

The Weekly Chronicle.

NOTICE. All eastern foreign advertisers are referred to our representative, Mr. E. Katz, 230-234 Temple Court, New York City.

STATE OFFICIALS. Governor: W. P. Lord; Secretary of State: H. R. Kincaid; Treasurer: Phillip Metchan.

COUNTY OFFICIALS. County Judge: Robt. Mays; Sheriff: T. J. Driver; Clerk: A. M. Kelsey.

FORECLOSE AND SELL. The Oregonian advocates the refunding of the debts of the Union and Central Pacific railroads, and giving them an extension of time in which to settle with the government.

The proposed scheme, engineered by Mr. Collis P. Huntington, is to have the government extend the time of payment, at a reduced rate of interest, a rate way below what the government would have to pay for the use of the money.

It looks as though the best thing that can be done is to foreclose, and if the government does not want to operate the roads, give them away. There is nothing to be gained by extension, nothing but debt.

As the roads are at present managed, Huntington controls the Central, and thus prevents opposition to the Southern Pacific. Foreclosure would at least take this game out of his hands and bring relief to the people tributary to those roads.

Foreclosure and sale is the only sensible remedy, for if the government gets nothing, it will at least be able to pay up, protect its loss, and make the most it can of a very bad bargain.

INFORMATION WANTED. While the authorities on financial matters are airing their knowledge

they would satisfy a very general craving for information if they would explain why gold does not come into this country in payment for its exports? Why money is loaned, New York money, in England at three per cent, while the farmers cannot get it for ten? Why real estate in the shape of farm lands is no longer considered security for borrowed money? And how the eastern capitalist expects a return of prosperity under these conditions, when forty-two per cent of our entire population cannot borrow a dollar on their property?

ASSIST THE FARMERS.

We spoke briefly yesterday of financial matters, and it seems to us that upon the answering of the questions asked then depends, in a great measure, the prosperity of the country. That this is a great manufacturing country is freely admitted, but it is great because it has such an enormous home market for its manufactured articles.

According to our great dailies, we are not receiving gold for our excess of exports, and this they say is the cause of our business depression. Is this true? We think not. The true reason lies in the new theories of money-lenders; it lies in the modern ideas as to what constitutes security for loans, and which gives a preference to negotiable paper, to bank stocks, railroad shares, bonds, etc., and ignores real estate.

Time was when the broad acres of our grand domain, that produced the wealth of the country, that fed our people and sent fabulous stores to the hungry millions of Europe, were considered gilt-edged securities for loans. That time exists no longer, and the money-lender prefers the low interest bearing securities, even of Europe, to the fertile acres of his own land.

The remedy is simple. Instead of lending money in Europe at four per cent, let our capitalists advance money to farmers at, say, 6 per cent on long time. If this were done the farmer could meet his interest and pay off the principal. As it is the interest devours his substance, destroys his hopes, his ambition and his manhood, it makes a slave of his wife and helots of his children; all struggling to make the farm pay more than enough to meet the interest, and struggling in vain.

If our money-lenders will assist the farmer, the result will surprise them, because as he prospers and has money to satisfy the wants he now leaves unsatisfied, there will be such an era of rushing business as this country has never known.

THE NEW YEAR.

At midnight tonight the old year expires. Rheumatic of joint, wheezy of breath, grizzled of beard, rheumy eyed, decrepit, and bent with age, 1896, totters over the precipice and drops into the fathomless abyss of the past.

It is useless to ponder over the things that might have been, the blasted hopes, the severed friendships, the broken resolutions; and it is, perhaps, equally useless to exult in new hopes, cement new friendships or make new resolutions, for 1897 coming on apace, has the same winning, open-faced smile, to beguile us to our hurt and woe as to our undoing.

So, here's to 1897! We trust him for a smoother pathway and an easier load; but we trust him because we have to. May he treat us well, and the balance of you as well as he can, is the earnest hope of THE CHRONICLE editor.

MCCLURE'S FOR JANUARY.

We acknowledge the receipt of the advance sheets of McClure's for January. It is probably the rottenest number ever issued. Hamlin Garland's maudlin stories about Grant are enough to make any one close the magazine in disgust, no matter how meritorious the other sketches may be.

It Won't Go.

Our suggestion yesterday that we would publish the list of marriageable young ladies, after New Years, has met with hearty response; so hearty that we have dropped the idea like a hot potato, have written our obituary and hung it up where it is handy, and now wait with that calmness born of despair, the worst.

The DALLES, Dec. 30. EDITOR CHRONICLE:—I always thought you were a fool, but never credited you with utter imbecility. Publish my name in that list, and prepare to meet me.

