens generally will participate in this rejoicing over our promised prosperity. ¶ Torches will be in readiness for all who desire them at 8 o'clock this evening on St. John Street between Market and First. The line will move promptly at 8:30 o'clock."

5/7/1887 Evening Herald (na) page 2 column 4 (Advertisement)

"Boom. Boom. ¶ Saturday. ¶ Boomers, Attention! ¶ All who voted in favor of bonds are requested to unite with the Boomers in a grand torchlight procession Saturday evening in celebration of the victory won by the Progressives over the Silurians. The procession will form on St. John Street, between Market and First, at 8 o'clock sharp."

5/7/1887 Evening Herald (P. T. McCabe) page 3 column 6 (Notice)

"The First Settlement. ¶ The Chinatown fire partially destroyed my building adjoining, and the loss was adjusted and the money received by me this day, for which I desire to thank J. E. Rucker & Son, agents of the Company. P. T. McCabe."

5/7/1887 Evening Herald (staff) page 3 column 7 (News)

"City Fire Limits. ¶ Their Extension To-day by the Council. ¶ City Attorney's Advice. ¶ An Invitation to Participate in the Bond Jubilee This Evening Is Accepted—The Vote. ¶ A special meeting of the Mayor and Common Council was held at 1 o'clock this afternoon, Mayor Breyfogle presiding, it being understood that the extension of the fire limits would be proposed. ¶ The present fire limits are as follows: Commencing at the intersection of San Pedro and San Augustin streets, running thence along

San Augustin street to Market; thence to St. James; thence to First; thence to St. John; thence to Second; thence to San Antonio; thence to Market; thence to San Fernando; thence to San Pedro; thence to Orchard; thence to Santa Clara; thence to Santa Teresa; thence to San Augustin; thence along San Augustin to the place of beginning. ¶ As soon as the meeting had been called to order Councilman Roberts presented a petition to the Clerk, signed by Karl Klein and many others, asking that the fire limits on the south be extended so as to include San Carlos street. ¶ Mayor Breyfogle said that in view of the report that the Chinese who have been burnt out contemplate the erection of wooden buildings it would be well to take some action. For himself he was in favor of including the whole city in the fire limits, by which means the city authorities would be given control of all the buildings. It would be no difficult matter for such as desired to erect wooden buildings to present their plans and specifications to the Council, that they might be acted upon by the Fire Wardens; but there is one clause which ought to be repealed, at least as to outside districts, and that is the one requiring the written consent of two-thirds of the property owners in the block. ¶ Mr. Dunlop was in favor of turning the whole city into the fire limits, but would like to hear from the City Attorney. ¶ While the Council was waiting for that officer an invitation was read asking the Mayor and Common Council to take part in the bond jubilee this evening. ¶ Mr. McGinley was opposed to the Council taking part in the procession in a body and he thought the invitation should simply be placed on file. ¶ Mr. Dunlop moved that the invitation be accepted with thanks. ¶ Mr. Roberts said: 'I voted against the bonds and would do so again; but they went through, and now I say, let us whoop 'er up.' ¶ Mr. Warkentin thought it would look like a breach of courtesy not to accept the invitation. ¶ Mr. Stern was opposed to the Council turning out in a body and mayor Breyfogle expressed himself in like terms. ¶ Mr. Dunlop's motion was put and carried, Messrs. Grozelier, McGinley and Stern voting against it. Mr. Prindle was not in the room when the vote was taken, but came in shortly after. Those who voted in favor were Messrs. Dunlop, Hale, Roberts and Warkentin. ¶ City Attorney Herrington entered the Council chamber at this point and was asked for an opinion as to the extension of the fire limits over the whole city. ¶ Mr. Herrington replied that the fire limits might be so extended, but he doubted whether the Mayor and Common Council could discriminate in the matter of erecting wooden buildings, in favor of Tom, Dick and Harry in some parts of the city, while forbidding others from putting up like buildings in other parts of the city. This kind of legislation has already been brought into question in the courts. ¶ The Clerk read for the second time an ordinance relating to the maintenance of the Fire Department and to the extension of the fire limits. In this proposed extension are included the sites of various buildings on Second, Santa Clara and Third streets not now in the fire limits, the block bounded by Park avenue, Orchard, San Fernando and Market streets and the block bounded by First, San Carlos, San Antonio and Market streets. ¶ Mayor Breyfogle called the special attention of the Council to the importance of leaving nothing in the proposed ordinance which might invalidate it. 'Be sure,' he said, 'that within the limits marked out no wooden buildings will be needed, for no discrimination will be allowed.' ¶ It was urged that immediate action should be taken because the Chinese are already preparing to build on San Fernando street and are said to have leased considerable property on El Dorado street. ¶ After further discussion the following fire limits were agreed upon: Commencing at the corner of San Antonio and Third streets, running along San Antonio to First, to San Carlos, to Guadalupe, to Park avenue, to Orchard, to San Fernando, to River, to Santa Clara, to Santa Teresa, to San Augustin, to Market, to St. James, to Third, to San Antonio, the place of beginning. ¶ Mr. Stern moved to increase the pay of extramens from \$10 to \$15 a month, but the motion was not seconded. ¶ The ordinance was then adopted. Among the changes made by the ordinance, in addition to the extension of the fire limits, as given, is the increase in the compensation of the foremen of Franklin and Empire Hose Companies to the extent of \$5 a month. ¶ After the passage of the ordinance the Council adjourned."

5/7/1887 Morning *Mercury* (wire) page 2 column 3 (News)

"A Chinese Murderer Convicted. San Francisco, May 6.—In Judge Hunt's court to-day, Leong Sing, the Chinaman who killed his uncle, Leong Chin, in the latter's restaurant on Washington street on the 30th of last March 2as convicted of murder in the first degree. He will be sentenced next Friday."

5/7/1887 Morning Mercury (staff) page 3 column 1 (News)

"They Went to the Fire. ¶ When the fire bells rang Wednesday afternoon Dr. L. Finnigan was engaged in plugging a decayed molar in the jaw of a 16-year-old boy. As the smoke grew in volume the boy wriggled uneasily in the chair; the Doctor, too, couldn not refrain from frequent glances toward the scene of excitement. The youngster stood it as long as he could and then burted out: 'I suppose this job will have to be done over again, but I want to go to that fire.' The Doctor responded: 'That's firght, my son; I want to go myself, and if you are willing to postpone this business, the extra work won't cost you a cent,"

5/7/1887 Morning Mercury (staff) page 3 column 1 (News)

"Jubilee To-Night. After consideration the parties having in charge the jubilee in celebratio n of the victory of the bond election decided to postpone it until this evening. Fireworks and a torchlight parade are the leading features. the procession will form on St. John street, between Market and First, at 8 o'clock sharp."

5/7/1887 Morning Mercury (staff) page 3 column 2 (News)

"The Old Plaza. ¶ Boundary Landmarks Designated by Pioneer Citizens. ¶ The Scenes at Chinatown. ¶ Many Offers of Sites for a New Town—Why They Will Not Rebuild—Walls Taken Down. ¶ Early yesterday morning City Surveyor Pieper, with a corps of assistants, began the work of locating the boundary lines of the original Market Plaza. In this work they were assisted by Sam P. Howes, who prepared the abstract of title to the property, and Col. John M. Murphy, Pedro Sansevain, Harry Bee and other early pioneers of the city, who pointed out the old landmarks of the boundary line. ¶ The Eastern Boundary Line. The first landmark identified was the old adobe building that stood in about the center of Chinatown, and which was almost completely destroyed by the fire. This, they agreed, stood on the line of the east boundary of the plaza. To the north of this building was the old Pico House, which stood near the line of San Fernando street on the site where now stands the Chinese Theater, just west of Greeninger & Young's carriage shop. The Pico house was on a line with the old adobe above mentioned. In front of it, on the land claimed by Rothermel, and being the northwest of what was brick Chinatown, there was a large enclosure where bull fights took place in early days. Another landmark identified was the old adobe building south of McCabe's barn used by the Dexter stable, this also being on the eastern boundary. Besides these the site of the old adobe building once used as the State capital was pointed out and upon looking over the ground, the foundations of the structure were discovered. If the city can establish its claim to this property it will own the whole of the land which was occupied by Chinatown proper, with the exception of a very small triangular piece in the south end, for a line drawn along the marks indicated would include it all, with that exception. According to this line, the eastern boundary of the old plaza does not run parallel with San Jose street, but about as follows: Beginning at a point near the northwest corner of Greeninger & Young's carriage shop, it runs southerly through to San Carlos street, not on a direct line, but tending westerly so much that it emerges near the corner of San Carlos and Market streets. Thus no property on the west side is affected by the city's claim but Chinatown. ¶ The Western Boundary. A number of old landmarks were also identified on the west side of the plaza. One of these is an old Sunol adobe house in the rear of McQuaid's blacksmith shop opposite Chinatown. This it is said, stood on the west boundary line, but some time in the forties Pedro Sansevain erected in front of it a combined frame and adobe dwelling, which can now be seen from the street. This is on the property of Marshall Hale and a portion of the old adobe was torn down to make room for the Horticultural Hall. Near the corner of San Carlos street on the west side, the spot was indicated, where,

in early days, there stood an old adobe which was occupied by Uncle Ike Branham. All trace of this house has disappeared, but it is said that it was on the west line of the plaza and that its exact location can be determined by numerous witnesses. A line run north from the old small adobe will strike the fence of the residence of the Catholic Fathers on San Fernando street at the carriage gate, which is a little west of the center line between Market and San Pedro streets. A line run south from the same spot to the old Branham adobe, will run parallel with the east line of the old plaza, and consequently will have a westward tendency from the west line of Guadalupe street as it runs south. ¶ The Early Houses. In the early history of San Jose these houses, it is said, all fronted on the line of the plaza having no yards or enclosures. The work of surveying was prosecuted all day yesterday by the City Engineer and his assistants and it will be several days yet before it is completed. As soon as possible Mr. Pieper will prepare a map of the place and submit it to the Mayor and Common Council, when they will take such action to determine the right of the city to the ownership of the property as may seem proper. “

