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WE WERE mistaken in another article in saying that General Grant was on the retired list. Such a matter has been talked of but not passed, it seems.

A FEW YEARS ago James R. Keene, a successful quartz speculator who had amassed millions in Nevada and San Francisco, removed to New York, as he said: to show Jay Gould that "California could furnish men able to make him take a back seat."

WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE.

We took, from a Massachusetts paper, the other day, a statement that a letter from a Wyoming lady who formerly had been in favor of general suffrage had written home a letter that was read in the legislature of that State, showing that the result of practical experience had changed her views on that subject.

her in the position we occupy and that so many act so badly in? We do not recognize that woman was made to cope with the world's rough causes and take part in the activities of ruling and managing.

But if the effect shall be to degrade the sex we love and admire rather than to exalt humanity, then let us hesitate. With us there is no jealousy of woman it is because we recognize her transcendent qualities that we hesitate to change her sphere life and thereby, it may be, imperil them.

THE SHIPPING BILL.

The Senate has amended and passed the House bill to improve American shipping. The bill provides that customs dues shall be remitted on material used in ship building, less a per cent. When a vessel of United States registry is intended to carry mails to any foreign port, or from the Atlantic to the Pacific, touch at foreign ports, a sum not exceeding one dollar a mile, and not greater than the income received from such mail service the year previous, can be paid by the Postmaster-General, a four to six years contract being made with the lowest responsible bidder.

FAILURE OF GENERAL GRANT.

In our news column we give the fact of the failure of the firm of Grant & Ward, of which General Grant was a partner. It was a surprise to many people that he should go into business in Wall street but he no doubt wished to advance the prospects of his son, who was thought by many to be a shrewd business man.

A GREAT INVENTION.

If the statement made in different newspapers is true, that a Massachusetts man has recently invented a method for utilizing the fiber of plants that now go to waste, whereby the stalk of the cotton plant produces finer lint than the bolls, and even the root of that plant is utilized by being worked up for its fiber, and the straw of flax is made useful by means of a cheap and simple process, then a great revolution will take place in the world's industries and much that the farmer grows that is now wasted entirely can be made to pay largely and increase the productions of the farm as well as increase the world's stock of fiber and lint for manufacturing.

Charles Tappan, of Newburyport, is the inventor and his process has been explained in a lecture given by Prof. Ritchie, of Harvard. Flax boiled in paraffine soap in twenty-seven minutes came out perfectly white and any material can be prepared fully in one day. His process strengthens the fiber and lessens the weight much less than the former way, which destroys much of the texture it prepares.

The most remarkable fact with Tappan's invention is thus described: Stalks of the cotton or corn plants or anything having a fibrous growth are of more value than the fiber. The cotton stalk thus treated yields a softer, nicer and in various respects better material for the webs of commerce than does the cotton boll.

We also read that a number of New York and Boston capitalists have taken the matter in hand and purchased a large mill in Canton, Mass., where business under the patents already secured will be started within a few weeks. Agents have been sent to the west to buy up before the annual spring farming begin all the flax product obtainable.

This reads with such clear specification of its details that we can hope for some results to come from the new invention of great benefit to the farming population who now waste much that can be utilized. If it is true that corn stalks possess value that can be cheaply realized, and that flax straw can be worked to as great a profit as the seed yields and that other now waste substances can be made to swell the income from farming, then a new era has opened for the farmer with more hope of realizing a profit from his labors.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Charles E. Lane writes from Albany and asks:

1. What is the unit of measurement in the draft of farm implements? As to the unit of measurement in draft of farm machinery we should suppose it to be a horse power, which is power to raise 33,000 pounds one foot in one minute.

2. Is there a time fixed for the National Congress to adjourn? No. On the 4th of March every odd year the term for which Congressmen are elected expires. At that time the newly elected Congressmen's terms commence. Congress meets every year and can hold its sessions all the year until the 4th of March, 1885, for instance, when the time of the present Congress expires.

The Tariff Bill Defeated.

The House took decisive action on Wednesday on the Morrison Tariff bill. The same was defeated by a motion to strike out the enacting clause, which passed by a vote 156 to 151. It was a very exciting time as the question of amending the tariff is settled pretty well, that no tariff legislation shall be had this session.

The Amendment. NEW ERA, Or., May 6, 1884.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

In looking over your article in regard to suffrage irrespective to sex, I cannot but draw a little different conclusion from what you do. The one lady in Wyoming of whom you speak appears to have received a great deal of consideration, while the thousands who are well pleased with the conditions there, does not seem to be considered at all.

I believe the matter here involves the simple principles of right and wrong, and I believe there is not much to hazard in doing right. To disfranchise for lack of intelligence and then draw the line at sex is a compliment you will excuse me from giving. There would be nothing obligatory upon women exercising their right of franchise were the amendment to carry, and women like Mrs. Cogswell could stay at home if they did not want to vote.

THOMAS BUCKMAN.

Agricultural Report—Crop Prospect.

WASHINGTON, May 10.—Returns to the Department of Agriculture for May make the prospect nearly as favorable as in April. The general average was within five per cent, of the standard of full condition. May average is 94. It was 83 1/2 in 1883. Barring changes for the future, winter wheat product will be about 350,000,000 bushels. Indicated temperature for April was lower than usual, and the low lying lands saturated with moisture, retarding growth, was drained. Wheat soils are nearly everywhere bearing vigorous and healthy growth; few reports of injury by fly have been received, but the aggregate loss from insect will be a trifle.

Travel overland to California has increased greatly since staging is reduced to 150 miles. The stages from Oakland south go loaded. Syrup of Figs. Nature's own true laxative. Pleasant to the palate, acceptable to the stomach, harmless in its nature, painless in its action.

NEW THIS WEEK. We are now showing the very latest styles of Ladies Walking Jackets and Wraps, In Drap Dete and Plain Brocade Silk.

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H. S. JORY, Box 263, Salem, Oregon. Oregon Railway and Navigation Company. OCEAN DIVISION.

Table with columns: FROM PORTLAND, FROM SAN FRANCISCO, Oregon, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, State, Tuesday, June 3.

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