

# NO REGARD FOR LIFE

## UNGUARDED CROSSINGS IN THE MISSION.

### How the Octopus Ruins Trains on the San Jose Steam Road.

Mission residents would like to know whether or not there is any hope of compelling the Southern Pacific Railroad to protect the dangerous crossings on the line of its San Jose steam road, which runs through the thickly settled portions of the Mission. For several years the people in that part of the city have been striving to force the octopus to station signalmen at the various crossings where the steam cars rush through the streets at a high rate of speed. It was also suggested that automatic gates might be placed at the crossings. The Supervisors have been requested at various times to compel the company to pay some regard for the lives of citizens of the Mission, but the big corporation has always seen fit to ignore the mandates of the city fathers. Several orders have been passed requesting the company to guard the dangerous crossings, but no attention has been paid to the matter.

Some years ago the company placed gates on the crossings of Mission and Howard streets, where the electric and cable cars pass the steam tracks, but the move was to protect the property of the octopus, which owns both the street railways and the steam road. No gates or signalmen are, however, to be seen at Valencia, Folsom, Guerrero, Army and many other places where there is a large travel which crosses the steam right-of-way.

A very dangerous crossing, which is left unguarded, is at Randall street. Here a deep embankment and sharp curve completely hide an approaching train. Half a dozen accidents have occurred at the crossing, which would have been avoided if a signalman had been stationed there.

Two hundred little school children who attend the Fairmount School, on Chenery street, cross the steam road to reach the schoolhouse, and again cross when returning to their homes. The safety of the little ones is in constant jeopardy. Three lives have already been sacrificed at the Randall-street crossing, and the death roll is likely to be further increased at any moment. The three deaths were those of children who were riding on a hay wagon, which was struck by a train coming out of the long cut.

Another very dangerous spot is where the electric cars and steam cars both cross San Jose avenue at the same place near Sunnyside. The number of accidents at this crossing is also large. Approaching trains are invisible to pedestrians, drivers of vehicles or the motormen of electric cars on account of the sharp curve leading toward the Sunnyside crossing. Only a week ago Patrick Slevin, who was driving with a relative along San Jose avenue, was struck by a train and so injured that he died two days later.

James Clark, a milkman of Holly Park, who was driving over this crossing a short time ago, met with an accident which crippled him for life.

The trains are run at a very high rate of speed and no effort is ever made by the trainmen to slacken their speed. The trains dash along and those who are unfortunate enough to be on the crossings have no warning until it comes too late.

The Mission people think that it is high time the octopus should be compelled to have some regard for human life.