5/7/1887 Morning Mercury (staff) page 3 column 2 (News)

“At Chinatown. ¶ Clearing Off the Debris—Tearing Down Tottering Walls. ¶ Chief Engineer Brady and a force of firemen were engaged yesterday in tearing down the tottering walls left standing in brick Chinatown and the old adobe walls in the center of this district. This work was necessary owing to the danger to life from falling walls, one of which did tumble in the morning and several boys narrowly escaped being hurt. A number of workmen were also engaged in clearing the debris from the sidewalks on Market, San Fernando and San Jose streets, which rendered travel on the walks impossible. ¶ Searchers and Visitors. The scene of the late fire continues to be attractive to the curious and it was visited yesterday by hundreds of people from all parts of the city and vicinity. The greater part of the old iron and other junk has been carried off. Enough remained however to furnish employment to a number of boys, who were desirous of making a little spending money by collecting the stuff for the junk dealers. The hope of finding treasure in the ruins was not wholly banished, and quite a number of men and boys were engaged yesterday in raking away the ashes with little or no success. ¶ Where Will They Locate? All things considered, it is not very likely that the Chinamen will rebuild on the old site. The dispute as to the ownership of the property will, no doubt, have a great deal to do with preventing this, as will also the fact of the new City Hall being erected on the plaza. In the latter event the property will be more valuable for other purposes, and the owners will be adverse to extending the leases, and in the second place the police headquarters would be too near to be comfortable for the Chinese. For these reasons, no doubt, all concerned will be better satisfied in having the Chinese locate in another part of the city. ¶ Offers of Sites. About a score of owners of property in different parts of the city have already made offers to the Chinese of sites for the purposes of a Chinatown, and it is very probable that a desirable place will soon be secured. The Chinese are as well aware as anyone of the prejudice existing against them as a race, and for this reason they desire to be located where they will have police protection, and, at the same time, their habits are such that they are equally desirous of being where they can not be too closely and easily watched, as they would be if located opposite the City Hall. It is therefore safe to say, that while they will not go very far from the city center, they will not care to locate opposite the new City Hall. ¶ Securing Quarters. The Chinese who were made homeless by the fire have scattered around among their country men in various parts of the city and vicinity and some have gone to San Francisco. The first effective effort to secure quarters was made yesterday, when three large stores on Eldorado street between First and Second streets were rented by Chinamen. To what especial use they will be put is not known.”

5/7/1887 Morning Mercury (James & Wemple) page 3 column 3 (Advertisement)

"Fire! Fire!! Fire!!! ¶ The Chinatown fire came near cleaning us out, but we are still on deck, and wish to offer our thanks to those offering to help us move out, and did at one time think we would accept their

kindness, and can also state we have no damaged goods to offer the public, but we are selling those that are not damaged at damaged prices. Call at either of our stores and be convinced. ¶ James & Wemple. ¶ 79 East Santa Clara Street or 197 Russ House Block First Street."

5/8/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 3 column 4 (News)

"The City Solons. ¶ Special Session of the Common Council. ¶ Enlarged Fire District. ¶ Chinese Beginning to Rebuild—Invading the Block South—Fire Limits to Prevent. ¶ The Common Council met yesterday at 1 o'clock, p.m., in special session, Mayor Breyfogle in the chair—all members present. The Mayor stated that the object of the call was to take into consideration the propriety of extending the fire limit. He has been informed that the Chinese are moving into the block immediately south of old Chinatown, and a petition was presented for an extension of the fire limits. He thought it would be a good idea for the Council to extend the fire limits so as to include the whole city, it being proper that the Council should have control of all buildings erected within the city limits. If a person wished to erect a wooden building it would only be necessary to present plans, etc. to the Council and get permission so to do. The Council had granted such permission in the present limits, and he knew nothing to prevent the same being given if the whole city were included. ¶ The petition was then read for an extension of the fire limits southward so as to include San Carlos street in the limits. It was signed by Karl Klein and nearly one hundred others. ¶ Councilman Dunlop favored the whole city being included, but thought it would be well to have the opinion of the City Attorney. ¶ A messenger was sent to get City Attorney Herrington and Mr. Laine, special counsel. They soon entered and the question was put to them as to the legal aspect. The City Attorney said the Council could include the whole city in the fire limits, if they chose, but they could not legally pass an ordinance forbidding one person or class of persons from erecting wooden buildings and give the power to do so to another person or persons. The law must be general, affecting all alike. The permission of the Council to erect buildings would make an ordinance subject to the charge of being special legislation. The law must be general and the Council must consider the necessities of the case before establishing limits. ¶ After this opinion was given, the Council abandoned the idea of including the whole city in the fire limits, but making the limits sufficiently broad to protect the city and at the same time not make burdensome regulations on improvements. It was moved to refer the petition to the Ordinance Committee and the City Attorney. This was objected to on the part of some on the ground of urgency. The Chinese, it was said by the Street Commissioner, had commenced the erection of wooden partitions in the building left in old Chinatown, in buildings on the block bounded by Guadalupe, Park avenue, Orchard and San Fernando streets and were hauling lumber preparatory to putting up shanties on the block south of Chinatown. ¶ The Council then discussed at some length what the proper limits should be. ¶ The ordinance establishing a paid fire department, fixing regulations for buildings in the fire limits, and defining said city limits was passed to the second reading, slightly amended as to the limits of the fire district, and passed unanimously. The fire limits are therein established as follows: ¶ Beginning at the intersection of St. James and Market, down St. James to Third, up Third to San Antonio, up San Antonio to First, up First to San Carlos, up San Carlos to Guadalupe, down Guadalupe to Park avenue, down Park avenue to Orchard, down Orchard to San Fernando, down San Fernando to River, down River to Santa Clara, up Santa Clara to Santa Teresa, up Santa Teresa to San Augustine, up San Augustine to Market, down Market to St. James, the place of beginning. ¶ While waiting for the attendance of the counsel, a communication was received inviting the Council to participate in a torchlight procession in honor of the carrying of the election for bonds. It was objected on the part of some to accepting the invitation, that the Council, as a body, had no proper place in such a demonstration; that whatever might be the pleasure of the members, the Council should not participate in any such affair. On the part of others it was considered that since the bonds had carried, the Council and everybody else should join in the rejoicing, make the choice unanimous, and

look to the promised benefits. A motion to adopt was carried. ¶ The Council then adjourned to meet tomorrow evening.”

5/8/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 3 column 8 (News)

“The Grand Parade. ¶ Fine Demonstration of Public Rejoicing. ¶ Torch-Light Procession. ¶ Outpouring of the People to Celebrate the Victory for Bonds—Incidentals. ¶ Last evening was a grand time for the ‘boys’—the jubilee over the successful carrying of the election for bonds. It was an orderly but most enthusiastic demonstration that showed how deep was the popular feeling for the questions involved in the election. Bonfires were lighted on Market, Santa Clara and First streets, and made the town radiant with their light. These bon(d)-fires were not makeshifts, either, composed of old barrels, broken boxes and waste scraps, but rousing piles of pine wood. ¶ The procession formed on St. John street between Market and First. It was under the management of H. T. Welch, as Marshal, and A. R. Denike as Assistant, and two aids, A. C. Dailey as Sergeant. It was headed by a rocket wagon, followed by Parkman’s Band. Next came the red-light wagon, presided over by Mr. Combs, carriages bearing members of the Common Council, other officials and prominent citizens; then the first division of torch-bearers, composed mostly of the boys of mature years, wearing plug hats, side whiskers and some gray beards. Then came the drum corps followed by the second brigade of torch-bearers. These were large representative Young Americas. ¶ It seemed that all San Jose had turned out. The streets were literally packed with people. All along First and Santa Clara the sidewalks and sides of the streets were jammed. The fire-works, under the supervision of James Holman, constituted a marked feature of the procession. The rockets, Roman candles, red-fires, etc., etc., were in true Fourth-of-July style and made a grand display. ¶ One interesting feature of the procession was its lack of partisanship, Democrats and Republicans, Know-Nothings and Prohibitionists, walked side by side and seemed to enjoy each other’s company. ¶ The procession moved from St. John street up First to San Carlos, down San Carlos and Second to Santa Clara, up Santa Clara to Santa Teresa and counter-marched to First, up First and St. John to Market, up Market to First and counter-marched to the place of starting. The procession was very long. There were about 500 torch-bearers, besides carriages, bands, etc. ¶ At the beginning of the procession there was considerable commotion among the horses. The bonfires, red-lights, rockets, etc, were so new and strange that many of the horses became wild with excitement, and it required the greatest care to prevent runaways. But the demonstration passed without any serious accident. One child was hit and slightly hurt by a piece of a rocket. At one time the material for the red-lights caught fire and this produced much confusion. But, on the whole, it is unprecedented for so large a procession to close with so few accidents. At the end, there were some of the boys who failed to return the handles to their torches, but kept the same for fancy walking sticks. After the close of the procession other festivities were inaugurated and continued to a late hour.”

5/8/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 3 column 8 (News)

"Justices' Courts. The case of Charley Fey, the Chinaman accused of receiving stolen goods, was continued yesterday by Justice Buckner, to be re-set...."

5/8/1887 Morning Mercury (staff) page 4 column 1 (Editorial)

"The Procession. The procession of last night was a grand success in its display of popular satisfaction over the bond election. It indicated how deeply the people felt upon the subject and how all classes of our citizens were alike moved. The laborer and his employer, the shopkeeper and his clerk, the artisan and the capitalist marched side by side last night, while the silurian saw the cheering crowd go by with a sense of lonely sadness that his influence in mismanaging the city of San Jose was gone forever, and that in the new order of things there was no place for him."

