

THE PILOT BILL.

Shipowners Will Protest Against It Becoming a Law.

A meeting of the Chamber of Commerce will be held to-morrow to consider the Pilotage bill recently passed in the Assembly. It is claimed that the provisions of the bill are of such a nature that should it become a law serious injury will be inflicted upon shipowners of this port. The pilots would reap an addition to their receipts of from \$15,000 to \$20,000 a year, and those from whom the income would be derived are unanimous in their condemnation of the pilots who used their influences in favor of the bill after Judge Hoffman had declared their attempt to collect pilotage on a vessel from New York unconstitutional.

Should it become law, the act will tax all vessels bound to and from this port and Nanaimo, Atlantic coast ports and our own coast ports. Unless a vessel has a coasting license she will be taxed for pilotage. As a ship cannot go to British Columbia unless under a register, it follows that every vessel carrying coal will have to pay half pilotage rates if she does not take a pilot. Even one of the large lumber vessels carrying a cargo from Puget sound to San Pedro and thence back to this port will have to pay the tax.

The bill is, however, chiefly aimed at the clipper ships trading between the Eastern coast ports and San Francisco. Many of these vessels do not call upon a pilot, as their masters are fully competent to bring their ships into port, aided by a tug.

A CITY HALL CONFERENCE.

Mayor Sanderson Meets a Chinese Delegation.

A secret conference was held in the Mayor's chambers at the new City Hall yesterday morning. There were present Mayor Sanderson, City and County Attorney John H. Durst, Consul Bee, Thomas D. Riordan, the Chinese Vice-Consul General, and ten representatives of the leading Chinese firms in this city.

Consul Bee was seen after the meeting. He said: "The consultation was in response to a written request from the Mayor, asking information regarding the Chinese and the high-binder societies in this city. The Chinese present represented the largest business houses here and are members of the Chinese Merchants' Exchange, a flourishing institution at 739 Sacramento street. The breaking up of the high-binder societies by Chief of Police Crowley is in full accord with the wishes of the Chinese merchants, who heartily indorse the police in all they have done in the matter. What took place at the conference in reference to action that will be taken hereafter must be kept private for the present at least. As to the high-binder societies commencing suits for damages against the police, while possible, it is quite improbable, and would only result in further defeat for them."

PERSONAL NOTES.

E. D. Bannister of Helena is staying at the Palace.

Henry Doble, the Fresno real estate man, is at the Baldwin.

William Davenport of Helena, Mont., is at the Pleasanton.

Mr. and Mrs. James H. Pierce of Santa Clara are at the Pleasanton.

A. P. Overton, the Santa Rosa banker, is a guest at a down-town hotel.

A. J. Davidson of Helena, Mont., is at the Pleasanton with his family.

Charles Cadwalader of Red Bluff registered at the Palace Hotel last night.

W. H. Gilbert and M. V. Peck of Saginaw, Mich., are at the Hotel Pleasanton.

H. C. Wyatt, the Los Angeles theatrical manager, is at the Baldwin with his wife.

Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Wallbridge, prominent people of Toledo, O., are guests at the Baldwin Hotel.

W. J. Penrose and J. A. Murray, Montana ranchers and cattlemen, are staying at the Baldwin.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Gilbert and party, from Saginaw, Wis., are visiting the coast and are registered at the Pleasanton.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Boyce have returned from a visit to New York and are occupying their apartments at the Hotel Pleasanton.

The Assessor's Statements.

Statements of the assessable value of property must be sworn to at the Assessor's office in the New City Hall or acknowledged before a deputy specially appointed for the district in which the property is situated. Assessor Siebe says that any number of property statements are received daily that are worthless because they have simply been signed and not properly sworn to as the law requires.