EDITOR CHRONICLE:—I see by the last issue of your valuable paper that you are contemplating the publishing of the names of the marriageable young ladies left over after this year. I sincerely hope you will not do so. I should so dislike to be taken to someone's manly heart with the suggestion always in my mind that it was pity, and not love, that caused said someone to select me.

Nay! Nay! Violet, your name shall not go on the bargain counter. With all your varied accomplishments and gentle disposition, you cannot be left long to bluish unclaimed in the rosebud garden of girls.

TEACHING BIRDS.

An Interesting Operation That Requires Much Patience. A Specially Constructed Organ is Also Necessary for the Purpose—Some of the Aids Employed in the Lessons.

Probably not one reader in 1,000 ever heard of a "bird organ" or saw one. They are made only in France, and are imported to this country in small numbers.

The ten notes produced by the ten pipes range from middle G in the staff to B, above, or an octave and three notes. That is, the bird music is written in the octave used in the musical notation for the human voice, but properly would be written in an octave higher when comparing the voice of a canary with the voice of a soprano.

The "bird organ" is pitched in exactly the same tone and key as the voice of the canary, or perhaps this is putting the cart before the horse, for the bird strikes faultlessly the key and tone of the pipes. It is more accurate to say, after all, that on the hand the organs are pitched to be with the canary's voice, as the result of the experience of the builders.

There is a dealer in music boxes on Ridge avenue who sells "bird organs" and writes music for the canary teachers. He has a drawer filled with manuscript music which he has arranged for use in these "bird organs," and he also puts tunes to order on the rollers.

"One tune is all that a man tries to teach a canary," he said, "and he will never let the bird hear more than that one. He keeps the bird in a quiet room while he is teaching it and doesn't let it hear the voice of another bird. A canary's brain is not very big, and he gets his musical memory tangled if he hears more than the same old tune. I have heard of birds that could whistle two airs, but these are very rare, and it is a risky undertaking."

"If you have the luck to get a bright bird, he'll begin to notice the tune in three months. At first he'll sing two or three bars, then falter and start over again. When he has learned the air all the way through his voice is weak and uncertain, but it gets stronger and more confident all the time.

The German's patience and love of music make him most successful in the training of canaries, and nearly all of the schooled songsters in Philadelphia have been educated by Germans. The man has sold several at an average price of about \$100.

A London jury the other day brought in the following decidedly mixed verdict: "We find the prisoner not guilty, and that he admitted his guilt through ignorance, and we strongly recommend him to mercy."

MOONBLINK.

A Peculiar Blindness Caused by Sleeping in the Moonlight.

Three cases of "moonblink" occurred on the British steamship Acanthus, which reached Philadelphia the other day. After the low-lying hills fringing the shores of Batavia faded from view on the afternoon of July 14 for 30 days her crew of 50 officers and seamen saw no land, sighted no vessel and encountered no storm.

Probably not one reader in 1,000 ever heard of a "bird organ" or saw one. They are made only in France, and are imported to this country in small numbers, as dealers in musical boxes have few calls for them, and generally send for them only upon orders from customers.

By No Means an Extinct Language in Spite of its Position Here. A new appointment has been made from Waterford to the chair of professor of Gaelic in Maynooth college, Ireland. The new appointee is a member of the Gaelic league of Dublin, and was the first editor of the Archaeological Journal of Waterford.

MANY STILL SPEAK GAELIC.

By No Means an Extinct Language in Spite of its Position Here.

Though English is the official language of all these countries, the popularity of English increases slowly despite the disadvantage under which those who use Gaelic labor, that of having no established grammar and no recognition in an official way. Gaelic fulfills the colloquial requirements of the farmers and fishermen in the counties remote from the large cities, somewhat as the Basque language continues to be popular in the northern provinces of Spain.

In this country Gaelic has made little headway, though many patriotic Irishmen have by various methods endeavored to acquaint others less patriotic with its advantages. While the use of most European languages has about doubled in 75 years, five times as many persons speak English as did in 1820.

BIG ORDER FOR BEER.

Japanese Merchants Surprised by the King of Korea.

The 300 marines on board were very agreeably surprised when his royal highness sent 30,000 bottles of good Japanese beer on board—that is, 100 bottles per man—enough liquor to thoroughly celebrate the Russo-Corean alliance.

Seneca's Medal.

In the possession of the Red Jacket club of Canandaigua is a medal which, the members of the club believe, was given the famous Seneca chief by George Washington. Other folks have frequently questioned the authenticity of this relic, much to the indignation of the Canandaiguans, who assert that its claims to respect are beyond doubt.

A Mixed Verdict.

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