5/8/1887 Morning Mercury (staff) page 5 column 1 (News)

"A Jubilee. ¶ The Celebration of the Victory at the Election. ¶ A Torchlight Procession. ¶ Seventeen Hundred Men in Line—Renewed activity in the Real Estate Market, Owing to the Bonds. ¶ The success of the question of issuing bonds in the sum of \$500,000 for public improvements caused a feeling of enthusiasm among the people generally, and something had to be done to dispose of the surplus joy, the burden of which appeared to be very heavy. A grand torchlight procession was proposed as a remedy. This was not a novel idea, but it has always proven effective, and for that reason it met with approval on all sides. So a torchlight procession was decided upon. The necessary arrangements were made and it took place last evening. There were about 1,700 citizens in line, and the streets were crowded with people from all parts of the city and surrounding country. The procession formed on the corner of First and St. John streets in the following order: Wagon containing pyrotechnics; Grand Marshal H. T. Welch, and A. R. Denike, his aide, on horseback; brass band; first division of citizens, commanded by C. Derby; carriages containing members of Common Council and citizens; second division of citizens on foot, headed by a drum corp [corps] and commanded by Captain John Craven. The line of march was south on First street to San Carlos; east on San Carlos to Second; north on Second to Santa Clara street; west on Santa Clara to Guadalupe bridge; countermarch to First; north on First to St. John. Large bonfires were lighted all along the line of march and the procession was further illuminated by a constant stream of rockets, Roman candles and red and blue lights. As the procession moved through the streets the air was filled with enthusiastic cheers. In passing the Mercury office each member of the body, raised his hat and cheered with vim in recognition of the service done by this journal in the fight for the success of the bond question. The enthusiasm was not confined to those in line, but the thousands who thronged the streets shared in it. No disturbance of any kind occurred during the evening and the best of feeling prevailed. ¶ One of the features of the illumination was the row of Thompson-Houston electric lamps displayed on Santa Clara street, between First and Market, and in front of Rinaldo's cigar store on First street, eight in number. They were each of 2,000 candle power, and burned with a steady and brilliant, yet soft and pleasant light. They attracted much attention and were universally admired."

5/8/1887 Morning Mercury (staff) page 5 column 3 (News)

"Common Council. ¶ Fire Limits Extended to Cover a Large Area. ¶ The Chinese Headed Off. ¶ No Wooded Buildings in the Center of the City—The Views of the City Attorney. ¶ The Mayor and Common Council held a special session yesterday afternoon, all members being present. The object of the meeting was the consideration of the extension of the fire limits. ¶ The following petition was presented [by] Councilman Roberts: ¶ To the Honorable, the Mayor and Common Council of the City of San Jose—Gentlemen: 'We the undersigned property owners and citizens of the city of San Jose, do hereby most respectfully request and beg of you to extend the fire limits of the city of San Jose Southerly to and including San Carlos street in said city. Most respectfully submitted, (signed) Karl Klein, Fred Erle, R. O. Shively and eighty-three others.' ¶ This petition was occasioned by a rumor that the Chinese had rented ground in the block next south of the old town, lying between San Carlos and San Antonio streets on San Jose street, and that they were about to erect wooden buildings and locate there. ¶ Mayor Breyfogle said that in view of this report it would be well to take some action. For himself he was in favor of including the whole city in the fire limits, by which means the city authorities would be given control of all the buildings. It would be no difficult mater for such as desired to erect wooden buildings to present their plans and specifications to the Council, that they might be acted upon by the Fire Wardens; but there is one clause which ought to be repealed, at least as to outside districts, and this is the one requiring the written consent of two-thirds of the property owners in the block. ¶ Dunlop was in favor of extending the fire limits so as to include the entire city, but he would like first to hear from the City Attorney. ¶ While the Council was waiting for the arrival of that official, a communication was read

inviting the Mayor and Council to take part in the jubilee meeting over the success of the bonds question. ¶ After some discussion the invitation was accepted, Grozelier, McGinley and Stern voting in the negative. ¶ The City Attorney having appeared, his opinion was asked as to the extension of the fire limits. He replied that the limits could be extended, but he doubted the power of the Council to discriminate in the matter of the erection of wooden buildings. That class of legislation had already been brought in question in the Courts. ¶ Clerk Bodley read the ordinance in relation to the maintenance of the fire department and the extension of the fire limits. The then limits were as follows: Commencing at the intersection of San Pedro and San Augustin streets, running thence along San Augustin street to Market; thence to St. James; thence to First; thence to St. John; thence to Second; thence to San Antonio; thence to Market; thence to San Fernando; thence to San Pedro; thence to Orchard; thence to Santa Clara; thence to Santa Teresa; thence to San Augustin; thence along San Augustin to the place of beginning. ¶ The Mayor urged the necessity of leaving nothing in the ordinance that would invalidate it, saying, 'Be sure no wooden buildings will be needed within the limits marked out, for no discrimination will be allowed.' ¶ It was urged that immediate action should be taken because the Chinese are already preparing to build on San Fernando street, and are said to have leased considerable property on El Dorado street. ¶ A question was raised as to permitting the keeping of lumber yards in the city limits, but no action was taken at this point. ¶ The following fire limits were finally agreed upon: Commencing at the corner of San Antonio and Third streets, running along San Antonio to First, to San Carlos, to Guadalupe, to Park avenue, to Orchard, to San Fernando, to River, to Santa Clara, to Santa Teresa, to San Augustine, to Market, to St. James, to Third, to San Antonio, the place of beginning. ¶ The ordinance was then adopted, under a suspension of the rules. The ordinance also increases the pay of the foremen of Franklin and Eureka Hose Companies to the extent of \$5 a month."

5/8/1887 Morning Mercury (staff) page 5 column 3 (News)

"Police Pickings....The examination of Charles Fey on a charge of receiving stolen goods was continued by Justice Pfister yesterday to be reset...."

5/8/1887 Morning Mercury (James Phelan) page 5 column 4 (Letter)

"James Phelan. ¶ The Capitalist Ready to Take all the Bonds at Par. ¶ Ed. Mercury—I congratulate you and the citizens of San Jose on the result of the bond election. though not a resident I am a taxpayer of your city, and as such feel highly gratified at the prospect of San Jose's future, not that she is fully aroused. Inform Mayor Breyfogle that I stand ready to take the whole of the bonds at par, should the city not find a better offer. ¶ James Phelan"

5/9/1887 Evening News (staff) page 3 column 7 (News)

"NO MORE SHANTIES. ¶ The Fire Limits Extended South to San Carlos Street. ¶ At a meeting of the Mayor and Council held last Saturday afternoon an ordinance was issued extending the fire limits so as to include the following districts: ¶ Commencing at the corner of San Antonio and Third streets, running along San Antonio to First, to San Carlos, to Guadalupe, to Park avenue, to Orchard, to San Fernando, to River, to Santa Clara, to Santa Teresa, to San Augustine, to Market, to St James, to Third, to San Antonio, to the place of beginning. ¶ The ordinance was adopted under a suspension of rules. The ordinance also increases the pay of the foreman of Franklin and Eureka Hose Companies to the extent of \$5 a month. ¶ The meeting of the Council was in response to a petition signed by nearly one hundred citizens, asking that the fire limits be extended so as to include San Carlos street. The petition was occasioned by a rumor that the Chinese had leased ground in the block next south of the old town and were preparing to erect wooden shanties."

5/9/1887 Evening News (staff) page 3 column 2 (News)

"Midnight Shots. A Sensation in the Market Street Plaza. ¶ A Woman Screams for Help and Jim Beatty Responds. ¶ The Villian is Pursued and a Pair of Boots is Captured in a Market Street Hotel—The Sequel. ¶ The reports of several pistol shots aroused the sleepers in the vicinity of the Market street plaza about 1 o'clock this morning. ¶ The shots were fired by James Beatty, who was employed by insurance agents to watch some of the property in the ruins of Chinatown. ¶ It appears that Mr. Beatty heard a woman scream in the plaza about a hundred yards from where he was standing, and he took that method of letting her know that a friend was near and liable to be nearer very soon unless something happened to cause her to move off in the wrong direction. ¶ At that instant Mr. Beatty heard two or three shots from the west side of the plaza and he began to feel considerably interested. Then he thought he saw a man running along the center of the plaza towards San Fernando street. The woman continued to scream for help and great excitement prevailed where all was so silent a few minutes before. ¶ Officer Coschina then appeared and it was learned taht he had fired the second volley of shots and that he had not aimed at Mr. Beatty. ¶ Several men attracted by the shots came rushing towards the shooters and a search was at once instituted for the woman's assailant. ¶ It was rumored that he had been seen to enter the Western Hotel and armed men were soon tramping through the corridors of the house. ¶ A pair of boots found in one of the halls of the hotels were taken to the City Hall and dropped in a corner to be used as a clew. The woman and all pursuers got home in due time uninjured and the whole matter rested until this morning. So did a certain little shoemaker who honors the Western Hotel with his presence as a regular boarder and who occasionally leaves his boots in the hallway when he comes in late. ¶ He left them in the hallway last night. ¶ They were not there when he reached out for them this morning. ¶ They were in the corner of the office of the Chief-of-Police acting as a clew. Tableaux!"

5/9/1887 Evening News (staff) page 3 column 3 (News)

"Talk About Moving. ¶ Gobs of Gloom and Slathers of Sorrow on El Dorado Street. ¶ It is rumored that some of the white occupants of stores on El Dorado street will move as soon as possible because they object to being so close to the Chinese who have moved into that street during the past week. This will probably suit the Chinese and will give them a change to establish a new Chinatown nearer the center of the city than ever. ¶ The sentiment in favor of teh abrogation of all treaties with China is said to be increasing rapidly among the majority of property owners on El Dorado street between First and Market, and great gobs of gloom have settled down down all along the street. ¶ A man might go there and tell something awful funny and the people would just look sorrowfull and tell him to forbear and not mock them in their misery."

