

A BANK OFFICER'S FALL.

W. F. BAIRD OF MADERA, CAL., CHARGED
WITH MANY MISDEEDS.

FRESNO, Cal., Nov. 13.—The fact has become public that W. F. Baird, until recently Vice President and manager of the Bank of Madera, located at Madera, in the northern part of this county, is short in his accounts to the amount of nearly \$100,000. Baird came to Madera from Pennsylvania a few years ago and, in connection with John Brown, organized the Bank of Madera and what is known as the John Brown Colony. Some residents of Madera also became stockholders and Directors.

The capital stock of the bank was \$100,000, with a paid-up capital of \$25,000. A colony was projected and lands were sold to about 300 colonists in different States and in counties in California. Baird, it is understood, began using colonists' money for his private schemes. One large scheme in which he sank considerable money was an attempt to colonize a large tract of land in Southern California.

As the losses grew, Baird began to issue forged notes and deposit them in place of money used. The forging of checks and drafts followed, and later, in over-issuing stock, he forged the signature of Return Roberts, a wealthy resident of Madera and President of the bank. Baird has made slight restitution and large promises.

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