5/9/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

"What the Fire Proved. The late Chinatown fire accomplished at least one benefit in conclusively demonstrating the need for another engine. We are opposed to any unnecessary additions to municipal expenses; but it would be a false economy to risk ten dollars in order to save a cent. ¶ Ordinarily two engines are amply adequate; but in addition to the ordinary water pressure a powerful suction is required, in the case of large fires, which two engines cannot supply. The third engine need only be called out on great emergencies; but it should be on hand. ¶ San Jose is a growing city, and in the course of a few years there would be more use for a third engine than there is at present. With ordinary care when not in use, the third engine would not deteriorate, and the probabilities are that it would save its cost in five years. ¶ There is another point in connection with fires to which attention should be given. The horses used for the engines in case of fire have for sometime been also used for general city purposes, and, as a rule, no losses have thus resulted, fires usually occurring at night, when the horses are stabled at the engine houses. But to provide against emergencies, it might be advisable for the horses to take turns in the stable, two at a time so as to be ready if needed; or the two selected might be employed in city work, when required, very near the engine-houses. At the Chinatown fire, we

understand, the horses had to drag the wagons about a mile before they could be made available for the purposes of the fire department. ¶ As it is prudent in individuals to have a reserved vital force available for unusual drafts on the system, so it is advisable for the body-politic to keep on hand a surplus to meet emergencies. An extra fire-engine and an extra horse or two would not seriously deplete the municipal exchequer, while imparting a sense of security that would stimulate business enterprise.”

5/9/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

“The Legal Aspect. The Sacramento Record-Union takes the following view of the legal situation in regard the Chinese nuisance here: ¶ ‘The United States Circuit Court holds that an ordinance declaring laundries nuisances is not sufficient upon which to base their forcible removal from proscribed limits. That is, a laundry is not such a nuisance that the Courts will take cognizance of the fact, as in the case of a chemical factory or a powder mill, etc. In the case just decided, therefore, it has not been determined that a laundry may not become a nuisance, nor that the carrying on of laundrying within certain limits may not be prohibited by municipal authority. But it is held that the fact that a laundry is a nuisance must be established, as is any other alleged fact, before the Court. San Jose, therefore, has moved in the right direction in first going into Court to have a certain “quarter” of the town declared a nuisance. If it succeeds in establishing the fact, not only will it obtain an order of Court for the abatement of the nuisance, but it will be justified in passing ordinances to aid in making the abatement permanent and effective.’ ¶ The nuisance has been not only abated, but purified—temporarily at least—by an agency much more expeditious than courts. It will be well, however, not to lose sight of the legal aspect of the question, as it will be on us again in full blast within six months, unless the sluggish current of the law is constantly driven into motion.”

5/9/1887 Evening Herald (staff) page 1 column 2 (News)

“The Bond Jubilee. ¶ Torchlight Procession and Display of Fireworks. ¶ The demonstration on Saturday evening in celebration of the result of the bond election was enthusiastically carried out. About 1,700 citizens were in line and the streets were crowded with people from all parts of the city and surrounding country. The procession formed on the corner of First and St. John streets in the following order.: Wagon containing fireworks; Grand Marshal H. T. Welch and A. R. Denike, his aid, on horseback; brass band; first division of citizens, commanded by C. Derby; carriages containing members of Common Council and citizens; second division of citizens on foot, headed by a drum corps, and commanded by John Craven. The line of march was south on First street to San Carlos; east to Second; north on Second to Santa Clara street; west on Santa Clara to Guadalupe bridge; countermarch to First; north on First to St. John. Large bonfires were lighted all along the line of march and the procession was further illuminated by a constant stream of rockets, Roman candles and red and blue lights. As the procession moved through the streets the air was filled with enthusiastic cheers. No disturbance of any kind occurred during the evening. ¶ One of the features of the illumination was the row of Thompson-Houston electric lamps displayed on Santa Clara street between First and Market, and in front of Rinaldo’s cigar store on First street, eight in number. They were each of 2,000 candle-power, and burned with a steady and brilliant, yet soft and pleasant light. They attracted much attention and were universally admired.”

5/9/1887 Evening Herald (staff) page 2 column 2 (Editorial)

“Looking to San Jose. ¶ The whole State is now looking to San Jose for some satisfactory solution of the coolie problem. The Record-Union says: ¶ ‘Fire has destroyed the Chinatown of San Jose, against which that city had proceeded in the Courts to have it declared a nuisance. Now let it be tested if our municipal corporations have the power to prohibit the gathering of these ulcers—whether they cannot

forbid these plague spots and wholesale nuisances. If our system is so weak that this cannot be done, and so imbecile that it cannot require Chinese residents to conform to usual sanitary regulations, then it is time for a change in the system.' ¶ A great responsibility now rests upon Mayor Breyfogle and the Council in this coolie matter. If they have the courage and sagacity to select a locality which will not be in the way of the improvement of the city, and which will make a Chinatown as little a nuisance as possible, much will be gained. Then make the Chinese understand that upon this reservation they will be unmolested as long as they comply with common sanitary regulations, but that, if they insist in remaining in the centre of the city, their gambling dens and houses of prostitution will be constantly raided, and that for every nuisance they make they will be arrested and fined, and we believe there will be little difficulty in getting them to accept the quarters provided for them. It is a thousand pities that the laws should be so construed by coolie-loving judges that we cannot drive them altogether out of the city, but as that cannot be done, let us hope that the city authorities will do all they can to prevent the building of a Chinatown anywhere in the center of the city. It is reported that one man has already announced his intention of building a brick block within the fire limits that will hold a thousand coolies, and, if this be true, care should be taken to make his infamous scheme unprofitable. This has been the difficulty all along. There have always been people who were willing to injure their neighbors and depreciate property by renting property to Chinese. That is how the old Chinatown became such a detriment to the city. If the owners of the property around Market Plaza had been patriotic or intelligent enough to refuse to rent it to the Chinese, the coolie difficulty in San Jose would have been satisfactorily settled long ago, and every effort should now be made to prevent others from adopting the same policy."

5/9/1887 Evening Herald (Ambrose Bierce) page 3 column 5 (Editorial)

"Killing Suggestions. ¶ How We May Destroy Our Enemies and the Chinese. ¶ Ambrose Bierce writes as follows in the San Francisco Examiner: ¶ The only times that I can remember when I did not wish to shoot my enemies were the times when I was wishing to stab them. My opportunity appears to have come at last, and if within the next few days the streets of this city run red with half-human gore, the reader may justly infer that I am abroad in the land, militant, with a double shotgun. I am hunting Pete Olsten and Hong Di—you understand?—and the man upon whom I swoop down would better throw up his hands and be lively about it, for he will have mighty little time to make up his mind and sketch out the points of his denial. In fact, the men who know that I hate them would do well to come into camp and prove their identity without further notification than these presents. The resemblance of my enemies to Pete Olsten and Hong Di is notoriously vivid; it really is unsafe for them to be about. It cannot be unknown to them that one Chinaman has already been shot dead as Hong Di, and one white as Pete Olsten. They did not instantly throw up their hands when unexpectedly focused by an environment of scatterguns visibly supercharged with globes of uncommon dimensions. They parleyed with the Discourager of Hesitancy, and they sleep in the valley. But they fell not upon stony soil; their fate has suggested the noble scheme, herein outlined, for destroying vermin. ¶ The method is capable of infinite and infinitely beneficent extension; it is equally available to all—every objector to alien existences may grasp its advantages by judicious application of its principles to the superfluous undesired. It may be made to serve the cause of religion as practical controversial theology; the Presbyterian, fitly zealous in spreading the light, shouts to the unaware Baptist: 'Up with your hand. Pete Olsten!' and fills that worthy with lead and amazement to the greater glory of God. As a political agency it is of value inexpressible. That mischievous villain and danger to the State, 'the opposing candidate,' needs but to be mistaken for the nomad of Napa, and his extermination is justified by the laws of God and man. With regard to the incumbent of a desirable office, the plan presents a simple and practical means of removal without impeachment; the person experiencing it will be said to have been 'Petered out of office'—a phrase upon which future philologists will rear many an airy superstructure of

ingenious speculation. Herein, also, the fine ear of the spirit may hear the true answer to the Chinese question; as Hong Di, the outlaw, every Chinese male in the State may be lawfully effaced while 'resisting arrest,' and the manner of his cessation denoted in the statement that he Hong Died—to the unspeakable enrichment of the vocabulary."

5/10/1887 Evening News (staff) page 2 column 2 (Editorial)

"THE FIRE LIMITS. ¶ The Council did well in extending the fire limits, however slight the extension may be. It is perhaps to be regretted that the suggestion of the Mayor was not acted upon and the limits made to include the entire city. It would then be optional with the Council whether any frame buildings could be erected, and it would be utterly impossible for any one to secure permission to erect such shanties as have been occupied by Chinese. It would not necessarily prohibit any deserving man, white or Chinese, from building respectable looking cottages even though they might be very cheap."

5/10/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 3 column 5 (News)

"What Was it About? ¶ Three reports of pistol shots were heard in the vicinity of the Market street Plaza on Sunday evening. James Beatty, a watchman for the insurance companies at Chinatown, fired the first shot upon hearing a woman scream on the old plaza grounds, and officer Coschina the remainder. A search instituted for the assailant was fruitless. Coschina's shots were not aimed at anything in particular, but hearing Beatty's shot, he started in the direction of the report and gave chase to a man whom he saw running. The officer fell down and upon recovering himself, discharged his pistol twice in succession in order to make the fugitive feel clammy."

5/10/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 3 column 5 (News)

"Settling the Insurance. The insurance men were busy yesterday settling up the losses incurred by the burning of Chinatown. A large number of agents from San Francisco were also here on the same business. Among the number were C. M. Kinne, Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance companies; Frank Young, Washington Insurance Company; E. P. Farnsworth, representing Hutchinson & Mann, and W. S. Chalmers of the Fire Insurance Association of London."

5/10/1887 Morning Mercury (wire) page 2 column 3 (News)

"A Chinaman's Crime. ¶ Santa Cruz, May 9.—The jury in the case of Jo Sing, charged with the murder of another Chinaman near Aptos, in this county, last February, brought in a verdict this evening of guilty of murder in the second degree. The two Chinamen were woodchoppers. They quarrelled, and Jo Sing used his hatchet, killing his opponent."

5/10/1887 Morning Mercury (staff) page 3 column 5 (News)

"Police Pickings....Ah Toy was arraigned in Justice Pfister's Court yesterday on a charge of stealing a bag of rice from old Chinatown. His trial was set for May 18th at 2 o'clock p.m....."

5/11/1887 Evening News (staff) page 3 column 5 (Editorial)

"NOT FEELING WELL. ¶ More Unhappiness Caused by the Chinatown Fire. ¶ 'I am not satisfied at all,' said Pay-As-You-Go Anderson this morning to a NEWS reporter. 'My opinion,' said he 'in regard to the Chinatown fire have undergone some slight changes during the past few days, and there is also some probability of a change in titles on South First street.' ¶ 'Why, what's the matter?' asked the reporter. ¶ 'The Chinese are flocking into the row of empty frame buildings on the east side of First between San Carlos and San Salvador streets, and I don't anticipate anything in the shape of a wild rush upwards in real estate values in that block for the present. Of course they have got to locate somewhere; but there are many places far removed from First street between San Carlos and San Salvador streets in which

they would be just as ornamental and useful. Some of us who own property down that way were thinking seriously of building up a business block; but now all contracts are off and the buildings, if put up at all, will probably be placed in some other part of the city. It's no use to erect a row of handsome two-story brick buildings with pressed brick fronts, alongside of wooden shanties that are loaded to the muzzle with Chinamen, and expect to get fair interest on the investment. It's too bad that anything should have happened at this time to retard the growth of South First street just when a boom was about to commence that would have doubled the value of real estate in that section. No, I am not feeling as happy as I have been and now you know what's the matter."

5/11/1887 Morning Times (wire) page 2 column 4 (News)

"Telegraphic Brevities....New York Chinamen, to the number of 600 have been organized into two K. of L. Assemblies...."

5/11/1887 Morning Times (wire) page 2 column 4 (News)

"Coast Brevities....A Chinawoman has died in Yreka from an overdose of opium....Jo Sing has been convicted of the murder (second degree) of another Chinaman near Aptos last February...."

5/11/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 3 column 2 (Editorial)

"Strike While the Iron's Hot. ¶ Use the Unequalled Opportunity to Induce the Chinese to Go. ¶ We have always been opposed to violent methods of getting rid of the Chinese, and we fully recognize and regret that any extensive movement in that direction is liable to degenerate into violence, in view of the ignorance of the National executive authorities, the indifference of Congress and the hostility of the Federal judiciary on this coast. Therefore very great precautions are required. ¶ Hence we have been watchful for opportunities to take advantage of some propitious circumstance to get rid of our Chinese peacefully, as has been done at Eureka and Tacoma. And at last the opportunity has come—an opportunity we may not again have in a generation. And the question our citizens have to decide is, Shall we utilize it or let it slip? ¶ All that now holds the Chinese in our city is the unhallowed greed of a dozen, more or less, property owners, who, to increase incomes already ample, are willing that our boys and girls shall be morally and physically wrecked, and our whole population exposed to the most horrible diseases with which humanity has ever been afflicted. Prostitution, leprosy and the opium habit are weighed by these 'Freeholders' in the balance against a little gold to line their pockets, and they decide that the gold is the heavier, and that it matters not if thousands are ruined in body, soul and purse, provided they can add a few dollars to their piles. ¶ Men who will do thus are not good citizens and not equitably entitled to that protection of person and property which society is organized to secure. At the same time it is essential that all should be done, as the apostle expresses it, 'in decency and in order.' For this reason it is requisite that well-known citizens, entirely beyond suspicion of having in view any political or selfish purposes and habituated to self-control, should take the lead in a public meeting that should be called at an early date to express what we believe to be the all but unanimous reprobation of the community at the course of these property owners, which, if generally followed, would extinguish our identity as a nation and is therefore treasonable. ¶ When David Kendall one Friday night was killed in Eureka by shots from a Chinaman, a meeting was called within two hours, over which presided Mr. Wm. F. Swasey, a leading merchant and pioneer of the place (now, we believe in this city), the mayor and other leading citizens being on the platform. Under these auspices, a 'Committee of Fifteen' was appointed and within thirty-six hours the last Chinaman had left the place on steamships bound for San Francisco, though not a finger was lifted against one of their number. ¶ At Tacoma, on Puget Sound, nearly a year later, the practical unanimity of all classes of citizens secured a like peaceful, speedy and complete exodus. The same would have taken place at Seattle, but for the resistance of a few, including the Governor of the Territory, who profited by their presence. ¶ We can be nearly as

successful here, if the same means are taken. No living man, no dozen of men, can stand up against the detestation of the mass of their fellow citizens. ¶ Let these men understand that if they persist in keeping the Chinese here means social and political ostracism, and they would have to yield without a blow. ¶ Let, then, a meeting be held under the auspices of such leading citizens as mentioned below and the exodus of the Chinese from the city limits will be speedy and certain. There may doubtless be many additions to their number, but let these form the nucleus: ¶ Judge Belden, Mayor Breyfogle, Hon. B. D. Murphy, De Witt Tisdale, T. E. Beans, Judge Payne, Messrs. Alvord, McLaughlin, Lion, Hale, Rich, Bishop, etc. And if Mr. Wm. J. Swasey, of Eureka, should be here and could be induced to participate, his presence would add to the dignity of the proceedings. ¶ Let us have the meeting with the least possible delay and embrace the invaluable opportunity now afforded to settle the matter peacefully, while such can be done, and thus avert, so far as we are concerned, the consequences of the war of races which will certainly come, sooner or later if this svpiness [?] is not ended."

5/11/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 3 column 6 (News)

"Inferior Courts....Geo. D. Smith instituted legal proceedings yesterday to recover by attachment, \$60, a sum due as balance of a promissory note executed by Ong Chung Fung...."

5/11/1887 Evening Herald (wire) page 3 column 1 (News)

"Chinese Knights of Labor. New York, May 11.—District Assembly 49, Knights of Labor, has been quietly organizing Chinamen into Knights of Labor assemblies. There are two assemblies in this city now. They are mixed assemblies, including cigar-makers and laundrymen, all Chinese, and they number fully 600. The Master Workmen are Chinese."

5/11/1887 Evening Herald (staff) page 3 column 3 (News)

"Justice's Courts. ¶ In Justice Pfister's court to-day Ah Sing brought suit against John Tully to recover wages. By the request of both parties the case was continued until tomorrow...."

5/11/1887 Morning Mercury (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

"Now is the time for the full and final settlement of every question concerning the title to Market Plaza and the lands lying adjacent to it on the east. If San Jose owns this property let us know it, and if she don't let that fact be understood. We believe the title of the city to be absolutely perfect to Market Plaza Square."

5/12/1887 Evening News (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

"PUT IT IN THE PLAZA. ¶ The opinion in general that the new City Hall should be placed in the center of the Market Street Plaza and that the plaza should be restored to its original size and turned into a beautiful park. ¶ It is possible to do that now at slight expense as very few if any buildings would have to be moved. ¶ The property surrounding the park would be the most valuable in the city for residence purposes and it would soon be occupied by rows of handsome buildings. ¶ The hall and park would be almost the first object to attract the attention of strangers coming in on the Southern or Central Pacific roads and it would be a most pleasing sight to see and the safest kind of a place for nurse girls to wander in. There could be nobody to bother them except the handsome policemen."

5/12/1887 Evening News (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

"A HINT TO ANTI-CHINESE. ¶ A Livermore girl received a pistol from her parents a few days ago for the purpose of protecting herself from tramps when alone in the house. About an hour later the Chinese laundryman might have been seen skipping across the green fields with a bullet lodged against his ribs. The girl had been practicing on him. She said she thought he was a tramp, and nothing was done about

it. And now the question arises: Will the anti-Chinese advocates take the hint and experiment awhile with the Livermore method of sending Chinese out of the country.”

5/12/1887 Evening News (staff) page 3 column 2 (News)

“A WILD MAD RACE. ¶ A Thrilling Chase After a Chicken on El Dorado Street. ¶ A handsome young man, with a small dark mustache and a purple jacket, made a hundred yards on foot and a coolness between himself and another man in about ten seconds on El Dorado street about noon to-day. ¶ A spring chicken, which proved to be very springy, was the cause of the trouble. ¶ The chicken had just fooled the assistant superintendent of a poultry market nearby, and was seeking liberty or death on the north sidewalk and was heading west and evidently determined that the coop which knew it once should know it no more forever unless some unforeseen accident occurred. ¶ This was the condition of things when the youth with the purple jacket plunged in and took an interest in the proceedings. ¶ It does not appear that he had any real interest in the poultry market or any claim upon the fleeing chicken. He was simply acquainted with the bird’s owner and perhaps he felt that the time was opportune to do a rushing business on the Rue de El Dorado, so he sailed in after the chicken. ¶ The chicken’s attention was attracted by the young man’s first bound onto the sidewalk, and she settled down to business and acted as if she had been expecting just such a difficulty. She pressed her wings closely to her sides, stuck her bill out straight, leaned forward until she looked something like a bicyclist, and she just naturally got over the bituminous pavement in a way that was most interesting to see. ¶ The youth with the purple jacket was also attending to business. He seemed to realize that, with one exception, every person on the street had one eye on him and the other on the chicken. The exception referred to was the assistant superintendent of the poultry market. He had both eyes on the chicken. ¶ By this time the pursuer and pursued were crossing Lightstone street and were running for keeps. ¶ The Chinese merchants who moved into the street last week were all on the sidewalk watching the race and looking as if they would cheerfully submit to an increase in rent rather than leave the street where such scenes are liable to occur every day. ¶ ‘He no good. No savee catchee. Makee too muchee lun; flighten chickee; no can catch. Bym Bye pooty soon Chinaman catchee, all lightee,’ remarked one of the heathens, who has acquired quite a reputation for raising chickens from other people’s roosts, oft in the stilly night. ¶ By the time the Chinaman got through with his little speech, the chicken had got through between the legs of a second young man who had been sitting on a sack of charcoal near the northwest corner of Lightston [sic] and El Dorado streets and probably dreaming the happy hours away. ¶ He missed the chicken and raised up just in time to avoid missing the youth with the purple jacket. ¶ They collided and both went down with a crash. The chicken disappeared around the corner of Market street, going south and carrying with it the sympathy of the spectators. ¶ The young men rolled over against the charcoal and got up as quick as possible. And then everybody laughed but them. ¶ The Chinamen got inside and closed the doors before they became really hilarious. They had seen the faces of those two young men, and they concluded that it wasn’t entirely conducive to Chinese health to indulge in any guffaws in the open air.”

5/12/1887 Evening News (staff) page 3 column 3 (News)

“COOK OF THE JEANNETTE. ¶ Charley Tong Sing Opens a Restaurant in San Francisco. ¶ One of the survivors of the ill-fated Jeannette Arctic Expedition has arrived in San Francisco, and has opened a restaurant at 619 Jackson street. It is Charley Tong Sing, the Jeannette’s Chinese steward. Charley has been thoroughly Americanized, having discarded his queue and Chinese apparel, and, finally, has an American wife. She is of German descent, and the couple was married in Brooklyn, N.Y. Mrs. Tong Sing is about nineteen years of age, and she and her younger sister accompanied Charley to this city.”

5/12/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 3 column 5 (News)

"Justices' Courts....The case of Ah Sing vs John Tully was, by consent of the parties, continued until May 12th at 2 p.m. Ah Sing was a cook in the employ of the defendant for 148 weeks and one day, and the suit is to obtain \$193.13 a balance claimed to be due as wages...."

5/12/1887 Evening Herald (wire) page 2 column 2 (News)

"Two Girls in Oregon. One Elopes With a Chinaman, the Other Seeks Fortune. ¶ Portland, May 12.—A Chinese gambler wearing a mustache and with his queue cut off, arrived here yesterday from Spokane Falls with a rather good-looking white girl who had eloped with him. They sought seclusion in the pulieus of China...."

5/12/1887 Evening Herald (staff) page 3 column 1 (News)

"Ready for Battle. ¶ The Old Maps and Records of Chinatown. ¶ Defining the Boundaries. ¶ The City All Ready to Bring Suit To Reclaim the Property—The Surveys. ¶ City Engineer Pieper has completed the map of Market Plaza as it existed in early days. In this important work he depended upon old maps and the pointing out of old landmarks by early residents. ¶ His map is based on the map of the city made by Lyman in 1848. Lyman, as a companion and complement to his map, drew a sketch, which is still on file, showing the location of all the houses that were then in the town, and this sketch will doubtless prove of great importance. ¶ The following interesting extracts are made from the notes accompanying Lyman's map: ¶ 'Notes of the resurvey of the Pueblo de San Jose de Guadalupe, as made by order of the people of the Pueblo in May, 1848. ¶ 'The town has been laid out in blocks on the same scale as the former survey, the only difference in the positions of the streets and blocks being that arising from the incorrectness of the former survey, with the exception of San Jose street, which has been so placed as just to clear the houses in that vicinity.' ¶ * * * * * ¶ 'The streets running N. E. and S. W. are 60 feet in width except Santa Clara street, which is 100 feet. The streets running at right angles to these are 80 feet in width, except Main and Market streets, which are 100 feet, and San Pedro and San Jose streets, which are 60 feet.' ¶ * * * * * ¶ Market Place is 1,160 feet long by 259 wide.' ¶ Mr. Pieper's map is principally a reproduction and combination of Lyman's map and his sketch, but as many of the landmarks described by Lyman have disappeared Mr. Pieper had to rely to some extent on the memory of persons who lived here at the time the Lyman survey was made. Lyman's sketch accompanying his map was evidently intended as a sketch and not a map—that is, it was apparently not drawn with that mechanical accuracy which is demanded in a map. He probably gives the location of the houses only approximately, and as the matter of a foot is going to be a very important question, the present city engineer had to call upon the memory of early residents. ¶ The sketch is referred to in Lyman's notes of the survey. On it the Pico house is shown near San Fernando and just west of Greeninger's carriage shop. The Pico house, the Bernal house (the ruins of which are seen in the center of the late wooden Chinatown) and the Jones house (the old adobe now standing on the corner of San Jose and San Antonio streets) are on a line that runs southwesterly with reference to San Jose street, a considerable distance from the street at the north and tending toward it as it runs southerly. The old houses south of San Antonio street, as shown by the sketch, are on the line of San Jose street. These are the house of Salvador Castro, which stood near the corner of San Antonio and San Jose streets, the house of Polomares, just south of it, and the house of M. Juarez, which stood near the corner of San Carlos and San Jose streets. ¶ Lyman's notes refer to a former survey. This was made by Campbell in 1847. The notes also speak of inaccuracies in the former survey and explains them by saying that they arose from the slight lengthening of the chain to conform to landmarks originally established by an original inaccurate survey. So it may be inferred that there had been two surveys prior to Lyman's and that the inaccuracies of the first were preserved in the second and were not corrected till Lyman made a resurvey in 1848 and established the lines on a corrected basis. ¶ Mr. Pieper did not copy Lyman's map but made a resurvey from Lyman's notes. In doing this and locating Lyman's landmarks as best he could

he produced a map that has slight variations from Lyman's map. These, however, do not affect Lyman's map to any serious extent. The only noticeable variation is in the lines of Guadalupe street, and it amounts only to a trifle; and Mr. Pieper's lines of Guadalupe street are substantially coincident with Lyman's lines, which show Guadalupe street as it exists in reality today, except that instead of turning into Market street at the north it continued straight through to San Fernando, just as San Jose street did on the east. As the Herald has pointed out in former articles, Guadalupe and San Jose streets were originally straight, making the plaza a parallelogram, and ran through to San Fernando. The center line of Market street did not run through the north and south center line of the plaza but to the west of it. ¶ Mr. Pieper did not go far back of Lyman's survey. Lyman simply surveyed the plaza as he found it in 1848, when the American population had already largely encroached on the plaza on both sides. Older surveys than Lyman's would doubtless take off a thick wedge west of Guadalupe street, the wedge having its widest part on San Carlos street and its edge near the San Fernando street gate of the Catholic fathers' residence house. This line doubtless ran parallel to the line on the west which ran in front of the Pico, Bernal and Jones houses, from San Fernando to San Antonio streets. ¶ The main interest in the whole affair centers in the Chinatown property, on the east side of the plaza, and it is this that is most seriously affected by the resurrection of the Lyman survey. Mr. Pieper's map shows San Jose street as it existed in 1848, according to Lyman, and it shows also a dotted line to the east of San Jose street running in front of the Pico, Bernal and Jones houses. San Jose street even as far down as 1848 was considerably east of its present location, and if this street be relocated in the line of 1848 it would cut off fifty-two feet of the Chinatown land, beside running straight through to San Fernando. ¶ But if, in the proposed suit by the city to recover the property that it claims in Chinatown, the line in front of the Pico, Bernal and Jones houses be taken, the greater part of the Chinatown land will be involved. This old line starts on San Fernando street at about the central point of J. T. Colahan's north line, and runs southerly, nearly San Jose street as it proceeds, and touches the northwest corner of the old Bernal adobe (the ruins of which are seen in the rear center of wooden Chinatown), and runs thence, still in a straight line, along the outer porch line of the old Jones adobe, corner of San Antonio and San Jose streets; thence it turns a little easterly, running parallel with San Jose street and about sixty feet east of the present San Jose street, passes in front of the old Castro house south of San Antonio, as shown on Lyman's sketch, and then turns a little easterly again to run along in front of the old Juarez house on the corner of San Carlos and San Jose streets. ¶ The City Attorney has determined to go back of the Lyman survey of 1848 and base the city's suit on the land lying west of the line in front of the Pico, Bernal and Jones houses. ¶ A curious condition of affairs is shown in the Campbell map, made in 1847 from a survey. It shows the east line of San Jose street to run along the west line of the fifty-vara lots fronting on First street. This places San Jose street considerably further east than does the Lyman map, and absorbs every foot of the Chinatown property. Why Campbell should have so placed San Jose street does not clearly appear, for he puts it further east than the line in front of the Pico, Bernal and Jones houses, and yet those houses were standing at the time of his survey. For that matter, a majority of the circumstances tend to show that originally the east line of Market Plaza was not parallel with the present line of First street, and yet Campbell's map shows it to be parallel. First street was no opened until long after Market Plaza was established."

5/12/1887 Evening Herald (staff) page 3 column 2 (News)

"Justices' Court. ¶ In Justice Pfister's court Ah Gee and Ah Sing, charged with battery, were examined and discharged today. It appears that the battery was committed in protection of their property during the recent Chinatown fire. ¶ In the case of Ah Sing against John Tully, the demand for wages being fully satisfied, the action was dismissed...."

5/12/1887 Morning Mercury (wire) page 2 column 4 (News)

"Elopes with a Chinaman. Portland, May 11.—A Chinese gambler, wearing a moustache, and with his queue cut off, arrived here to-day from Spokane Falls with a rather good-looking white girl, who had eloped with him. They sought seclusion in Chinatown."

5/12/1887 Morning Mercury (staff) page 3 column 5 (News)

"Police Pickings....The case of Ah Sing vs. John Tully was continued by Justice Pfister yesterday to be reset. ¶ Suit has been begun in Justice Pfister's Court by George D. Smith against Ong Ah Fook, for the recovery of \$60, alleged to be due on a promissory note in favor of Bird & Clark, and assigned to plaintiff."

5/13/1887 Evening News () page 3 column 8 (News)

"Reward for a Chinese Fiend. ¶ Sacramento, May 13.—The Governor has offered a reward of \$300 of the arrest of Hong Di, the Chianman who murdered Mrs. Billou at St. Johns, Colusa county about a month ago, It was published several weeks ago that the Governor had offered a reward, but such statement was prerequisite."

5/13/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

"Keep Them Out. Hast should be made to prevent the Chinese from building up another Chinatown on the old site, and if possible keep them as far from the center of the city as possible. Yesterday we learned that they were filling up as fast as they can on the west side of the plaza. Mr. Coopers, the butcher, who has an elegant residence there, yesterday informed us that if they remained he would be forced to remove his residence, and as their presence would prevent him from selling the ground he would be compelled to lease to them. This he will do if those owning land adjacent allow the Chinese to obtain a foothold. The Chinese are also congregating on south First street, and fixing up to remain there. A public meeting of our best citizens should be called to take some action in concert with the City Council to remove them as near the outskirts of the city as they can be forced to go."

5/13/1887 Morning Times (wire) page 2 column 3 (News)

"Web-foot Miscengenation. Portland, May 12.—A Chinese gambler, wearing a moustache and with his queue cut off, arrived her yesterday from Spokane Falls with a rather good-looking white girl who eloped with him. They sought seclusion in the purlieu of Chinatown."

5/13/1887 Morning Times (wire) page 2 column 3 (News)

"Chinese Pork. San Francisco, May 12.—A report is current that trichinosis has been extensively disseminated here by the use of Chinese port, and a family living on Mission near 20th street is said to have been so affected, but the report has not yet been verified."

5/13/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 3 column 4 (News)

"The Map Finished. Market Street Plaza as Shown by the Survey. ¶ Old Land-Marks Located. ¶ Surveyor Pieper Locates the Old Plaza from the Lyman Survey made in 1848. ¶ Yesterday a Times reporter called on Engineer Pieper and had a chat on the subject of the old market Plaza. Mr. Pieper has lately completed his map of the plaza, the surveys for which he made some days ago, as noted in a previous issue. The surveys were made with great care. As data, he took the testimony of old residents; but his chief dependence was an old map made by one Lyman in 1848. The notes made by Lyman, also a sketch of the town, were used. The sketch seems to locate the house in a general way, but not with any particular exactness. In the notes accompanying Lyman's survey, he speaks of a previous survey, one made in 1847 by Campbell. ¶ The notes accompanying the Lyman map say that the same scale was used as in the previous map, with the exception of San Jose street, which was so placed as just to clear the

houses in that vicinity, Santa Clara, Market and Main (First) streets were 100 feet wide; those running parallel with Santa Clara were 60 feet; those parallel with Market and First, except San Pedro and San Jose, 80 feet wide; Guadalupe was most likely considered a continuation of San Pedro. Market Plaza was given as 1,160 feet long and 259 feet wide. ¶ On Mr. Pieper's map are shown the present bounds of the plaza, the one as made from the Lyman map and notes, and the plaza as located by older notes, and 'the oldest inhabitants.' Besides the plaza he has, as far as practicable, located the site of all the old houses. The Pico house is located in the rear part of the lot now occupied by Greeninger & Young's shop, with room for a nice flower garden fronting on San Fernando street. The Bernal house is shown with an open court or entrance on the plaza. The ruins of the Bernal house are the old adobe walls so conspicuous in the center part of Chinatown. Another old house is located on the line of the plaza, the place at the end of which is the shop of the China doctor. One or two others are also shown. ¶ According to the survey made, not so much of the property will be affected as at first reported. By the Lyman survey Guadalupe street ran nearly exactly where the present street is located, a very little to the east. This would leave all the property on the west side up to where the curve commences untouched. By this survey Guadalupe and San Jose streets ran parallel. This would cut off all the curve, and made Guadalupe street enter San Fernando about two-thirds the length of the Auzeais property. ¶ On the east side of the plaza the west line of San Jose street comes about eight feet west of the present easterly line. According to this about 52 feet of Chinatown and the block south will be affected. The easterly line will enter San Fernando street about the center of the Doerr property. If this survey of Lyman in 1848 be adopted as the correct showing of the plaza, the only change would be the 52 feet on the east and the two curves at the north. ¶ On Mr. Pieper's map are to be seen the bounds of the plaza as indicated by descriptions of witnesses. These bounds are indicated on the map by dotted lines, and show a very irregularly shaped plaza. The easterly line is made to pass in front of the Pico, Bernal, and Jones, houses in Chinatown. That makes an obtuse angle at the Bernal house. It passes all the way east of the line as given on the Lyman map. South of San Antonio street one or two slight angles are also observable, and the line enter San Carlos street in front of the old Juarez house. On the west side the dotted line starts on San Fernando nearly the same as the west line of Guadalupe street as shown on the Lyman map, and runs straight to San Carlos, entering the latter street some twenty-five or thirty feet west of the present line of Guadalupe. ¶ The plaza, as thus blocked out by the old landmarks and settlers, does not seem to be a plaza, but an irregular pasture. But that of the Lyman survey has all the elements of mathematical exactness that entitles it to respect. ¶ The City Attorney has been studying the map and other documents venerable from age, and is getting ready to commence suit of ejectment for the land. Whether he will adopt the exact lines of the Lyman survey, is not definitely settled."

5/13/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 3 column 5 (News)

"Inferior Courts. Yesterday's Proceedings before the Justices. The following business was transacted yesterday in Justice's Court, Pfister presiding. ¶ Ah Gee and Ah Sing charged with assault and battery were arraigned for trial. The prosecution failed to appear, and the informaiton of the court was that the alleged battery took place in the defence of property during the Chinatown fire. The case was therefore dismissed. ¶ The suit of Ah Sing vs John Tully was dismissed from the calendar the calim having been settled out of court..."

5/13/1887 Evening Herald (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

"The Coolie Problem. ¶ Nothing has yet been done to prevent the Chinese from taking possession of some of the best blocks in the city, and thus becoming in a year or two a greater nuisance than they were before. The greed of the owners of old shanties everywhere is prompting them to rent to the coolies, and thus not only prevent all future improvements, but actually drive all decent white people from the vicinity. The Mayor and Council have shown commendable energy in this Chinese question so

far, and the people are now looking to them for further action. Of course it is not very easy to indicate the best way of meeting the difficulty, but the crowded state of some of the shanties must make them a nuisance that calls for abatement. We think, however, that the only way to permanently settle the matter is to provide a reservation, and compel the coolies to move thereon, or prosecute them for every violation of city ordinances. A plan of this kind, vigorously carried out, would, at any rate, soon show whether the white people of San Jose have any rights which the Chinese are bound to respect."

5/13/1887 Evening Herald (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

"If it be true that the Knights of Labor in the Eastern States are admitting the Chinese into the order there can be no better proof that as an organization for the protection of labor the order is a failure. Do what they will the general result will be that white labor will be degraded to the coolie standard. This has been fully proved by the experience of the Pacific Coast. Wherever the Chinaman has been permitted to work side by side with white laborers, the latter have been brought to the Chinese level, or driven from the business."

5/13/1887 Morning Mercury (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

"The telegraphic announcement that the Knights of Labor in the East were forming Assemblies among the Chinese, and that at least two of such Assemblies were in possession of charters, aroused a storm of comment upon this Coast. The report has not yet been verified, but if it is true there will be a sudden secession of the Pacific Coast Assemblies from the Order."

5/13/1887 Morning Mercury (staff) page 3 column 1 (News)

"Local Brevities....Chief Engineer Pieper has completed the map of Market Plaza as it existed in early days. In this important work he depended upon old maps and the pointing out of old landmarks by early residents. His map is based on the map of the city made by Lyman in 1848. Lyman, as a companion and complement to his map, drew a sketch, which is still on file, showing the location of all the houses that were then in town, and this sketch will doubtless prove of great importance."

5/13/1887 Morning Mercury (staff) page 3 column 3 (News)

"Police Pickings....On motion of J. E. Edson, attorney for the plaintiff, the suit of Ah Sing vs. John Tully, was dismissed by Justice Pfister yesterday, the defendant having paid the claim, amounting to \$140. ¶ The charge of battery against Ah Gee and Ah Sing was dismissed by Justice Pfister yesterday, it appearing that the act was committed in defending their property during the fire at Chinatown...."

5/13/1887 Morning Mercury (staff) page 3 column 3 (News)

"A Good Investment. A few days ago a Chinaman presented himself at Geo. W. Ryder's jewelry store and offered for sale a conglomerate lump of metal which he had picked up in Chinatown. Mr. Ryder was loth to invest, as it was impossible to approximate the worth of the find. The Chinaman insisted on an opinion as to its worth, and in reply Mr. Ryder said: 'I can't tell; it maybe worth five dollars, or it may be worth twenty.' the Chinaman said: 'You give me five dollars, you take it.' Mr. Ryder concluded he could chance it at that figure, and the metal changed owners. yesterday he received \$50 from the U.S. Mint as a return for his investment."

5/14/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

"This already beautiful city, susceptible of indefinite expansion, now on the eve of extended public improvements, should not be retarded an iota. To prevent this, the law should be strained to the utmost to keep the Chinese from again securing a foothold in the heart of the city. It is a matter that the Board

of Trade, City Council, and every intelligent man in the city outside of those bodies should combine to prevent. God helps those who help themselves. The Chinese can be kept out by united effort."

5/14/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

"In relocating the Chinese or allowing them to be located, the question of sewerage should be kept in view. As they are known to be the filthiest people in the world, unless forced to keep themselves and their surroundings clean, the question of having them so that their quarters can be drained is a very important one. The Mayor and Common Council, which is ex-officio the Board of Health, should keep this matter in mind, and have the health officer insist on having the premises they may occupy connected with the city sewers."

5/14/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

"If some decisive step is not taken by the city authorities, to prevent the Chinese from getting another foothold—the Chinese quarter will be re-established within a few months, either on Eldorado, between First and market or South First street."

5/14/1887 Morning Times (wire) page 2 column 3 (News)

"Chinese Slave Released. San Francisco, May 13.—The examination of Sue Gum, the Chinese slave, who escaped from a house of ill fame and was arrested on three charges of larceny and embezzlement was resumed this morning, and Judge Lawler ordered the dismissal of the charge. In restoring the woman to liberty, Judge Lawler said: 'I think that the prosecution was a trick on the part of the Chinese to prevent her from going to china to avoid leading a life of shame.'"

5/14/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 3 column 1 (News)

"Brief Mention....In the ruins of the old brick building on the corner of Chinatown the smoke of the mouldering ruins has never ceased since the fire. Yesterday afternoon quite a blaze was to be seen there...."

5/14/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 3 column 5 (News)

"A New Chinatown. When Chinatown went off in smoke it was thought the nuisance of that place was effectually abated. But the same sickening sores on the body politic are about to attack other portions of the city. One quarter of El Dorado street is being overrun by these people. The last few days they are also opening out in all their mephitic [foul-smelling] odor on the northern portion of Guadalupe street. The property holders there (except those enemies of the pulic who are renting their dirty hovels) are loud in their complaints and are beginning to pray for another fire. ¶ It was reported yeseterday that the Chinese were negotiating for the Sunol place, southwest of town, to be occupied by them as a town. A reported called on Mr. DeSaisset, owner of the premises mentione, and enquired about the rumor. This gentleman was just home from a tour South and kew nothing of the matter. But he felt much aggrieved at the settlement at the end of Guadalupe street and said the Sunol property was a very convenient section for the Chinese, and that if they wanted it, he presumed it could be obtained."

5/14/1887 Evening Herald (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

"The Coolie Nuisance Again. ¶ The Chinese now have practical possession of the whole block from Horticultural Hall to Market street and along Market street to the Plaza as far as the entrance to the lumber yard, a space quite as large as that recently covered by brick Chinatown. In other words, the fire has simply transferred the nuisance to the other side of the Plaza, where it will very soon be as bad as ever. Surely there should be some way of preventing this nuisance. Some of the property recently occupied is said to belong to the city, and, if so, it may be possible to prevent it from being occupied by

the coolies on that ground. But what is really wanted is some public and emphatic condemnation of the greed which prompts property owners in any of the central portion of the city to rent to coolies, and thus make themselves a nuisance to their neighbors, and prevent all improvement around them. This the people must do for themselves, but the city authorities should be prompt to arrest and punish any violation of the city ordinances. If this is done vigorously and persistently the coolies themselves will soon be glad to seek other quarters. The owners of the property where the nuisance is carried on should also be arrested and heavily fined. The only way to their hearts is through their pockets, and if vigorous measures be taken at once, and persisted in, there should be no difficulty in making it unprofitable to lease property to Chinese. The trouble is that no one seems to be ready to act in this matter. The people, with the exception of those whose health and homes are directly menaced by the coolies, seem to be apathetic, and the city authorities seem afraid to act. And, of course, if the people take no steps to express their indignation at the outrage, and the authorities are willing to let it pass without punishment, the last state of San Jose, as far as the coolie nuisance is concerned, will be worse than the first."

5/14/1887 Evening Herald (wire) page 2 column 3 (News)

"Sentenced to Death. ¶ San Francisco, May 14.—Leong Sing, the Chinaman who murdered his uncle, Leong Chin, in a basement on Washington street over a month and a half ago, was sentenced to death this morning by Judge Hunt. The date of execution will be fixed next month."

5/14/1887 Evening Herald (staff) page 3 column 4 (News)

"The Council. Claims for Work at Chinatown—Deed of City Lands....Mr. Stern, Chairman of the Fire and Water Committee, reported in regard to the barn which runs through the block from First street to San Jose street and which was damaged by the Chinatown fire, that iron sheeting is now being placed on its sides and roof, in accordance with the request of the Committee. ¶ The Clerk then read a list of bills for work done at the Chinatown fire, the bills amounting to \$147. ¶ After some discussion, on motion of Mr. McGinley, the various claims were allowed at the rate of 50 cents an hour...."

5/14/1887 Evening Herald (staff) page 3 column 6 (News)

"Local Brevities....Chinese report that tramps are in the habit of invading their strawberry ranches during the night to an extent that seriously diminishes their profits...."

5/14/1887 Morning Mercury (staff) page 2 column 1 (Editorial)

"The New Chinatown. ¶ Although the old Chinatown has gone up in smoke and its site is a mass of ruins, it cannot be hoped that its denizens will not find some other location, and that somewhere, either in or near the city a new Chinatown will arise. It is not to be imagined that the new site will be settled upon in a night, or that with one spontaneous movement the Chinese will be collected upon any chosen spot. An inspection of the present locations of the Chinese who formerly occupied Chinatown shows the real dangers of the situation. ¶ The Chinese are scattered all over the city and its suburbs. After the fire they crowded into the laundries and huts of their fellow-heathen wherever they could find room. Many of them went across to the west of the Plaza, some to San Antonio street, some to east San Jose, some to the Alameda, and the rest to scattered points. Any one of these places of refuge is liable to grow into a Chinatown by the gradual increase of their numbers and the consequent desertion of the adjacent premises by the whites, thus imperceptibly and before the public awakes to the fact a nucleus for a new Chinatown would be formed upon lands to which the city has no claim of title and which would be beyond the enjoining power of the courts. This actual danger now threatens more than one block as near to the city's center and as objectionable as the old site of Chinatown. ¶ The location of a new Mongolian nest near the heart of our city must not be permitted. The owners of property must not

suffer such a calamity to happen and public opinion must exercise itself to avert it. The present small clusters of Chinese about the Plaza and along the cross streets must be watched and their increase discouraged by every possible and legal means. Property owners who have a spark of pride should feel it their duty to our city to hasten the removal of the Chinese to some remote location by refusing to lease them premises anywhere near the city center, and every man who for sordid gain will let his land for the collection of a new Chinatown, in such a location, should be pilloried for public execration."

5/14/1887 Morning Mercury (staff) page 3 column 5 (News)

"Common Council. ¶ Claims Allowed for Work at the Chinatown Fire....Mr. Stern, Chairman of the Fire and Water Committee, reported in regard to the barn which runs through the block from First street to San Jose street and which was damaged by the Chinatown fire, that iron sheeting is now being placed on its sides and roof, in accordance with the request of the Committee. ¶ The Clerk then read a list of bills for work done at the Chinatown fire, the bills amounting to \$147, ¶ The Mayor said that he had no idea that so many bills would be presented. At the time of the fire, seeing that some of the firemen were exhausted, he had himself told one or two men to go to work, and Chief Brown had directed others. ¶ 'How many men did you instruct to go to work, Chief?' asked the Mayor. ¶ 'I directed nine men myself,' replied Chief Brown. ¶ Mr. McKinley said that in listening to the reading of the bills he had noticed that most of them were made out at the rate of fifty cents per hour, but some were made out at a higher rate. The Alerts charged \$2 for three hours. ¶ Mr. Stern explained that the Alerts were stationed near Greening ¶ Young's when the fire in brick Chinatown was burning with great fierceness, and that as to all the claims he had made a careful examination, and he was thoroughly satisfied that the claims were fair and reasonable, considering the hard work that had been done and the discomfort and danger that had been experienced. The Torrents and their relief worked until 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning. ¶ Police Chief Brown added his testimony as to the severe labors performed at the fire, but Mr. McGinley moved nevertheless that all the bills be allowed at the rate of fifty cents an hour. ¶ Mr. Dunlop seconded the motion and when the roll was called it was carried without a dissenting vote...."

5/15/1887 Morning Times (wire) page 2 column 4 (News)

"Chinese Murderer Sentenced. San Francisco, May 14.—Leong Sing, the Chinaman who murdered his uncle, Leong Chin, in a basement on Washington street over a month and a half ago, was sentenced to death this morning by Judge Hunt. The date of execution will be fixed next month."

5/15/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 3 column 3 (News)

"Local Brevities....Chinese make almost daily complaints that tramps invade their strawberry ranches at night, and seriously damage the vines....."

5/15/1887 Morning Times (staff) page 3 column 7 (News)

"Will Remove Them. Having heard that there was some clamor about the Chinese being allowed to locate on the west side of the Plaza, and that M. Hale who was always regarded as anti-Chinese was being particularly talked about, a Times reporter yesterday made inquiry and learned that while he did own a place rented to the Chinese, he had not rented to them. The place was rented from Mr. Hale by a Mr. McCabe, and the latter rented to the Chinese. This however we understood is only temporary. The Mongolians having been burned out were without shelter, and it was almost an act of charity to give them some place to remain until they could do better. If those in that section will discontinue renting to the Chinese M. Hale will have them removed from his land."

5/15/1887 Morning Mercury (staff) page 4 column 1 (Editorial)

“The Opium Seizure. ¶ Another great opium seizure is to be credited to the revenue officers at San Francisco. Over fifty thousand dollars’ worth of the contraband drug has been found among the cargo of the Rio Janeiro and confiscated to the Government. The methods used by the consigners to evade the vigilance of the Custom House officers were characterized with a cunning peculiar to the Mongolian smuggler. ¶ There must be a great amount of [illegible] passed into this State in violation of the revenue laws, else those who carry on the illicit traffic could not afford to risk such extensive losses as the present seizure entails and as has occurred a number of times already in the present year. The amount of profit on successfully smuggled goods must exceed considerably the losses incident to such disasters or they would discontinued their unlawful efforts long before this. ¶ There ought to be some way of reaching these smugglers with sharp and summary punishment. The evil they are doing is of twofold effect. They not only defy the law and set at naught its regulations, but they introduce a poison for the basest uses into the State. The opium which is smuggled goes to feed the opium users’ habit and to supply the vile dens where our youth are debased and enslaved and destroyed. If the strictest regulations of our revenue laws cannot abate this evil the whole Chinese race must be abated. This is not alone an economic question, but a social and moral question as well, and as such the people of California are entitled to its entire adjustment at the hands of the General Government.”

5/15/1887 Morning Mercury (staff) page 4 column 3 (News)

"Local Brevities....The insurance, so far as known, on property destroyed and damaged by the Chinatown fire, amounts to \$53,200, and the losses about \$75,000 of which amount \$40,000 was covered by insurance...."

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